



# The Feedbag

October 2023

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### Website:

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

### Facebook:

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

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Missoula, MT 59806

Volunteer Organization, 501c3

*Dear Missoula BCH members,*

Fall has always been my favorite season. The summer heat gives way to cool mornings and warm afternoons. And it is my birthday month! Riding is fun any time of year, but hearing those leaves rustling under my horse's feet is special. While rides might be soon slowing down for most, our club's busy time is upon us. It was great to see you at our annual Ice Cream Social & Trivia night. I picked out some difficult questions about horses and history, but you still got them right! Congratulations to those lucky BCH Missoula hat winners. If you didn't win or couldn't make it to the Trivia but still want to have a unique Christmas present and support our club, talk to us at our next meeting. We have lots of colors available.

Talking about Christmas, our annual Christmas party, this year at the Missoula Fairgrounds' Floriculture Building, is coming up soon. There are rumors about a photo booth with a sleigh and live music in addition to the famous membership potluck. Next year we celebrate 50 years of Missoula BCH and Missoula City Parks & Recreation Open Space and Trails plan will be redone. We need all hands on deck so please reach out if you want to contribute your talents to these or any of our events. We are always in need of Feedbag articles and fall and winter is a great time to write.

Go out and ride if you can, the fall colors in and around Missoula are spectacular right now. And winter is coming.

*My best, Eva*



## BCH of Missoula Officers, Board and Committees

### Officers

|                 |                |              |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Eva-Maria Maggi | President      | 406-531-6037 |
| Ken Brown       | Vice President | 406-370-7374 |
| Carey Powers    | Secretary      | 434-989-8018 |
| Jane Kelly      | Treasurer      | 406-370-4363 |
| Dan Harper      | Past President | 406-544-7296 |

### Board of Directors

*Second year:* Kathy McGann, Mike Chandler

*First year:* Alex Drayton, Eric Skelton, Sydney Young

### State Directors

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Judy Allen              | 406-274-2339 |
| Gary Salisbury          | 406-529-7242 |
| Smoke Elser (Alternate) | 406-549-2820 |

### Committee Chairs

|                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Issues:                        | Mike Chandler/Ken Brown      |
| Social Chair:                  | Nancy Chandler               |
| Membership Chair:              | Judy Allen                   |
| Electronic Media Coordinators: | Robert Braun<br>Carey Powers |
| Feedbag Editor:                | Bonnie Doyle                 |
| Assistant Editors:             | Dan Harper<br>Sydney Young   |

## November Elections

Board members proposed for November general meeting elections are as follows.

**President** - Eva-Maria Maggi

**Vice President** - Ken Brown

**Secretary** - Carey Powers

**Treasurer** - Jane Kelly

**Director (2)** - Two year term - Kathy McGann / TBD

**Directors with *one year remaining*** are Alex Dayton, Sydney Young, and Eric Skelton

### Proposed State Directors

**Senior member** - Gary Salisbury

**Junior Member** - Judy Allen

**Alternate** - Mike Chandler

*Nominations from the floor will be taken  
at the time of the elections.*

**\*\*\*\*FOR SALE \*\*\*\***

**50 foot round pen with gate B&W Brand**

**Asking \$1,500**

**Priefert Panels:**

**3 - 12 foot; 1 - 10 foot**

**1-12 foot walk through gate**

**Asking \$800**

**Contact Larry Henderson 406-880-0919**

Mark Joseph Pengelly, 65, of Frenchtown, a friend, father, and lifelong Montanan, passed on July 12, 2023, following a battle with a grizzly bear—well ... natural causes--we know what a storyteller he was! Mark was born March 18, 1958, to William Leslie and Mary (Derleth) Pengelly in Missoula, MT.

Raised by a teacher and a wildlife biology professor, Mark refused to let schooling interfere with his education and was determined to become a cowboy—when he wasn't skiing. He even practiced roping his sisters and all their belongings as a kid. From a young age, it was obvious that he would be too independent to wrangle. Much like his father, he was a true lover of nature. As a youngster, Mark spent many hours exploring the hills of Mount Sentinel, both to enjoy the serenity and to evade oversight. He spent most of his adult life traversing the most beautiful backcountry of the Rocky Mountains.

