

## 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.



### 2016 SPWBCH Officers - Contact Information

President: Linda Habeck	Ph. 961-1435
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**NEXT MEETING**  
**Thursday, March 10, 2016**  
**Hamilton Forest Service**  
**General Meeting @ 6:30**  
**Board Meeting @ 5:30**



**President's Note** – First off, thank you to members for once again entrusting the leadership of this great BCH chapter to me. I will do my best.

Along with the spectacular sunrises we've had these past months, the sunshine and the lengthening days, I can't help but feel a sense of rebirth, renewal and well-being. Throw in the little calves and lambs running around in fields up and down the valley and life is good.

Unfortunately, members have also had that "kick in the gut" loss of great friend Dave. There are no words to describe how many of you will feel without him working at your side on projects this year and ever after. Keep him in your heart. Tell lots of Dave stories while working side by side, remember what's really important in life, support one another when times are tough and laugh often.

Trail projects will be upon us before we know it. Remember that if you sign up for something, please be there or be considerate and let the project leader know as soon as you know that you can't make it. Here's to another year of camaraderie, hard work, self-satisfaction at a job well done and safe riding. Respectfully, Linda Habeck



## Health & Training



When a horse gets mouthy -- he nips or nibbles shirt sleeves, jackets or the lead rope -- the behavior is often brushed aside. This is especially true with young horses, the most likely culprits of this behavior. A foal mouthing your shirt sleeve doesn't seem like a big deal; in fact, a lot of people think it's kind of cute. But the problem with this behavior is that if uncorrected it often turns into biting -- a very dangerous vice.

The most effective correction you can do with a horse is to make him move his feet. Horses are basically lazy creatures that would rather stand around in the pasture daydreaming of their next meal than move their feet and work up a sweat. They'll always choose the option with the least amount of work involved.

So if you're standing next to your horse and he starts to lip your shirt, put his feet to work. Back him up, lunge him in a circle, side pass him -- anything you can think of to make him hustle his feet. Put his feet to work for five minutes, and then go back to what you were doing with him before he got mouthy. Act like it didn't even happen. If he tries to mouth you again, you'll make the same correction.

He can't mouth on you and move his feet at the same time, especially if you make him hustle with energy and do a lot of changes of direction. If you're consistent with this correction, it won't take many repetitions for the horse to connect the two together: When he gets mouthy, he has to move his feet and sweat.

One of the most effective ways to stop a mouthy horse, and a horse that bites, is to back him up. Backing is a very humbling exercise for a horse to do. When a horse gets mouthy or tries to bite, it's a very forward action -- he's invading your space and coming to get you. When you back him up, it's the opposite -- he's being submissive to you by moving out of your space.

*~Clinton Anderson~*



## DUTCH OVEN RECIPE



### **TANGY GLAZED EASTER HAM**

#### Ingredients:

5-7 lbs. precooked ham  
1 15 oz. can pineapple rings  
1-2 oz. bottle maraschino cherries, optional  
1 cup water

#### Glaze:

1 - 8 oz. jar orange marmalade  
1/2 tsp. Tabasco or other hot pepper sauce  
6 oz. Amaretto, or almond/cherry liqueur

Mix the glaze ingredients together and let sit while you're getting the charcoal ready. Place the ham on a rack in a deep 14" Dutch oven along with juices from the cherries and pineapple and the water. Brush the ham with the glaze and any other seasoning you wish to add. Place pineapple rings on the ham with a maraschino cherry in the center of each ring, if desired. Use toothpicks to secure pineapple rings and cherries to ham, if needed. Set the DO in a firepan with 8-10 briquettes underneath and 12-14 around the outside of the lid and cook for an hour. Brush ham with the remaining glaze 2-3 times during cooking.

## ***“Good Bye Old Friend”***

~A heartfelt story 3 years in the making~

October 9, 2013 / January 11, 2016

Today I said good-bye to a dear old friend. He had many names; Pondi, Ponder, Budro, Pogo-Stick, Powder Keg and sometimes Dingle Pondi (his real name). Sounds like a bronc, but even on his bad days he was never truly bad. At times when separated from his riding buddy he would dance in one place and squeal and squeak, but he would never buck. He would run away with me now and again, but looking back, those were human caused.

