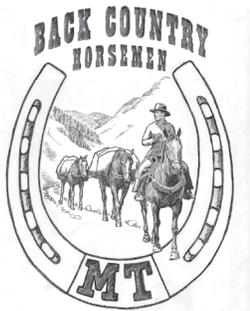


Decker Dispatch



OUR PURPOSES

- 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.

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Back Country Horsemen: Who and what are we?

By Dennese Schauss, Charter Member, Mission Valley Back Country Horsemen

I've long felt the reason for Back Country Horsemen has been lost to a lot of our newer members, who, I believe, sometimes join the Club without a complete understanding of just why we were originally formed. And, as we get involved in trail clearings, gravel hauling, the Steak Ride, day rides, etc., the reason for BCH's existence receives less and less attention.

Many years ago, when those four men sat by that fire one evening in the Bob Marshall Wilderness and decided to form a group to ensure that the "Backcountry" would always be open for those who wanted to use it, they probably had no idea that the Back Country Horsemen would evolve into what it has become today.

We still need to be aware of the forces at work against us, especially now! If we let our guard down one bit, the people and government officials that we have been opposing for 40 or more years will be right there with their oil and gas drilling rigs, plus those with mining intentions, and don't forget those who would rather we didn't even get to ride in the backcountry!

We need more than just "numbers" of people to keep this from happening, we need people to be well educated about the constant assault on the

Backcountry, by the politicians, land grabbers, and don't forget, by those who want to drill for oil and gas, plus the big money firms, and so on. That's why it is so important to have our good issues committee.

Every time we get on our horses and ride into any area of the Backcountry, we need to remember that at some time in the past 40 or so years, the Back Country Horsemen have probably had a hand in keeping that trail open for us to use to get to our favorite fishing hole or hunting area, OR just to be able to use that trail to ride on.

We need to say a big "Thank You" to those men who sat around that camp fire that night, 44 years ago. They had the foresight to see what was coming and to do something about it. Plus, we need to say "thank you" to those who have worked so hard to keep these places open and available to us since then.

So, when we sign up new members, we need to be reminded of what and who we are, and what brought us together in the first place.

We would like to create, as a group, opportunities for members to share the Back Country. The only way people feel the heartfelt desire to protect something is when they have been touched by the true experience of the Wilderness.



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Back Country Horsemen of Montana Youth Program

By Kathy Hundley, Selway-Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen

Education has always been a part of the foundation of the Back Country Horsemen Mission Statement and our purpose. A majority of Back Country Horsemen chapters already provide some sort of education at the local level, such as packing clinics for the public, 4-H instruction, booths at community expos, guest speakers at their local schools, Defensive Horsemanship clinics, etc.

While the Youth Education program for BCHMT is still being molded and perfected, the summer of 2017 camp dates are set and those interested in volunteering should contact either Greg Schatz at 406-261-5450/gregschatzbuilder@gmail.com or Kathy Hundley at 406-363-8230/montanakath@yahoo.com.

The camps and dates are: Glacier Institute, "Learning Gone Wild" - Kalispell - June 21; "River of No Return" Youth Camp - Magruder Ranger Station, Frank Church



Magruder Youth Camp 2016 - LNT is fun!

River of No Return Wilderness - July 18 & 19; and Boone & Crockett "Outdoor Adventure Camp" - Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch, Dupuyer - August 5.

The Horse Trap Ride

By Dan Pence, Three Rivers Back Country Horsemen

Kathy Allard, Three Rivers Chapter president, heard about the trap while working as the Beaverhead County Treasurer. Some area ranchers and horsemen had established a herd of "open range" horses in the area on public lands west of Clark Canyon Reservoir. They would run the horses into the trap, catch some of the yearlings to break for riding and occasionally sell some of the older animals to maintain a reasonable herd size. Passage of the Wild Horse and Burro Act in 1971 created concern over likelihood that the animals would be declared wild and a sanctuary established. The horses were removed and the trap abandoned.

Kathy and her husband Andy were able to locate the site on the ground and a chapter ride was scheduled for September 10, 2016. The site was in open sagebrush rangeland so heat and numerous rattlesnakes were considerations in the later date.

