



FEED BAG



Editor: Myra Mumma

March 2006

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From the President's Pen.....

We had a great turnout for the annual Membership Drive Potluck. Smoke and Thelma Elser's barn was full of new faces as well as old and table after table of wonderful potluck dishes. A very special thanks to Smoke and Thelma for hosting BCH of Missoula for both the Christmas and January Membership Drive Potlucks. Thanks also to all of you who organized and setup for the events.

I sure hope you can make it to the BCH of Montana State Convention in Polson on March 24, 25 and 26. Those raffle prizes look great--a king-size down comforter, "Wild Horse Sunset" print by Karen Noles and how about that round pen package!

The 14th annual National Trails Day is Saturday, June 3. Nearly a million trail enthusiasts across 50 states will be going to their favorite trail discover, learn about and celebrate trails while participating in educational exhibits, trail dedications, gear demonstrations, instructional workshops and trail work projects. This year's theme is "Experience Your Outdoors."

Blue Mountain Trail is our official National Trails Day project. We hope to encourage folks in the community to get out and enjoy an area that we're so lucky to have in our backyard. We'll have lots of exhibits, demonstrations and work projects organized by Paul Evenson, Keith Guschausky and Barbara Koepke. Please call one of them to offer your help with this worthwhile project.

By Gary Salisbury, Back Country Horsemanship



I am really looking forward to the exciting events and projects we're planning for 2006! I know you are too, so, come to the meetings to get in on the details. Until then, be safe--in the saddle and out of the saddle! 🐾

Gary Salisbury

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 15	7:30 PM MBCH Meeting--FW&P (Mack Long on Fish & Wildlife Management in the Wilderness)
March 24-26	BCH State Convention in Polson
April 12	6:30 PM MBCH Board Meeting
April 19	7:30 PM MBCH Meeting--FW&P
May 15-19	9:00 AM Leave No Trace Masters Training-Nine Mile R. D.
May 17	7:30 PM MBCH Meeting--FW&P
June 3	National Trails Day--Blue Mountain Trailhead
June 18	Fathers Day Steak Ride
July 20-22	Northfork of the Blackfoot Educational Trip

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**INVITATION TO MISSOULA
BCH MEMBERS
NORTHFORK OF THE
BLACKFOOT TRIP
JULY 20, 21 and 22, 2006**

This trip is open to any Missoula BCH member who is interested in participating in an educational/work trip into the Scapegoat Wilderness. The purpose of this short trip is to give new members or those with limited experience an opportunity to ride into the Scapegoat and start putting your riding, packing and camping skills to work.

We will meet at the North Fork Trailhead on the afternoon of July 20. Before supper, we will make a swing through the trailhead and do a general cleanup of the area. We will then have supper and spend the night at the trailhead. On the morning of the 21st, we will load up and head for camp about 7 miles in. Throughout the day we will do some general trailwork and learn the history of the area. If time allows, we will do a short ride to the North Fork Falls as well. After breakfast and breaking camp on the 22nd, we will load up and work our way back to the North Fork trailhead.

Signups for the trip will start at the March 15, 2006 BCH monthly meeting. Maximum group size is 15 people. Each person will need to supply their own tent, sleeping bag, riding horse and personal items. We will divide up the costs of hay and food. Contact Connie or Mack Long at 626-5539 if you have questions. 🐾

**I've spent most of my
life riding horses. The
rest I've just wasted.**

.....Unknown

Don't Mess with Momma Moose

.....by Rick Sherman

Last summer, my daughter, Ashlea, worked for the Montana Conservation Corps. She worked trails all over Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming and even did a month in Louisiana doing relief work after Hurricane Katrina. They were based out of Bozeman and lived in town between backcountry hitches. This gave her time to explore the Bridger Mountains a bit.