He wasn't my first horse or my last horse or even the best trained horse I've ridden. So what was it about him that made him so special? I owned him for 26 of his 29 years and for 18 of those years, he was the only horse I rode, the other 8 years I rode him often, though not steady. He carried me safely on miles and miles of trail rides and cattle drives.

In 2001 at the age of 17 he took me through the Bob Marshall on a marathon week long trip We went in the east end at Benchmark and came out the west end at Holland Lake with only one night lay-over. Riding along the Chinese Wall, around Salmon Lake and crossing a pass at what I thought was the top of the world. Though the trip was with a guide, I was so happy and relieved to take my boy and have that wonderful memory of him. His butt dropped a bit when we got to the end of the bridges as they started swinging, but I petted on him and told him what a “good boy” he was and he trusted me as I trusted him. It was one of my bucket list trips.

We rode the National Bison Range ride



together seven times. Over the years, I saw more wrecks there of both horses and people than I can count. Often times we rode it in hail, snow or sleet. Each and every time he brought me back to the trailer with both of us safe and sound.

As Pondi got older and we started raising horses, my husband would sell his tried and true horse and bring along another young one. I just couldn't do it. The trust I had in that old boy was unshakable. Many times I was “told” to ride this horse or that horse rounding up cattle. That always brought out my stubborn German streak and I'd say. “My life, my body and I'm riding Pondi.”

Even as I started riding Dillon, I would take Pondi if I wasn't sure how a trail would be or what the circumstances of the ride would entail. I just knew what-ever we ran into I would be o.k.

I had hoped to keep him until he turned 30, but at the age of 29 I made a decision. I had promised him that I would never keep him going if I thought he was in pain and I told myself that I wouldn't let his body become a shell of what he was. Though he always had good dental care, his teeth started to go and his weight started dropping. The hand-writing



was on the wall. After a week of being pampered and fed treat after treat, I let him go. It was a beautiful fall day and he was sound and looking good. We had a brutally cold winter that year and I've never regretted my decision.

Human frailty is hard to admit and that's why it's taken me 3 years to finish this story. I know that what I'm about to say doesn't apply to many or maybe even most people, but it does to me and it's hard to put into writing. Because of my circumstances and the fact that I didn't grow up on a horse, when I quit riding Pondi, I cut back on where I'm willing to ride or go with a horse. Though part of me has a desire, I don't have the confidence to ride down a steep faced mountain rounding up cattle anymore or even going on some of the hairier trail rides. I myself don't even know what to think of what I just wrote. Chicken (perhaps), cautious (obviously), silly (maybe), but I'm not ready to change my thinking just yet.

I won't go into the horses I have now because this story isn't about them. It's about Pondi and the privilege and joy in having had this special equine partner for so many years.



Rest in peace Old Friend. Save me a ride.

~Linda Habeck~

**JUST  
FOR  
FUN!!**

## What Kind of Trail Rider Are YOU?

*Original version written by Jennifer Forsberg Meyer / Illustration by Michael Witte*



*This article was featured in the April 2007 Horse & Rider magazine.*

### **THE WRECK-IN-WAITING: Catchphrase: "Let's go!"**

You are super-enthusiastic about trail riding, but somewhat less so about the nitty-gritty details thereof. You haven't been able to prepare your horse very much for this particular ride, but at least you are pretty sure he's been out on the trail before. (Actually, you've only owned him a week. Still, your faith in him is rock solid. He's such a sweetie.) You haven't had a chance to buy him his own bridle yet, but you do have an old one that fits him, sort of (and it's only cracked a little). One of his shoes is a teensy bit loose, but you know someone will have one of those easy boot-things if it does come off. You arrive at the trailhead totally pumped, but without a water bottle. Plus, you really thought you had more



in your tank than that. You make a mental note to have someone follow you out on the way home, and go in search of things to borrow.

**THE TIMID 'N TERRIFIED: Catchphrase: "Can someone help me?!"**

You love your horse but are intimidated by him, and it shows in your permanently ashen-faced countenance. He's the nervous type, constantly jiggling and calling, and you're at a loss as to how to make him stop. You seem to need help with everything, be it tying safely or just leading your antsy horse to water. On the trail, you are reluctant to take side trips or do anything out of the ordinary, preferring to stick to the main, well-traveled trail. Midway through the ride, your nerves are shot and you start hinting to others about turning back. Your riding partners are contemplating passing the hat to enable you to take a few lessons to improve your horsemanship and confidence. Your chronic discomfort is a drag on the whole group.



