



The Feedbag

March 2021

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<http://bchmt.org/wp/missoula>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/missoulabch/>

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BCH of Missoula
P.O. Box 2121
Missoula, MT 59806

Volunteer Organization, 501c3

President's Letter:

Heads up we're moving out. I'm not sure my mules like to hear those words but by golly I'm excited and eager to state that our organization is on the move. We have had two productive Zoom board meetings with 15 to 16 people attending. Thanks Eva-Maria Maggi for your expertise in arranging the Zoom meetings. Copies of the board meetings minutes will be emailed to all members from this time forward. The board wants to share the excitement of what we are doing with all the members. Kristen, Rob, Carey, and Adam are hard at work with the social media committee. Great things are coming on the website and Facebook. Be sure to join in.

The horse events for the next few months are moving into focus and as you can see in the calendar of events the organization is indeed moving out. The board is excited to be able to provide two opportunities for members without pack experience or pack stock to participate in a Wilderness pack and camp trip in either Bob Marshall Wilderness or the Great Burn recommended Wilderness. Several trail rides are listed and if there is enough interest more will be added. When a member signs up for a trail ride and especially for a pack trip, a firm commitment is mandatory.

We are also proceeding with some of the educational events. Gary's Horse Handling clinic at Bashum's arena will have a different format. It will start at 1 PM without the customary potluck lunch. When the Horse Handling demonstration is complete it will be followed by a horse chiropractic demonstration and then a trail ride for all those who brought horses. The Panier Packing clinic and the Defensive Horse Safety clinic will be held at the Harper arena. Phone, text or email me to sign up. Masks and social distancing will be necessary. The horse safety clinic this year will be limited to those folks who have never been certified. The Forest Service has extended the recertification period for one year.

It sure will be satisfying to start to see some familiar faces and to get caught up with the events of the past year.

Happy Trails,

Dan Harper

BCH of Missoula President



BCH of Missoula Officers, Board and Committees

Officers

Dan Harper	President	406-258-6467
Ken Brown	Vice President	406-207-6067
Kirsten Pabst/Judy Allen	Secretary	406-396-7050 406-274-2339
Deb Monson	Treasurer	406-244-0039
Randy Velin	Past President	406-544-4582

Board of Directors

One year remaining: Mike Chandler, Mike Moore, Gary Salisbury

Two year term: Robert Braun, Charles Erickson, Carey Powers

State Directors

Randy Velin (Senior Director)	406-544-4582
Judy Allen (Junior Director)	406-274-2339
Smoke Elser (Alternate)	406-549-2820

Committee Chairs

Issues:	Ken Brown Mike Chandler
Social Chair:	Nancy Chandler, Lee and Terry Roogensack
Membership Chair:	Mary Erickson
Defensive Horse Safety:	Dan Harper
Website Coordinators:	Adam Davis Kristen Brown
Feedbag Editor:	Bonnie Doyle

UM classes teach Wilderness Policy

and Packing This Summer

By Eva-Maria Maggi

This summer, undergraduate students of all majors will have the chance to take two classes on Wilderness Policy and Packing at the University of Montana. The first class from May 18 to June 4 mixes campus and barn lectures by Wilderness policy experts with hands-on back country skills. Students will write their own policy papers, learn how to pack horses and mules and maintain backcountry trails. Enrollment to the class is limited to 20 students.

In the second class, up to 10 students go on a five day pack trip through the Bob Marshall Wilderness from June 28 to July 2 outfitted by Mack and Connie Long of Bob Marshall Wilderness Outfitters. Students will meet with Forest Service rangers, build trail, apply leave-no-trace principles with stock all while discussing their policy ideas around the campfire at night. Successful completion of Wilderness Policy and Packing is required to take the class. No additional experience with camping, horses or trail work is required. The Backcountry Horsemen of Montana, local chapters of the Bitterroot and Mission Valleys, the Montana Wilderness Association and the Political Science Department of the University of Montana are providing scholarships for students accepted to the pack trip.

For more information, visit the class website at <http://hs.umt.edu/polsci/courses/psci360/default.php>, Follow us on Facebook @UMWildernessPolicyPacking Email eva.maggi@umontana.edu



UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

SUMMER *Kick-off*



MULES ON THE OVAL

MARCH 23, 2021 | NOON - 1PM | UM OVAL

Calling all hands!!

Eva would appreciate any help our club can provide to make this event successful. We all know that mules and horses tend to leave behind presents that your typical, everyday college student does not want to step in. Feel free to bring your manure fork with you to the event. Eva would like two or three people to help pick up after the string.

The Missoula Back Country Horsemen will be hosting a table at this event. Randy and Ken would appreciate extra hands setting up and visiting with guests.

