



The Feedbag

June 2018

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Volunteer Organization, 501c3

President's Letter

Howdy All,

Are we getting back in the saddle again? The ice and snow is pretty well gone at lower levels and horses shed out. Time to start conditioning and planning those rides.

We have had several well attended events in the last few months. The membership roundup was a great start with friends and members coming together. The State BCH convention was held in Lewistown MT and was really good. Well worth attending and putting on your calendar for next year. Then the Spring Tune Up another great event with awesome training on preparing you and your horse for riding and safety. Thanks Chris and Connie Basham for your arena and Gary Salisbury for the awesome clinic! The Defensive Horse Safety class was held at Dan Harpers again this year and as always a must attend for your safety and your horses out on the trail. Thanks Dan for hosting this!

We have the go ahead to start clearing trails now that the snow has melted. The date for Monture Creek/Burnt cabin is currently on for July 6-8th.

We have had many requests to help promote safety of interaction between horses and bikes on trails. We have answered the call with attending a training in Belgrade and prepared printed cards to explain the proper procedures adopted around the country for both horse and bike riders. We have those cards available at our meetings. In July we will have a training session for bike and horse interaction at Big Sky Horse Park in the 4-H Arena on July 21st at 9:00 am. This will be a must attend for all horse and bike riders. It is very important to the safety of both bikers and horse riders. Be sure to attend the monthly meetings to have current updates on all we are doing to improve trail access and our right to access public lands. We also have some great door prizes and guest speakers. Any questions or concerns feel free to contact myself or any Board member. Thanks for supporting your BCH chapter and events as your right to ride on public lands is in your hands!



Randy Velin, President

Upcoming Meetings and Events

June:

2nd-National Trails Day-contact Randy Velin 406-544-4582

3rd-Flower Ride-RSVP Dan Harper 406-258-6467

5th-Board Meeting 7 PM at ORI

9th-Weed Pulling Rattlesnake Trailhead 10 AM-contact

Ken Brown 406-207-6067

20th- General Meeting 7 PM at ORI

22nd-24th-Clearwater Game Range Campout & Ride

July:

6-8th- Monture Creek/Burnt Cabin Trail Clearing

contact Richard Tamcke

18th-General Meeting

21st-Bike/Horse training Big Sky Horse Park - 4-H arena

August:

1st-Board Meeting 7PM at ORI

17th - Summer Picnic - Holt Museum 6PM

September:

5th- Board Meeting 7PM at ORI

19th - General Meeting 7PM at ORI

22nd - Primm Meadows Ride -contact Richard Tamcke

29th - Wire Rollup at Clearwater Game Range

Pannier Packing for a Four-day Two-person

Three Equine Back Country Pack Trip

Equipment:

Soft panniers with plastic inserts and top pack with rain cover

Small 100 pound packing scale

Expandable aluminum tabletop to span between inserts

Two small folding stools

Water filter and water container

Folding plastic bucket

Two backpacking sleeping bags and pads

Backpack tent

12 x 12' light nylon fly for kitchen

Backpack stove, fuel, and lighter

Small lantern

Cook kit, cooking and eating utensils, and cups and plates

Foldable kitchen sink, soap and scrub brush

Paper towels and toilet paper

Short shovel, axe, and saw (axe or saw may be carried on the saddle)

Smaller soft cooler for frozen and refrigerated food. May consider frozen beer to use for ice

BCH of Missoula Officers and Committees

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Richard Tamcke (Alternate) 406-258-6621

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Recreational Trails Grant

Richard Tamcke 406-258-6621

Defensive Horsemanship

Dan Harper 406-258-6467

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Feedbag Editor

Bonnie Doyle 406-546-1793

Soft cooler bag for non-refrigerated food, repacking butter, oil, pancake syrup etc. into small plastic containers. No glass!

“Easy boots”, small rasp, shoeing tools, shoes or hoof wrap and duct tape

Three feed bags and Packer Pellets (minimum of 1 pound per equine per day)
Split pellets in two bags to help balance the load

30 – 50 foot high line, three swivels, two tree savers

Three sets of hobbles, and one bell. Consider fly spray

Medicine and vet kit

12 x 16' light plastic tarp for saddle cover

Two small duffel bags for personal gear

Two warm (down) coats with rain slickers on the back of the saddle

Pack 60 – 70 pounds in each pannier and 30 pounds (40 pounds maximum) in the top pack.