Participants were able to get horse trailers within about four trail miles of the trap, then it was into the saddle on a beautiful day for the ride. Andy served as trail boss since Kathy was unable to make the ride. Most of the ride was cross country although we were able to follow ATV tracks created by hunters and ranchers scattering salt on occasion.

The trap site is impressive and uses natural features to make it very effective. Those using the trap could haze the free ranging



animals into a relatively open draw. Riders could haze the animals down the gradually narrowing draw and eventually speed them up until the herd rounded a bend and suddenly found themselves in what amounts to a "slot canyon" with steep cliffs on both sides. A fence was located at the bottom of the "slot" and riders simply had to close the gate at the upper end to corral the herd.

At least that was the "most likely" process we discussed as we sat on the hillside eating lunch. In reality, it probably wasn't that simple for those chasing a herd of basically wild horses, back when the trap was active. Also discussed was what could go wrong. Still, it would have been fun to run a herd of horses to test our theory, but that isn't likely to happen any time soon.

It was a great ride, one we will likely take again in the future for members who were unable to make this trip.

Letter from the Chair

Hello, Back Country Horsemen!

By the time this letter gets out you should be well into the projects and pleasure rides. Hopefully, the winter snow will not delay us in getting into the back country. The only good thing that I can see from our long, cold winter is that the odds for a bad fire season are pretty low.

We will be doing our first draw on the RTP grant in July again this year and after that I will be contacting you to make the necessary changes to ensure we use all of the grant money up by the deadline. Keep a look out for an email from Nancy.

The State Board opted out of a board meeting in May, so our next meeting is in September. If you have any issues or need the help of the State BCH, please feel free to give me a call (546-6491) or send an email (bpollman20@aol.com) and I'll do my best to help out.

Happy Trails,



Brad Pollman
Chairman, BCHMT



Brad Pollman
Chairman
BCH Montana

An Outstanding Partner Retires

By Ralph Hopkins and Greg Schatz, Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead

The Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead first met Deb Mucklow in the late 1990's while she was the Acting District Ranger on the Hungry Horse-Glacier View Ranger District. We were putting the finishing touches on a new horse trailhead in the upper North Fork of the Flathead and she stopped by, introduced herself, thanked us for the work, and said she looked forward to working with us in the future.

In 1999 Deb was hired as the District Ranger for the Spotted Bear Ranger District. BCHF was in a panic. Deb had a timber background, had little Wilderness experience, little horse experience and, and SHE HAD LLAMAS!! Well, long story short, Deb did an outstanding job in her 17 years at Spotted Bear. She loves the Bob, became an accomplished horsewoman and, although she stills owns a couple of llamas, she loves to ride and pack her horses and mules in the back country.

As a leader in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, Deb generated enthusiasm for Wilderness and back country stewardship. Deb was a great supporter of the Back Country Horsemen and many other partner groups. Although

we didn't agree on everything, she would listen to our concerns and share why she thought the way she did. Often you would find Deb helping us load gravel onto stock or running one end of a cross cut saw.

On April 8th there was a huge retirement party for Deb, hosted by her co-workers. Forest Service personnel and volunteers from around Region 1 celebrated her legacy and wished her well in her retirement.

The Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead presented Deb with a framed, vintage map of the Bob. On the bottom of the frame is a place for her BCHMT silver belt buckle that we presented to her. We also gave her a wool vest with the Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead logo embroidered on the back. These items were presented to Deb not to represent some-

thing she was leaving, but instead, something she helped build and preserve for future generations.

Deb will be greatly missed and it will be difficult for the next Ranger to follow in her foot steps.

Happy trails, Deb!



Deb Mucklow is being honored for her years of service by the Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead at her recent retirement party. Left to right: Ralph Hopkins, Stu Sorensen, Greg Schatz, Deb Mucklow, Deb Schatz and Keni Hopkins.

Convention 2017 – WOW!

By Laura Nelson, President, Mission Valley Back Country Horsemen

Convention 2017 – WOW! I have had the opportunity to attend several conventions, all of them unique in their own way. To actually host a convention, that is another story. It was an experience that I will never forget!