Ash and her friend, Carley, went hiking with Carley's young dogs up the Spanish Creek trail, not far from town. Carley was telling Ash about a dream she had had the night before about being on this trail and having her dogs attacked by a giant grizzly bear. Ash was noticing fresh moose tracks in the mud when the dogs took off after a deer as they entered a meadow. They dogs weren't as well trained as they should have been, so didn't respond to calls to come back. They chased the deer into woods, then saw a cow and calf moose in the meadow on the edge of a marshy area along the creek. The dogs went after the moose. The cow turned the calf back into the willows. Ash insisted on turning back immediately. Just as they started back, Momma came out of the willows in full charge. Her eyes were white and rolled back, ears were flat against her neck and the hair on her hump was standing on end, back lit by the sun. Ash yelled, "Run!!" and headed for the trees. She doesn't remember taking a single step but was on the edge of the trees and dove over a big down tree busting branches as she went. She looked back at her friend. It was a classic deer in the headlights situation. The girl froze as the moose ran her down. Her body was airborne for about fifteen feet. She rolled into a ball as the moose straddled her, kicking with both front and hind hooves. The moose saw Ash peering over the log and charged her. She had barely enough time to get to her feet before the moose was on her. Ash got behind three spindly lodge poles as the moose caught up with her. She faced momma moose down from the other side of those little trees. She was close enough to touch the moose's forehead through the trees. She could feel the hot breath from flaring nostrils. The rolling red eyes stared her down. The moose charged the trees, then backed away, then charged around the trees. Ash kept moving around the trees always keeping them between her and the moose. Around and around they went. The moose would back off and charge around the other way and around and around they would go some more.



In the mean time, Carley managed to get on her feet, gather her dogs and hunker down under a big spruce with low branches, holding the dogs' muzzles to keep them quiet. Ash kept playing the merry-go-round game for about five minutes until the moose remembered her baby waiting below in the willows and finally backed off.

Once the moose turned her back, Ash was out of there. She gathered up Carley and the dogs and ran the three miles back to the trailhead. The girls ran so fast they out ran the dogs. As they ran, Ash was looking over her shoulder and calling out good climbing trees along the way just in case.

Once back at the car, they were able to examine their injuries. Ash was unscathed but Carley was bruised and bleeding. Her clothes were torn and she had a clearly marked hoof mark in the abraded skin on her back. She claims she is going to have the scar tattooed. Later she found that she had three broken ribs. As for me, telling the story was worth a number of free shots at the nearest bar!

Ash told me this story as we were leading the Fathers Day ride this year. As a parent, I am concerned that my kid was in such a dangerous situation, but I am also so proud of a young woman who has developed such a level head and is able to think on her feet in the midst of a tough situation. This one is going to do well, I think. 🐾

Who is this Back Country Horseman?

by Paul Evenson

Remember the trivia questions from the December issue? Sara Wilson was the only one to call with the answers. It's Dan Tuxbury, taken at Indian Point, riding an Arabian whose name is Checker. Dan has been a member of the Chapter for quite a few years.

Dan Tuxbury, Lola Mae LeProwse, Sara Wilson, Rick Sherman, Smoke Elser, Chub Riggleman and I met at the River City Grill in Milltown for coffee, pie and ice cream to reward Sara for the right answers.

When members were questioned why they didn't identify the Back Country Horsemen in the *Feedbag*, most would answer they knew the face but not the name. So, if you have attended the last two meetings you know we used nametags. This will help members to get to know each other.

All that said, let's try it again with a different photo of a person who has been a member for a number of years. If you know who the Backcountry Horseman is, where the picture was taken, what breed of horse he is riding and the horse's name, give Paul Evenson a call at 251-2163 or e-mail: evenson@montana.com, for a cup of coffee (or a beverage of your choice) with pie and ice cream. Remember: Keep smiling and don't forget to check your cinch. 🐾



at least 200 feet from lakes and streams. In popular areas use existing trails and campsites and keep them small. In pristine areas, disperse use.

Dispose of Waste Properly--Pack it in, pack it out. Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished, pack out toilet paper and hygiene products and wash yourself or your dishes 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

Leave What You Find--Don't touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts, leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them, avoid introducing or transporting non-native species and don't build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

Minimize Campfire Impacts--use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires, keep fires small and only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand. Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

Respect Wildlife--Observe wildlife from a distance, never feed animals because it damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers. Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely, control pets at all times and avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors--Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience, be courteous, yield to other users on the trail, step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock, take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors and avoid loud voices and noises to "let nature prevail."

How Long Does it Last?

Packing out trash is increasingly important as greater numbers of people visit the backcountry. Here are some estimated life expectancies for different kinds of litter.

- Paper: 2-4 Weeks
- Banana Peel: 3-5 Weeks
- Wool Cap: 1 Year
- Cigarette Butt: 2-5 Years
- Disposable Diaper: 10-20 Years
- Hard Plastic Container: 20-30 Years
- Rubber Boot Sole: 50-80 Years
- Tin Can: 80-100 Years
- Aluminum Can: 200-400 Years
- Plastic 6-pack Holder: 450 Years
- Glass Bottles: Lots and Lots of Years.
-

Hello, think before you throw! 🐾

Source: www.Lnt.org

Leave No Trace

.....by the Editor

At the February MBCH meeting, Smoke Elser talked about the Leave No Trace (LNT) Master's Training coming up at the Nine Mile Wildlands Training Center on May 15-19 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The course is a 24 hour course over three days. Smoke has more information and there is a lot of information on this website: www.Lnt.org/main. The Master Educator course is designed for people who are actively teaching backcountry skills or providing recreational information to the public. An LNT Master has the ability to train others in Leave No Trace skills and ethics.