**THE 'ALL-ABOUT-ME' PAL: Catchphrase: "I've got it all."**



You are a bold, confident rider and eager to let others know it. You insist on riding in front ("my horse prefers it") and you are not bashful about grabbing the best resting spot or campsite at every stop. Your horse is defensive and known to have kicked in the past, but you prefer not to so identify him that way. You keep telling everyone that he is "fine...just a little grouchy today." You have strong opinions about everything, and aren't afraid to express them. You hate to compromise about the day's itinerary, and will promote your preference doggedly until everyone else caves in. You encourage others to stick it out when you want to keep going, but insist that the group stop to rest whenever YOU are tired. You are generous with advice, even when unasked. On the trail and during breaks and meals, you talk nonstop about yourself, your horse, your prior riding experiences, your job, your family.....

**THE BOY/GIRL SCOUT: Catchphrase: "Be prepared."**

You are known for your scrupulous planning and gracious manners. You've researched the area of the ride in advance and so you know it's something you and your horses can easily manage. Your horse is well-prepared for the ride, in good shape, and has recently tended feet. You're wearing gear appropriate for any possible weather changes (you googled it in advance) and you've brought plenty of water and bug spray. In preparing for the trip, you used your well-developed checklist to make sure nothing was forgotten or overlooked. You have a basic first-aid kit, human and equine, that you carry in your saddle bags, and a more comprehensive one in your trailer or truck. You carry a cell phone on you and have emergency numbers on speed dial. You are the one everyone calls first when rounding up a trail riding party.



### **BUBBLY BEGINNER: Catchphrase: "No Worries!"**

You are known for being bubbly, fun to be around and a source of laughter. But even the most fun-loving person has his/her pitfalls. Because you are spontaneous, you tend to 'fly by the seat of your pants' and leave details to last, if remembered at all. The term "Ignorance is bliss" fits you. You are fairly new to riding and not only are you oblivious to the dangers, but find those that are overly prepared tend to be a bit "stuffy" and "worry too much." You love to canter and go fast, but that's only because you haven't fallen off yet - experience is wisdom and you are lacking in that department. Even still, your fellow riding buddies enjoy your company and try to insert a bit of warning along the way. Your cheerful manner is easy to put up with in spite of the liability you present...they hope by inviting you more you will become more horse savvy.

### **PARELLI WANNA-BE: Catchphrase: "Technique is everything"**

You live, breathe and talk natural horsemanship. You are skilled and your horse is well behaved. You use EVERY opportunity on the trail to teach your horse and talk about the "whys" and "how comes" of natural techniques to others, even if you feel they aren't "getting it." Your buddies are repeatedly interrupted on the trail so you can 'train.' But, you know they understand since everyone wants to ride with someone that has their horse under control, right? However, although your buddies are impressed with your knowledge and your horse's impeccable manners and skills, they decide to leave you at home next time and catch up with you at the next Parelli Clinic!

### **The Great Pretender: Catchphrase: "Everything is just fine!"**



You don't like to draw attention to yourself or your horse, God forbid if anyone should see you sweat!

You have overcome a lot in your brief time with horses, but you don't give yourself enough credit for the things you know and you often lack self-esteem. This surprises many of those that get to know you.

In spite of your secret fears, you tackle them bravely rather than let them consume you. (Even when common sense and your horse's bug eyes are telling you differently.) Onlookers admire your strength. As with any "persona" there are pitfalls and that is when you try to push too hard when you (and sometimes your horse) aren't ready. You find yourself with more than your share of injuries, but you spring back like a rubber ball - and outwardly

smile in the face of danger. Deep down you question your ability, but your love for riding always wins out and heck, a few injuries gives you something to brag about to coworkers. You don't want to appear 'weak, helpless or in need.' and may even have blisters on your A%\*S and still say, "I AM just fine, let's ride another 10 miles!!" For this reason, you are a joy to be around and well liked, but you aren't being true to yourself or your buddies. You may even feel that your inner fears and anxiety will disappear if you pretend they don't exist. With a little confidence though, you have potential to be a true Girl Scout!

