

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.



2018 SPWBCH Officers - Contact Information

President: Christy Bennett	Ph. 361-0761
Vice President: Kathy Hundley	Ph. 363-8230
Secretary: Jennifer Ginn	Ph. 239-0728
Treasurer: Betsy Hepburn-Day	Ph. 381-1378
Local Board: Senior- Duane Krown & Patty Hascall	Ph. 642-3932 Ph. 370-8546
Junior- Nancy Bender & DL Ferris	Ph. 360-1666 Ph. 369-1354
BCHM State Directors: Trish Foster & Christy Bennett	Ph. 777-4383 Ph. 361-0767
Alternate: Kathy Hundley	Ph. 363-8230

CONTENTS

President's Note	pg. 1
Health & Training/DO Recipe	pg. 2
2018 Projects/Events	pg. 3
Interest Story-Snowman	pg. 4
Snowman cont.	pg. 5
Convention/RTP/Poem	pg. 6
"Packing in the Cat"	pg. 7
Training/BCHMT Convention	pg. 8
Trails We Have Traveled	Insert

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 12, 2018
Hamilton Forest Service
Board Meeting @ 5:30
General Meeting @ 6:00

Topics: Planning Teller Youth Expo,
Back Country Horseback Scavenger
Hunt Lake Como & Various Projects



President's Note – The weather is starting to get nice outside and the itch to go riding is getting stronger every day. Hope everyone made it thru the winter and all horses and mules are doing well. Let's be safe as we get ready for spring riding and make sure our animals get exercise and in shape. We have a busy summer coming up with lots of fun trail clearing projects, youth camps, campouts, Teller Youth Days and the new Back Country Scavenger Hunt ride in May. Hope to see you all out and about this summer on a project.

I will be having shoulder surgery done in March and will be out of commission for about 8 weeks but look forward to getting back in the saddle as soon as I am healed and cleared from the doctor.

Our first event coming up is Teller Youth Days on May 12th. If you are available that day and want to come play with the kids come on down to the Teller Slack Barn in Corvallis and give us a hand. Following Teller will be our new event which is a photo scavenger hunt ride at Lake Como with a BBQ and door prizes. Hope you all are doing great and look forward to working with you this summer. Any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to drop me an email or give me a call.

Happy Trails, *Christy Bennett*

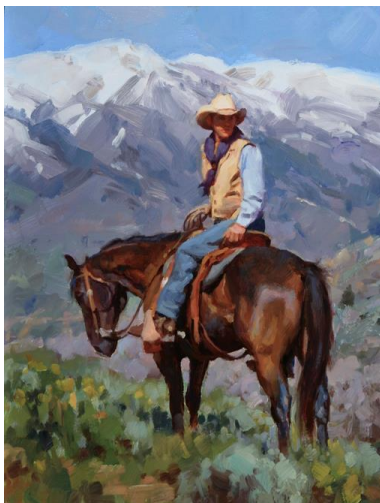


Health & Training



GREAT TRAIL HORSES AREN'T BORN; THEY'RE TRAINED

The biggest misconception about trail riding, in my opinion, is that people think that every horse should be a good trail horse. Most people think, "Surely if he's a good riding horse in the arena, he'll make a great trail horse." That couldn't be further from the truth. The number one thing I want you to realize is that trail riding is no different from any other discipline you do with your horse. If you want to be



successful in a particular discipline, your horse has to be suited for it and you have to train him to do it. That holds true whether you're into cutting horses, reining horses, polo horses, jumpers, etc. No matter what you do with your horse, you get out of a discipline what you're willing to put into it.

INTRODUCING YOUR HORSE TO TRAIL RIDING

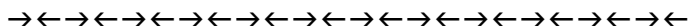
I prefer to ride a horse out by myself so that it's just the two of us. When you get two or more horses on the trail, they have a tendency to want to race one another and get reactive. And, when you do ride your horse outside the first time, you want to give him a job to do and do a lot of cantering. Your goal is to put some miles under his feet. You don't want to be held up by other riders who only want to walk. The slower you let a horse's feet go, the more he'll start looking for things to spook at. You want to give your horse a job and get him moving his feet. Remember something, sticky feet will get you into trouble every single time.

