

BITS AND SPURS Oct-Nov-Dec 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

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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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NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 14 @ 6pm
Hamilton Forest Service
Christmas Party & Potluck
White Elephant Gift Exchange
& \$25 Murdoch's Gift Certificate Drawing



President's Note –

Happy Holidays to our SPWBCH members and friends. History was made by SPWBCH this year and I was happy to be a part of it. The big project was the Roaring Lion Bridge. Many thanks for all the work of our members and partners! I suggest we make a special outing to that bridge every year so we can appreciate our hard work and remind ourselves what we can achieve with vision, preparation and cooperation. This year we may need some members to step up for chapter leadership positions, especially in leading projects. Also, elections will be held at our December 14, 2017 meeting. Be thinking about how you can offer your services and make your mark. We will also have our chapter Christmas party on that evening. We'll have a gift exchange, so if you want to participate in that, please bring a gift valued at not more than \$15.00. Handmade items are especially appreciated. Lastly, please take a few moments to read your emails about the current threat to local Wilderness Study Areas. Make your voice heard with our elected congressmen. The preservation of our treasured wilderness lands is being threatened, and as local stewards we need to make our voices heard. Consider contacting Steve Daines, Jon Tester or Greg Gianforte. I hope all of you have a safe and peaceful Christmas Season, and a productive 2018! *Mike Foster*



Health & Training



TRAINING TIPS

From Clinton Anderson

Symptoms of a Cause

The majority of horse “problems” aren’t really problems at all; they are really just symptoms of a cause. Ninety-five percent of all the problems you will ever have to deal with as a horse owner will fix themselves if you do the groundwork and earn your horse’s respect. Most people think that their horse’s problem (biting, bucking, rearing, pawing, etc.) is the



real issue, but it’s not. What most people think is a problem is nothing more than a symptom of a cause. But people get so focused on the horse’s bad behavior that they can’t see what is actually causing it. It’s like a weed growing in the ground. You can chop it off with a

weed whacker, but two weeks later it will grow right back because the root system is still intact. If you really want to kill the weed, you need to pour weed killer on it to kill the root system. When you kill the roots, the weed will die. It’s the same thing when training horses. Any problem that a horse could possibly have comes from either a lack of respect or fear, or in some cases, both.

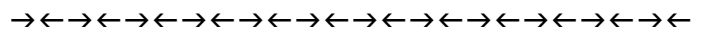
Drop the Excuses

Horses are phenomenal people trainers. They train us to do the goofiest things in the world. People make up the most ridiculous excuses for all the things their horses have trained them to do. They’ll say, “I can’t ride with you because my horse doesn’t like your horse.” Or, “I can’t go on this trail because at the end of it there’s a big ditch and my horse spooks at

ditches.” Or, “I can’t use this halter because my horse doesn’t like this color.” Or, they come up with something equally silly. Usually, our excuses exist because of our horse’s lack of



respect toward us. We have to learn to stop making excuses for why our horses don’t listen to us. It’s simple: Our horses don’t listen because we haven’t gained their trust and respect. It all starts with you. You must be willing to change and put in the effort necessary to get a responsive, safe horse. If you don’t follow through, I can guarantee that all the wishes and hopes you have for a well-trained, responsive horse will be for nothing.



~DUTCH OVEN RECIPE ~

No-Knead Dutch Oven Bread

From Betsy Hepburn-Day

Ingredients:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for shaping
- 2 teaspoons sea salt
- 1 teaspoon Red Star active dry yeast
- 1 ½ cups warm water (about 110 to 115 degrees F)

1. In a large bowl, whisk flour, salt and yeast until well mixed. Pour in warm water and use a wooden spoon to stir until a shaggy dough forms. The mixture will be wet and very sticky to the touch.

2. Cover bowl tightly with plastic wrap and set aside in a warm place 8 to 18 hours until dough rises, bubbles and flattens on top.

3. Heat oven to 450 degrees F. Once oven is preheated, place a 6-quart Dutch oven (with cover) in oven 30 minutes before baking (note-Betsy and I reduced heat to about 430 degrees-not quite so brown)

4. Punch down dough. Generously flour a sheet of parchment paper; transfer dough to parchment and, with floured hands, quickly



Dutch oven cont.

shape into a ball. Place dough on parchment paper and sprinkle top lightly with flour. Top with a sheet of plastic wrap and let rest 30 minutes.

