

~~~~~ Pack Horse Mail ~~~~~  
Mile High Back Country Horsemen



October 2004  
VOLUME 4

Issue 3

**Message From The President:**



Pete and Willy try out a new gate on Homestake CDNST

**Greetings Members:**

As I reviewed the draft of this issue of our quarterly newsletter, I was impressed by how much fun we had this year and by what we accomplished. There is such a need out there for volunteer work on trails and when a trail is completed and maintained, we have the opportunity for truly enjoyable riding experiences. Working with people from all

over the country on the CDNST in the Highlands was rewarding and those who didn't make this event really missed out. We are lucky to have so much great country around Butte, but most of the trails, especially in the Wise River area are badly neglected and need to be reclaimed and USED or they will be abandoned. Charlie has an inventory of potential projects that we could work on.

The summer and fall in Montana are so great and so short that we all cram too much into our schedules and don't get to participate in everything we want. As we plan for next year, let's all try to allocate more time for MHBCH activities.

Your Board meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 12 noon at Perkins. This is where we do most of the planning and general business leaving the general membership

meetings for information and education programs with the goal of having the general meetings over by 9:00 pm. General meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Comfort Inn.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- November 18 Monthly Meeting
- December (TBA) MHBCH Christmas Party

We're looking for a couple people to take charge of the Christmas Party...contact Pete by next meeting.

We're always looking for speakers - If you have ideas contact Pete Madison or any of the Board of Directors.

**INSIDE**

Review of spring and summer activities.

# TRAINING

## Defensive Horse Safety

Charlie O'Leary and Frank Olenick, with assistance from the Forest Service, conducted the Safety Horse Training for MHBCH members. 18 members participated in the day long course at Charlie's place. Members received training on horse handling, basic care, first aid, and trailer loading. Thanks to Charlie and Frank for their work.

Safety is an important component to all BCH activities. Before every ride or work activity safety sessions are important reminders to riders to be aware of potential hazards and how to minimize the risk of accidents. Important things to review and remember:

- Know you and your horse's limitations,
- Be aware of others around you,
- Give yourself plenty of time and space from others; and
- Be prepared with the proper equipment and clothing.

BCH has produced a booklet "BCHMT Defensive Horse Safety course". This booklet has lots of useful information. Contact Charlie to get your personal copy.

## Chainsaw Training

The Forest Service provided training for additional members this spring. Gary Philpot, Bill Krause, Dave Duesterbeck, Frank Olenick, and Ray Thoen participated in the class.

Anyone wanting to work on a project that includes chainsaw work must complete the FS training. For more information contact Jocelyn at the Forest Service.

## HORSE TIPS FOR FALL

If you use your horse for hunting be sure to blanket them afterwards for the trip home as they will be hot and sweaty.

Warm up your bit before putting it in their mouth...how would you feel about cold steel in your mouth?

Consider the conditions you'll be riding in...if it becomes snowy you may want to pull the shoes off your horse or clean the hoof and spray with PAM so the snow doesn't stick (an old timer told Frank about this).

Be careful on the trail as snow covered trails may be icy underneath. This goes for towing your horse trailer as well.

## TRAIL PROJECTS

The club was busy this summer with a variety of activities and rides. Thanks to all the members who gave their time, stock, and equipment to work with the Forest Service and other trail clubs to enhance trail opportunities on public lands.

### Beaver Ponds Trail #105



Larry Rupp and Gary Philpot load Patches for the first of 8 pack trips to deliver supplies. Timber bunks built by Anaconda Job Corps.

In June MHBCH members teamed up with the Highland Cycling Club to construct 50 feet of turnpike and a 25 foot puncheon bridge on the Beaver Ponds Trail #105 on the Butte Ranger District.

Members and their stock packed in 2000 pounds of bridge materials and hauled over 2000 pounds of gravel. Forest Service trail technician, Bob Mirich, supervised 12 members of MHBCH and HCC to construct the turnpike and bridge.

This was the first opportunity for the club to use the timber bunks manufactured by the Anaconda Job Corps and gravel bags made by Frank Olenick and Darrell McDaniel. Everything came together with one day of packing in supplies and a day to construct the turnpike and bridge.



Larry and Patches come in on their first trip – Whoa Boy!

## Gold Creek Trail

In June a two day trail project on the Gold Creek Trail #152 and #92 was completed on the Wise River Ranger District. Charlie, Jason, Ray, Gary, and Will cleared and widened portions of the trail and constructed switchbacks. Some of the group camped out to continue clearing work on Trail #43 to Little Joe Meadows the second day.



Dave Stevens and Bob Mirich unload gravel from Newly.

For information on the gravel bag design and construction contact Frank or Darrell.



Project Completed!



Jason, Charlie, and Ray hard at work – keep it up boys!

# TRAIL RIDES & OTHER PACK NEWS



## May Fair

MHBCH attended the KXLF May Fair at the Civic Center. For the past three years the Club has participated in this show as a fundraiser. Club members sell raffle tickets and are able to keep all revenue generated from the sale of tickets. This year the Club raised \$262.00.

## Thompson Park Cleanup

Despite rainy weather several members of the Club attended the Second Annual Thompson Park Cleanup. This year there were no freezers and tires to be picked up, but there was plenty of trash to be found at the Eagle's Nest Recreation Area.

## Elk Park Sologub Ride

Joe Sologub was trail boss for his annual Elk Park Ride in June. This year Joe led a group of 18 riders up into the Berry's Meadows on the Bear Gulch Trail which was followed by a BBQ at his house.

## Maude S Canyon Trail

MHBCH has formed a partnership with the East Ridge Foundation who want to construct a trailhead and trail that will connect with the CDNST. In May, Pete

Madison, President, met with the Chairman of the East Ridge Foundation, Bob Miller to discuss access needs for horsemen from Maude S Canyon to the CDNST.