Mark was an avid horseman, hunter, and guide. He was employed by ranchers Lloyd and Rowena Jones of Idaho and British Columbia, Smoke and Thelma Elser of Missoula, and Tag and Sandra Rittel of Wolf Creek. He served as the lead animal packer at the Ninemile Remount Depot, where he enjoyed a career of more than 25 years leading a mule string for the United States Forest Service. After enduring countless injuries from kicking mules and double knee replacements for his notoriously bowed legs, Mark's many-times-injured body finally yelled loudly enough to warrant attention, and he reluctantly retired in 2018. He remains respected by his colleagues for his hard work and commitment to caring for the pack animals at Ninemile.



## JUST MY OPINION

While enjoying a layover day at the Basin in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, we encountered two riders with all their camp gear on their riding horses. It was obvious that they had a very minimal amount of gear. The horses were secured by tying to trees due to the lack of hobbles and high lines. The horses were grazed by holding the lead rope of one while the other horse grazed free. Suddenly the restrained horse broke free, and both horses galloped off. After a long walk to the trail head an outfitter was hired to bring back the saddle and gear left behind.

There are several ways to enjoy camping in the wilderness. Packing in with your own horses or mules has been one of the top choices for a rewarding experience. The Back Country Horsemen organization makes a significant effort to promote safe pack trips. The horseman must decide on the many options available for the pack in. There are abundant choices, but no single, right way or style for everyone despite the "friendly" arguments, over horse versus mule, pannier versus mule loads, backpack, quick meals versus camp, cooking and so on.

With safety in mind, there is one choice that to me is clearly suboptimal. That is the packing of all the camp gear on the pommel, and behind the cantle of the riding horse. Here are my concerns: despite using the latest lightweight, backpack gear and food, the horse and mule will likely be overloaded. Some equines will tolerate this overloaded situation while others may object. Once the camp gear is tied onto the riding saddle, it becomes difficult to mount and dangerous to dismount. Then there's the issue of the equipment left behind. For the equine, it may be hobbles, high line, bell, emergency hoof care kit, feed-bag and pellets, not to mention a trail vet kit. For the rider, adequate clothing for changing weather conditions and important

personal gear may be unavailable. Perhaps in many cases a more inexperienced horseman will entertain this kind of a choice to experience the wilderness.

All in all this kind of an adventure, does not sound nice for the equine or safe for the rider. While I understand the motivation for the promotion of pack and ride gear in some outdoor catalogs, I am amazed that occasionally articles in horse and mule magazines promote the pack and ride approach to equine wilderness camping.

If you don't have enough stock for a separate riding and pack animal, then here's a better idea. Pack all the necessities and a few luxuries on your equine and hike leading your pack animal into the wilderness. Enjoy the walk, smell the flowers and enjoy a safer experience.

*Dan Harper*



*Hiking into the Scapegoat Wilderness with my kids and father-in-law leading my first mule, Ahab*

"Distinguished Alumni Award" by UM's School of Forestry (2012), the "Distinguished Citizen Award" by Boy Scouts of America (2012), the "Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award" by The Conservation Roundtable (2013) and the "Legacy Award" (2014) and "Founders Award" (2016) by the Back Country Horsemen of America (2014). He is honored to be the only inductee of both the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame (2018) and Cowboy Hall of Fame (2016). Since Smoke graduated from UM in 1964, the Elser family received a grand total of thirteen degrees from UM.



Zip aka AQHA Sporty Parr was a beloved part of our family. We got him as a 3-year-old for my daughter Kelly Stoll as a 4-H horse. He lived to the age of 21, passing away in April 2018. Zip was part of the Charlie Russell Riders drill team, I rode him in two homecoming parades, and enjoyed trail rides with him.