Keep it simple and enjoy the Trip! Dan Harper

Backcountry First Aid

Wilderness medicine is defined as dealing with medical problems two miles or more from the nearest trailhead. The distance from the road and trained medical professionals emphasize the importance of prevention and preparation for medical emergencies, the lack of which can cause unnecessary problems. For example, plan on doing stock training home, not on the trail. Wear a helmet. Make sure your saddle and tack are in serviceable condition. Know the abilities of your stock and the stock others in your group are using.

Preparation: Travel with a first aid kit. Know what it contains and how to use it. Look for the “just the right size” kit. Many common items can be considered a part of your first aid kit. A folding saw can be used to help make a split for fractures. A foam sleeping pad can be used to make a neck collar or for padding for a split. It can also be used for protection from loss of heat on the ground. A multi-tool with scissors can be used to remove fish hooks and ticks as well as using the scissors to cut bandages. A tee shirt can be cut to make a bandage or a pressure wrap. A sanitary pad can be used over the bleeding wound. Take a communication device such as a cell phone, satellite phone or an emergency communication tool such as a “Spot” or “Garmin In Reach”.

The First Aid Kit: At least one person on the ride needs first aid supplies and the knowledge of how to use them. The kit, commercially available or individually assembled, should include the following objects.

A pair of medical gloves

Several packages of 4x 4 gauze pads

A three-inch elastic wrap

A small roll of duct tape and adhesive tape

An assortment of band-aids

A large 50 gallons strong plastic bag

Moles skin or a blister kit

A small reflective blanket

A 10 or 20 cc plastic syringe for irrigation

The compact triangular sling for shoulder and arm injuries

A small pocket-sized first aid manual

Several common over the counter medications can easily be included.

Benadryl 25 mg tablets

Aspirin 325 mg tablets

Ibuprofen 200 mg tablets

An antibiotic ointment such as Bacitracin or triple antibiotic ointment

Loperamide 2-milligram tablets

Ranitidine 150 mg tablets

Consider the following prescription medications.

Asthma inhaler medications

“Epi-Pen” epinephrine injector for anaphylaxis

Mupirocin ointment to replace the over the counter antibiotic ointment

Diabetic medications including a source of sugar for treatment of low blood sugar

Commercial kits often include unnecessary items such as scissors and tweezers. Instead, the multi-function tool with scissors can be used.

There’s no need to carry liquid such as disinfectants or alcohol pads.

Clean tap or filtered water and soap works just fine to clean and irrigate wounds. Each kit should be individualized to include medications and instruments reflecting the experience and training of the provider.

Responding to an accident: Always assure the safety of the helper.

Take time to size up the situation. Evaluate the mechanism of the injury. A hit on the head with loss of consciousness, significant blood loss, or a horse kick in the abdomen or chest are among the types of serious injuries which will require prompt evacuation. A serious head injury may be associated with a neck or back injury. The victim should be moved accordingly with the immobilization of the cervical spine. Do not waste time trying to improvise a stretcher do contact Emergency Medical Service providers. Provide your name, location and describe the type of injury. Follow instructions on care for the victim and arrangements for transport.

For active bleeding use the gauze pads or tee shirt if needed and direct pressure. Hold the dressing over the wound using as much pressure as needed until the bleeding subsides. The elastic wrap can be used to continue compression. In a nonmilitary setting, a tourniquet is almost never needed.

An open fracture should be dressed as carefully as possible, a split applied and arrangements for transport made. Hip dislocation and pelvic bone damage require emergency evacuation.

In general, the victim’s comfort should determine how he is positioned. Elevation of the head and chest can help with labored breathing. Lifting the chin may help keep the airway open. Keep the person as warm as possible, ideally using a foam mat or saddle pad to provide insulation from the ground. The garbage bag can be used as a poncho or used in the construction of a cover to help keep the person warm and dry.

Avoid unnecessarily moving the victim and always consider the possibility of neck injury requiring immobilization prior to movement. The person can be encouraged to drink water, warm tea or broth to help maintain blood volume. Victims of a lightning strike or drowning may respond to cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The first aid response should be methodical, and the initial focus should be on the airway, breathing, and bleeding. Refer to the pocket first aid manual for insight on how to proceed. Use good judgment and be reassuring.

Continued on page 10....