Convention 2017 was hosted by the Mission Valley BCH in Polson MT March 24th thru the 26th. It is the fourth time that MVBCH has hosted a convention. Personally I wasn't around for the first ones and thought that this one was a lot of work. It really doesn't seem so bad till the "Count Down"! I am honored to say that we had a fantastic crew working on this, starting with Connie Plaissy, our Convention Chair. I personally think that half of the battle to hosting a convention is the organization and delegation of responsibilities. Connie is an expert in that. It was that drive that kept us focused all the way to the wire. The second thing that is a great benefit is someone with "computer skills". If you have that, then putting together all of the flyers, folder information, agenda – you get the drift, is more cost effective and can generally be changed on the fly. Bonnie Kiser – our hats are off to you, girl! Can you see where I am going with this? Yeah, it is; what do you need to host a convention????? Ok, so know you need a money man. This would be someone who is good with the books in any way, shape or form and who isn't afraid to stand up and question expenditures if they seem unreasonable. Charley Hahn was our man – he fit the bill to a "T". We had an accurate accounting from start to finish and had a great system in place for both the silent and the live auction. It was organized. Charley, I have to thank you because you still hold the "Purse Strings Man!"

There are a lot of things that go on in hosting a convention – the silent auction, the audio/visual, the photo contest, crosscut saw competition, auctioneer, music, menu, location, vendors, folder ads, agenda, and finally; what the convention is about; the program, speakers, educators, and yes the resolutions that are brought forth. This is the reason that we all meet once a year – this is what is important to all

of us!

I have been to several conventions and each is unique in their own way. But the one thing that I always take away from Convention – Everyone is there for the same reason - Our Mission Statements. All of us want the same thing – to access the high-country/backcountry with our stock. We want to keep it wild and to do that we educate, volunteer, encourage and solicit to maintain that wilderness not only for ourselves but for the next generations. So with 2017 convention theme of "Mission Impossible – Not", that is what I saw. We had very good participation from everyone in regards to the Resolution to Support Montanans for Healthy Rivers Legislation (Wild & Scenic Rivers). This led into the Public Lands Panel that was represented by the USFS, BLM, and Glacier National Park. I realize it is a give and take relationship – they need us as much as we need them! By bringing this to the forefront, we realize this is important to everyone.

We also had some great fun with the Cross Cut saw competition. Do think Scott Kiser was a little put out because Brad was still on the "mend". Good thing is – it didn't rain and we didn't have to fish anyone out of the lake! The banquet was a hit with plenty of food and good service, a little bit of dancing to the band Southern Comfort, and some genuine good fund raising with both the Live and Silent Auction. The photo contest was, for me soothing. Every photo reminded me in one way or the other of how perfect it is to call this state my home, to be able to share its wildness and uncanny beauty with friends that harbor that same feeling and protectiveness for it and who want to preserve it as much as I do.

Deb Schatz sent an Email asking if Mission Valley BCH wanted to do a follow up in the state newsletter for the



Crosscut saw competition.

convention. I wasn't really sure where to go with that. Now all I know is that I filled up a page in nothing flat and very well could ramble on some more. What I can truthfully say, we had a good crew putting on this convention, donating countless hours, pulling hair toward the end and then There it was! In progress and over in 2 days. I want to thank each and every one of the club members who participated in organizing and volunteering at the convention. That goes for the named and the "unsung". It was all of us, as one, who made it possible. I would like to thank the Vendors that came, and the local community for their participation and support of our organization. Last, but by no means least – Brad Pollman – BCHMT Chairman – Thanks for working with me, you and Nancy were awesome in more ways than one!

I would like to thank all of the BCHMT delegates, members, and families for participating at convention 2017. Thank-you for that opportunity to renew old friendships and spend time with people who love this country as much as I do.

Laura Nelson
MV BCH president



By John Chepulis
National Director, BCH Montana

BCHA National Board Meeting

This year's National Board Meeting was held in Great Falls, MT. It was hosted by the Charlie Russell Chapter on April 20th, 21st and 22nd at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls. Next year's meeting will be held in Spokane, Washington, on April 23, 24 and 25.

