



EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

30 YEARS

TRAIL TAILS

JUNE 2010

OFFICERS

President:

Bob Hermance

Vice President:

Ronald Ries

Sec-Treasurer:

Fred Fitzpatrick

State Directors:

Fred Fitzpatrick (09-11)

Connie Manning (10-12)

Alt. State Director:

Bob Facklam (10-11)

Chapter Directors:

Dick Kinyon

Bob Facklam

Lisa Schmidt

Dale Sand

Steve Hutton

Debbie Ries

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Chairman: John Chepulis

Beartooth BCH

ESBCH-WEB SITE:

[www.bchmt.org/esbch/
default.html](http://www.bchmt.org/esbch/default.html)

MONTANA BCH WEB

SITE: www.bchmt.org

President's Letter

Greetings to all,

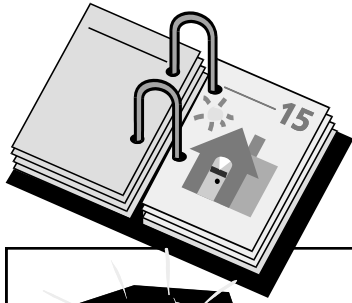
Well we're one for two on the rides. The Charlie Lincoln ride did happen. The rain almost cancelled the ride, but it turned out to be a pretty nice day. Only a little cool and windy. Our "MacGyver" crew was able to turn up a cooking device and Charlotte was innovative with the "shingle spoons". We parked the trailers at Troy Wanken's and rode across the pasture into Charlie's place. Access to the property is very limited. The property is seven miles long and about 9,000 acres on both sides of the Marias River. Clete, Aiden, LeAnn and I did ride to the northwest end of the property where the fish and game have an access on the McCormick property. From this access there were no roads or trails leading to the majority of the property. Plans are to construct a couple horse rails and the possibility of widening the gate for pack animals at the McCormick access.

The Beartooth ride on Memorial Day Weekend was rained out. The ride has been rescheduled for June 12th & 13th. The Blackleaf project was postponed at this time. You know rain is a good thing. Rain makes corn, corn makes sweet feed, sweet feed makes my horse feel a little frisky, rain is a good thing.

The Rocky Mountain Heritage Act Coalition is looking for support from Congress. The Back country Horsemen have supported the Act and have been involved since inception. We will be watching the developments and progress as they move forward with this legislation.

See you on the trail.

Bob



HAPPY BIRTHDAYS JUNE 2010

Chuck Skorupa, Lisa Schmidt,
Rochelle Stoll, Mary Jane Kinyon
and Kelsey Fitzpatrick

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL

EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

Un Official Minutes of the Directors Meeting
May 5, 2010

Opening:

The director meeting of the **East Slope Back Country Horsemen** was called to order at 7:17 P.M. at Bob & LeAnn Hermance's in Conrad by: Vice-President, Ronald Ries.

Members present:

LeAnn Hermance, Steve Hutton, Ron & Debbie Ries, Connie Manning, Bob Facklam, Dick Kinyon and Fred Fitzpatrick.

Approval of Minutes:

Steve Hutton made a motion to suspend of the minutes until they are printed in the newsletter, Motion carried.

Treasures Report:

The treasures report was given; Bills were called for, Connie Manning had one bill for \$29.45 for pictures for the chapter picture board. On a motion by Steve Hutton the treasures report and the bill was approved.

Correspondence:

There was no Correspondence.

Committee Reports:

No committee reports were given.

Unfinished Business:

We decided that the ride to the Lincoln Ranch

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June 2: Directors Meeting at Bob Hermance in Conrad 7:00 PM

June 5-6: Whoop-up Trail Days, Rodeo in Conrad

June 11-13: Work Project (Beartooth Game Range)

June 16: Regular Meeting at the U.S. Forest Service Office in Choteau 7:00 PM

June 26-27: Swift Dam Weed Spraying

July 4: Choteau 4th of July Celebration-Parade, Rodeo and Fireworks

July 7: Directors Meeting at Ron and Debbie Ries's in Conrad 7:00 PM

July 31, Aug.1: Work Project and Poker Ride Swift Dam Trail Head

would be set for 10:00 A.M. On May 22nd.