5. Remove Dutch oven from oven. Uncover dough and carefully transfer to Dutch oven, with or without parchment paper beneath (if bottom of DO is not coated with enamel, keep parchment paper beneath dough). Cover DO and return to oven.

6. Bake bread 45 minutes covered, then another 10-15 minutes uncovered until dough is baked through and golden brown on top. Cool slightly before slicing.



A CHRISTMAS TALE



By Duane Krown

It was a night to remember, twenty fourth of December,
Jack was tucked in bed,
A victim of Christmas dinner and Tom and Jerry's buzzing
in his head.

He was wakened from his foggy sleep by someone shaking
him from the dead.
Jack opened a bleary blood shot eye to see a little bearded
man dressed in red.

Santa said I need your help I hate to wake you from your
sleep,
I have to make the schedule I've promised the whole world
I'd keep.

I got lost in a storm over Siberia; hit a headwind over the
great lakes,
My poor reindeer are so tired they've got the trembles and
the shakes.

Jack said I see your problem; you're in quite a stew,
But I don't know what an old muleskinner like me can do.

St. Nick replied you wagon drivers just act like fools,
I really hate ask, but I need to borrow your mules.

Jack got a lump in his throat. His stomach hit the skids,
Jack was closer to his mules than he was to his kids,

Jack said we'd like to help but I don't know how and why
We'd never make it on the ground; you know my mules
can't fly.

Santa said no worries; don't know why you fussed,
I'll fix that with a little magic North Pole dust.

Jack got dressed; boots and coat went out into the night air,
To the sight of Santa's sleigh and eight exhausted reindeer.

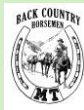
Jack had declined many pleading to borrow his fine teams,
But he couldn't turn down Santa even in his dreams.

So he slipped his finest harness first on Kate and Pearl,
King and Queen were next and finally Minnie and Earl.

Santa pulled out a little sack, said this is rocket fuel,
Sprinkled a little on the back of each and every mule.

Jack backed them up to the Sleigh, hooked the traces tight,
Handed the lines to Santa as he blasted into the night.
A tear rolled down Jack's cheek dropping from his eye,
He feared his Mules were forever gone blazing through the
sky. (cont. pg. 4)

BCHMT State Director's Meeting Highlights



December 2, 2017

Attended by Trish Foster & Kathy Hundley

HR 1349-Bikes in Wilderness: Gianforte on sub-committee; consider comments D.C. # 202-225-3211/ Chief Legislative Asst. Tripp McKemey cell # 202-740-0392; tripp.mckemey@mail.house.gov

WSA Release "Protecting Public Use of Public Lands Act": Introduced Dec. 7 by Senator Daines in D.C.; consider commenting to Washington office # 202-224-2651/Chief National Resource Advisor, Spencer Irwin, Missoula office @ # 406-540-3385

Constitution Draft Changes: Please visit BCHMT website for draft review and comment to State Directors.

BCHMT Secretary Sought: A new state secretary will be needed at the close of the 2018 convention. The position is offered first to a State Director. If not taken, any BCH member in good standing may accept.

MT BCH Membership: Approx. 1,100 members

RTP Grant 2018: Committee was set up to consider writing grant for 2018 at the state level for all chapters to put in for.

Youth Program: Tentative BCHMT Youth Summer Camp summer 2018 at Monture. Welcome all BCH members to volunteer. More details BCHMT State Convention in Lewistown April 6-8.

*****For a complete review of all information given at the State Director's Meeting check your emails- Draft BCHMT meeting minutes have been emailed to all members.*****

Dawn broke; Jack woke and rushed to his barn in fear,
He found his precious mules replaced by eight reindeer.

A roar came from a cloud echoing in the mist,
Mules braying, sleigh sliding, runners so hot they hissed.

Out hopped Santa exclaiming, Jack, your mules were great!

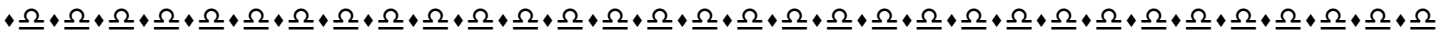
Quickly they unhitched, and replaced them with Santa's rested eight.

Many of you won't believe Jack's Christmas yarn
But I saw Santa's sleigh bells hanging in Jack's Barn!