Thursday, April 20th: Reports from Jim McGarvey, Executive Director; Randy Rasmussen, Public Lands; Erica Fearn, Association Resources; Cindy McGarvey, Facebook; and Karen Saner, BCH Education Foundation. In the afternoon we reviewed the 2014 – 2018 Strategic Plan. We then discussed the things that have, and have not, changed since the plan was implemented in 2014. We then discussed a five year Business Plan with Back Country Horsemen values, those values being Trail Work, Advocacy, Partnerships, Development of State Level Expertise, Steady Growth, Reasonable

and Achievable, Increased Reserves, Outsourcing of Administration Management, and Eventual Hire of an Executive Director.

Friday, April 21st: Public Lands Workshop Day. In the morning we were honored to have Roland Cheek, one of Back Country Horsemen's founding fathers, give a short talk. He was followed by Leanne Marten, Regional Forester, who gave the opening remarks and Glenn Casamassa, USFS Assoc. Deputy Chief, who gave a talk on "Trails – A Key Connector". They were followed by Jaime Schmidt, USFS National Trail Program Manager, Joni Packard, USFS Region 1 Volunteer Coordinator, and Land Tawney, Executive Director of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. After lunch Paul Spittler, The Wilderness Society, and Ben Pendergrass, American Horse Council, talked on the emerging issues in Congress and the implementation of the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act. Randy Rasmussen discussed the sale or transfer of federal

public lands to the states. After a panel discussion on land transfer issues in Missouri, Wyoming, and South Dakota, all the individual committees split up and met until the end of the day.

Saturday, April 22: The morning consisted of Committee Reports. After lunch we had a Roundtable on Building Strong States and Affiliates through Membership, Leadership and Organization, Partnerships, Education, and Programs. The budget was then proposed and passed. After lunch the Nominating Committee gave their report, which was followed by elections. Elected were Freddy Dunn, Utah, Chair; Darryl Wallace, Washington, Vice Chair; Sherry Copeland, Missouri, Treasurer. Elected to the Executive Committee were Yvette Rollins, Indiana, Director position; and Becky Krueger, Missouri, Non-Director position. The Meeting was adjourned with a banquet, awards, and auction afterwards.

In the News

Uphold the integrity of the Wilderness Act: Voice your opposition to H.R. 1349

Please join BCHA in voicing opposition to H.R. 1349, which would authorize bikes in Wilderness. Call your member of Congress today.

You can locate the phone number of your representative in Washington DC by browsing to <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/> and entering your zip code in the search bar.

Or the Capitol Switchboard can connect you to your legislator in Washington DC. Call: (202) 224-3121. Please call today!

Volunteer Packing Opportunities for Summer 2017

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation is looking for experienced packers to pack food, tools, and gear for volunteer projects. Volunteer pack support is an integral part in the work the Foundation does. Packers help us educate our volunteers about the importance of traditional stock use in the Bob while assisting in the maintenance of public lands and ensuring these lands stay open to private stock use.

While packing for Foundation trips, volunteer packers are considered USFS volunteers and are covered under the USFS workers comp during that time.

Please consider joining us! Call 406-387-3822 or visit <http://www.bmwf.org/packers>.

BCH MT adds Glacier National Park info to website

Look on our state website's homepage: www.bchmt.org; scroll down under Education, and you will find information on stock use in Glacier National Park.

The first brochure talks about camping, low impact stock use, and lists the trails open to stock.

The second brochure is a guide to trailheads in the Park.

Remember that permits are required to take stock overnight in the Park. Day use does not require a permit.

More information on stock use can be found on Glacier Park's website: www.nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/privatestockuse.htm

For overnight permitting information, visit: www.nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/backcountry.htm

Know First Aid Because You Never Know

By Lisa Schmidt, East Slope Back Country Horsemen

The Swift Dam Poker Ride would be easy -- a seven-mile trek around a beautiful reservoir, through a forest and meadows, across a clear mountain stream.

The East Slope Backcountry Horsemen sponsored the community fun ride for the umpteenth time last year. Club members had been around the reservoir at least twice as many times.

None of that mattered on the third station of the ride when Helen Suta's horse spooked at the bag of cards.

"I was leaning over to draw a card so I was a little off balance anyway," Suta said.

Her horse spun and ran back along the trail. A low-hanging branch knocked Helen to the ground.

"The last thing I remember is sliding off the side of the horse and everything was dreamy," she said.