It will be a day ride and see what can be done as far as cleaning up around the buildings and seeing what can be done as far as hitching rails and such.

We then discussed the Memorial Day weekend work project. Ron said that he would like to have possibly 3 crews to each do the 3 trails that need to be cleaned. Debbie is in charge of getting groceries for the project and we will all share in cooking duties. We also decided to bring the chapter tent to use for sleeping and cooking.

New Business:

We discussed chapter first aid for members and LeAnn will check with the Pondera Medical Center and see what she can come up with for a date and time.

Fred reminded the board that there will be a State Board meeting on May 15th in Lincoln at Lambkins Restaurant.

We then discussed the e-mail that was received by some chapter members regarding the positive Coggins test of two horses in the Gallatin Valley. This subject will be discussed more at the State Board meeting and it was discussed how our chapter felt about the requirements of having a Coggins test. Dr. Dick Kinyon stated that in this area he has seen only one mule test positive and the test was inconclusive but the mule had to be euthanized anyway. He felt that it should not be mandatory in our geological area to have the test for a trail ride. He also stated that if the state veterinary

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requires it then we would have to do it.

Sign-up sheets for the Marias River WMA fun ride and work summation and the Memorial Day Weekend Work Project were passed around. It was decided that we would put the information in the newsletter and also pass around the sign-up sheets at the next regular meeting.

Other:

No other business was presented.

Next Meeting:

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2010 at the Graham Ranch in Conrad, dinner will be at 6:30 P.M.

The next regular meeting will be in Choteau at the U.S. Forest Service on June 16th.

Adjournment:

On a motion from Connie Manning the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 P.M. by Vice-President Ronald Ries.

Signed: *R. Fred Fitzpatrick*

Approved

6/2/2010

**EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY
HORSEMEN**

Unofficial Minutes of the Regular Meeting
May 19, 2010

Opening

The regular meeting of the **East Slope Back Country Horsemen** was called to order at 7:03 P.M. in Choteau, MT at the U.S. Forest Service office by: President; Bob Hermance.

Members Present

Ron & Debbie Ries, Bob & LeAnn Hermance, Angela Dailey, Don Cleveland, Gary & Connie Manning, Dick Kinyon, Bill Poser, Dale Sands, Carson Sands, Jim & Shirley Brogger, Joe Suta, Bob Facklam and Fred Fitzpatrick.

Speaker/Program

The chapter viewed a program on saddle fitting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the newsletter on a motion by Connie Manning.

Treasures Report

The treasures report was given and Connie

Manning had 2 bills one for the newsletter in the amount of \$ 17.34 and one for directors meeting mileage in the amount of \$65.25. Fred Fitzpatrick had a bill for director meeting mileage for \$65.25 also. LeAnn Hermance made a motion to accept the report and pay the bill, the motion carried.

Committee Reports

Jim Brogger gave a report on the Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front, Jim wanted to share some concerns he had about the progress of the bill and concerns about the grazing rights of ranchers that were concerned about the areas that would be come Wilderness.

State Directors Report

Connie Manning gave report from the State Directors meeting that was held in Lincoln, MT on May 15th.

Unfinished Business

We discussed the proposal of changing the Poker Ride from August 1st to August 8th so it would be held in conjunction with Dupuyer Grizzlies Day but after much discussion it was decided that the date would have to remain on August 1st.

Sign-up sheets for the Marias River WMA fun ride and work summation and the Memorial Day Weekend Work Project were passed around. We then discussed the two upcoming projects.

New Business

LeAnn Hermance had talked to Pondera Medical Center about our chapter First-Aid course and the only dates that they had open were May 29 and June 12. These two dates are in conflict with work projects on our calendar, so it was decided we would look in to other options that might be available.

