

# BITS AND SPURS Oct-Nov-Dec 2016, 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.



2016 SPWBCH Officers - Contact Information	
President: Linda Habeck	Ph. 961-1435
Vice President: Bruce Scott	Ph. 239-1007
Secretary: Julie Schram	Ph. 961-2457
Treasurer: Betsy Hepburn-Day	Ph. 381-1378
Local Board: Senior- Taylor Orr & Duane Krowen	Ph. 930-5838 Ph. 642-3932
Junior- Nancy Bender & Bob Driggers	PH. 360-1666 Ph. 360-6519
BCHM State Directors: Kathy Hundley & Julie Schram	Ph. 363-8230 Ph. 961-2457
Alternate: Trish Foster	Ph. 777-4383

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## NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, December 8, 2016**  
**Hamilton Forest Service**  
**General Meeting @ 6:30**  
**No Board Meeting**  
**Christmas Potluck**

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**President's Note** – So goes another year of trail projects and accomplishments on the books. I offer a sincere thank you to those who worked so hard and made sure that all the projects were completed. Sawtooth seems to be the one project that keeps having a life of its own. With the grants that have been secured, I'm sure that members are looking forward to tackling the bridge and trail with hopes that 2017 will be "the year" for Sawtooth.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to lead the SPWBCH chapter this past year. I'm so proud of the dedicated members for not only the trail work, but outreach to youth and the general public with camps, pack clinics and the offer to help anyone interested in learning more about the back country.

To me, Christmas is a heartfelt time to reflect on families and friendships. Having lost a loved one very near Christmas, I know that it can be an especially hard time. Please offer an extra little prayer to Steve & family as they carry on without Luanne.

Take Care & God Bless.

Respectfully, *Linda Habeck*



# Health & Training



## RIDING PROBLEMS CREATED BY SADDLES

Part 2 cont.



**B**ad 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 6:** Breaking into a lope or gallop especially when tired; Refuses to gait for any definite of time  
**Reason:** Saddle fit not good- Lots of gaited horses won't gait if they are uncomfortable. Saddle fit is just one area to blame. There could be lots of other reasons, but check the saddle first.

**Sign 7:** Colic during or soon after a ride  
**Reason:** When a horse experiences prolonged periods of discomfort he becomes stressed. We have tested the pulse of horses wearing ill-fitting saddles, then switched to comfortable saddles and found a remarkable drop in heart rate. Stressed horses may colic because of some factor other than bad saddle fit, but discomfort could well be the precursor that sets off the colicky episode.

**Sign 8:** Tying up during a ride.  
**Reason:** Exactly the same as colic. A stressed horse tenses up. A tense horse is prone to tying up sooner than a relaxed horse

**Sign 9:** Bucking at the start of a ride or when going downhill.

**Reason:** Saddles that poke horses in the loin area cause them to buck. If the rider is lightweight, the horse may not object to the pressure point until he is asked to go downhill. At this point, not only is the saddle poking into his back but it is also sweeping from side to side across his loin causing irritating friction.

**Sign 10:** White hairs start appearing on your horse's back

**Reason:** This is the absolute proof that your saddle does not fit properly. White spots usually appear

because saddles are too narrow or not correctly shaped to your horse's back. If you do not change saddles for a better fit, the nerves in those areas will eventually die and the white unsightly marks will become permanent proof that your horse endures pain every time you ride

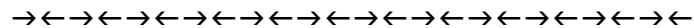


## DUTCH OVEN RECIPE

### ELK OR VENISON CHILI

#### Ingredients:

- 1 lb. venison or elk, ground or cubed
- 2 Tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, sliced or minced
- 1 Tablespoon chili powder
- 1 Tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 teaspoons cumin
- 1 teaspoon coriander
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- Salt & Pepper to taste
- 1-6 ounce can tomato paste
- 2 cups water
- 2- 15 ounce cans black beans, drained



In a Dutch oven, heat olive oil and sauté venison, onions and garlic on medium-high heat until meat is browned. (12 inch oven use 20-22 briquettes on bottom)

Add spices and continue cooking 2 minutes.

Add tomato paste and cook 2 minutes.

Add water and bring to a boil.

Add black beans and simmer an additional 10-20 minutes. (8-10 coals on bottom/12-14 on top)

Garnish with crushed tortilla chips, sour cream, avocado and cheddar cheese, if desired.





