

BITS AND SPURS Apr-May-Jun 2017, SPWBCH Newsletter

Mission Statement:

Our purpose is to perpetuate the common sense use of horses in America's back country, wilderness and roadless areas; to assist various government and private agencies in their maintenance of said resources; to work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use; and to educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resources by horsemen and pack stock.



2017 SPWBCH Officers - Contact Information

President: Mike Foster	Ph. 777-4383
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Treasurer: Betsy Hepburn-Day	Ph. 381-1378
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Junior- Duane Krown & Patty Hascall	PH. 642-3932 Ph. 370-8546
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Alternate: Kathy Hundley	Ph. 363-8230

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SUMMER BREAK- No Meetings until fall



President's Note – Hello SPWBCH Chapter Members and Friends~ It looks like the cool weather is gone for now. Hope your horses are shod and your spring project list is finished, because we have a busy summer ahead. The SPWBCH project list is going one down: we had five members on the trail at Blodgett on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 3rd. It was a beautiful day and the trail was in need of some cutting in several places. Thanks, Kathy, Bruce, Jennifer and Trish and all the good stock for getting the job done. And a special thanks to Linda Habeck and Patty & Kent Hascall for a fine meal at the end of the day. The next trail project will be pack support at Blodgett to 7 mile meadow. See you on the trail! *Mike Foster*



Health & Training



RIDING PROBLEMS CREATED BY SADDLES

Part 3 cont.



Bad saddle fit can be blamed for a variety of problems with your horse, not to mention your own aches and pains after a ride. We will continue the signs and possible reasons of a bad saddle fit.

Sign 11: Horse travels crooked, as if watching riders from behind.

Reason: A number of reasons could be responsible for this, but once again, the first place to look is at saddle fit. Usually if a saddle is ill fitting to begin, all you need is to have stirrup leathers unmatched in length to put undue pressure on one side of your horse's back. When you ride with uneven stirrups, even though your saddle might fit perfectly, you are shifting the points of even contact to an uneven weight distribution and therefore putting too much pressure on one spot instead of spreading the load.

The horse will always turn away from the pain. You can tell if he inclines his head and neck to the right that the painful area is on the left side of his spine and vice versa. Sometimes a horse refuses to travel straight looking or leaning sometimes to the right and at others to the left. This means he has pain on both sides or is objecting by trying to move away from the pain in both directions. A happy horse travels straight between your hands and your legs, as if between rails. This is his guide and a form of riding that helps build confidence in your horse. Experiment and see if it works!

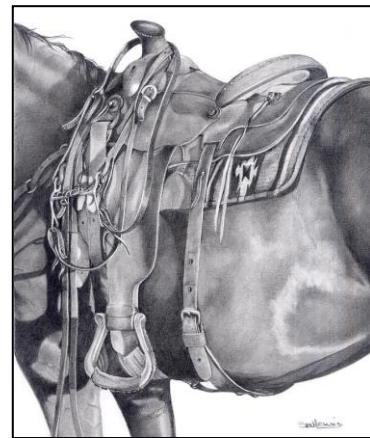
Sign 12: Saddle rolls or slips to the side when you mount or dismount.

Reason: Horses with low or no withers have been blamed for slipping saddles but a saddle that fits properly will not slide on any horse, withers or no withers. Don't buy into the "Your horse doesn't have

any withers, so what do you expect?" excuse. Of course, if you haven't cinched or girthed up properly, your saddle may slip too.

Sign 13: Horse walks off as rider mounts and before rider is seated.

Reason: As you mount you put all your pressure in the stirrup on one side of your horse's back. If the saddle is too narrow your horse will really feel the pressure point as it will dig in and he will be forced to walk out from under it because it hurts. Usually this is an indication that the saddle tree is angled incorrectly for your horse and a whole line of pressure pointing takes place during mounting. But, a single pressure point can cause this. Notice how once you are seated, he settles down. Unless of course the saddle continues to poke him in the back the whole time, in which case he will exhibit some of the signs already mentioned.