She would have been dead if her feet had not come out of her boots, leaving her on the rocky shale while the horse kept going.

Two ESBCH members ran to Suta within seconds. Veterinarian Dick Kinyon had his first aid kit and quick-thinker Zane Drishinski sent Helen's husband, Joe, after the long-gone horse while they assessed Helen's condition.

She was bleeding from a knot on the back of her head and from her forehead. Her left shoulder hurt and she was disoriented.

Kinyon vet-wrapped her head. Drishinski found her boots and glasses on the trail, and then loaded her on to his horse to lead her two miles back to the trailhead. Joe drove Helen two hours to the hospital where they found broken ribs and a collapsed lung. Helen spent three days in the hospital.

"It all happened so fast," said Joe. "I didn't know what to do. It was a good thing Dick and Zane were there to help."

Helen's accident prompted ESBCH members to review their first aid certification, knowing full well that an incident close to the trailhead could become a tragedy in the wilderness.

Eighteen members, including Helen and Joe Suta, took a first aid review class in January.

Wilderness First Responder Trainer Julie Martin revisited both environmental emergencies caused by heat, cold, lightning, insect and animal bites, altitude sickness and water; plus traumatic injuries such as bleeding, fractures, burns and head injuries.



Top: Wilderness First Responder trainer Julie Martin visits with Helen Suta at the training in January. Right: ESBCH junior director Abby Hut-ton loves the convenience and easy multiple uses of the Sam Splint.



"First, no matter what the emergency, you should always look around to see what you have for resources and remember your safety is first," Martin said.

Look through what you are carrying in your pack or on your saddle, she said.

"Trees might have branches that could make a good splint, too," Martin offered.

Protect yourself first.

Martin gave a good example from her own experience. She was called to assist someone who had tied his horse to a dead tree uphill from where he was caring for an injured friend. The horse spooked and rolled down over the nurse.

Never wait to evacuate a person if he has an "altered mental state," difficulty breathing, chest pain or multiple injuries.

"Get them out and to a doctor as fast as you can," Martin said.

If you request help, know where you are.

"Have two reference points," Martin said. "Know the name of a nearby mountain or creek, know the trail number or know your GPS coordinates."

Martin covered many specifics, but a few of her tips stood out.

First, it is easy to become dehydrated on the trail and it is difficult to carry liquid Gatorade or Powerade.

"When you're working in the heat, it is important to drink about one quart of liquid every hour and eat a balanced diet," Martin said. "Figure one quart of Gatorade to four quarts of water."

An easy substitute for liquid electrolytes and salt is EmergenC tablets in your pack.

Second, when you treat another person, stay calm and comforting.

"Your demeanor affects their demeanor, just like with animals," Martin said.

Third, if you evacuate someone, write the treatments you performed on their arm.

"Write what time of day the accident happened and if you gave the patient any supplements or medication," Martin said. "This information really helps doctors and if you write it on a piece of paper, it can get lost in the shuffle."

Fourth, wear plastic gloves to treat someone, as much for their protection as yours.

"When I'm on the trail, I know my hands are filthy and water for washing is scarce. You don't want to spread bacteria to your patient," Martin said. "Carry a few pairs of latex gloves in your pack."

Martin recommended "Wilderness First Responder: How to recognize, treat and prevent emergencies in the backcountry" by Buck Tilton as a comprehensive guide to first aid when resources are at a minimum.

Maybe Martin's best tip came from her own experience despite her reluctance to recommend a particular product.

Sam Splints are portable, flexible, waterproof, reusable foam and aluminum splints that can be twisted and molded. They can be used as support for a fracture or even a neck brace.

"I was lucky. Dr. Dick and Zane knew what to do. But they don't go on every trip," Helen Suta said. "We all need to know how to take care of someone in an emergency."

Judith Basin Chapter Invites YOU!

Submitted by Karen Kuhlmann, Judith Basin Back Country Horsemen

Judith Basin Chapter is rolling out the red carpet for all the Back Country Horsemen of Montana, on April 6-7-8, 2018, for the 2018 State BCH Convention. "Laying the Tracks for the Future" is the theme.