If you don't feel comfortable riding out by yourself and would rather have someone ride with you, make sure it's someone who is on a well-broke horse. They can



ride their horse ahead of you, and your horse can follow. What you don't want to do is take the horse out for his first time in a group of horses that are reactive and bad-behaved on the trail. Whatever attitude the other horses have is the same attitude your horse will develop. So if you're not comfortable heading out by yourself, be sure you choose a partner with a quiet, safe and dependable horse that will act as a good role model for your horse.

Clinton Anderson



~DUTCH OVEN RECIPE ~

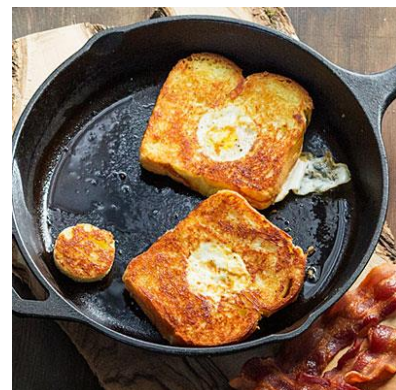
Eggs in Jail

An easy and simple camping breakfast!

Ingredients:

- thickly sliced bread (brioche bread makes a treat)
- eggs
- butter

1. Butter the bread, both sides.
2. Cut a hole in the bread that can accommodate a cracked egg.
3. In a greased frying pan (or Dutch oven), which is already hot and sizzling, place the bread.
4. Put another knob of butter in the hole and crack an egg into the hole.
5. Cook until the bread is golden, then carefully using a wide spatula flip until other side is brown.
6. How you like your eggs will determine how long you cook each side. Season to taste.



2018 SPWBCH Work Projects and Events

WORK PROJECTS

Saturday, June 2-National Trails Day

Sawtooth (3 miles to creek) BBQ cookout after
Trailmaster: Kathy Hundley

Sunday, June 24

Sawtooth (3-5 miles)
Trailmaster: Kathy Hundley

Sunday, July 15

Sawtooth (5-8 miles-will wait to see what we find in burn areas and how much work it will require)
Trailmaster: Kathy Hundley

Date Tentative

Sawtooth Pack Trip (will wait to see what we find in burn areas and if we can get far enough in to find a camp spot-probably schedule for fall)
Trailmaster: Kathy Hundley

Sunday, July 22

South Fork Lost Horse
Trailmaster: Joe Hundley

Friday/Saturday, July 27 & 28

Watchtower Campout/Logging
Trailmaster: Christy Bennett

Saturday/Sunday, August 11 & 12

Blue Joint Campout/Logging
Trailmaster: Christy Bennett

EVENTS-FUN & EDUCATION

Saturday, May 12

Teller Youth Expo
Coordinators: Christy Bennett/Kathy Hundley

Saturday, May 19: Membership Drive

Back Country Horseback Scavenger Hunt & BBQ/Dutch Oven Desserts

Tuesday/Wednesday July 17 & 18

Magruder Youth Camp Packing Demo
Coordinator: Kathy Hundley

Thursday/Friday July 19 & 20

Scripps Ranch Youth Camp Packing Demo
Coordinator: Kathy Hundley

Thurs/Fri/Sat/Sun, August 2-5

Back Country Horsemen of MT Summer Youth Camp
Indian Creek Meadows-Lincoln, MT
(details to follow as BCHMT plans progress)

Multiple Dates To Be Determined

4-H Trail Horse Competition Rides
(for 4-H Horse Leaders Only-will add to calendar once established by 4-H Committee)

November (date to be determined)

SPWBCH Thanksgiving Dutch Oven Cookout/Potluck-Lake Como-Three Sisters Group Site