~DUTCH OVEN RECIPE ~

Bacon Cheese Pull Aparts

Ingredients:

- 14 Rhodes frozen dinner rolls (thawed but still cold)
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 2 cups grated cheddar cheese
- 8 pieces cooked bacon, broken into small pieces



Cut each roll in half. Pour butter into a 12 inch Dutch oven. Roll cut rolls in butter until coated and arrange in DO. Sprinkle with cheese and bacon. Cover with lid and let rise until they double in size. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes; 16 briquettes on top/8 bottom.

SPWBCH 2017 Summer Projects

#1. Blodgett: June 3 (National Trails Day)
Trailmaster-Kathy Hundley **(Complete)**

#2. Meadow Creek #172: June 23
(postponed) Trailmaster-Bob Driggers

#3. High Lake Pack Support: In-July 13 & Out-July 16 Trailmaster-Bruce Scott

#4. South Fork Big Creek Pack Support: In July 22 & Out July 29 Trailmaster-Bruce Scott

#5. Watchtower: August 4 & 5; Annual campout/logging/brushing
Trailmaster- Kathy Hundley/Terry Reed

#6. Sawtooth Bridge: August 7-20; RTP Grant project led by FS Steve Bull/SPWBCH
Bruce Scott

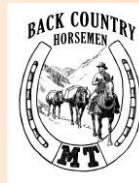
#7. South Fork Lost Horse: August 26
Gravel Haul; Trailmaster-Joe Hundley

#8. Sawtooth #123: September 1-3 Trail Maintenance/Logging; Trailmaster-Bruce Scott



"Relax, this will make you feel much better."

BCHMT Convention Highlights



Hosted by the Mission Valley BCH
Polson, MT March 24-25-26, 2017

Attended by Kathy Hundley/Julie Schram/Trish & Mike Foster/Linda Habeck/Patty Hascall/Christy Bennett/Mary Mills

2017 BCHMT Officers: Chairman-Brad Pollman; Vice Chairman-Rich Carl; Treasurer-Sherri Lionberger; Secretary-Nancy Pollman; National Directors: Mark Himmel/Mack Long; Alternate: John Chepulis

Resolutions: "Wild and Scenic Rivers"-recommended naming more of Montana's rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act-Passed; "Multiple BCH Chapter Membership-BCH members may belong to more than one chapter and serve in any capacity/officers-Passed

Saw Policy: Mark Himmel (Charlie Russell BCH-Great Falls) continuing to work on getting BCH members trained

2016 BCHMT Volunteer Total: \$1,033.499 worth of volunteering

2016 BCHMT Membership: 318 Single; 385 Family 1,088 Total members-slightly below 2015

Guest Speakers: Leanne Martin-USFS Regional Forester- Region 1; Eric Smith-Glacier National Park; Joe Asher-BLM, Western MT Field Manager

2017 Founders Award recipient: Phyllis Ausk (wife of founder Ken Ausk)

2018 BCHMT State Convention: Hosted by Judith Basin BCH-Lewistown, April 6-8



THE QUESTION IS “WHY”

By Forrest Curley

Awhile back I started writing this article. It seems as if it's been avoiding me. I've made three other attempts so far. Well, doggone it, I have to do it-so here goes.

I joined this carnarked club about 7-8, maybe more years ago about the same time that I retired from the California Department of Parks and Recreation as a real life trails coordinator. It seemed only natural to me to continue what I loved doing the most-designing, building and maintaining the trails in Big Sur, California. I still remember those trails like the back of my hand.



About the only thing that I found baffling about it all was how many “O”s there are when you spell trails coordinator! That is what they called me-among other things like hard driving, old school and all that. But, this isn't about me. It's about why. Why the heck do we do it, maintain trails that is? There are many and varied responses to this issue of course. I will attempt to express mine. I hope that I do not offend...so here goes.

Please keep in mind that this is only one man's opinion, so let's not get all fluffie. The best things about trails are what is not there. I was taught that a well-designed trail should be borderline invisible, no sign of human effort. Sort of burying one's work, the lack of the presence of man and yet man can continue to get there.