## Daddies, Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowgirls

By Betsy Hepburn-Day

I grew up on a dairy farm in central Pennsylvania, so being a horse-crazy little girl was frowned upon by my dad. He thought horses, and especially ponies, were “good for nothing hay burners”. But, his opinions of God’s most beautiful creature didn’t change my constant daily begging for a pony. Both Dad and Pap farmed with work horses and delivered milk to homes by horse and wagon, so they knew first-hand the hard work associated with horses, big or small. Maybe he thought I would lose interest and he would be stuck with some old nag. They were also quite knowledgeable of a pony’s stubborn character. The horses had been replaced by tractors by the time I came along.

My dad was a dairy cattle AI tech for Curtiss Breeding service and back then dairy farms were everywhere. Usually on Sundays he would travel to nearby counties for breeding and we would get to go along. It was a

pretty big deal for a bunch of farm kids because we got treated to ice cream cones! One particular Sunday I got treated to something better. One farmer had a pony-this pony was for sale. Well, 12 year old girls must have a knack for begging, because a week later my new best friend came to our farm.

Corky was a large brown and white paint pony. I thought I was in heaven. I think we paid \$25 for him. I couldn’t wait to ride Corky. We had tack and harnesses galore but nothing to fit my pony. I punched new holes in the old leather to make a bridle. I probably got in trouble for that, but it was worth it.

I rode bareback in my shorts and bare feet after chores were done. I would have someone hold Corky and I would run up behind him, put my hands on his rump, and land on his back, a real trick rider. Secretariat was popular then, but he had nothing on Corky. We would run the barrels. I’m sure we broke world records right there in the old cow pasture. Truth is the barrels were bushel baskets and we probably trotted.

My favorite times were just riding around our farm showing off my million dollar pony. Sometimes Corky needed a bit of coaxing to move. My mom knew how to fix that. She would break off a green switch-it worked every time.

We lived across the field from my Gram and Pap. I remember one time she let me bring Corky into her big kitchen and she fed him a cookie. We all laughed so hard! After that he loved cookies. My Pap traded in an

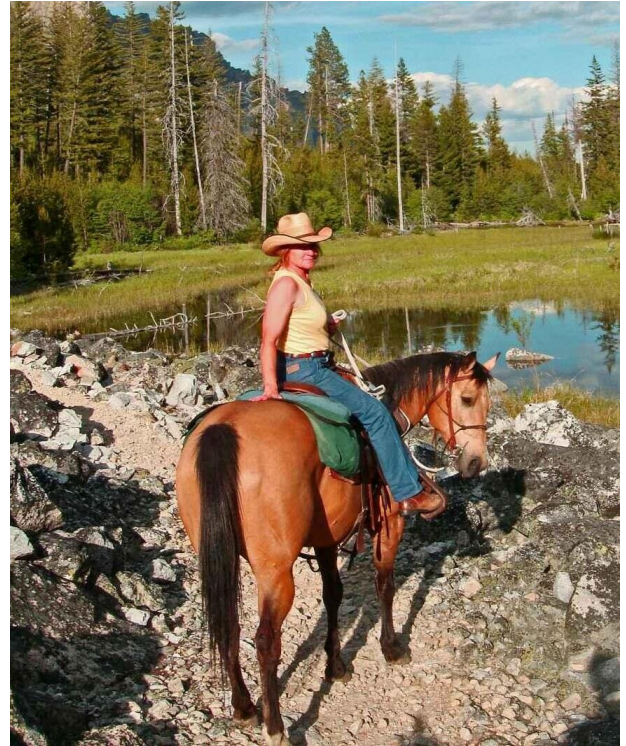


Pap-Betsy’s grandpa and team 1950



Corky and Betsy

old black saddle for a pony saddle which I still have. It holds too many memories to part with it. I hang the rosettes from his bridle on my Christmas tree every year. I had Corky about 6 years and loved every minute of it. I wouldn't trade my childhood for anything. I'm still a horse-crazy girl. Maybe I'll ask my dad for a pony just to see if I still have the knack.