Packing in With Panniers

Panniers have been utilized on pack animals from prehistoric times to the present hauling everything from cannons to coal. Even people have been transported in panniers. The use of panniers in the West, is a well-established tradition mentioned in the Journals of Lewis and Clark. Once necessary for commerce and warfare, now panniers are principally used for recreational horse and mule packing into the backcountry.

With many advantages, panniers seem to be an ideal solution for novice packers and smaller noncommercial groups packing into the backcountry. These advantages include:

- Easy packing especially smaller items, common in the lightweight approach to camping such a small stove and cook kit.
- Ability to throw in last-minute items including high lines, plastic tarps and coats.
- Ability to access an item such as an extra coat or protective hoof boots easily while on the trail.
- Ability for pack box panniers to provide bear resistant storage where required.
- Ability for pack box panniers to function as a camp kitchen.
- Easy access to trail maintenance equipment such as a chainsaw.
- Ability to easily weigh and balance loads.

While it is not too hard to find old panniers made of rawhide, wood, or even woven willow branches, most modern panniers are made canvas and leather, plastic, or metal. For most uses, a pannier with dimensions of 23 to 26 inches long, 18 inches high and 10 to 13 inches wide will work best. Hard panniers made of plastic or metal often are more than 18 inches high and made with a curved side to better fit the contour of the pack animal.

Canvas (cotton or synthetic) panniers with leather or nylon reinforcements are easy to use and quite versatile. A fabric pannier is basically a sack. It will accommodate a wide variety of items conforming to the shape of these items as needed. Soft items including tents, sleeping bags and clothing pack easily into canvas panniers. For hard or more fragile objects one can use a commercial plastic liner, a soft sided cooler, or even a cardboard box to provide structure and protection for food, lanterns, cook kits and other gear. Not all canvas panniers are

constructed the same way. Look for quality workmanship and materials, and if possible get some experience using panniers before you buy. For use on a Decker pack saddle the open loop hanging straps (photo 1, left) work best. The hanging straps (photo 1, right) are designed for the sawbuck pack saddle but will work on the Decker saddle. PHOTO 1



A top pack and a waterproof top pack cover, both readily available commercially, will complete the pannier packing package. The H shaped top pack fits nicely between the bucks on a sawbuck saddle and either the rectangular or H shaped top pack works fine on the Decker saddle.

Packing the canvas pannier is easy. Pack tightly using padding on the animal side of the pannier as needed. Hard objects with sharp corners need to be padded. Place heaviest items in the center near the top. Protect fragile and food items with an insert or cardboard box. Using a soft cooler bag for food works very well. Weigh each pannier to ensure balance, accepting a pound or two difference. Then place the scale with the lighter load.

Depending on the size and condition of the pack stock, a 50 to 70 pounds load on each side may be about right. The top pack should weigh no more than 30 to at most 40 pounds. The top pack must be balanced with equal weight on each side.

There are options for attaching the panniers to the saddle. For the Decker saddle J hooks and spring gated hooks (photo 2) that attach to the hanging straps and clip into the D ring on the



Decker saddle are commercially available. Use of these hooks can be problematic. The increase in the distance between the bottom of the D ring and the panniers using the hooks can result in some panniers riding to low. With the J hooks is necessary to tie the pannier down to the pack ring on the cinch or to use a separate girth to prevent the hooks from bouncing off the D ring. Even tied down the J hooks, tend to pop off the D ring all too easily, especially when the going gets rough. The spring gated hooks are secure, easily attached but hard to remove especially in a difficult situation. Using the hanging straps is generally more satisfactory than attaching with metal hooks. PHOTO 2

Always attach the pannier to the front of the saddle first. It is the safest place to be. If something causes the pack animal to move, the pannier hanging by the front strap is much less a threat to the animal than a pannier hanging by the back strap hitting the belly and hind leg. Avoid this wreck that can happen while loading the panniers.

Using a sling rope and basket hitch is a good alternative for attaching the pannier to the saddle. This approach is especially advantageous when loading inexperienced stock as it keeps the packer further from danger. A shorter packer with a taller animal may find it easier to use the basket hitch than to reach over the load for the hanging strap. Another advantage of the basket hitch is that it helps keep the load higher on the pack animal.