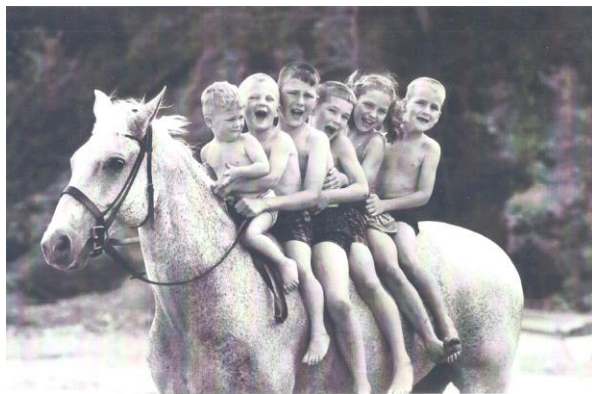


Snowman

Submitted by Kathy Hundley
(One of my childhood favorites)

In February 1956, a young Dutch immigrant named Harry de Leyer went to the horse auction in New Holland, Pennsylvania. He wanted to buy a school horse for a lesson program that he ran at the Knox School, an academy for young ladies on Long Island. He had car trouble, however, and it took him all day to get to the auction yard. By the time he arrived, the auction was over and the only horses left had already been loaded onto a slat-sided truck bound for the slaughterhouse. Harry didn't want to go home empty handed. He asked to look inside the truck, which held about a dozen horses. There he spotted a calm grey plow horse, probably a former Amish workhorse. It was a look into his eyes that made Harry de Leyer gamble \$80, which was \$20 above the price that a horse normally would bring at the rendering plant.

When the horse arrived at Hollandia, Harry's small farm in New York, his children instantly named him Snowman and he became a family favorite. He was quiet and gentle with children, an honest "best friend" kind of horse. Harry figured that he was about 7 or 8 years old, and that, although he was accustomed to pulling a plow and had the harness marks to prove it; he had never carried a rider before.

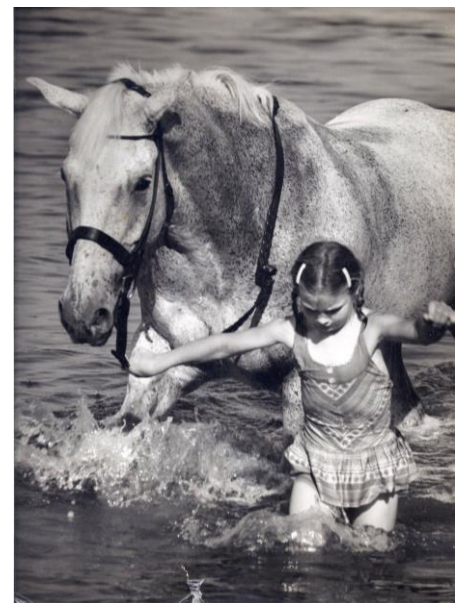


Harry taught him to go under saddle, and he soon had a place as a steady beginner horse at the Knox School. Snowman was so calm, pleasant and easy, that after the school year was over, Harry sold him for \$160 to a local doctor who was looking for a horse to take care of his 12-year-old daughter. Harry had made a profit, the gentle plow horse rescued from the killers had a loving home, and that might have been the end of the story.

But it wasn't. A few days after Snowman went to live with the doctor, Harry got a call that the horse had jumped out of his pasture and was disturbing the neighbor's property. Harry didn't believe it: Snowman was no jumper. Surely the doctor had left a gate unlatched. The horse was captured and returned. A few days after that, Snowman showed up at Hollandia Farms. He had jumped out of his pasture again and run home. Harry took him back to the doctor, but Snowman would not be deterred. He continued to jump out and gallop back to Hollandia, even after Harry suggested that he be turned out with a tire tied to his halter. Clearly the horse had an opinion, and his opinion was that he should stay with Harry. Harry had no choice. He took him back.

Snowman had demonstrated that he could jump, and so Harry decided he would turn him into a jumper. After all, he had always had dreams of riding competitively. Unlikely as it seemed, here was a horse that might make these dreams come true.

It did not start out well. The horse that had cleared his 5-foot paddock fence even while dragging a heavy tire was different under saddle. He stumbled over rails on the ground and scattered the cavaletti like pick-up sticks. He was heavy and clumsy and didn't bother to lift his feet. But then one day Harry was riding him in a ring where the jumps were set to 4 feet. On a lark, he pointed Snowman at the higher fences, and the horse sailed over cleanly – once the fences



commanded respect, Snowman would jump them.