The seven principles of the LNT philosophy are:

Plan Ahead and Prepare--know the regulations for the area, prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies, schedule your trip to avoid times of high use, visit in small groups, repackage food to minimize waste and use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces--travel on established trails and

Please Renew!

This will be your last Feedbag if you do not renew your membership with the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula. For your convenience we are including a membership form for 2006. Please don't delay in filling it out and returning it so you don't miss a single issue of the Feedbag, State newsletter and the National newsletter.

The strength of our organization is in its membership. We encourage your continued participation in our great trail maintenance program, social functions, or just enjoying reading about past and current Back Country Horsemen activities and being with friends.

If you have questions, contact membership committee chair Connie Gordon (721-5531) or Paul Evenson (251-2163). 🐾

The Mule In The Well Story

Author: Unknown

One day a farmer's mule fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally he decided the animal was old and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the mule. So he invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the mule realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well and was astonished at what he saw. With every shovel of dirt that hit his back, the mule was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the mule stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off. The moral of the story: Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not giving up! Shake it off and take a step up! 🐾

Just In Case You Ever Wondered

by Paul Evenson

Did you ever wonder why standard railroad tracks are 4 feet, 8.5 inches wide (yes, they are, measured from the inside of one rail to the inside of the other)? I actually climbed out of my pickup and ran a tape measure



over the tracks to make sure. Several people eyed me as if I were a terrorist or something.

Train tracks are that far apart because the earlier, pre-railroad tramways in England were that wide, according to history. Why were the tramways that wide? Because the people who first built the tramways used the same tools and jigs that they used to build wagons, and the wheel spacing on those wagons were 4 feet, 8.5 inches. Why did they build their wagons with wheels that distance apart? The old roads in England had deep ruts worn in them 4 feet, 8.5 inches apart. If you made the wheels any farther apart or closer together, they were liable to break as they bumped over the ruts. Where did the ruts come from? The Roman armies built those roads, and their war chariots made the ruts. The war chariot wheels were that far apart because ancient chariot builders determined that such a width accommodated their horses best.

Now, for the rest of the story. The space shuttle has two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. Engineers at Thiokol in Utah, who made those rockets, wanted them bigger. But the rockets had to be shipped by rail through a tunnel that was just wide enough for a train, so the rockets had to be designed to fit through the tunnels too. Just think the design of the most advanced transportation system that the world yet knows was determined 2,000 years ago by horses. Just more evidence of the awesome influence of the horse. 🐾

Excerpt from.....

Bloody Tracks on the Mountain

by Charles A. Wilson

(Sara & Paul's father)

"We had survived a sneak attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, but in 1943 we were still might hard pressed and needed every possible resource we had. One of these was food. Predators were taking a great toll in sheep and cattle in the west, and Fremont County, Wyoming, was no exception. The sheep and cattle associations were both clamoring for help from the government; wanting a trapper to stop these great losses they were suffering. Every pound of meat was needed, along with other vital food products, so the Fish and Wildlife Service lost no time in putting a man on the job. They had no experienced hunters they could send as they were all busy in other areas of the western states, so I was the man. I had been in Fremont County, living at Lander, for only two months, and did not know the country, or the people, or any of the sheepmen or cattlemen. I applied for the job because I had trapped all my life, and considered myself a good steel trap man. But, I had not realized that steel was no longer used as the basic tool to stop predation on our ranges. Cyanide guns had been proven effective, and the Service was developing effective poison programs. They would soon come up with thallium, followed by the terrible poison 1080.

My supervisor showed me how to set the cyanide guns and how to make the bait; then he told me to get to work, to meet the stockmen, to learn the country, and to "get results" or I would soon be fired! Well, I did not expect to keep that job twelve and a half days, let alone twelve and a half years! But the human mind can adapt itself to unusual demands as well as the human body can adjust to different environments.