Next center the top pack over the loads between the D rings or the bucks. On a good trail with experienced stock, attaching the top pack directly to the panniers with straps works well. For a tough trail or with inexperienced stock, the Decker diamond provides a more secure attachment. In order to tie the Decker diamond, set up the sling rope for a basket hitch. Place the running end of the rope behind the pannier and then flip the loop on the standing end up over the top pack (photo 3). Then bring the running end up over the pannier to tie off on the loop (photo 4). The top pack will now be secure.



Many packers prefer to let the panniers ride free only attached by the hanging straps. This allows some give if the pack hits a



tree and may allow the animal to breathe easier than when the load is cinched down. However, when the going is rough, consider lashing the panniers down to the pack ring on the cinch or to connecting the panniers with a separate girth.

Once at camp the panniers can be used for storage. They can be placed back to back and covered with the rain cover. A rock or two on top will hold the cover in a storm. A pannier can also be handy as a strong storage bag for hanging food in bear country.

Packing hard panniers is a little more difficult. It takes more planning and padding to have a tight load. It will be more difficult to fit some objects into a hard box than a canvas pannier. Loose items in a metal pannier sure make it hard to enjoy the "hush of the land" on the trail. Perhaps the main reason for using hard panniers is to benefit from bear resistant storage or to be able to incorporate the panniers into a camp kitchen. Especially with hard panniers, it is best to get some experience to better understand your needs before you buy.

This take on packing with panniers is based on years of experience. Yes, I have had experiences and so will you if you take many pack trips. Safety first, practice at home and be alert for the unexpected. Pannier packing has helped make my summer pack trips easy and enjoyable. I seldom have to adjust a load on the trail.

In summary:

Borrow and try before you buy

Weigh carefully

Keep the panniers high to make it easier on the animal

And have fun packing in

Packing into the Danaher via North Fork Trail

I got a call from Richard Tamcke asking if I wanted to take a trip into the Danaher by way of the North Fork trail with him, he was taking an older gentleman also named Chuck and his grandson in for a week. I had to wait patiently for him to finish his sentence before I could say you bet!!

We gathered up our gear, loaded up and headed out! We made 14 miles first day. We made our first camp by a stream with a couple deer checking out our outfit. It's roughly 20 plus miles from the trail head to Danaher meadows I'm told. Made camp, fixed supper and did up the dishes. We sat around for a while then everyone turned in early.

Heard a ruckus about 4am checked and one end of the high line had come lose! The horses had all gotten tangled together and had gathered up a pile of brush to boot. I made a mental note to double check Chucks knots from here out! Richard and I got them all sorted and the highline back up and went back to bed. I slept like the dead! Beautiful up here! (Note to self; remember to bring the brush for the horses next time dummy.)

The morning of the second day we had eggs sausage and hash browns for breakfast. After we cleaned up we broke camp and packed up and hit the trail again. After another 12 miles or so we found another beautiful camp site. Unpacked the stock and put them out to graze and set up camp. I helped Richard with setting up the kitchen. While he was starting supper I set up the tent and high line. Pulled pork for supper with bell pepper and sliced cucumber. After dinner we sat around a little fire mellowing out drinking lemonade and munching dried fruit trail mix and swapping stories. Haven't heard a sound other than us and the wind in the trees! Beautiful!

Slept all night! Woke up the third day to frost on the ground! Richard fixed hash browns and eggs and coffee for breakfast. Built a small fire to burn trash...added some wood feels good! We went out for more day rides and saw more beautiful country.



The fourth day we had Blue berry pancakes and eggs for breakfast! Richard is a pretty darn good camp cook! It seemed like every meal was a gourmet delight! Saddled up and went for a beautiful day ride. First day on the trail Goose and I had to tow Brit, 2nd day she kept up nice. Third day, put Goose in the lead and he finally decided everything wasn't out to eat him and he found his stride, some of the other horses were trotting to match his walk!! We tucked him to the number two spot behind Richards's horse so we didn't leave anyone behind. We were watering our horses at a crossing and another pack string pulled up, we got out of the way. First guy to cross's pack mule blew up and bolted back and his saddle horse blew up and the rodeo was on! I'm so proud of our string! We left before we had to break out the first aid kits LOL! Back to camp, nap time!

We got neighbors today! Rich's outfit set up camp just on the other side of a big grove of trees from us. Already had three of their horses come visit. Should make for an interesting night?? Just before dark their whole string came thundering through, headed for the creek and grass down there.