Trail Management Objectives were briefly discussed and Connie is working on getting a list of the current TMO's for the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

The June 11-13 work project was brought up and the Trail Boss for this project Fred Fitzpatrick had nothing prepared as of yet. He said it would be discussed further at the next Directors Meeting. Connie Manning brought up the State Newsletter survey that will be included in the next chapter newsletter asking chapter members if they would accept receiving their newsletter electronically and thus save the state and our chapter some costs of

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printing and mailing the newsletters.

Other

LeAnn Hermance said the Conrad Chamber of Commerce is looking for people and horses (entries) for the Whoop-up Parade in Conrad on June 6th.

Next Meeting Program

We will be showing an educational DVD about the Back Country Horsemen of Montana.

Next Meeting

The next Regular meeting will be on June 16, 2010 at the U.S. Forest Service office in Choteau, MT at 7:00 P.M.

Next Meeting Treats

Treats for the next regular meeting will be brought by Shirley Brogger..

Adjournment

On a motion by Connie Manning the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 P.M.

Signed: *R. Fred Fitzpatrick*

How not to get stuck in quicksand;

with Fred (The Horses A__) and Fred (The Horse)

Marias River Wildlife Management Area, Fun Ride and Work Summation, as one that has very seldom rode along the Marias River and having the opportunity to go on this ride, I was excited even though they were predicting rain, it turn out not to be too bad of a day. After we assembled at Troy Wanken's place and saddling up we headed for Charlie Lincoln's ranch. Arriving around lunch time we decided to go ahead and roast some hot dogs for lunch, we found a barbeque along with propane no doubt left by some Fish Wildlife and Parks employees. So we made good use of the equipment by cooking our hot dogs. After lunch we decided to head up river and do some more scouting around. Some members decided to try and go find the northwest corner of the property were FWP had put a bathroom and new road. The rest of us decided to head back towards Wanken's place it was after we arrived back at the Lincoln ranch, I thought it would be good idea to see if the horses would like a drink of water. So heading down to the river, I heard Charlotte Marshall say something about a gravel bar and not paying much attention I was heading to the nearest water and as I approached the river bank it looked like it was dry and as I tried to coax Fred to step down the bank he looked

at the area and instantly knew that he wanted nothing to do with this spot that I had picked out. Of course I did not understand what was wrong with it and knowing nothing of the peril that I had just put myself and horse into. As Fred spun around on the bank his back legs went under, luckily he had his front feet on solid ground as he attempted to lunge up and out of where we should not have been, it was a little exciting trying to stay on as he fought his way out of the quagmire and in doing so he had somehow got his front foot in the rein no doubt the dumb riders fault, but needless to say it broke the bridal, but Fred being the level headed horse that he is could only think of one thing at a time like this, getting up the bank and start eating some of that nice green grass that was just too good to pass up. So while Fred was eating Fred went through his saddlebags and found some leather string and proceeded to fix the broken bridal. While this was going on I was further enlightened by Charlotte about quicksand, as she recited a story that her father who had ranched along the Marias and Dry Forks told her and her brothers as children, to never cross anywhere, were they were no cow tracks. He told them that the cows would tell you where you could cross. She also told us a story of how her father had found himself and horse in a similar situation along the Dry Fork once, her father was able to get off his horse and get out and then the horse was able to work himself out. Charlotte then commented with a quirk remark of how good I looked staying on my horse as he was getting out, but I was just glad that we got out OK. Anyway it was a learning experience and if your horse says NO, HE KNOWS!

Below is a definition of quicksand along with some hopefully helpful tips so that you don't find yourself in a similar situation, it might be noted as Back Country Horsemen most of you may never find yourselves in a similar situation, but I felt it was worth sharing. These quicksand areas are usually found in areas where the soil is fine and/or sandy as it is along the Marias River so use caution. And pay particular attention to the last statement.

