

2022 BCHMT Convention Wall of Honor





Dale Olson

Beartooth

May 17, 1946 – May 29, 2021

Born in Minnesota, Dale grew up on the family farm near Walnut Grove. Dale moved to Montana as a young man. An avid outdoorsman, he was kind, empathetic, humorous, and caring. Dale had a servant's heart and would help anyone out on a trail ride, or any other time. Dale resided near Belfry, Montana close to the Wyoming border. He was active in two BCH chapters, the Beartooth in Montana and the Shoshone in Wyoming. Dale spent much of his time in retirement splitting duties between these two chapters. Dale served on the Board of Directors of the Beartooth Chapter. At the time the pandemic took Dale, he was both a past president and current president of the Shoshone Chapter. Dale will be sorely missed in southern Montana and northern Wyoming.

Bill Black

Bitter Root

May 5, 1938 - Feb 11, 2021



Bill Black, a long-time member of Bitter Root BCH, passed away February 11th due to complications from multiple health issues. The family took Bill back to Oak Harbor, Washington for burial. Bill was a larger-than-life fixture in BRBCH for over 20 years, and many members will remember him with great fondness. He was a past president (2001-2002, 2007-2010), vice president (multiple years), board member (multiple years), fundraising chair, and our ever-present liaison with the fairgrounds for our annual support of the county fair. He received the BCH MT Chairman's Award in 2016 for his service to BCH. A member noted, "Guess he and Tom Ford had some riding to catch up on." (Tom, the first BRBCH president, passed away in November 2020.) BRBCH was most fortunate to have him on its team.

Gene Buroker

Bitter Root

July 13, 1929 - Aug 22, 2020

Gene Buroker died at the age of 91 on August 22, 2020, of natural causes. A lifelong outdoorsman, Gene especially enjoyed sharing his love of the wilderness. Gene was rarely seen without his trademark cowboy hat. When referred to as a "cowboy," however, he would say, "I'm not a cowboy, I'm a horseman." He helped found the Bitter Root chapter of the Back Country Horsemen and, as two-time president, three-time vice president, and an enthusiastic member, he taught many people how to do pack trips and trail rides. He was awarded the Back Country Horsemen Lifetime Achievement Award for 30 years of dedication and service.





Tom Ford Bitter Root

April 28, 1925 - Nov 21, 2020

The Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen chapter formally organized on March 17, 1976. Elections followed, and our first president was Thomas "Tom" Ford, owner of Ford's Department Store on Main Street in Hamilton. Tom passed away at home surrounded by his family. He lived a good life and was a long-time supporter of trails and the back country. If you were fortunate enough to spend time talking with him at the store, he was always positive and smiling, a real gentleman.

Kenni Ann Schauer

Cabinet

July 23, 1943 – March 1, 2022

Kenni Ann taught in the Libby school system for many years and upon retiring, continued to teach for the University of Phoenix. In the late 1970's, she and her husband, Rocky, were instrumental in recruiting Gonzaga University to provide remote learning so that many Libby teachers could receive their master's degrees in education.

Kenni Ann loved animals and was responsible for finding the "furrever" homes for many fur-faced friends. There are few friends or family members who did not end up providing loving homes for Kenni Ann's rescues.

She was active in many clubs and charities, including the Cabinet chapter. She and Rocky were founding members and great supporters for over 40 years. She will be greatly missed.



Richard “Fred” Fitzpatrick

East Slope

May 24, 1957 - Oct 18, 2021

Fred, a longtime member of East Slope BCH passed away after battling kidney failure for many years. Fred loved horses and the back country. He made many trips into the Scape Goat, Bob Marshall and Big Bear Wilderness.

Fred was a very devoted and active back country horsemen member for years. He was the one that kept our club on track. Fred held every position possible and then some multiple times. Fred also was active at the State level. Fred was the best web master ever for our club and the state web site.

We all sure to miss him.





Edd Blackler

Flathead

July 9, 1943 – Aug 18, 2020

Edd was a long-time member of the Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead. He was the BCHMT Chair in the early 90s and a National Director for a few years after that. Edd loved packing in the Bob with his wife Jan, always took the time to come on chapter projects and always had a joke at the ready.

Barbara “Kay” Lewis

Flathead

Jan 12, 1957 – June 26, 2021

Kay was a longtime member of the Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead. She loved the Lord, her family and friends, and was happiest when she was in the mountains riding her horse and camping with her longtime partner Ed Langlois. In her professional life, Kay was a successful real estate agent for many years, helping folks find their slice of Heaven in the Flathead Valley.