We went for another 4-5-mile day ride. Saw more beautiful country. Goose has found his stride, wanted to be lead horse all day! Both him and Britt have become a very good team, crossed streams and bridges, one stream was pretty wide and deep and I was just ponying Britt with no pack on so she gave it a couple splashes and laid down for a soaky! Goose gave it a couple splashes so I kicked him on before he laid down in it too, with me on board!

This is a fun trip but sad in a way. Chuck, the old gentleman we packed in with is starting down that dark path of forgetfulness and had a bad heart but wanted to take his grandson on one final pack trip. We had to keep a close eye on him. Grandson is 10, nice kid with the energy of a 10-year-old, very exhausting LOL! Grandpa was trying to teach him everything there is to know about packing on one trip! I think he had information overload but was a real trooper, never complained and pitched in where ever he could.

When we loaded at the trailhead I lashed my pack rod carefully on the top with 3 bungee cords. The other Chuck lashed his two rods on top of his panniers under his top pack☺once we got to the Danaher and had the camp all set up I decided to go fishing, looked all through my gear... no pack rod!! Lost it along the way! The other Chuck said no problem use one of mine! He pulled out his poles and discovered that somehow the line got loose and spooled out somewhere along the trail!! Fishing wasn't going to happen this trip! We did day rides every day, Richard showed us the neighborhood so to speak.



Last day, we broke camp and headed back down the North Fork trail for home. We met Rich's mule string in a narrow spot in the trail. No reverse no matter how small your string is so we bush-whacked up off the trail and let them by. Interesting note: I was using a new Decker that a saddle maker friend had built for me in a trade. The breast collar had the strap that goes down between the front legs and snaps on to the cinch, like a riding saddle. Richard mentioned to me that's not a real good thing! If you have a wreck with your pack horse, it's real hard to get under there to unsnap it! Sure enough, Britt had a wreck with the whole shebang going over one side as we worked our way back down to the trail. Now I don't know about your luck with "free horses" (she was a gift to me) but I got lucky! Britt stopped and didn't move! I looked back and sure enough, I had a wreck! I bailed off and there wasn't even a wisp of grass to tie Goose to! No problem, I've been training him to stay when I get off (ground tie) he was gold! I scabbled my way back to Brit, pulled my Leatherman on the way! Richard also baled off too, went up the trail a little bit and tied his horses. We unloaded Britt in a heartbeat! We were re-rigging her when I told Richard I fixed that strap! He says "I see that" while looking at the stub hanging from her breast strap! We got her reloaded and I turned around and Goose decided he'd been standing long enough and needed to be closer to Richard's saddle horse... I dropped Britt's lead and went after Goose, almost caught him when I saw Britt turn and head back down the trail after Rich's string. I turned around and took off running after Britt, pretty sure we crossed the Bob went up into Canada a bit, maybe down to Mexico and back into the Bob! I finally caught up to her and turned her around. I looked up and low and behold here come Goose! I thought this is working out great except he took a look at us coming down the trail figured out we were coming his way and turned around and took off back down the trail! Britt and I fast walked back through Mexico, up through Canada and back into the Bob and finally caught up with Goose... Right behind the rest of our string!

We went on down the trail a way before lesson #2 came in to play! As we were helping the other Chuck get loaded, Richard mentioned in passing he really didn't like those "H" top packs,

get them a little too tight and they tend to unhook your pannier hooks from your pack saddle "D's", sure enough, I heard Chuck call out HOLD UP, one of his panniers had come unhooked! Richard and I were back on it double quick! I knew exactly what the problem was, remembering Richard's comment! Fixed it in a jiffy and we're back on the trail in no time!

Made it to where we camped first night going in and pulled over for the night. I found it interesting that the horses knew just where to turn off the trail! We set up camp and I pulled up my sleeve to see what time it was... My Fitbit was gone! Dang thing was expensive. I must have lost it where we had the wreck. Richard said, plenty of daylight left let's saddle up and go back for a look, long story short, I think Richard and I logged right at 30 miles that day! No Fitbit no pack rod! Did sleep like a rock that night though!!

Next morning we had oatmeal, cleaned up the area and headed down the trail uneventfully to the trailhead. We came to a bridge and there was an outfit stopped there with some gear still on their horses and some scattered on the ground, would have been interesting to hear the back story on that one. Our string marched right across the bridge and down the trail no drama! You'd think we'd been doing this for years but this was Goose, Brit and my first pack trip together!

