



# The Feedbag

September 2018

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Website:

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Facebook:

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Address:

BCH of Missoula

P.O. Box 2121

Missoula, MT 59806

Volunteer Organization, 501c3

## Presidents Letter

Howdy Folks,

Well fall is certainly in the air and I am still wondering where summer went. It certainly seemed to go by quick. Maybe because it was a busy one? Hope you were able to find time to ride some trails and put some miles on the horses.

The Back Country Horsemen of Missoula really needs your help and involvement and any time you can spare. We accomplished some projects this year but would like to do more to perpetuate horse use in our area by trail maintenance, horse and rider education, issues facing wilderness use and surrounding areas. As a BCH active member you can make a difference in horse use in our area. It is not all work, we had many good times with social events and trail rides. Educational opportunities and tips to help you and your equine friend perform better and safely out in the hills.

We also offer packing instruction for the novice explore by experienced packers.

We need your input on what interest you as a BCH member so we can try to accommodate what you would like to see.

I really hope you will join us for our monthly meetings and events so we can help keep you informed about the events and work we do.

*Randy Velin*



## Upcoming Meetings and Events

### September:

29th - Wire Rollup at Clearwater Game Range

### October:

17th - General Meeting 7:00 PM ORI

### November:

7th - Board Meeting 7:00 PM ORI

14th - General Meeting 7:00 PM ORI

### December:

1st - BCH MT Board Meeting 10:00 AM Fairbridge Inn

Christmas Party 6:00 PM Fairbridge Inn

### January:

2nd - Board Meeting 7:00 PM ORI

16th - General Meeting 7:00 PM ORI

## BCH of Missoula Officers and Committees

### Officers

Randy Velin	President	406-544-4582
Ken Brown	Vice President	406-207-6067
Judy Allen	Secretary	406-244-5646
Suzette Moore	Treasure	406-370-7561

### Board of Directors

Marni Angood ( 1 year)		406-830-5449
Lee Crawford (1 year)		406-274-0905
Lana Hamilton (2 years)	Membership chair	406-251-3456
Sheryl Tegelberg (1 year)		406-529-1968
Earl Tidball (2 years)		406-670-0121

### State Directors

Mike Moore		406-370-7549
Gary Salisbury		406-529-7242
Richard Tamcke (Alternate)		406-258-6621

### Issues

Mike Chandler		406-549-7639
Ken Brown		406-207-6067

### Recreational Trails Grant

Richard Tamcke		406-258-6621
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### Defensive Horsemanship

Dan Harper		406-258-6467
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### Website

Adam Davis		406-529-1892
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### Feedbag Editor

Bonnie Doyle		406-546-1793
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## *Meet Your Board... Ms. T.*

### 1. Favorite Food:

Tough choice between an elk steak smothered in sautéed mushrooms and onions or grilled salmon.

### 2. Favorite Movie:

Favorite horse movies "War Horse" and "The Black Stallion" with Mickey Rooney

### 3. Favorite Horse/Mule and Why:

I never let myself favor horses I've owned and raised but I was really proud of and enjoyed two special Morab mares April and Missy; full-blooded sisters I trained, rode, packed and bred 1980-2010. We have a big Morab mare Lindy I'm riding out of April and 3 grandsons of Missy's out of her son Stetson, a black Morab stallion we stood 1995-2008. RIP April, Missy and Stetson...see you again one day.

### 4. Favorite Vacation Spot:

I enjoy exploring new places. It never ceases to amaze me of all the beauty the good Lord created on this earth. I especially like the Canadian Rockies and the WA and OR coast. Riding at these places is on my bucket list.

### 5. Favorite Trail:

After pondering this and reminiscing over pack-trip memories, hikes and photographs; I came to a conclusion that no one trail is my favorite but instead my favorite thing IS TRAILS....seeing what's beyond the next bend and over the next hill to it's destination on my trusty steed with good

friends. Some photos I took at the north end of the Chinese Wall are some of my favorites.