A trail should sorta be an enigma with purpose and not a statement on one's engineering prowess. Some see our presence in nature as an invasion, while others see it as a right and we are all being motivated by a type of love to be there. Could it be a higher calling? Or is it a curious dilemma?



To me, natural things are inviting, things like dirt, air, the sky and trees. After all, my name is Forrest! Many of us see these things and rejoice, or should I say survive. It's all the same to me

We here in the Bitterroot have an opportunity to preserve and protect that which we have, even if it is only a signature. It's His. Think if you had a piece of paper signed by George Washington or Theodore Roosevelt. Would you not value it? This is why I try to keep our trail system open and clear. We want to look at His signature, or at least that's how it works for me. How about you? That's why for me...nuff said.

My question is “Where did this appreciation come from?” Appreciation is a form of love. So, what is love? I think that most people know God is love. We love nature and get all involved with trails but it's only His signature. What is the rest of Him like?! Or is it because we're drawn to something that we don't understand and there we stand in awe.

**BCHMT SUMMER PROJECT
WEBB LAKE CABIN
Helena National Forest-Scapegoat Wilderness
June 11-17**

SPWBCH members Julie Schram, Kathy Hundley and Carol Johns participated in this year's first BCHMT statewide project. Members from different chapters across MT packed in the 7 miles to the Webb Lake Guard Station to help rebuild the corrals. All primitive tools were used to gather and peel over 75 rails. Posts and hay had been packed in by the Forest Service. Mark Himmel, Charlie Russell BCH, coordinated the project along with Josh Lattin, Resource Specialist- Helena National Forest, Lincoln Ranger District. Ten BCHMT members joined in the fun/work from the Charlie Russell BCH, East Slope BCH, Beartooth BCH and SPWBCH. Volunteers were allowed to use the guard station, which proved to be much needed due to Monday night's steady downfall of rain. Despite the ankle deep mud in the corrals by Tuesday...the work went on! At this point the new corral fencing is not complete, and there was some discussion of another work project in the future.



RECENTLY retired Rocky Mountain National Park trails foreman George Havens has a handy method to quickly, neatly, and efficiently roll your slicker. George perfected this method during his years of outfitting in the Estes Park, Colo., area.

The benefits of using his method are that the inside of the slicker remains dry, since no seams are on the outside, and when you begin to unroll the slicker, the collar is immediately available. Because of that you can put the slicker on in a storm with a minimum of flapping or shaking that could alarm a horse.

George also points out that, especially when helping a string of riders with their slickers, having each one rolled the same way speeds up the process and makes it safer. The same procedure can be used for long or short coats and slickers.

HOW TO ROLL YOUR OWN SLICKER



1

- 1 Start by folding the slicker lengthwise in the center.
- 2 Then fold the slicker in half, folding in the arms.
- 3 Starting at the midback fold, roll the slicker tightly toward the front edge.
- 4 To adjust the width of the rolled slicker for personal taste, you can fold part of the hem edge in as far as you choose.
- 5 When tightly rolled, the slicker makes a neat package easily tied to your saddle.
- 6 To unroll without flapping, unroll one turn, and grasp the slicker collar.
- 7 Carefully unroll the slicker until you can insert your arms, maintaining control of the tails.



2



4



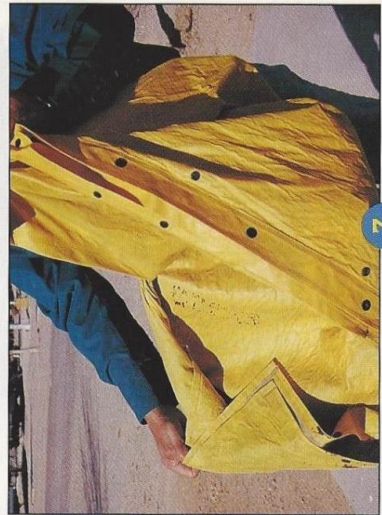
6



3



5



7

By Mike Laughlin

Photographs by Lee Raine



DEALING WITH HEAT STRESS IN HORSES

Your horse is an organic oven of epic proportions. Simply put, they produce a ton of heat. After just a mile of riding, your horse creates enough warmth to boil 2 whole gallons of water. While a horse's body can usually regulate their temperature, the hot summer months make this more difficult. High temperatures, high humidity, lack of air movement, poor ventilation and dehydration, all increase the dangers of a serious heat-related problem known as heat stress.