Back at the trailhead we unloaded and trailered up the horses. We stopped at the Stray Bullet in Ovando for dinner (excellent) and headed for home! It was a great trip, I learned some tricks and more about packing and trail tips from Richard along the way.

I'm hooked now and have to go back! It's been three years since we made that trip, when we got home I discovered my heart was in worse shape than the other Chuck's after a series of heart attacks, I missed out the next year after getting a pacemaker, the following year Richard had back problems and this last year I did battle with cancer but dang it next summer we're going back!

Chuck Erickson



Pannier Packing Class



Defensive Horsemanship Training



BCHM, ZooTown Derailleurs and

Mountain Bike Missoula

On May 8th and 10th Dan Harper, my horse Tuxedo, a black and white Tennessee Walking Horse and myself did training with 120 kids and their parents per day for kids involved in Missoula Recreation and Parks kid bike program – the Zoo-Town Derailleurs. The talk was what do horses eat? This is where Tux would drop his head on cue and eat grass. Do they eat meat? NO. What wild animals in Montana eat meat, and do they eat horses. The point was for the kids to talk, make themselves seen (show that you are a person not a wild animal) and stop to wait on the down side of the trail for instructions from the horse rider. The children and adults were very receptive. We also handed out the “Meeting a Horse on the Trail” cards. This is the second year BCHM has provided this training. This training will hopefully be a foundation for the kids as they become older to be able to appropriately interact with horses while they enjoy riding their bikes in the backcountry. Parents and staff said it was the highlight of their day. I will also say that Tux did a great job being around that many kids and their bikes. He never batted an eye.

Ken Brown

Spring Tune-up



...continued from page 3

Abrasion should be cleaned with soap and water prior to applying antibiotic ointment. Deeper wounds should be irrigated well using a syringe and clean water. The role of band-aids and moleskin for blisters are obvious. For a draining blister antibiotic ointment should be used. Using duct tape and scissors an effective butterfly bandage can be made and used to close a wound.

Using medications:

Before using any medication always secure permission and inquire about allergies and previous use of medicine.

Benadryl: 1 to 2 tablets can be given for allergy treatment but may cause drowsiness. It can be repeated in 6 hours.

Aspirin can be used for pain if no bleeding is involved. A single tablet should be given immediately for chest pain and suspected heart attack.

Antibiotic ointment is helpful for small cuts and abrasions.

Loperamide: a 2-milligram tablet can be given every 6 hours for treatment of diarrhea.

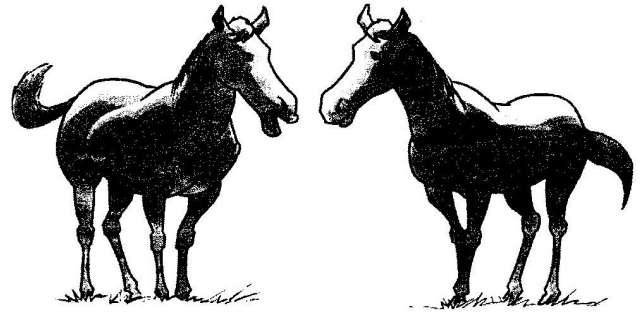
Ranitidine: can be given twice daily to help reduce acid-related abdominal pain.

Hydrocortisone can be used to reduce itching and inflammation. It is also a good lubricating agent.

In summary, backcountry horsemen have a responsibility to attain basic first aid/ CPR education and to have a first aid kit appropriate for the length of the trip and the size of the group. A "large and comprehensive medical kit" left at home because it's too big and heavy will not be of any value. Try to achieve a right-sized medical kit that will always be included. Life is not fair, and accidents and injuries can occur to anyone. By focusing on prevention and preparation the need for an emergency response can be reduced. When an incident occurs effective first aid will ameliorate suffering and improve outcome.

Daniel A. Harper, MD

Wilderness Medicine Certified



"I'm so tired of everybody whispering."



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Back Country Horsemen of Missoula

~Mission Statement~

- ◆ To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
- ◆ To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreation and stock use.
- ◆ To assist the various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands.
- ◆ To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustained use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
- ◆ To foster and encourage formation of new Back Country Horsemen organizations.