I soon found that a lot of the stockmen, whom I was to serve, lived along the border of the Wind River Indian Reservation, and a lot of their troubles were coming from that direction, not only from numerous coyotes and bobcats--and even bears and mountain lions--but also from the dogs with which the reservation was over-run. However, I soon found out that reservation law forbade me from entering on Indian land for any purpose. Other stockmen were scattered throughout the county, in the mountains, foothills, plains and deserts. I was responsible for a territory nearly one hundred square miles in size, which is bigger than the state of Massachusetts with its 8,257 square miles. Within this area there roamed countless thousands of predatory animals (not even counting domestic dogs and cats) which took a mighty big toll of livestock." 🐾

National Animal Identification System (NAIS)
submitted by the Editor

In April 2004, the USDA announced framework for a new animal identification and tracking system to be used by all States and Tribes. This system will operate under national standards with the goal of tracing a sick animal or group of animals back to the premises (defined as "locations where livestock and poultry are managed, marketed, or exhibited") within 48 hours after animal health officials can identify such infected and exposed animals. "Knowing where animals are located is the key to efficient, accurate, and cost-effective epidemiologic investigations and disease control efforts."

As the premises register, they will be given a unique seven-character number and animals will be given an ID number. In addition, if they are moved as a group, they will be given a group/lot ID number. If animals are moved to another premise, their ID number, the receiving location and date of arrival will have to be reported to the national animal records repository. Animals that should be registered are: llamas, alpacas, cattle, bison, deer and elk on game farms, equine, goats, poultry, sheep, swine and aquaculture.

In July 2005, this system was operational. The timeline listed in their Draft Strategic Plan is:

April 2007	Premise registration and animal identification "alerts"
January 2008	Registration and animal identification required
January 2009	Mandatory tracking

The Draft Strategic Plan lists four areas of concern:

Financial: Who will pay for what. Costs and funding will come from public, state, industry and private producers.

The Ability to Maintain Confidentiality: How to keep the records for the purpose of NAIS and not for other purposes by industry or government without permission (such as food safety, animal welfare or environmental concerns).

Flexibility: NAIS should be willing to accept current registration lists (such as brand registrations) into their data base. They should also be flexible enough to allow producers to use the lists for herd management needs.

Liability: Who will be responsible for financial loss from food safety issues for

which they aren't responsible.

As of February 13, 2006, a total of 207,700 premises had registered with NAIS. Many states have voluntarily registered premises. Kentucky registered all their State Fair animals this last summer. Twenty-nine state and tribal projects received an initial \$11.64 million to advance NAIS. Montana received \$431,928 in 2004; the state project is called "Montana Project to Demonstrate Premise Identification and Forty-eight Hour Traceback."

How does this affect the horse industry? In Fall 2003, the American Horse Council organized a task force that included nearly thirty national equine organizations "to evaluate the concept of a national ID system and to determine if the horse industry could develop standards for equine identification that would benefit the industry and be compatible with the plans being considered."

The American Horse Council saw a need to evaluate the plan, it's benefits and costs, and to try to determine how the industry can develop standards for equine identification that would fit into the system to have an active part in development and implementation of the plan. In December, 2004, the ESWG submitted initial recommendations to USDA NAIS. A summary follows:

"There are several characteristic of horses that are not common to other livestock. The nature, size, diversity and unique structure of the horse industry present unique issues in developing a national equine identification system. Horses are long-lived and often very valuable.

Horses regularly move intrastate, interstate and internationally from their "home base" to other venues. There are nearly two-hundred race tracks in the U.S. Tens of thousands of horse shows and other competitions, large and small, sanctioned and informal, are held throughout the U.S. each year. These events range from large, commercial and organized events, such as race meets and national horse shows, to small, informal events involving only a few horses. Their ability to comply with the NAIS would vary greatly.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans ride horses every week, sometimes close to home and sometimes in other states or regions, requiring that their horses be transported to the location and home again.

All of these factors make the application of the NAIS to the horse industry quite challenging. The ESWG also reiterated its support for general principles expressed previously by USDA. These include: The

initiation of the NAIS should first be on a voluntary basis. It should integrate the animal identification programs that currently exist in the United States first before it includes those producers and animals, such as horses, that are not currently in an animal identification program.

All components of the system must be in place and have been tested before making any system mandatory.

The confidentiality of data collected pursuant to a national animal ID system must be protected. This is fundamental to any support of the NAIS.

Even when a system is in place and working, there should be a transition period from voluntary to mandatory for the horse industry. The application of the system to new species, such as horses, should be pursuant to a timetable laid out by the various species working groups.

The initial focus of the Department and the NAIS should be on food animals. Because of the scope of the required system, other animals, such as horses can be included in the longer-term as the system proves workable.