Quicksand is a colloid hydrogel consisting of fine granular matter (such as sand or silt), clay, and water. The origin of the name refers to "quick" in the older meaning of "alive" rather than "fast," and is thus similar to the origin of the term quicksilver for mercury. Quicksand is a non-Newtonian fluid: when undisturbed it often appears to be solid ("gel" form), but a minor (less than 1%) change in the stress on the quicksand will cause a sudden decrease in its viscosity ("sol" form). After the initial perturbation—such as a person attempting to walk on it—the water and sand in the

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quicksand separate and dense regions of sand sediment form; it is because of the formation of these high volume fraction regions that the viscosity of the quicksand seems to suddenly increase. In order to move within the quicksand, a person or object must apply sufficient pressure on the compacted sand to re-introduce enough water to liquefy it. The forces required to do this are quite large: to remove a foot from quicksand at a speed of one centimeter per second would require the same amount of force as "that needed to lift a medium-sized car."

The good news is that quicksand is not the monstrous force portrayed in movies or TV. Sinking out of sight into a bottomless pit may be our nightmare, but that's not the way quicksand works. So forget about the image of the cowboy's head disappearing as his flailing hands reach for the rope that his faithful horse, standing on the bank, has tossed to him. Quicksand is just sand that has been over-saturated with water, creating a mixture that no longer supports weight. Quicksand won't suck you down, and it is rarely more than a few feet deep. However, you can trap yourself, if you don't know how to respond. Thrashing vertical movements will force you deeper. Slow, steady movements are best. "That's fine for me," you might be thinking. "But what about my horse? Try telling HIM to stay calm!" Well, that is exactly what you need to do. Our horses look to us for leadership. If we remain calm, it increases the likelihood that they will remain calm.

Quicksand will make many riverbed or flood plain trails treacherous, until the groundwater table lowers substantially (which may not occur until late summer in our area). So in certain years with spring snows and rains, riverbeds or flood plains are under water long enough to become over-saturated. So many areas are likely to become liquefied enough for quicksand formation. As surface water sinks, areas will be exposed that may look like regular sand, but they may not be safe. Even experienced riders who know the area can be caught by surprise. This is not the time for *newbies* to explore the lower trails. You don't want to make the five o'clock news.

Trails Turn Unfamiliar During Storms... and Afterward. Liquefaction can occur anywhere conditions allow. When these waters go down, pockets of quicksand will have formed along otherwise familiar trails.

Tips for Navigating Wet Trails, stay on high ground. Use trails that are well-traveled and show hoof-prints. If others have passed safely (and you can see from their tracks how deep they sank) then you probably can, too. Avoid places which appear smooth & trackless. Liquefied sand doesn't hold hoof-prints. When crossing water, look at BOTH banks – are other hoof-prints going

into the water and out the other side? How deep are they? ...Any gouge-marks indicating that the riders before you ran into difficulty?

If your horse does sink into liquefied sand or bog, **DON'T STOP** - Keep moving. Standing still allows your horse's legs to sink deeper into resistant suction. If there is solid ground a few feet in front of you, it may be best to keep moving forward. If not, turn towards the nearest solid ground and **KEEP YOUR HORSE MOVING**. As calmly as possible, dismount if necessary (to reduce weight) but try to keep your horse moving towards higher ground.

Pay attention to your horse's body language.

They have strong instincts to avoid quicksand and bogs.

Submitted by; R. Fred Fitzpatrick

Calling all BCH Weed Warriors!

Plan to join up to get the job done at Swift Dam. Our club has sprayed weeds around the reservoir for the last three years and it has really made a difference. Steve Hutton is coordinating the Swift Dam Spray Day for Sunday, June 27. Plan to be there by 10 a.m. Bring your horse and a lunch for this fun, productive ride. Call Steve to let him know you are coming so he can arrange for backpack sprayers and enough spray. 278-0159 or 450-1955.