And that was the beginning of Snowman's story. A little over two years after he was saved from the slaughterhouse van, Snowman, with Harry astride him, won the jumper championship at the National Horse Show at Madison Square Garden and became the American Horse Shows Association Horse of the Year. His jumping career lasted five years, during which time he won many top competitions and prestigious titles. His story captured popular attention, and he became a national sensation, appearing on the Johnny Carson and Dick Cavett shows, and even doing an episode of To Tell the Truth. He was the subject of two children's books (The Cinderella Horse, by Tony Palazzo, 1962; and Snowman, Rutherford Montgomery, 1967) and he was inducted into the National Show Jumping Hall of Fame in 1992. There is even a Breyer model of him.



"The horse is very close to me," says Harry, who speaks with a heavy Dutch accent. "The best thing about him was that he was so quiet and so consistent. My kids loved him – they could ride him together, they could take him swimming. I could give a lesson on him at the Knox School, even after he was a champion. He could go in the lead line class and win the jumpers on the same day. When I would take him from the ring, all the little kids would come around him, and he would nuzzle them, and sometimes they would pull a little hair from his tail as a souvenir. All the people loved him."



Harry and Snowman had led somewhat parallel lives leading up to the moment that they found each other. When Harry came to the United States, he had a wooden crate with all his belongings in it and \$160. He left war-ravaged Holland in 1950, arriving in the U.S. with his wife Johanna. He didn't think he would make a living as a horseman; he didn't know anyone and no one knew him. He was 21 and was used to farm work, so he got a job working on a tobacco farm in North Carolina. The

farm was still using horses in the fields, and Harry, who had been a competitive rider in his native country, taught one of the horses to carry a rider and to jump. He even took that plow horse to a local show where he won the jumper class and a \$10 prize. Over the years, he worked his way from doing manual labor to his position at the Knox School, where he began training horses that would eventually make him famous, including not just Snowman, but Sinjon, who became one of the top horses on the United States Equestrian Team under George Morris during the 1960s. Harry went on to develop many other great horses, and in 1983 represented the U.S. at the World Cup Finals in Sweden riding Dutch Crown, a horse he had bred, foaled and trained himself. ("It was the biggest thrill I ever got," he says.)

Harry de Leyer also believes that the story of Snowman carries some lessons. "First, be fair, and don't be so tough on your horse," he says. "You can get more done with carrots and petting them than with being so tough. Snowman went in a rubber D-bit, and I school all the horses in a rubber D-bit. I am lucky with horses, but this is part of my luck – to be nice to horses and nice to people."

"Then also, don't give up too quick on yourself," he continues. "There is always a chance to get there, so give yourself a chance. Give every horse a chance."

*It is the possibility that keeps me going,
not the guarantee.*



Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant Updates

Proposed 2018 BCHMT Grant: 11 chapters applied collectively for the \$90,000 grant; BCHMT has been chosen as one of the eight finalists; committee will do a presentation on April 25 in Helena; SPWBCH portion, at this time, will be \$8,999.73 if awarded

Sawtooth Bridge Grant: Reimbursement Claim filed February 19; FWP approved and sent on to FHWA for approval February 20; Claim approved and payment received March 6 in full \$17,868.20

BCHMT 2015 Grant: September 2017 State Director's meeting extension for Sawtooth projects denied; Individual Reimbursement Forms calculated using 2017 SPWBCH projects (excluding pack support/reimbursed by partner groups) going backwards through Watchtower 2016; SPWBCH portion awarded \$3,054.75

***As promised at the January meeting, all Individual Reimbursement Forms have been submitted to SPWBCH Treasurer at March 8 general meeting and checks mailed out March 16, 2018.**

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF MONTANA CONVENTION AUCTION ITEM