Clyde Pederson

Flathead

April 20, 1932 – Feb 8, 2022



Clyde Pederson was a longtime member of the Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead. Clyde joined our chapter in the 70s and was very active in building and installing feed bunks and building trailheads, clearing trails and packing anything that needed to go up the trail. Clyde was born in the Flathead and spent his life ranching on his grandparents' homestead. Clyde loved elk hunting in the South Fork of the Flathead, fly fishing in mountain streams and rivers, and saddling up his favorite horse and taking pack trips through the mountains of Western Montana. He led many new Back Country Horsemen members on their first trip into the Bob. He figured once you got them past the Wilderness sign, they would be hooked.

Always a horseman, when Clyde went into the Cologne Cathedral in Germany he said, "Wow! Just think of how much hay could be stacked in here"

Mike Haugan

Gallatin Valley

July 16, 1950 – Sept 20, 2021

Mike grew up in Martinsdale, MT and went to high school in White Sulphur Springs. He enlisted in the United States Navy and served multiple roles during active duty until 1974. After obtaining a Law Enforcement degree, Mike went on to work in Colstrip as a police officer.

Mike was an avid outdoorsman, hunting, fishing, camping, and with his passion for riding and packing horses, spent a lot of time in the woods volunteering for the Back Country Horsemen keeping the trails clear, riding, and teaching packing skills to the 4-H. He was on the board of directors for many years and worked at most of the annual fundraising Poker Rides. Mike also worked on the Hellroaring, Buffalo Fork and Slough Creek cabins in the Alberta Wilderness. He regularly attended horse clinics to learn new skills and techniques and was always willing to lend a helping hand to ranchers moving their cattle.

His life-long commitment of love and service to our country and community shone through in the organizations he participated in, and through his kindness and generosity to family, friends, and acquaintances.

He touched so many lives and will be greatly missed by all.



Kurt Stabenau Gallatin Valley

Kurt W. Stabenau passed away on November 20, 2020, at the age of 84. Kurt was a founding member of the Gallatin Valley chapter and held many officer and director positions, including chapter president from 1996-1997. Kurt attended a number of state board meetings and conventions in the late 1990s and early 2000s. He was living in Ennis at the time of his passing.





Bob Steinmann

Gallatin Valley

April 13, 1940 – May 16, 2020

Robert L. Steinmann, 80, of Manhattan passed away Saturday, May 16, 2020. Bob had moved to Lewistown and ran the Yogo Inn and had just recently moved back to Bozeman and was looking forward to helping out on trail maintenance. Bob was a packer and gave many packing clinics with the Gallatin Valley chapter.

Paul Evenson

Missoula

March 21, 1940 – Oct 9, 2021

Paul, who formerly served as the Missoula chapter president, was a wealth of knowledge. He was fairly quiet, but extremely confident. He was a superb horseman, packer, and leather craftsman. Paul was also a gifted teacher. He would show a task, then have the person perform it. He never lost his patience with people or livestock.

Over the course of Paul's life, he worked for the USFS as a smokejumper and Regional Helicopter Operations Specialist. Upon retiring, he continued to volunteer for the USFS at the Rocky Mountain Ranger Station where he had quick access to the Bob Marshall Wilderness.



Barbara "Bobbi" Kinney

Three Rivers

Sept 11, 1944 – July 30, 2021

Clark and Bobbi shared 57 years of life and marriage together. Bobbi was always a great sport and brought a lot of joy to everything she did. She and Clark followed their family from 4-H through college rodeo and into their adult lives. She loved riding behind Clark on their motorcycle and going into the mountains on horseback. She provided a wonderful home for Clark and was always welcoming to family and friends who came to visit. She has left behind many treasures of oil paintings, sketches, bronzes, quilts and many other crafty things to count. She enjoyed making them and truly loved to give them to family and friends. "Life isn't so much about where we've been, as who we've been with." Her family and friends feel very blessed that she was part of their lives.





Pam Mathson

Three Rivers

Dec 21, 1948 – Aug 21, 2021

Pam was born in Pendleton, OR on Dec. 21, 1948, and passed away in Dillon, MT on August 21, 2021. Pam was a charter member of the Three Rivers BCH chapter since 1996. She was one of the starting members along with her husband, Dave Mathson. Pam worked for the Beaverhead County Sheriff's Dept. for 32 years. One thing Pam was known for was her love of her family and the great outdoors. She rode horses all her life and cherished the memories riding trails with friends and family. Pam left behind her husband of 56 years, Dave, her 3 kids, 7 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Loved them all!