One funny fact about Zip was that when I curried him, he always tensed up and scrunched his back. He never misbehaved but I could never figure out what caused this. Later on, a family member gave me a horse magazine and I finally found the answer. Zip had the same affliction as me...we were ticklish!

*Jane Kelly*



## **Our First Year Missoula Backcountry Horsemen**

*Mike Chandler and Smoke Elser*

On Feb. 13, 1974, BCH of Missoula held its first meeting where Smoke Elser was elected as temporary chairman and Sandy Mytty secretary-treasurer.

A second meeting was held March 13<sup>th</sup> with the main topic being the adoption of a constitution, whether we should be incorporated as a non-profit or not. A nominating committee was formed by Smoke to select officers and board members, to be voted on at the next meeting. Judy Norgaard and Bruce Elwood were appointed as a publicity committee.

The third meeting was held April 10, 1974, evidenced by the enthusiasm for the new BCH. Nominating committee chair, Dr. Gary Eudaily presented a list of 19 names with an additional 5 names being added at the meeting. The ten board members elected were Sandy Mytty, Ray Roberts, Smoke Elser, Jim Cole, Fred Hartkorn, Jim Brogger, Allen Bedord, Judy Norgaard, Shirley Brogger, and Thelma Elser. Following the directors' election, the Board appointed Ray Roberts to be chairman for the remainder of 1974.

Mike Chandler volunteered to contact the Forest Service and start considering volunteer projects we might take on. Smoke mentioned that the Flathead BCH group's work had resulted in the Forest Service having \$5000 more left in their budget for wilderness management.

The May '74 meeting was held at the new Montana Power Building on Russell Street. Allen Bedord, VP ran the meeting as the president, Ray Roberts was out of town. Bill Holman, Wilderness Specialist, Region I, presented a program on wilderness management and lack of funding. The Bob Marshall management plan is up for revision in '76, followed by the Bitterroot revision. He talked about the permit reservation system in use in California (Region 5) and suggested we may need such a system in our Region I in the near future. A very red flag went up in all our minds! Mike Chandler presented a list of projects we could do. The first was a trail clearing project on Blue Mountain with an inspection ride for a horse-only trail, to be held May 15<sup>th</sup>.

At the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting Smoke introduced Jack Dolan, the Bob Marshall Ranger. Jack suggested that groups like ours should put pressure on Congress for more funding for wilderness management. Mike Chandler passed out sign-up sheets for work projects for the Blue Mountain trail and clearing the South Fork of Lolo for about 6 miles from the meadow to Bass Creek.

At the July '74 meeting George Moore, Bob Marshall outfitter since 1925 and owner of the Monture Lodge, gave a program and stressed the lack of Forest Service trail funding and issues of overuse, more and more by backpackers.

The Blue Mountain trail was cleared and now some signing needs to be put up. Fred Hartkorn suggested we look into projects in the new Lincoln-Scapegoat Wilderness. A group training session for the use of crosscut saws and other wilderness trail tools was scheduled to be held at Blue Mountain July 24.

The August '74 meeting had Paul Martin of the Forest Service presenting a program about horse use in the Bitterroot Selway. The new draft plan will be out in 1978 and will probably propose limits of use, such as exclusions, reservations, and limits on numbers of people and livestock.... more red flags for horse users! The need for better cleanup in many of the campsites along the east side canyons of the Bitterroot Selway was discussed.

An overnight ride to survey a trail clearing project around the rim southeast of Pyramid Pass is planned for August 17 & 18.

At the Sept. '74 meeting Mike Chandler reported on a project for us to clear a rim trail between Dunham Creek and Lodgepole Creek off of Pyramid Pass, providing more access into the area south of Youngs Creek. A project committee is being formed. Fred Hartkorn reported on a proposed road closure on BLM lands for non-motorized use in such areas as Chamberlain Cr. in the Blackfoot. These closures will provide great non-wilderness areas will provide great non-wilderness areas for hikers and horsemen and the club is encouraged to write letters of support. Ray Roberts suggested we should look at some social events such as a barn dance, box socials, and maybe a ride with a steak meal as fundraisers.