I've loved horses all my life and had my first horse by age 9 or 10. My mom bought a sassy Saddle Bred show gelding when my siblings and me were real young. He was handful and Dad would work him and sometimes pull us on a sled down the road. I'll never forget watching the hooves flying snow at us and how cool it was at ground level watching him run! Mom decided after she got dumped over a gate one day and caught me trying to get on him off the fence he was too much of a horse for kids, sold him and bought a big Quarter Horse/ Shetland cross with a foal by her side. The foal was half Thoroughbred and my younger sister and I trained it as soon as it was big enough to climb onto off the fence so we could both ride together. Horses were our bicycles and my sister got a kick out of giving me a head-start on the mare while she

*Continued on page 8*



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**Blackfoot/Clearwater Game Range 2018**

“This weekend at the Blackfoot Clearwater Game Range was not for Fair Weather Campers to be sure. Saturday brought continued downpours, thunder, and flooding. But the few that braced the elements were rewarded with a painter's palette of gray hugging the mountains, offering just glimpses of wide open vistas, the occasional heron coming by, Sandhill Cranes calling in the distance, the constant patter of rain on the barn roof blended with the chirping of the swallow's busy coming and going, making an inviting backdrop to pause, tell stories, maybe take a nap, and just be.

A campfire (expertly maintained by Ken) warmed us throughout the evening, the food was plenty and delicious, a time for back- country fellowship, welcoming old and new friends around the camp.

The horses too enjoyed the rainy day, frolicking in the tall grass, calling out to their friends, and making the best of camp life. Of course, it would not be BCHM if it did not include lessons in Camp life. Excellent demo on how to let the horse catch you. Lee!”

***Beate von Stutterheim***



## Monture Creek Trail Clearing Project

On July 6-8<sup>th</sup> BCH of Missoula members were finally able to start clearing part of the Monture Creek trail above the Bunt cabin towards Hahn pass. The project was delayed twice due to the severe snow and rain runoff in that area and compounded by the areas burnt by the Rice Ridge Fire. The Forest service crews needed to repair the yellow jacket creek crossing and wedge creek which had blown out because of the fast water run off this spring. They needed to do some blasting on Yellow jacked to be able to make a new trail. The Forest service had contact me on July 1<sup>st</sup> to let me know the trail was passable as far as Burnt Cabin. So I called some members that had originally thought they would go. However with rescheduling of this project I was able to have the



help of two others Adam Davis and Dwayne Chilton volunteered. We meet the Forest Service trail manager at the Monture Creek trail head on Friday am for a briefing and picked up the radio and spot communication devices. We packed our gear on 2 pack animals and headed in to Burnt Cabin. The trail in was in fair shape with most trees cleared, but still some tread work to do later. We arrived at the cabin at around 3:00pm. We unloaded our gear at the cabin and took the stock down to the corrals. First order of business was to repair the corrals to hold stock in we needed to replace a few rails and gate poles. We set up the water tank and then started to prime the siphon hose to get water to the tank after about 35 minutes we had water to the corrals. We fin-



ished opening up the cabin. Adam swept it out as Dwayne and I hooked up the cook stove and haul gear in. We called into report we were in the cabin and all is well. Made dinner sat on the porch enjoyed the evening and made plans for next day. Sat am we were up and fed the stock, made breakfast and lunches then head up trail to Hahn Pass. About ½ mile from camp we began to hit some burn areas and lots of down trees. From there on it was a tangle of trees for the next 2.5 miles. In all we cut over 70 trees and moved quite a few as well. The burn had done its job as the old beetle killed trees were ripe for falling over with the bottoms being burnt ground level. As we worked we saw and heard trees falling with ever dust devil we saw in the valleys and hillsides. We turned back about 5pm as a good wind was building and many trees around the area were starting to fall. We wasted no time in getting back to the cabin and out of the burned areas. It was a good day's work and despite the burn a beautiful place to be.

**Randy Velin**



## Good Day on Blue Mountain

For the last three or four years Richard Tamcke and I have been trying to get together to go for a ride somewhere but my schedule and crazy life kept interfering! Two tries at running for the state legislature, farming, working on other projects you name it and somehow it always ate the day we were going to saddle up and ride.