Signs of Heat Stress

As a horse exercises, their muscles turn energy into movement. But a horse's body isn't 100% efficient. Part of this energy is lost in the form of heat. The rate at which a horse produces heat is proportional to how hard their muscles are working. The harder a horse has to work, the

more heat they produce. If horses didn't have the ability to regulate their heat, their body temperatures would increase by almost 60°F. Basically it'd be like riding a hot potato. Fortunately horses can dissipate around 97% of the heat they produce. To regulate their body temperature, a horse will increase their sweating rate, move more blood to their capillaries (blood vessels near the surface of their skin) and increase their rate of breathing in an effort to release any heat build-up.

Heat stress occurs when a horse can no longer properly regulate their body temperature. The symptoms to look for consist of profuse sweating (or even no sweating at all), rapid breathing (more than 20 breaths a minute), rapid heart rate (more than 50 beats a minute), dry/hot skin and an unusually high rectal temperature (greater than 100.4°F).

Heat stress can also cause a horse to become dehydrated. An easy way to tell if your horse has become dehydrated is by pinching the skin on their neck. Usually, their skin should resume its normal position immediately. However, in a dehydrated horse, their skin will take a while to resume its normal position.

If the initial signs of heat stress go unnoticed or uncared for, more serious complications can arise. Your horse could start breathing with great difficulty, appear distressed, stop sweating, become weak or develop diarrhea or signs of colic. These symptoms are serious and need immediate attention. A vet should examine your horse as soon as possible to provide medical treatment.

Treating Heat Stress

As mentioned, horses displaying any of the more serious signs of heat stress should be examined by a vet as soon as possible. You should immediately get your horse into shade and hose or sponge them off with cool or even cold water. It's most important to hose the insides of the legs, head and neck areas where large blood vessels are located near the surface of their skin.

Use fans and encourage your horse to drink. It may take an hour or more to get all their vital signs back to normal. Horses that have seriously overheated tend to be more susceptible to overheating in the future. If your horse has suffered a serious heat stress episode, they should have 10 to 14 days of rest with some turnout and a gradual return to work.

Avoiding Heat Stress

Most horses adapt to summer weather if given time to adjust gradually. However, some horses will be more susceptible to heat stress than others. Performance horses such as thoroughbreds, Standardbreds, endurance and other performance horses will be influenced by heat stress during their training and competition. But high performance horses aren't the only type to be at risk.

Foals have very poor thermo-regulating abilities. They can overheat simply by standing in the hot sun. Likewise, overweight horses that aren't use to regular exercise are also at greater risk.

Environmental factors can also play a role in how susceptible your horse is to heat stress. Horses stabled in badly ventilated barns and fed poorly digestible forage will produce a lot of heat during digestion, making them more prone to heat stress. Additionally, any horse that doesn't have access to salt and electrolytes will be at a greater risk.

Nutritional Contributions to Heat Stress

Your forage can also contribute to heat stress in your horse. Certain feeds create more heat when digested than others. During hot conditions, it's important to include highly digestible fiber sources such as beet pulp to decrease the thermal load of digestion.



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Remember-Please send me your stories and photos throughout the year if you would like to see them featured in the newsletter!



SPWBCH Bits and Spurs will now be printed quarterly.