At our Oct. '74 meeting we received a letter of thanks for our support of the Flathead club's opposition to the removal of the Salmon Forks Bridge in the Bob Marshall. Mike Chandler, Project Committee Chairman, reported on successful projects on Blue Mountain, South Fork of Lolo, crosscut saw and other tool training, and the inspection ride on the rim from Pyramid Pass. A box social and barn dance was planned for Nov. 30 at Elser's barn. A trail ride with dinner was planned for the coming spring. It was voted that our meeting start time would be changed from 7:30 to 8 PM!

Our Nov. '74 meeting provided details on the Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> box social where the women in the group would prepare meals-for-two in decorated packages which would be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Subsequently the winner would sit and share the meal with whomever prepared it. *(Continued next page)*

(Cont.) Jim Ring, an award-winning fiddler would provide dance music and beer would be served at 25 cents a glass!

Roger Norgaard is making a bulletin board that will be at each meeting where members can post items for sale or trade.

At the Dec. '74 meeting treasurer Shirley Brogger reported that the box social made \$385 for the club!

Jack Hoover of the Issues Committee is looking into several issues we should be involved with in the upcoming months.

At a joint meeting with the directors of the Flathead and our club, we discussed the Forest Service Transportation Plan for the Bob that proposes maintaining only two main trails.... Benchmark to Holland Lake and Monture to Spotted Bear. We cannot let that happen. Another joint directors' meeting was scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> in Polson.

We experienced a very successful first year with great enthusiasm from all the members of our new BCH organization.

### **Muddy Moose Tracks # 2**

Author and BCH Missoula president Eva-Maria Maggi met moose on the trail (see Feedbag Issue March 2023) during a fall trip in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. This is the second and last part of "Muddy Moose Tracks".

The weather stayed wet for the next couple of days. We slept in, took short hikes from camp scanning the canyon for wildlife, chatting away, enjoying our kid-free mountain time, excited to throw more wood in the fire when we got back. The camp was set up nicely. Nestled between Ponderosa Pine and Douglass fir trees, the large canvas tent sat protected from the wind on a wide bench above the creek. The horses and mule were munching good hay in corral on the bench below, huddling with their puffed up coats closer under the trees when the rain hit. A few hundred yards away, the musty smell of fresh blood gave away the game pole where bow hunters had hung their elk carcass head down before packing it out in four pieces on two mules. In the middle of one of the densest Grizzly bear populations in the lower 48 states, we were thankful for the three feet tall powerful bear fence that secured our sleeping tent on all sides. We had seen many bears on our ride in, eager to fill up before the winter set in.

One morning we curiously watched with a warm coffee mug in our hands as a black bear calmly walked by not more than three feet away, gently sniffing the air. It felt like a zoo, just that we were the ones fenced in. When the clouds cleared we rode up the pass to Big River Meadow, a beautiful high alpine grassland with a meandering creek. It reminded me of the Danaher Valley in the southern part of the Bob Marshall Wilderness, one of Smoke's favorite places and where I bring a group of University of Montana students each summer. The fog rolled over the mountains and we left with the promise to return with warmer weather.

The gear and our mule was quickly and lightly packed with our sleeping bags and clothing the next morning.