A national animal ID system should not increase the role and size of the federal government. Since this program is intended to protect American agriculture from diseases, federal and state funds must be appropriated for the effort. The industry cannot be expected to fund this system by itself."

Sources and further specific recommendations: www.horsecouncil.org, www.usda.gov/nais, www.mt.gov

A Carousel for Missoula seeks real horse tails for the Carousel horses. Call them at 549-8382 if you have a donation.

Editor's Note.....

BCH members came through again! Thanks to all who contributed to this issue of the *Feedbag*!

Check out the BCH of Montana "News" February 2006 issue, page 2. Nancy Steven's article, *It's Hard to Keep Up With Them*, is featured, along with some great pictures. Nancy did a great job and we're very proud of MBCH work projects!

Letters on the Right to Ride Livestock on Federal Lands



The Missoula Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen sent a letter to Senators Baucus and Burns on the Right to Ride Livestock on Federal Land Act of 2005 (S.781). Senator Burns is a co-sponsor of the bill. A letter was also sent to Representative Rehberg. To give some background on this bill: "The stated purpose of this bill is to preserve the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on public lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas, administered by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service where there is a historical tradition of such use, and for other purposes. It says that, as a general rule, all trails, routes, and areas used by such animals shall remain open and accessible for such use. A reduction in the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands could take place only after complying with the full review process required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969." (Source: www.backcountryhorse.com) Please send your own letters out as well. It would be best to physically deliver them to the local offices or fax them. Max's fax number is 728-7610 and Denny's fax number is 543-0663.

February 15, 2006

The Honorable Dennis Rehberg
United States House of Representatives
218 East Main, Suite B
Missoula, Montana 59802

Dear Mr. Rehberg:

The membership of the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula wants you to know we appreciate your support of the Right to Ride Livestock on Federal Land Act of 2005 (H.R. 586). This bill is of particular interest for the recreational riders. This bill will make certain our public lands will be managed to preserve and facilitate the continued recreational use of pack and saddle stock animals commensurate with our heritage.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Salisbury
President, Back Country Horsemen of Missoula

The Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senate
1821 South Avenue West
Missoula, Montana 59803

Dear Senator Baucus:

The membership of the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula is asking for your support of the Right to Ride Livestock on Federal Land Act of 2005 (S.781)

S.781 informs land managers that the use of horses and other pack animals on public lands is entrenched in the history of this country and makes certain that our public lands will be managed to preserve and facilitate the continued recreational use of pack and saddle stock animals.

We appreciate your attention and consideration of support to this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Salisbury
President, Back Country Horsemen of Missoula



UM HORSE & RIDER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The UM Horse & Rider Education Program and Continuing Education are extremely proud and excited to have Alice Trindle and Susan Triplett of T & T Horsemanship as part of our program. This duo from Haines, Oregon have worked together to develop a series of proven training techniques and communications with horses that will bring the rider to a new understanding of their horses. With their help anyone can "Develop a Willing Partner" with their horse. For more information about T & T visit: www.tnthorsemanship.com

INFORMATION: 406.243.2905 or www.umt.edu/ce/horseandrider

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The University of Montana

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T & T HORSEMANSHIP

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March 10, 11, & 12, 2006

At Sapphire Event Center & Boarding Facility, Corvallis, MT



FREE Friday Evening Event: 7-9 pm

MINDFUL USE OF THE ROUND-PEN:

Whether pursuing a respectful trail horse, following dressage levels, or an all-around ranch horse, this demonstration will give you particular ways to use the round pen & lariat to develop respect, balance, and preparedness.

Saturday, March 11th- 2006

ATTITUDE & MOVEMENT: Developing a Willing Partner
9:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Morning discussion & demonstrations include:

How to Recognize the "Try"; Equipment Use & Why; Riding Your Own Two-leg Horse; Establish a "Horseman's Protocol".

Afternoon clinic will include:

Apply Ground School to Riding; The Importance of Posture, Focus, Balance & Feel.

Sunday, March 12th- 2006

DEVELOPING THE DANCE: It's All About the Dance!

9:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Morning discussion & demonstrations include:

Introduction to "Work-In-Hand" and other Ground School Activities; In the Saddle Work, Focusing on the "Horseman's Protocol"; The importance of Dressage Maneuvers for all Disciplines; Suppling Exercises.

Afternoon clinic will include:

Ground Work & Riding Specific Exercises; Ridding Patterns; Suppling Positions; Military Group Riding.