Judith Basin Chapter, located in Lewistown, the geographic center of Montana, is touted as 'The Heart of Montana.' Lewistown is surrounded by five accessible mountain ranges: the Judith Mountains, the Snowy Mountains, the North and South Moccasin Mountains and the Little Belts.

Back Country Horsemen of Montana are invited to bring their horses for a Friday and/or Sunday afternoon trail ride organized by Judith Basin members...weather permitting. Accommodations for horses and trailer parking are available at the recently refurbished historic Draft Horse Barn at the Fergus County Fairgrounds, 402-535-8841.

Convention headquarters will be at the Trade Center on the Fergus County Fairgrounds. Attendees are free to choose overnight accommodations at any of Lewistown's motels, hotels, lodges, bed & breakfasts, cabins and RV parks. A complete list of available accommodations will be listed on the website, bchmt.org.

In addition to all the regular business of the State Convention, Judith Basin Chapter has chartered the famous Charlie Russell Chew Choo dinner train on Saturday night for the enjoyment of up to 250 guests. The train includes a gourmet 5-course prime rib dinner, 'live' music, historic narration, tressels, tunnels, bar and gift shop, plus a train robbery by the infamous Salt Creek Gang, firing guns and robbing the train on horseback. By the way, the Charlie Russell Chew Choo dinner train won the 2015 Food Network Award as the most unique gourmet dining experience in the country.

Updates, additional information



Photos top to bottom: Charlie Russel Dinner Train, Lewistown MT, and members of the Judith Basin Chapter.

and details about the 2018 State Convention, April 6-7-8, 2018, will be posted on the Back Country Horsemen of Montana website, bchmt.org. Rain or shine, Judith Basin is counting on YOU to circle your calendar now and plan to attend the 2018 BCH State Convention.

Inquiries welcome at: billie.ayers@icloud.com. (President of Judith Basin Chapter), or call 406-538-4575, Bill & Karen Kuhlmann, kbkhlmann@midrivers.com. (Secretary/Newsletter Guy).

REMINDER to BCH photographers: if your subjects are not wearing protective gear when doing trail work, your beautiful photos **cannot be printed** in the newsletter. Please keep this in mind when submitting your chapter's photos.

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BCH of the Flathead
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Three Rivers BCH
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Upper Clark Fork BCH
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Wild Horse Plains BCH
PO Box 640, Plains, MT 59859

If you would like to join us, please contact a chapter in your area. More information is available on our website:

www.bchmt.org

Schedule for Chapters' News Article Submissions
E-mail to: deborah.bcha@gmail.com

Spring Issue

Articles due May 5th, 2017: Charlie Russell, East Slope, Flathead, Gallatin, and Judith Basin

Fall issue

Articles due September 5th, 2017: Last Chance, Mission Valley, Missoula, Northwest Montana, Selway-Pintler Wilderness

Winter Issue

Articles due January 5th, 2018: Beartooth, Bitter Root, Cabinet, Three Rivers, Upper Clark Fork, and Wild Horse Plains

Hellroaring Cabin Restoration 2016, Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness

By Henry Glenn, Gallatin Back Country Horsemen

In partnership with the Gardiner Ranger District, the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen chapter helped to replace a seal log on the Hellroaring Cabin. The Hellroaring Cabin is an administrative cabin and is used for back country trail crews, fish and wildlife research, and maintenance crews. Every year the GVBCH chapter volunteers to help with a project in the Absaroka-Beartooth (A-B) Wilderness. In 2015 we helped the restoration crew replace a seal log in the Buffalo Fork cabin. In 2016 we had planned to replace the seal log in Hellroaring cabin, Hellroaring being the largest cabin in the A-B with three rooms. It was built in 1925 by the CCCs, so its seal log is finished at 42 feet long.

In preparation for the work, we needed a suitable log that was at least 42' long and of sufficient size to support the cabin. We put a crew together of Lawrence Van Dyke, Mark DeOpsomer, Mike Haugan, Molly Glenn and Henry Glenn. We went in two weeks before the restoration crew to prepare the cabin and stock up supplies for a large crew coming in a week. We decided to pack in from Jardine MT instead of crossing the Yellowstone River swinging bridge, which is 265' long and 238' high, over the turbulent river. The crew of five had ten pack horses and mules. The trip began with us camping at a Forest Service property that they use for their pasture and corrals near Jardine. We had a beautiful evening looking over Mammoth Hot Springs in Yellowstone National Park.