Look forward to seeing you there!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

As of March 3, 2021, and subject to Covid-19 changes

April 17: Horse Handling, Horse Chiropractic Care, Trail ride option. 1:00pm Basham Arena.

Gary Salisbury 406-529-7242

April 21: General Meeting. Speaker and location to be determined. Mask required.

April 24: Pannier Packing. 10:00-4:00 Harper Arena. Bring warm clothes and lunch. Mask required.

Dan 406-544-7296

MAY 1: Larry Creek Ride. 10:00 am at the trailhead. Gary Salisbury 406-529-7242

May 8: Defensive Horse Safety Certification. Harper Arena 9:00-4:00. Bring warm clothes and lunch. Mask required. Dan 406-544-7296

May 23: Calf Creek Ride. 10:00 am at the trailhead. Gary Salisbury 406-529-7242

June 5: Trails Day and Blue Mountain trail clearing 10:00 am. Richard Tamcke 406-258-6621

June 13: Flower Ride. Harper's. 10:00 am. Bring a lunch and good humor.

June 30, July 1 & 2: 3-day pack trip into Pretty Prairie from Benchmark Trailhead. Pack stock provided by Ken Brown, Kathy McGann, and Dan Harper. This Wilderness pack/camp trip IS AVAILABLE TO 4 TO 6 PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIMITED PACK EXPERIENCE OR NO PACK STOCK. A firm commitment is necessary.
Dan Harper 406-258-6467

July 10: Gold Creek Trail ride (and optional camp). Ken Brown 406-370-7374

August (27), 28-29: Clearwater Crossing' West Fork Fish Creek. Camp, eat, play, and ride. Three scenic trails are easily accessed from the campground. Children welcome. No horse? Come for the camaraderie!

September 1-2: Trash pack out from beautiful French Lake in the Great burn. Camp overnight at the lake. THERE IS ROOM FOR 2-4 RIDERS to join Kathy, Eva, Hayley, Ken and Dan. 406-544-7296

****Hold Saturday June 19th open for the Missoula Carousel-BCH . See Rob Braun's article in this Feedbag. It promises to be a great event. Volunteers will be needed and will be rewarded with smiles from a lot of happy kids. ****

Shiney, we are not in Montana anymore!

Shiney (aka Honey Moonshine) my 9-year-old gelding, has been my steady eddy all over Montana. Since I officially became a snowbird this year, we are enjoying the myriad of trails Southern Utah has to offer...and now Nevada. I kept hearing how spectacular The Valley of Fire ride was, and Shiney and I were not about to miss it.

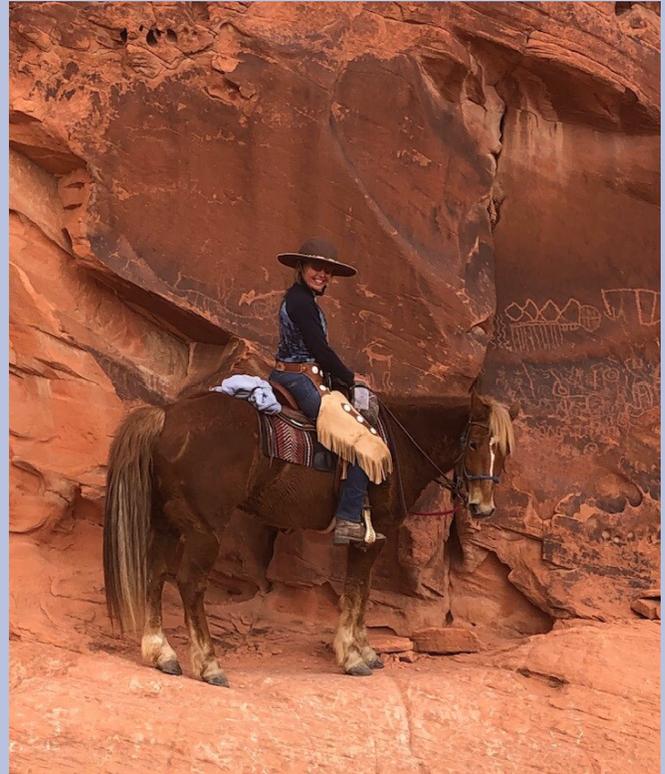
The Valley of Fire State Park in Nevada at 46,000 acres is akin to Snow Canyon State Park on steroids (a mere 7,400 acres). It boasts similar red and white sandstone formations which formed from shifting sand dunes 150 million years ago. Trailering over in groups, we met up with several other riders from Nevada.