Please help make our newsletter interesting, fun and informative by sending in articles, stories and photos! We love to read about your horses, mules, dogs, pack trips, campouts, hunting trips and good 'ole horse & mule sense! Trail history and updates are great too! Please send articles, news, pictures or horse/mule/back-country-related classifieds in to me for the quarterly newsletter at any time! Send to Kathy Hundley: 3448 Wright Way, Darby, MT 59829; prefer by e-mail: montanakath@yahoo.com

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The Bitterroot National Forest held a Dutch oven/potluck cookout on June 7 to thank the various partner groups around the valley. SPWBCH members Linda Habeck, Taylor Orr and Kathy Hundley participated in the discussions held by Region 1 Deputy Regional Forester, Jane Darnell, at the Lake Como Three Sisters pavilion. Groups discussed issues concerning the management of the forest with most of the comments centering on trails and multiple use. Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor, Julie King, handed out Certificates of Appreciation to the various volunteer organizations.



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY- BLODGETT

June 3

SPWBCH members, Bruce Scott, Trish & Mike Foster, Jennifer Ginn and Kathy Hundley, cleared approx. 27 trees to the 6 ¼ mile mark trying to reach 7 mile meadow. The crew lucked out and did not encounter the massive amounts of downfall like in 2016. Linda Habeck and Kent & Patty Hascall treated the crew to a wonderful dinner back at the trailhead...along with a few cold beers!



TELLER YOUTH CONSERVATION & EDUCATION EXPO

May 13

SPWBCH members spent the day demonstrating packing, playing Scats & Tracks and teaching the kids to rope. The Bitterroot National Forest gave students a taste of pulling the "misery whip".



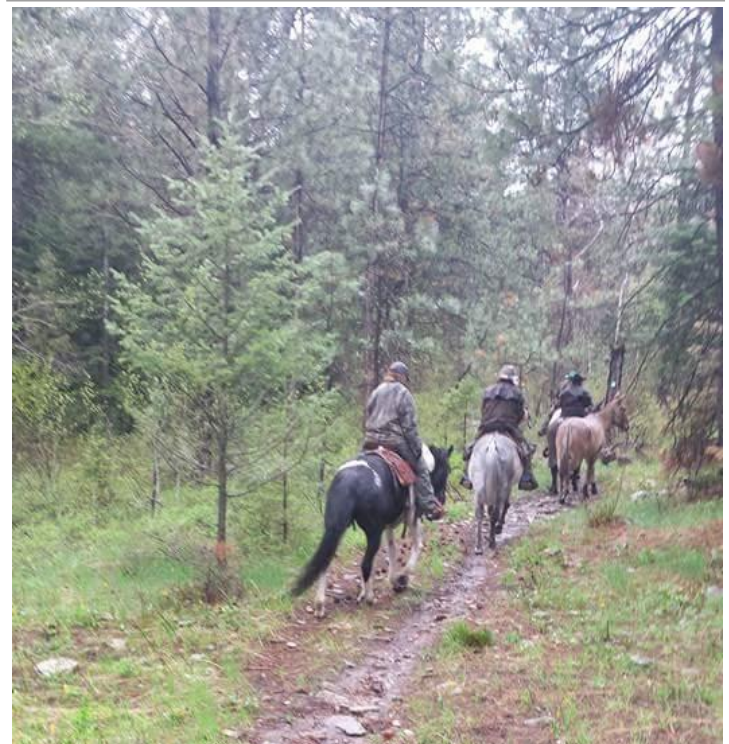
TEACHING: They may forget what you said but they will not forget how you made them feel. ~Carl Buechner~



SPRING FEVER PACK & PLAY DAY

May 7-Coyote Coulee

SPWBCH members Christy & Jarrett Bennet, Jennifer Ginn, Gary & Gaynelle Peters, Sally & Taylor Orr, Maxine & Duane Krown, Betsy Hepburn-Day, Troy Derr, Linda Habeck and Kathy Hundley braved the rain and spent the morning talking Defensive Horsemanship and demonstrating packing skills. Gary and Taylor demonstrated packing with panniers and mantying. Members then rode the soggy forest trails...but had a great time!



The minute you stop learning, you stop growing.