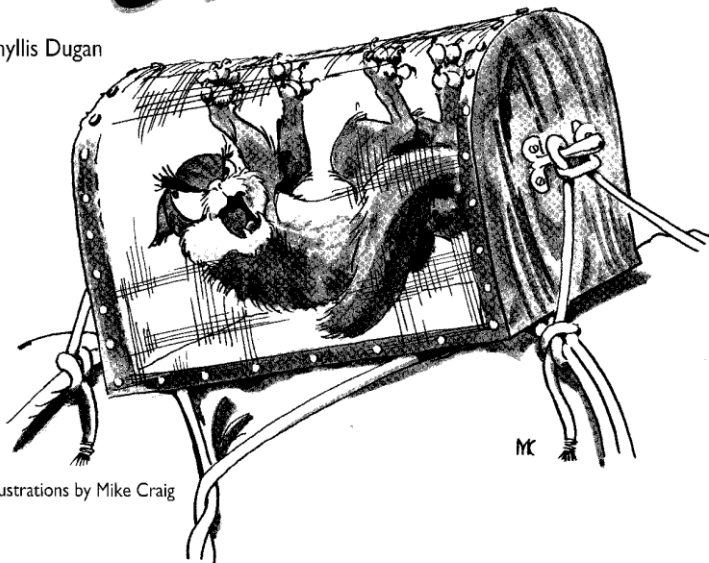
SPWBCH member, Terry Reed, has volunteered to sew a "Campfire Quilt" as part of the \$100 auction item our delegates will be taking to Lewistown the first weekend in April. The colors are a beautiful blend of pastels depicting cowboys on the range. If anyone would like to send a bid along for the blanket, and the "Couples Camp Package" we will be making, please contact one of your State Directors!

Go to the website to see this full color display!

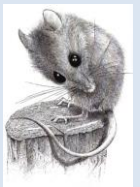


Packing in the Cat

By Phyllis Dugan



Illustrations by Mike Craig



The cabin wasn't bad at all,
as cow camp cabins go,
It had a floor of boards, high beams,
and log walls to halt cold's flow.

It was cozy, just the place for us
to rest our weary backs,
When a day's hard work was over
and our saddles hung on racks.

But when the lamp was turned down low
beneath a starry dome,
The patter of a thousand mice
broke up our happy home.

They trampled through the walls and floors
and ran across the beams,
Chattering and chittering with
high-pitched mousy screams.

We tossed and turned and couldn't sleep
until the break of day;
The mousy freeway was the cause;
we vowed to make them pay.

We went to town and got the cat-
Bootjack was his name.
A mouser born, our friend and pet,
and widespread was his fame.

We'd left him home in town because
he'd never rode a horse.
His travel time was all in trucks,
but he could stand the course.

The cage was small with solid ends;
rounded wire made the rest.
For hauling rabbits, mice, or cats,
that cage would be the best.

With happy hearts and joyful thoughts,
we stuffed him in the cage,
Tied high upon the packhorse load,
and rode off through the sage.

Boot yowled and screamed in agony;
he didn't want to go.
He grabbed the cage top with his claws
and hung swaying to and fro.

The mountains rang with squalls and cries;
the packhorse was immune,
He couldn't see the thing that was
the cause of all his gloom.

Only cage ends could be seen
whenever he looked back,
And not the howling occupant,
who was riding on his pack.

Boot smacked the solid cage ends;
thuds echoed through the hills.
He glared and snarled his misery,
pure hate without the frills.

Then intelligence took over and
he found a way to ride.
He braced himself with back and legs
and laid down on his side.



Wedged in the cage in such a way,
his head moved back and forth.
But no more thuds were heard that day
as we headed toward the north.

The cabin finally came in view;
relief seemed close at hand.
With ringing ears, we took the cage
and set it on flat land.

No sleep was had for several nights
while Boot the mouser reigned.
Sharp mousy screams filled the dark
until no more remained.

A pounce, a crunch, another thud,
the noise was unrelenting.
But this time we were glad of it,
our hearts were unrepenting.

Ol' Boot grew to twice his size
when he joined our outfit.
And sleep, at last, was ours at night
when the mousy freeway quit.