The tents disappeared into the trees as we climbed up the bench to the trail. A warm home in the woods for the next lucky ones. We quickly slid down the muddy trails like on downhill skis in winter when I saw the first moose track. It had rained all night and the horses feet were covered in the infamous ankle deep Bob Marshall mud. There are many reasons to ride a horse in the woods, five feet off the ground the view is better, you can stay longer and go further with your most trusted friend. But staying out of the mud is another welcomed advantage. The tracks were very fresh and they were coming our way. The cow moose must have left the trail, I concluded and sighed with relief. Everybody was ready to get home and I had no intention to be held up again by a moose. We left the densely wooded protection of the canyon at the confluence of the Birch Creek forks. A wildfire had opened up the vast view into the valley and surrounding mountains. The cloudy sky spanned big above us. My heart filled with gratitude for the gifts of water, air, horses, love, mountains, when a set of huge racks appeared out of the last grove of birches across the creek. This time I didn't flinch. Instinctively, I started yelling and singing, boldly but slowly riding to the water's edge. The bull moose kept his head low, intently following the scent of the cow whose tracks we had seen earlier. Focused and excited as if rounding up cattle, my mare sensing resolve rose a few inches, taking wide strides into the water, my husband following behind joining the chorus. I could see the grass and moss hanging off the huge rack, and the bull's bewildered eyes before he quickly turned on his hind quarters and disappeared into the brush.

*Eva-Maria Maggi, Ph.D., is a writer, mule packer and professor at the University of Montana in Missoula. Her book with and about Arnold "Smoke" Elser, "Hush of the Land : A lifetime in the Bob Marshall Wilderness" is due to be published with Bison Books in Spring 2024.*



## **Get Your Horse Gear Here!!**

Gary Salisbury has a barn full of miscellaneous tack that needs new homes. These items are from his brother Max's estate. Included are halters, lead ropes, turn out blankets, heavy blankets, side pull bridles, leather reins, lounge line, hackamore, snaffle bits, stirrups and more!

***Contact Gary at 406-529-7242***



## **HELP NEEDED!!!**

An integral part of BCH is the Social Committee which oversees the planning, setup and functioning of not only our brief social time at the monthly meetings, but the several potlucks, the spring roundup, and social functions the club holds. In the past number of years we have had just one social chair and recruited more help each time we have a larger function. Luckily we seem to have numerous talented cooks and organizers. Our potlucks certainly attest to the culinary skills of many BCH members. All help and contributions to the food tables is so appreciated. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

At this time I am turning in my resignation as chair of the committee, effective Jan. 1, 2024. I definitely will continue to help out with any larger events and will work with my successor.

Moving forward this is what I envision the ideal working committee:

Chairperson (position open starting in 2024)

Committee members – (as many as we can get)

Major functions needing extra help: Christmas Party, Membership Potluck, maintenance of club storage food items and implements at club storage building, calling and setting up refreshments for meetings, shopping for supplies for bigger functions and/or rides etc. Ideally with a committee, no one person needs to be involved in every event. I envision perhaps splitting up the calendar amongst the social committee to make coffee and put out treats for the monthly meetings. More hands certainly lighten the load!

Please contact me or Ken Brown if you are willing to serve on this committee in some capacity. I will be scheduling a storage unit cleanup soon and would welcome anyone willing to meet (a weekday or weekend day) at the storage to go through our accumulation of decorating and other supplies used at our events. (Please call me, Nancy Chandler, 406-549-7639 if you are interested in the committee or cleanup day.)

## Issues Committee Report

*Ken Brown*

We have the third revision of the “Meeting a Horse on the Trail” cards available (see photos). They are available for you to have to give out to other trail users to help educate them on safe interactions. The biggest change is defining what “yield” means. The behaviors we want to see are STOP, SPEAK UP, and STAND BACK.

We started working with the Forest Service and other user groups on the Lolo Forest Service revision plan in January. Since then, we have gone to 3 large presentations/work groups at the UofM; 2 ranger chats in Seeley Lake, one chat in Superior and 2 chats in Missoula; and participated in online sessions. This process has covered so far giving input on Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Forest Service is expected in January to start giving the public what their recommendations will be. This process is expected to continue into 2026.

When I met with the Seeley Lake Ranger, Quin Craver, a few weeks ago, I was able to talk with him and the two facilitators for the revision meetings about the use of mountain bikes from the trailheads of North Fork of the Blackfoot, Monture, Lodgepole, Pyramid Pass and one other I am not familiar with. I brought information from Claudia with the Flathead/Lolo/Bitterroot Organization that under the current Lolo Forest Service plan mountain bikes are not allowed on these trails that lead to the Wilderness. They reviewed the document and agreed. This is a huge issue for us. These trails see a lot of pack string use and meeting mountain bikes are a problem. Hopefully we will now see signs posted for no mountain bike use on these trails.