Horse Christmas Cannoli Treats

Treat your horse to a something tasty for Christmas!
Preheat oven 300°. Dice 1 apple and 2 carrots; mix 1C molasses, 2 ½ C oats, 2 TBL oil, 1 C flour. Combine all and spoon onto cookie sheets-shape into bars. Bake 35 minutes until brown. Soak corn husks in water (15-20 min), cut them into 4"X4" squares, pat them dry; wrap one around each bar. Wrap the husks with rubber bands; dry them in 170° oven. Cut off the rubber band, and top the treats with icing and peppermints.

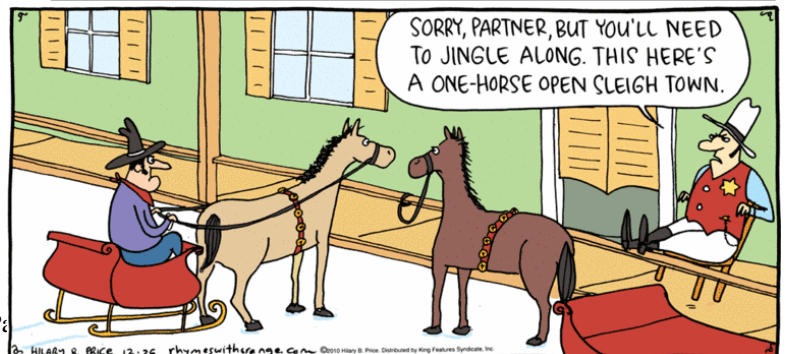


4-H Trail Horse Project



SPWBCH members Kathy Hundley, Patty Hacall, Elisa Plocher, Karen Hedges & Terry Reed volunteered this summer on the first 4-H Trail Horse project. The project took 6 youth out riding on back country trails for fun and learning. They then competed in a judged trail ride at Coyote Coulee on September 17. The competition was postponed until after fair due to forest fires and smoke.

SPWBCH member, Kylie Rhoades, (far left) won Grand Champion in Trail Horse (Senior) as well as Horse Packing Project. SPWBCH sponsored all 4-H Trail classes as well as Horse Packing. Winners received rope halters & Sun River saddle bags at the annual 4-H Horse banquet on September 27.



My First Pack Trip

By Christy Bennett



This is a story from my personal experience many moons ago...ok maybe not that long ago. But I do remember it like it was yesterday.

Several years ago, I got to go on my first pack trip with my family. I was 6 years old and had no horse to ride. My uncle had the horses, but by the time they were all assigned to everyone that was going there was no horse for me. I was sure I was staying home. My Uncle Dan was determined I was going

even if that meant he was walking. He said I could ride his horse. I was scared to death to ride him because he hated kids.

We loaded up everything in the trucks and headed for the trailhead. Once at the trailhead we got the pack horses loaded and were ready to leave for Mystic Lake. My cousin Heather decided to ride double with me on her horse that actually liked kids, but did not tell me he hated to get his feet wet. So, all the way up the trail, for 6 miles, her horse jumped every stream of water that crossed the trail. During all this my stomach hit the saddle horn every time. By the time we got to camp and got camp set up I was pretty sick to my stomach.



I went and crawled in a sleeping bag in the tent that I thought was for me (but I found out after the fact it was not mine) and threw up all over the bag inside and out. Come to find out it was my Uncle David's bag. Luckily someone brought an extra one. We got that fiasco taken care of and got camp squared away and animals put up for the night. We all went to bed in the tent except for my Uncle Dan and Uncle David. They slept outside by the fire.



Christy age 5-Great Grandma's pony Sugar

That night was the most horrifying night I have ever experienced. Still to this day I cannot figure out why I still like horses and camping after this trip. Sometime during that night I got woke up to my Uncle Dan calling for my dad. My dad was sound asleep so I thought I was hearing things but then I heard it again. "Dan, bring your pistol" my Uncle Dan said in this whispering voice. Yes my dad's name is Dan too, so I understand if I confused you. So, I slipped out of my sleeping bag and quietly unzipped the tent door a little, and to my surprise I could only make out a figure standing over my Uncle Dan. But this figure, through the glow of the fire, was huge, hairy and had big hands with claws. I had no idea what this creature was.

I hurried back into the tent and started shaking my dad till he woke up. "Dad, there is something standing on Uncle Dan and he keeps asking for you to bring your pistol"! So my dad grabbed his pistol and the flashlight and headed for the tent door. I was right on his heels because I wanted to see this hairy creature. When my dad shined the flashlight on Uncle Dan there was a black bear standing on his chest. I instantly went and hid in my sleeping bag. My dad fired a shot in the air and the bear ran off, so my dad said. The horses never made a sound as far as we all knew.