WANT TO VIEW NEWSLETTER ONLINE

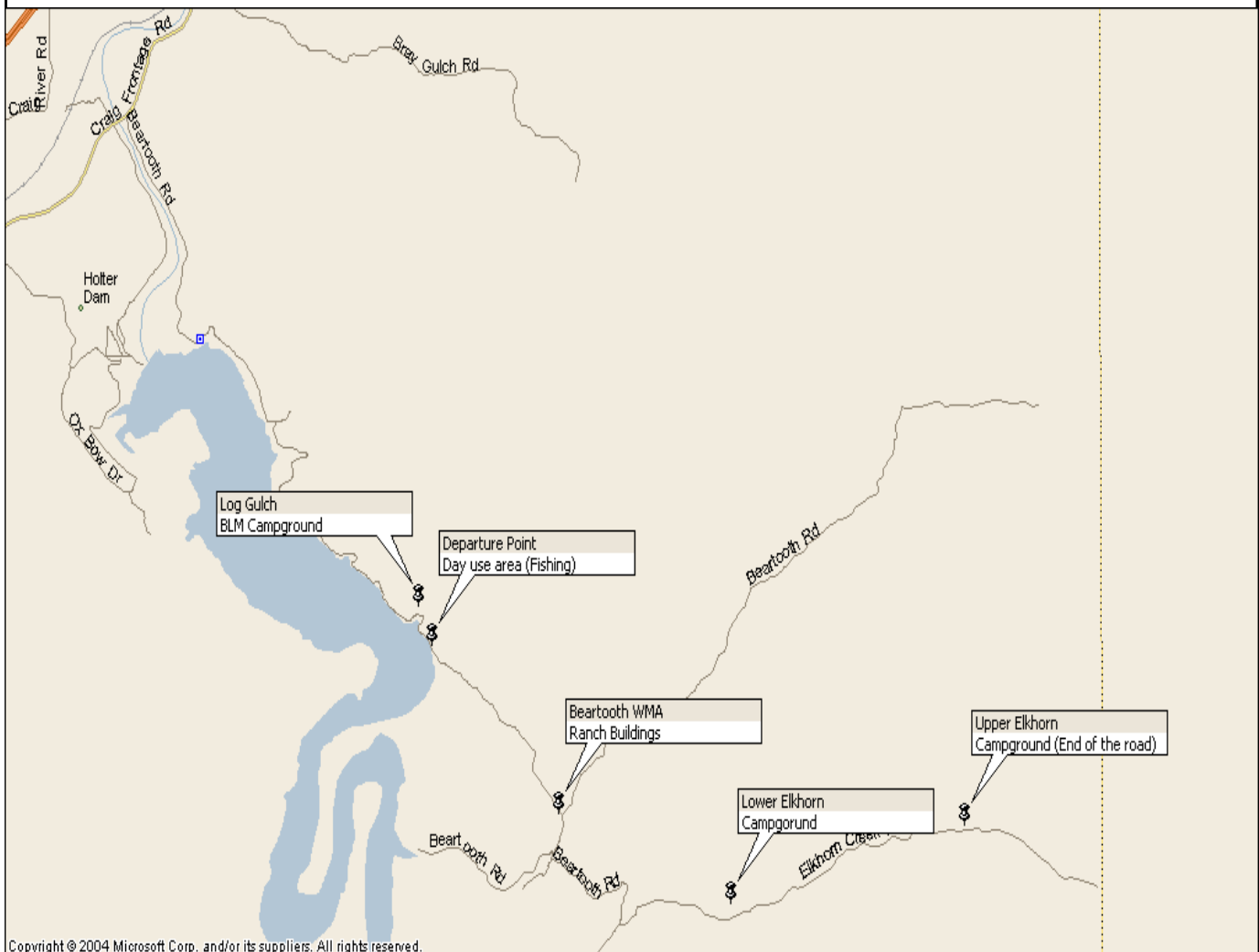
The state is looking to decrease the cost, but wants to keep the membership benefits of the quarterly newsletter. So if you could take your newsletter via email we would like you to email me back candmanning@msn.com. The way it works is an email would be sent to you with a link to the newsletter. You can read it online or print it out for a hard copy. Online usually has some colored pictures to see instead of only black and white. When you print it out you can print it in black and white. **Your email will be kept private; others receiving the email do not see the list of all who gets it.** With that being said we would also like to know if you would like to receive our chapter newsletter via email too. This is an attempt at saving some money and we all seem to use our computers. Please let me know your choice ASAP. Connie