Dan Harper, John Favro, and I met on the ground with the Forest Service staff Andy Bryden and Tony Feist on the Wallman trail reroute in the Rattlesnake Recreation Areas last fall to review the safety and trail drainage problems we saw. There was agreement to fix the safety issues of the approach to the new trail bridge, widen trail sections that were too narrow for anyone to pass each other and a section of the trail that was sloughing off. Since then, the bridge has been fixed. I recently talked with the Forest

Service personnel, hopefully we will get the other issues addressed this coming summer. Presently the trail is unsafe for horse use.

We will be talking with Missoula Parks and Recreation Department and the Community Lands Advisory Counsel about horse use on open space lands. Parks and Recreation currently has in the 2010 Conservation Lands Management Plan that the trail “tread” for horse needs to be 48” to 96”, or 4 to 8 feet! The tread width design for similar neighboring trails for the Forest Service is 18” to 24”. We are hoping to get this changed to the Forest Service standards.

We are still working with Friends of the Bitterroot and the Selway-Bitterroot chapter on the Odell Repeater issue in the West Pioneers Wilderness Study Areas.

Another issue that we will be giving input on is the proposed mining in the Bitterroot for metals for cell phones and electric cars that would affect the Frank Church Wilderness area, the Blue Joint Wilderness Study Area, and the water quality of the Bitterroot River.

### **Meeting a Horse on the Trail**



**STOP:** At a safe distance—at least 10 yards away.

- Horses have the right of way. **PLEASE yield to them.**
- Get off your bike and **stand still.**

**SPEAK UP:** Let the rider/horse know you are there, especially if you are coming from behind. It identifies you as a human and not an animal that wants to harm or eat them. **Speaking is unique to people** • Using a bell is not effective with horses and is hard to hear for the rider.

**STAND BACK:** On a narrow trail, step off on the **down side** of the trail. Prey animals attack from above. Horses feel safer when people/dogs are below them. **It is easier/safer for the rider to**

**stay on a horse going on the uphill side of the trail** • Give the horse plenty of room • Control your dog with a leash • When in a group, all parties need to be on the same side of the trail • Stay in full view so the horse can see you. Don't hide behind a tree or bush • **Wait for instructions from the rider on what to do.**

- Do not try to pet the horse unless you have permission from the rider • When on a bridge, **get off the bridge** to let the horse/rider safely cross. All parties are in danger of being seriously injured or killed.

**SMILE:** Thank everyone for their cooperation & to enjoy their day.

Adopted from Appalachian Mountain Bike Club, Blue Ridge Trail Riders, Inc., Harvey Broome Group of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, Ginny Fay & Tom Brigham, Missoula, MT 5/30/17, American Trails, and Ken Brown, Back Country Horsemen of Missoula. 5/28/23 revision.



Board member candidate **Kathy McGann** is a retired veterinarian. She loves traveling and riding in new places along with her three horses, three dogs and a cat.

In Kathy own words...

" I rode my first pony at age 3. My Dad was leading me on a rental pony. He decided to let me have the reins and the pony took off galloping back to the rental stable. My dad was very proud of me for not falling off!

We never owned horses growing up but would always ride on vacation. In high school and college, I wrangled on a ranch in Arizona. They ran about 100 head of horses and 300 cow/calf pairs. We branded and roped and shod and castrated. I would ride out to bring in the horse herd every morning before breakfast. My love of horses is what led me to vet school."

When asked if there have been any specific experiences that had a positive impact on her horsemanship Kathy had this to say. "So many people have had a positive impact on my horsemanship. Those that share their

knowledge. There is always something to learn. I really enjoy it when a "problem" horse becomes a good horse."

Kathy's advice... "learn from others. Somebody out there has the answer."



Photos courtesy of Alex Drayton - Bob Marshall Trip