There was definitely no more sleeping that night for anyone and I didn't sleep much the rest of the trip. I guess I got over all this because I still ride horses and go camping. The pistol just sleeps under my pillow now!



December 14th Christmas Party & Finger Food Potluck

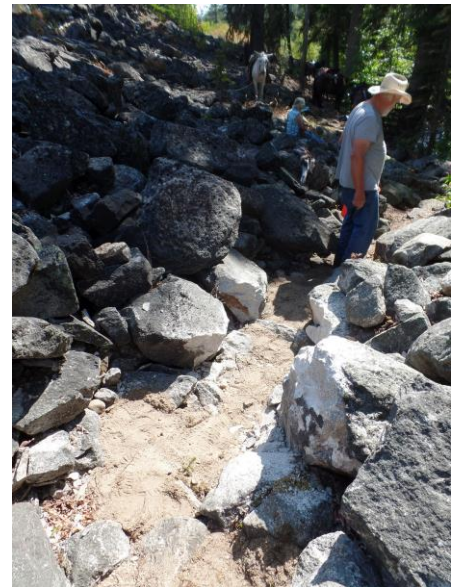
White Elephant RULES

1. Place wrapped gifts in the center of the room.
2. Draw a number.
3. Number one chooses a gift, unwraps it, and puts it on display for all to see.
Gifts must stay in view at all times and remain in original packaging, if applicable.
4. Each subsequent number has two options:
steal a gift or choose an unopened gift.
5. If a gift is stolen, you may steal from another or choose an unopened gift.
6. Gifts can be stolen up to three times.
A gift is frozen with the fourth owner.
7. If number one has the same gift they started with, they may trade with any unfrozen gift.
8. The jig's up! Wasn't that a blast?



South Fork Lost Horse Gravel Haul August 26

SPWBCH members Joe & Kathy Hundley, Patty Hascall and Terry Reed rode to the rock talus that had always been a precarious spot for stock. The Forest Service had sent in a crew to sledge hammer out the large triangular rock that jutted out into the trail at a 90 degree turn. This spot was very difficult for most horses and mules. Members hauled buckets of gravel to improve the tread and have now made it a safe and easy part of the South Fork trail.



← Box lined in photo to left shows the triangular rock that was hammered back to allow stock to make the turn safely.



Thanksgiving Dutch Oven Cookout November 11-Lake Como



Members and guests and lots of dogs enjoyed the 9th annual holiday tradition by feasting on turkey, Dutch oven dishes and potluck sides at the Three Sisters Pavilion! Weather was very cooperative this year which made the day a great one.



When I Count My Blessings... I Count My Mule Twice!



When you love what you have, you have everything you need.



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!



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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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM



Please send to SPWBCH PO Box 88 Hamilton, MT 59840

Please Check One:

- Full Individual Membership-\$30.00** (includes state and national dues)
- Full Family Membership-\$40.00** (includes state and national dues)
- Chapter Only Individual Membership-\$15.00** (Your state and national dues must be collected by another chapter where you are a member.)
- Chapter Only Family Membership-\$20.00** (Your state and national dues must be collected by another chapter where you are a member.)

Name: _____ Family Members: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____

Email Address: _____

I wish to become/remain a member of the Selway-Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen and have received, read and will abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the SPWBCH.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE-Your support helps to keep our trails open!

Watchtower campout ~ August 4 & 5

SPWBCH members took on this trail once again and it has become an annual tradition starting in 2010. Volunteers split into 2 crews and were pleasantly surprised when the downfall was minimal. I think huckleberry picking became very inviting! The chapter provided Saturday breakfast and a steak dinner after a good day's work. The old bridge is gone, but water was low and crossing good.



***Bob Marshall All Ladies' Pack Support in Partnership with Flathead BCH &
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation ~ June 8-13***

SPWBCH Members Kathy Hundley and Karen Hedges volunteered with Deb Schatz and June Burgau of the Flathead BCH chapter to pack a young women's trail crew in and out of Straight Creek, accessed from the Benchmark trailhead. The 4 ladies also packed water and supplies into Patrol Lookout for the Forest Service. For those who have never been to Patrol, it's not for the faint of heart! Stock should be in good shape. There is only room for maybe 6 head and you have to tie up to the hand rail. The packers enjoyed a few recreation days with rides to Pretty Prairie and the Benchmark Creek-Renshaw Creek-Fairview Creek loop.