## DO IT RIGHT - tips for becoming a savvy trail rider

To become more like the scout-savvy rider, follow these tips:

- Be aware of the terrain to be traversed on the ride, and prepare for it in advance if need be to boost yours and your horse's confidence. (Will there be water crossings? If so, practice ahead of time)
- Establish solid whoa, go, turn, and "wait" controls on your horse before you go out on the trail. Don't expect to school your horses in the midst of a group of horses, in a new environment.
- Condition your horse for the amount and type of riding you'll be asking of him. If the longest you've ridden at one time is 2 hours, don't expect him to go all day without build up to it gradually.
- Check that his feet/shoes are in good shape. Schedule an appointment with your farrier before the ride if need be.
- Safety-check your equipment, and make sure you'll have everything you will need for the type of trip you are taking. For overnite stays, especially, work from a detailed "don't forget" list, cross-referencing your list with those of more experienced riding buddies if need be.
- Check the weather and the condition of the trail in question to verify that your chosen date is a good time to go.
- Plan your own apparel according to the weather and other needs of the trip. i.e. good shoes, sunscreen.
- Plan ahead to provide water for yourself and your horse.
- Check that your hauling rig is in safe, well-maintained condition and capable of making it to and from the trail head. Fill up your gas tanks.
- Make sure you know the others you'll be riding with and trust their horsemanship and common sense.
- On the trail, keep your horse at least a horse's length away from the horse in front of you, and encourage the rider in back of you to do the same.
- If your horse has any propensity to kick at other horses, signal this with a red ribbon in his tail so others know to stay back.
- Remember always that trail riding with others requires all the courtesies appropriate for any group endeavor. Be considerate, unselfish, and willing to be part of a democratic process in decision making.



## Attention! SPWBCH

Members who have not  
yet renewed your  
membership for 2016

**This will be your final newsletter!**

Thank you for your continued support  
in our volunteer efforts to  
"RESCUE TRAILS"  
and promote the use of pack stock in  
our back country!  
**WE THANK YOU!**

## ~MORE SPWBCH BITS AND SPURS~

**Join us at the March meeting for details on:**

- 2016 Summer Projects
- Pack Clinic featuring Smoke Elser
- Teller Youth Expo
- Boone & Crockett Youth Camp
- Fun Rides
- Jack Creek Preserve
- Sawtooth Bridge RTP Grant updates
- 4H Youth Trail Rides
- MT Mule Days Pack Demo
- Adopt a Trailhead Program
- Upcoming BCHMT State Convention
- Raffle Tickets for Convention Auction
- Spring SPWBCH Clothing Order



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To view in color go to:  
[www.bchmt.org/spwbch/Newsletters.html](http://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](mailto:montanakath@yahoo.com)*

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM



**Please send to SPWBCH PO Box 88 Hamilton, MT 59840**

Individual/Single Membership \$30.00

Family Membership \$40.00 (family members living in one household)

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!**





**Dave Schram**

**1952-2015**



It's always impossible to sum up one's life in a few short paragraphs, especially someone as talented, kind, loving and special as Dave. He and his wife Julie were founding members of the Selway-Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen in 2006. Dave was a rancher, packer, farrier, musician and one of the best mule men around. His hard work and dedication as a Back Country Horseman was astonishing. Dave could pack anything. He and Julie were always there when a string of 7 to 8 head were needed for a pack project. They not only volunteered for BCH pack support, but traveled the state helping out the CDTMT, Forest Service, Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation and

countless of other back country users and contractors. It would be impossible to guess how many logs Dave has cleared off the trails in his lifetime! Dave was a quiet man, with a slow and steady approach. You could always count on him to get the job done. As a farrier, well, he was one of the best. He was patient and kind and truly cared about the animal. It was rare that a shoe was ever lost. Camping with Dave was always a pleasure...such a hearty appetite and a wonderful sense of humor! There was always a twinkle in his eye and a smile for you when you met him. Not only has the SPWBCH lost a true friend and a core member of our chapter, but the BCH as a whole has lost a member who was one of a kind. He is truly missed and was loved by all. Thanks for the ride my friend...we will pat a tree for you on the trail and keep you in our hearts.