Reprinted from Western Horsemen-November 1997
Based on author's experience in the Gros Ventre Mts. of western
Wyoming



Selway- Pintler Wilderness BCH
P.O. Box 88
Hamilton MT 59840

To view in color go to:
www.bchmt.org/spwbch/Newsletters.html



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



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

***Content of this newsletter shall not be reproduced in any form or manner without prior written agreement. This includes reproduction of articles, photos, and the SPWBCH logo.*



BCHMT State Convention

Hosted by the Judith Basin BCH
April 6-8, 2018-Lewistown
Registration deadline extended to March 31; Charlie Russell Chew Choo seats still available @ \$90; Raffle tickets still available; Don't forget the Photo Contest
For more information go to:
www.bchmt.org

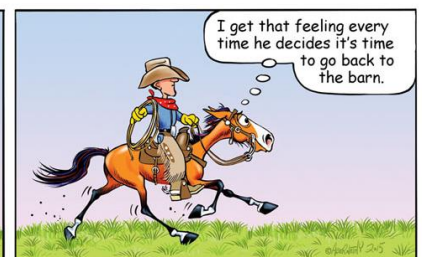
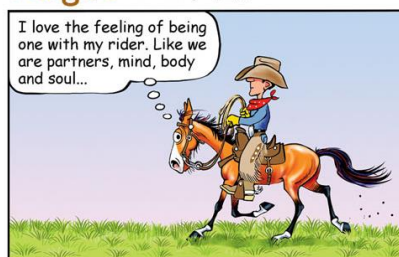
TRAINING INFORMATION/SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 22 @ 5:30pm-1st Aid/CPR; Forest Service Hamilton (course completed at time of print)

Saturday/Sunday, April 14/15 Chainsaw Certification-Lost Horse (must be signed up/space limited-details to follow)

Thursday, May 10 SPWBCH General Meeting @ 5:30- Crosscut saw classroom /field training June 2 -Sawtooth

Fergus BY JEAN ABERNETHY

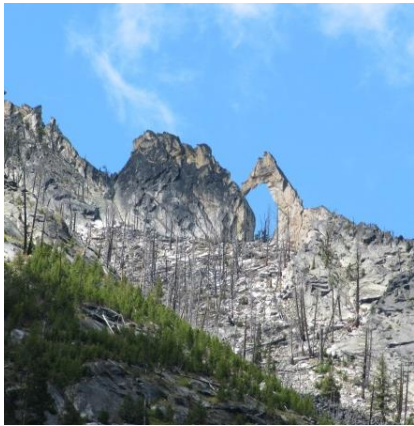
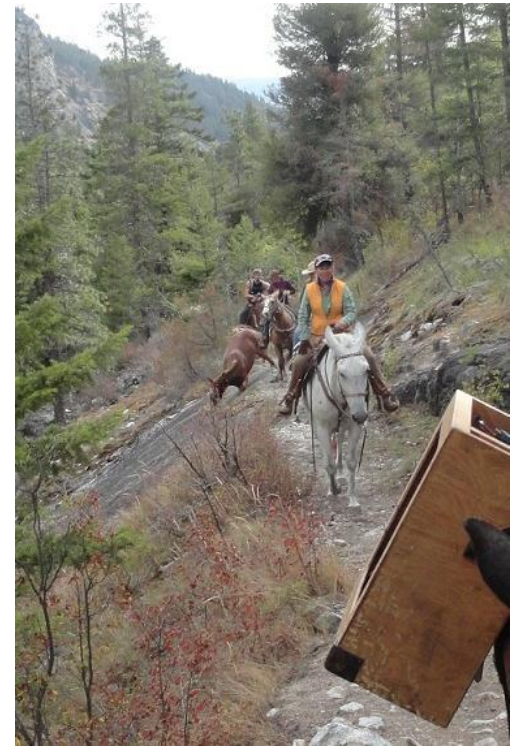


TRAILS WE HAVE TRAVELED

Eleven years of fun we have had as a volunteer group! Here are some of the memories...see if you can "name that trail"! I will give you the names-now you see if you can match them? Swet Lake cabin/Devil's Washbasin; Sleeping Child; Big Lake; Tin Cup Pass; St. Mary's Lookout; Rock Creek-Elk Lake; One Horse Lake; East Fork; Blodgett; Bear Creek; South Fork Lost Horse; Watchtower; Wahoo Pass; May Creek Cabin; Mill Creek; Fish Lake;



Neer Mee Poo; Camas Creek;
Sawtooth-Wreckin' Rock;
Weasel Creek; Swift Creek;
Sheafman



MEMORY LANE ...