This year I decided it was going to be the year of the horse! I took the saw class, the first aid class, the horse safety class and by golly ran into Richard down at Ace Hardware and he mentioned going up on Blue Mountain and clearing some trail the next day. I tried to hook up with him a few weeks

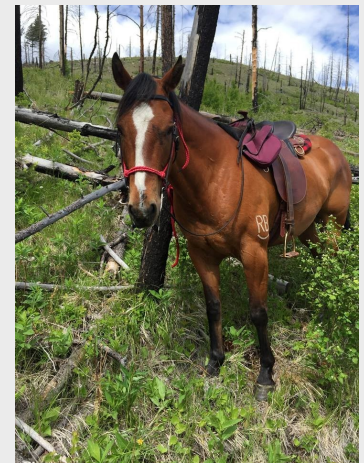


ago for a ride and wound up going to the wrong place and missing him. My horse Goose, began to think that going for a ride meant jumping in the trailer and going for a ride and then jumping out again when we got home which suited him fine! When we'd pull back into the pasture I'm sure he was telling the other horses what a great ride we went on. Anyway to get back on point, Richard offered to stop by and pick me and Goose up. The odds were pretty good we'd wind up at the same place this way! Next Morning Richard showed up and I was a little bit nervous, Goose had never ridden with strange horses or in any trailer but ours. Richard shuffled



his horses around a bit and danged if Goose didn't jump right in and introduce himself to those two ladies! Down the road we went! Got up to Blue Mountain trail head and he backed out like a gentleman unloading. I was kind of watching out the corner of my eye for

lightning bolts or something terrible to happen. We saddled up and headed up the trail, Richard the sawyer, me the Swede log wrestler out of the trail guy! Goose had never done much trail stuff like this so he was ambling along taking in the scenery and so was I. Richard decided to let us lead (so he didn't have to stop and wait for us so much I'm sure). Goose had never been a leader at anything, so here was another new experience for him. He was checking the air and doing a lot of recon work. I was fully expecting him to have a meltdown with all these new experiences...nope. Never been around a chainsaw running...nope, no problem. Tried ground tying him like we did at home, only moved once. Tried to snuggle up to the back end of one of Richards mares, she set him straight in short order! Didn't do that again!! OK, now two elk cross the trail up ahead of us, I knew this was going to be the end...stopped sniffed and just moved on! I was starting to feel pretty apprehensive that the world was going to explode pretty soon with all these new things, many I'm sure I wasn't even aware of that humans with their dull senses don't pick up on. We headed back down the trail and then he got a little worried and kept looking down the trail. Sure enough we came up on some fresh bear scat. Goose had been doing pretty dang good so I decided to get off and walk him a bit and show him it wasn't anything to be afraid about. He stepped right out following me knowing full well he could outrun me if Mr. BEAR showed up! Pretty soon I climbed back on and down the trail we went, he was on cruise heading back to the truck. When we got there, everybody loaded up good and Richard and I ate our lunches and headed back to the barn. It turned out to be a beautiful uneventful day playing with horses and doing a little good work. I think we're going to do a lot more of this!



**Charles Erickson**

# On the Trails with BC-H of Missoula





*Continued from page 2....*

raced by me on the Thoroughbred foal.

I joined 4-H in HS and mom bought me a 3 year-old Arabian off the Shoshone range, untrained which I was dumped from a few times and rode through high school. After I left home for college, mom sold that mare then two years later bought a ranch with her brother and we moved to Montana from Idaho. I rode our Morab ranch mare for pleasure, pushed and rounded-up cattle with her in the mountains. We also boarded a few horses and exercised some of those; a big Appaloosa gelding and my sister liked riding a well mannered Paso Fino stallion. We bred our Morab ranch mare three times, kept two mares I ended up taking care of and trained after we lost the ranch. After I got married I bred both of those mares a couple of times, trained and sold some and stood a beautiful full black stallion I trained and rode and lost to Potomac Horse Fever in 2008 at young age of only 13. At one time we had a horse family of 8 and I learned a lot over the years about family pecking order! We now have three teen-age geldings, full brothers from our stallion, 5th generation Morabs. Some of our Morabs have a single-foot gate, they are an awesome smooth ride and can really move on the trail. I spent 20 years with my husband and good friends trail-riding, packing, and hauling in a hunting camp and helping pack out elk until some health issues and job losses from the Iraq war put us and our friends in a stall. My husband and I were



active members of the Mission Valley BCH, helped with trail-clearing and a gravel haul with our Morab mares. We decided to rejoin BCH 4 years ago. It's nice to know so many equine folks all over Montana being involved in MT BCH.

Happy Trails!

**Ms. T. BCH of Missoula Board Member**



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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.