Beartooth WMA (Holter Lake) Work Project JUNE 11,12&13 2010

We will be having our work project at the Beartooth WMA this year. Ron Ries is the trail boss for this project and he is requesting enough participants that we can have three work groups of at least 3 people in each group if we have more that is fine also. We will be focusing on clearing the Spring Coulee, North Fork of Elkhorn and the South Fork of Elkhorn trails. We will be camping at the upper Elkhorn campground and the chapter will be bringing the chapter tent for cooking and sleeping, but we may need additional tents or bring your camper if you want. The road up to the upper Elkhorn campground is a single track road and it should be mentioned that long trailers might not be appropriate. There should be plenty of grass for stock, but there is limited high-lining trees at this campground but we can probably fix some high-lines between horse trailers if needed. There is also hitching rails available, you might also want to bring an electric fence if your stock does not picket.

If you need further information on this project or to sign up please call Ronald Ries at 278-3727 or 278-3015 or Fred Fitzpatrick at 279-3232.

**You can get to the Beartooth WMA from either the Craig or Wolf Creek exits on Interstate 15.
See map below**



Prairie Ponderings

By Lisa Schmidt

A renowned economist insists that good business owners should follow the 2800 Rule: No one should work more than 2800 hours each year. More than that will harm family and personal lives, which then circles back to harm the business.

I took Dr. Kohl at his word, left the kids with my husband, Steve, and went elk hunting for a week. I met up with Mr. Information, Mr. Kandoo and Ms. Hilton at their warm wall tent. Mr. Kandoo had a bull tag, I had a cow tag and Mr. Information had his GPS. Ms. Hilton and her two dogs took good care of camp.

We explored more than 77 miles in five days of riding. Usually, Mr. Information led, Mr. Kandoo followed and I brought up the rear because my horse walked slowly. But sometimes Mr. Information would fall back behind me, surrounding me just like a baby in a cradle. I figured out that meant the steep, narrow trail was about to get dicey.

Elk like to graze in the evening, so usually we hunted the woods during the day and then glassed the open meadows as the sun went down. We rode back to camp each night after dark. One night, clouds covered the moon. First, the trail disappeared into the darkness, but I could still see Mr. Kandoo's horse ahead of me. Then his horse vanished into the night. Mr. Information swung in behind me. Bad sign. The horses got extra feed when they brought us home safely.

Every hunter likes to find game in different ways. I'm not such a good shot that I can hit an elk on the run so, instead of spooking them, I like to see just how close I can get before a deer or elk gets nervous. Last week, I took two pictures of a spike elk lying in his bed. -- the flash even went off and he did not move. A couple of bucks posed for me, too. Once, I was close enough to hear a fawn bleating as he looked for, and found, his mother. Another time, I heard a buck softly mewling after two does as they trotted across a meadow.

Elk camp is much more than looking for elk. Elk camp sends the goodness of the outdoors right into one's bones. I stood in wonder at how much bigger the Montana sky looks at night with a billion stars lighting the way. My blind dependence on a good horse as we rode into the blackness humbled me. I was awed by the power of quiet secrets in the woods, of the wind that could bite through so many layers of clothes, of the animals that thrive in brutal temperatures. I gained immense respect for generous people who would rock me in their cradle when they worried about trail conditions; the same people who would pause a whole day in their goal of finding a bull to help me bone out my cow elk. Meanwhile, Steve and the kids survived, even thrived. Steve might have had struggles holding down the home fort, but he has yet to mention them. Instead, as I walked out the door, he handed me a 100-grain Nosler partition bullet for my 250-3000 and told me to explore places I had never been.

So, as Thanksgiving approaches, I am especially thankful for the right to hunt if I choose, a supportive family, good friends, elk that momentarily stand still and economists.

Lisa Schmidt and her husband, Steve Hutton, raise natural, grass-fed beef and lamb at the Graham Ranch near Conrad.

She has two children; Will, 11, and Abby, 3.

She can be reached at alandofgrass@3riversdbs.net

May 22nd Fun Ride and Work Summation Marias River WMA & SP (Lincoln Ranch)



Lunch Break



Tie up spot for Lunch



Cooking the dogs



Lincoln Ranch Buildings