Horse access will be provided at the trailhead and on the trail, which will be for non-motorized use only. The Forest Service is working with the East Ridge Foundation on the trailhead and trail design. MHBCH provided support for a Recreation Trails Grant application to construct the trailhead and a portion of the trail to the Burlington Northern Railroad in 2005.

## Anaconda Pintler Wilderness Ride

Frank Olenick was trail boss in September for a ride from the Middle Fork Trailhead up through Johnson Lake, Phyllis Lake, and Little Johnson Lake. 4 people braved the rain and snow including Darlene, Ray, and Jason. As Frank put it he "missed the wimps" on this trip, but is looking forward to another trip next summer.

We're looking forward to more rides in 2005. If you know of a great ride let us know when we start to schedule summer activities.

## Thanks!

- Anaconda Job Corps for building the timber bunks for MHBCH
- Butte Silver Bow County and Martz Disposal Service for a dumpster for the Thompson Park Cleanup

## NEW MEMBERS!

MHBCH would like to welcome new and old members and we hope to see you at club functions.

Brad Anderson  
Will Carey

## Continental Divide National Scenic Trail News

The Butte Ranger District completed an Environmental Analysis for the CDNST in 2004 to construct 50 miles of new trail on the district. MHBCH has adopted the trails around Butte as part of the 3100 mile CDNST extending from Canada to Mexico. Our section is the horseshoe around Butte from Elk Park to I-15 south of Butte to assist with location, construction, and future maintenance.

In 2002 MHBCH members helped to locate the Burton Park I trail segment. In 2004 the Forest Service completed survey and design of the trail in late July. On August 21 and 22 MHBCH teamed up with the Forest Service, Continental Divide Trail Alliance (CDTA) and Americorps of St. Louis to clear three miles of the trail. Over 30 volunteers cleared trees and brush for two days on the Burton Park I segment. This section of CDNST will connect with the Limekiln section and continue to Bear Gulch Trail #108.

Members of the CDTA, led by Peggy Callan, camped at the Highland Junction enjoying evening campfires and a BBQ with MHBCH and Americorps members. CDTA members came from Colorado, Idaho, and Montana (Butte, Anaconda, Whitehall, and Missoula). Six groups worked on the trail with equipment packed in by MHBCH members. Chainsaws could be heard throughout the day as crews worked to clear standing trees and a lot of deadfall along the route.

It was a great opportunity for the groups to meet and work with others with the same goal in mind, completing construction of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. It is the goal of the Forest Service and CDTA that the trail be completed by 2008.

MHBCH will be working with the CDTA to continue clearing of this segment in 2005!



Frank prepares to take on the trees....



Frank shows off his handy work, the chainsaw class pays off!

## New Segments of CDNST Completed and Planned for Construction

The Forest Service recently completed another segment of the CDNST starting at Homestake Pass and continuing toward Pipestone Pass for 4 more miles of trail now open to ride. The trail, when completed, will extend from Homestake Pass to Pipestone Pass where it will connect with the Pipestone segment, south of MT Highway 2. The trail has been constructed to the highest point along the

segment to provide riders with great views of the Tobacco Root and Highland Mountain ranges. If you follow the stake lines down the ridge you will connect with the Beaver Ponds Trail and existing CDNST that leads to Pipestone Pass. This segment will be constructed in 2005.

MHBCH has committed to erecting CDNST route markers along the trail. This project will be scheduled for early next summer as soon as the snow melts.

The Forest Service is also planning on contracting the segment that leads from the head of Limekiln to Highland Junction in 2005, if earmark budget allocations continue as scheduled.

Burton Park I will be constructed in 2006. The Forest Service will be working on locating the next segment, Homestake Pass to Maude S Canyon in 2005. Anyone

interested in working to locate this segment should contact Jocelyn at the Butte Ranger District.

### Trail Etiquette – Share the Trail

Many of the trails around Butte, particularly the CDNST, are popular with many non-motorized users including mountain bicyclists and hikers. It's important to remember to **SHARE THE TRAIL** by watching out for others on the trail and being courteous.

- Be aware of potential bicyclists on blind corners and hills. Bikes don't make a lot of noise and can surprise you and your horse.
- If your horse is jumpy around bikes and dogs, let others know what to do when you meet them on the trail.
- Horse traffic always has the right of way.



MHBCH members: Pete, Frank, Darrell, Jason, and Gary with CDTA and Americorps St. Louis Volunteers working with the Forest Service on the Burton Park I project.

#### BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF MONTANA MISSION STATEMENT

- To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
- To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- To assist various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands.
- To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustained use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public, commensurate with our heritage.
- To foster and encourage formation of new Back Country Horsemen organizations.

2004 Officers Elected in January

President: Pete Madison (rpmadison@hotmail.com)  
Secretary: Gin Kraus  
Compliance Officer: Frank Olenick  
Assistant Compliance Officer: Larry Rupp

Vice President: Darrell McDaniel  
Treasurer: Darlene Olenick  
Newsletter Editor: Jocelyn Dodge

Board of Directors

Charlie O'Leary  
Gary Philpot  
Bill Kraus  
Dave Stevens

Joe Sologub  
Jocelyn Dodge  
Ray Thoen  
Larry Rupp

VISIT THE MHBCH WEBSITE LINK AT: [www.bchmt.org](http://www.bchmt.org)

If you know of someone you would like to invite as a member give them this membership form. Memberships for the remainder of 2004 include a 2005 membership. Complete the form and return it to P.O. Box 286 Butte, MT 59701



# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Individual \$20

Family \$28

Business \$30

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MY INTERESTS ARE:

Work Projects      Public Land Issues      Planning Activities      Training

Education      Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Mile High Back Country Horsemen  
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