First stop, the elephant! Then up and over our first technical section. Never underestimate the value of a good trail horse. Everyone's mount was sure footed and steady (including one novice rider on a seasoned Icelandic) Passing a group of seven desert bighorn sheep was an added bonus. Not at all worried by our presence, the question was raised, "how do they survive with so little water?" Apparently, they can go for weeks without a reliable source of water, thus surviving in areas that are too dry for their predators. Smart sheep!



Continuing on through another technical section with warnings of, "don't follow too closely." "Give me plenty of room." And at the end, "that wasn't as bad as I thought it would be :)". No blood was drawn by human or horse.

Next stop, God's bowl. A peaceful area of white sandstone, almost like an Italian Cathedral, made a lovely lunch stop. The sun was shining, the sky was blue, and the perfect temperature hovering around 60 degrees. Shiney decided to do a little jig on the way to our final destination. Me, "whoa, whoa! I have a situation. He's acting like he has a cactus in his butt!" Well, close. Turns out he had a cactus on his fetlock. Sensitive boy. Thank goodness for Lin's pliers.



Our final destination was the petroglyphs with the bighorn sheep. The dark clouds were looming after this final photo op, so we all were practicing our speed walk on the way back to the trailers. Our tour guide offered me the chance to ride her Icelandic, but with the wind picking up and looking like a hail-storm coming our way, everyone just hustled to get their tack off and horses loaded. Only a few intrepid souls stopped for ice cream on the way home. The perfect end to a perfect ride....mocha almond fudge.

Kathy McGann

The Meaning of Wilderness

In 1983, in the book "The Emerald Mile" by Kevin Fedarko, three outfitter guides for a raft company in the Grand Canyon rowed a dory named The Emerald Mile from the beginning of the Canyon at Lee's Ferry to the end on Lake Mead, 277 miles in just over 39 hours. The record for the fastest run. They ran class 10 rapids in the dead, darkness of the night by memory. Years later I floated the Grand Canyon on a private non-outfitter trip. It took 25 days. We took time to see and hike the canyon. At night I would lay on the sandy beaches and look at the stars through the chimney view created by the walls of the canyon. The stars were brilliant.

Similarly we now have ultra runners running across the Bob Marshall Wilderness [the Bob] in a day. The definition of "Front Country" is an area that can be experienced in a day, without staying overnight. Then the Bob has become front country for some people, and not "Back Country".

In 1988, when Yellowstone was on fire, I got caught in a forest fire in the Wind River Wilderness in Wyoming while helping on a pack trip with an outfitter. We had to travel 50 miles the last day to be able to safely get out, which we did at 2:00 am with the fire on the ridge top above us. However, this was a long day at 3 miles an hour.

To me the experience of the Grand Canyon or Wilderness areas is that it is not a race, against another person, speed as a function of time or the conquering of the place itself. To me it is not the beginning or the end of the backcountry trip that matters but what happens in between; or as Louis L'Amour said "The trail is the thing, not the end of the trail"

It is:

At 3 miles an hour feeling the motion and your balance on your horse or leading a pack horse. While doing this you let the horse watch his feet on the trail and you can enjoy the scenery;

Sitting at a campfire with others sharing a meal together, the day's experiences or a bag of peanut M&Ms, double stuffed Oreo cookies or salted caramel popcorn from Kornutopia, relaxing;

Just sitting in camp looking at the countryside. For example, on seeing mountain goats for hours in the Rattlesnake from our campsite, which FWP had been unsuccessfully looking for with airplanes. It is sitting at Murphy Flats along the South Fork of the Flathead River and seeing the mosaic of the tree growth differences and types of trees due to the history of forest fires

in the area. This also puts in perspective what a short period of time we will experience and this land will hopefully be evolving over large spans of time;

Stopping on a rock ledge overlooking the South Fork of the Flathead and seeing what appeared to be bubbles like in a freshly pour glass of 7 up; only to realize that it is not bubbles but schools of fishing rotating from the bottom to the top of the river pool;

Layover days are like bonus days in which you can kick back, take a nap or spend the day with friends and watch your horse graze in the nearby meadow or drink from the biting cold tack sharp clear mountain streams. You could go fishing, take pictures, take a hike and explore hillsides, find an elk shed or a mature tree that might be hundreds of years old;

Seeing land that has not changed much since Native Americans and other generations roamed the mountains and valleys; and

Mostly, it is spending enough time, a week to two weeks, to rub off the schedules, deadlines, cellphones, computers, TV, Netflix, endless news and the rushing to get to work and back home again; only to start it all over the next day. It is getting away from the sounds of traffic, ambulance and police sirens, and the methodical train horns blaring throughout the night. As "Hobnail" Tom Edwards and Smoke Elser have said, in Wilderness there is the hush of the land. Edward Abbey, in Desert Solitaire calls this "quietude" and "brittle silence".