Betsy & Boone  
Blodgett 2015

**UPCOMING DECEMBER ELECTIONS  
NOMINEES & OFFICERS**

- President:** Mike Foster (nominee)
- Vice President:** Bruce Scott (nominee)
- Secretary:** Christy Bennett (nominee)
- Treasurer:** Betsy Hepburn-Day (nominee)
- Local Board:** Duane Krowen (nominee-2 yr term)
- Local Board:** Patty Hascall (nominee-2 yr term)
- Local Board:** Bob Driggers (2nd year of a 2 year)
- Local Board:** Nancy Bender (2nd year of a 2 year)
- State Director:** Julie Schram (2nd year of a 2 year)
- State Director:** Trish Foster (nominee-2 yr term)
- Alternate State Director:** Kathy Hundley (nominee)

*Happy Holidays to  
All from SPWBCH*



## South Fork Lost Horse

September 25, 2016

Volunteers Betsy Hepburn-Day, Troy Derr, Joe & Kathy Hundley, Terry Reed and Duane Krown opened up the trail on a crisp fall day. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row that the SPWBCH has cleared this unique, rarely traveled trail...check it out sometime!



## 4-H Horse Rides

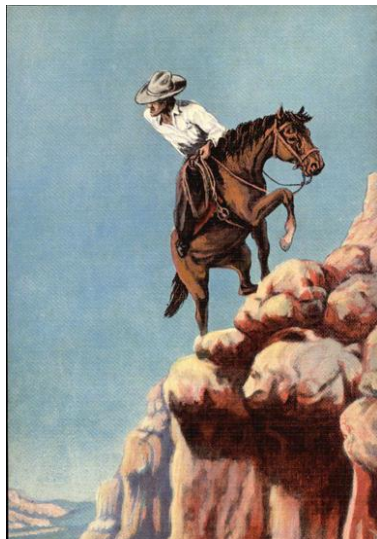
4-H Horse Leaders and SPWBCH members Elisa Plocher and Kathy Hundley helped kick off the Trail Horse project with some young trail riders this summer. The program will get underway full time next summer with a 4-H Trail Class to be held at the end of summer along one of our mountain trails. Previous trail classes have been held in the Fairground arena during the Ravalli Co Fair.



# South Fork Bear Creek

September 18, 2016

Taylor Orr, Duane Krown, Mike Foster and Joe & Kathy Hundley had what turned out to be a beautiful fall ride with only one log to cut! Turns out another sawyer had been busy this summer. Fall colors were the best ever!



**TO LIVE A  
CREATIVE LIFE  
WE MUST LOSE  
OUR FEAR OF  
BEING WRONG**





## Jack Creek Preserve Youth Pack Demo

August 13

Kathy Hundley, Terry Reed & Karen Hedges volunteered to teach packing to campers at the JCP east of Ennis. The gals then enjoyed a couple days of trail riding with SPWBCH member Tom Powers and friend George Bettas in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness-Spanish Peaks



## Thanksgiving Dutch Oven Cookout November 19-Lake Como

Members and guests and lots of dogs enjoyed the 8<sup>th</sup> annual holiday tradition by feasting on turkey, dutch oven dishes and potluck sides at the Three Sisters Pavillion! Weather was very cooperative this year which made the day a great one.





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

To view in color go to:  
[www.bchmt.org/spwbch/Newsletters.html](http://www.bchmt.org/spwbch/Newsletters.html)



**Happy Anniversary SPWBCH**

**Newsletter Information**



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!**





## Luanne Bauman 1955-2016



Luanne was a Selway-Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen member and supporter from the very beginning in 2006. Her dedication was unwavering, and like many of us, clearing trail was fun, cool and one of her favorite past times. She believed in the mission of Back Country Horsemen and always talked of how important it was for BCH to be a voice in Washington DC. She believed that in order to keep our trails open we needed the larger voice of BCH of America to fight the fight for us at the federal level. When our calendars came out in the spring and we began to plan our summer riding season, Luanne always added plenty of trail work to her schedule...just for fun! She was one of the key members who helped plan the very successful State Convention that we hosted in 2015. I'm sure we rode over a thousand miles leading up to the convention laughing and brainstorming how we could put on a "one of a kind" convention and keep costs down. She and Steve donated a colt to the chapter in 2014 which allowed us to purchase Jasper, our convention raffle mule. Kylie Rhoades, SPWBCH member, now owns Luanne's colt, Slick. She was always proud of the chapter and the work we have done. In her honor, let's continue our volunteer work for the Forest Service in keeping our trails open. As you head into the mountains, pat a tree for Luanne. We will miss her.



Bev Sacks and Luanne clearing the East Fork trail



One Horse Lake all women's pack support



Repairing the barn foundation @ Swet Lake Cabin



Clearing Nee Mee Poo trail



Clearing Blodgett-Joe and his all girl crew!



Rainy day at the Running Creek Ranch in the Selway



Luanne, Toby and Snickers