Additionally, running, while permitted in Wilderness, does have issues of user conflicts. The potential speed coming quietly behind a pack string or riding horse can cause potentially serious accidents. It could ruin your day and Wilderness experience. I would support ultra running outside of the Wilderness but would hope we are not going to see an increase in Wilderness use of this activity. Additionally, I would caution horsemen about the speed at which they ride and where. Competitive and Endurance rides can be 60 to 90 miles at an average speed of 6 mph. I also know that some of those speeds are at or over 16 mph for shorter time intervals. Those ride events should not be in Wilderness. If you are going to gait or lope your horse, be cautious of where you are. All trail users should remember to "Expect and Respect" other trail users.

Ken Brown

Klaus Von Stutterheim

By Ken Brown

Back Country Horsemen of Missoula (BCHM) member, Klaus Von Stutterheim who died a week after February 16th was proclaimed by the Missoula County Commissioners as Klaus Von Stutterheim Day. Klaus was an advocate for Seeley Lake, until he recently resigned from the Seeley Lake Council due to his illness with pancreatic cancer. Klaus had helped with the acquisition of more than 310,000 acres for land trusts in Montana. He was also one of the Electoral College voters for Montana.

Klaus immigrated from Germany. He said he did not really have a direction in his life but fell into being a stockbroker on Wall Street. He said he found out to his surprise that he was really good at it and liked it.

Klaus came to Montana on a vacation with the Rich Ranch out of Seeley Lake. He said he took a horse ride with the Rich Guest Ranch to Pyramid Pass. There he had a very strong emotional reaction to the scenery and eventually moved with his wife Beatta next door to the Rich ranch, part time while he continued to work in New York. Klaus and Beatta eventually moved full time to their home in Montana, except now for spending winters in Arizona.

Klaus ran into Gary Salisbury on his horse on the Monture Trail. After a conversation Klaus joined BCHM. I first met Klaus on the BCHM Clearwater Blackfoot Game Range steak ride. He was riding a tall Tennessee Walker at a running-walk on the East West Road. He sported a

black cowboy hat and had a large pistol in a holster on his hip.

BCHM would do their wire rollup project each fall at the game range. Beatta would prepare a fabulous gourmet meal and include all the BCHM members and college students that had volunteered. They said it was a way of thanking people for helping to make the game range better for their neighborhood rides. They also led a BCHM ride on the numerous trails in the mountains behind their home.

Klaus told the story of him being at the Rich Ranch one day when some guests came up to him and another man on horses and wanted pictures of "true Montana cowboys". The other man told Klaus to smile and not talk, which Klaus did. Klaus had a very strong German accent. He was very proud of that "cowboy" moment.

We will miss Klaus. He was a cowboy via Germany.



Missoula BCH Carousel and Community Day!

Hi all, I hope this finds you well and enjoying the spring-like weather. I could not be more excited to announce that I am putting together a community awareness event. It will be held on Saturday June 19th at the historical "A Carousel for Missoula" at Caras Park.

We will have full access of the carousel all morning and into early afternoon giving FREE rides to all kids, young and old, big, and small. Our purpose is to spread awareness about the Missoula BCH by meeting the public, talking with them about our mission goals, explaining our cause, what we do, and potential projects. The wonderful carousel music is sure to bring smiles all around! Come grab the gold ring!

I am extremely excited to share our group with the public. There will be lots of foot traffic due to Farmer's Markets in the area on this specific day. I would like to have a table set up with our banner and handouts and ample volunteers to talk with visitors. We will potentially gain new membership and donations. If anyone has a cute mini horse let me know! Feel free to call or text me with any questions at 406-241-7223.



Thanks!

Look forward to seeing you there!

Rob Braun

March 9, 2021

John Slown
Environmental Coordinator
4289 Cappy Court
Missoula, MT 59804

Dear Mr. Slown:

The Back Country Horsemen of Missoula (BCHM) Board of Directors met on March 3 to review the North Fork Cutthroat Trout proposal. The Board was not supportive of this proposal. The following is the view of the Board.

The BCHM is generally against poisoning of fish in the wilderness due to the extensive use of motorized equipment in violation of the 1964 Wilderness Act and long term effects on instream insect production.

Fish counts in this portion of the North Fork of the Blackfoot have been low since the 1920's and 30's, probably at least in part to the fishing out of native cutthroat. Stocking efforts starting in the 1930's, more often than not of rainbow trout, proved unproductive in the long term.

One treatment that has not been tried is swamping with the nearly pure west slope cutthroat stock available. This would protect the instream food chain, cut the use of mechanized equipment, and probably bypass the need for a third party environmental assessment that we feel should be a requirement before the instream use of rotenone.

Sincerely,

Michael Chandler

Co-Chairman of BCHM Issues Committee

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.