Early the next morning we loaded up and drove five miles to the Jardine Trailhead. Parking is limited and so steep that camping would have been uncomfortable.

After meeting the Forest Service crew with the supplies to pack in, we loaded up hay, pellets, cribbing for the new toilet, and other supplies plus all our own camping gear. The trail in is about 15 miles and over two passes. After several wrecks, sawing several logs out of the trail, and finally having to leave one load and retrieve it the next day, we made it to Hellroaring cabin before dark. Tuesday morning Lawrence and Mike went back

up the trail and retrieved the hay that they had left the previous day. Mark and I started work on the new toilet hole. We have learned to build a cribbing system about two feet deep to keep the animals from digging under the toilets. Meanwhile, Lawrence and Mike found the seal log that the trail crew had fallen the year before and began to limb it and prepare it to be pulled to the cabin site. Molly worked in the cabin and was the official photographer. Molly also wrangled the horses for us. Grazing is a bit scarce around the cabin so wrangling is a full-time job.

The next day we decided to practice pulling things with Lawrence's mules, Marvel and Clyde, because they had pulled buggies and wagons but had never been in the woods logging. After a bit of pulling in small poles for fire wood, I suggested to Lawrence that we go ahead and hitch them to the seal log and give it a pull. So, with some hesitation, Lawrence hitched them to the large log measuring about 48 feet long in the rough. The first pull went fine and, by the time we were halfway to the cabin, Marvel decided that he was not so fond of this hard pulling. So on the last pull I gave him some "encouragement" and the team pulled the seal log right up next to the cabin.

In addition, the old toilet was now sitting on a new hole with new cribbing. Everyone that went into the old toilet was worried about the thing falling over. Also, the corrals were repaired and the seal log delivered to the cabin site. The next day we went fishing to Carpenter Lake about ten miles north

of the cabin. Of course, with any travel in the Wilderness, you have to saw your way along the trail. However, the fishing was great. Everyone caught plenty of fish. The next day we returned to the Jardine Trailhead - not without incident, but everyone made it and had a beer.

[continued next page]



[Hellroaring Cabin continued]

After a week of rest, Lawrence and I packed up his three mules and headed into Hellroaring through the YNP and over the Yellowstone River bridge, because it is much easier and there are no mountain passes to cross. However, the bridge is a bit intimidating for some animals and so it was with the mules. My big buckskin, Sundance, took the lead and I dallied the string on and over the bridge we went. We arrived a day before the restoration crew. We were expecting to feed seven people for a week. But Monday evening there were eleven people in camp. Six of them had not eaten a full cooked meal in weeks because they were on trail crews out in the wilderness and had only had Ramen noodles and freeze-dried food. So when they saw Carolina BBQ pork and brisket they went wild. They ate everything in sight. I baked homemade biscuits for breakfast, not one was left for lunch.

The Nine Mile pack crew had a mule that would not cross the bridge and had to be sent back to town but guess what was on that mule that got left at the bridge...the propane which we ran out of on Sunday night. So on Monday morning, the pack string went back to the bridge and retrieved the propane and I gave them a grocery list to add food for the unexpected guests. The restoration crew worked on the log for three days and got it installed and the Hellroaring cabin is now good for another 100 years. On the last night the wrangler did not watch the horses close enough and a spotted mule led them out over the two passes to Jardine, since that is the trail we came in from a week ago. So we were staying in camp another day after everyone drank all the beer, thinking that it was our last night. We borrowed some of Gardiner District's stock and rode off toward Jardine to retrieve our stock. One of the Wilderness outfitters was kind enough to string our stock in with theirs and bring them part way in. So we got back to camp about dark. With no food left, we were ready to leave the next morning. We got lucky and only had one horse get injured because he had hobbles on.

Riding Gear

By Ron Rude, Wild Horse Plains Back Country Horsemen

Horse whispering had not yet reached Montana's Crazy Mountains when I was wrangling dudes for the Van Cleve family in the early 1960's. Horse handling was gentle enough, but old school. Mostly it was just run 'em in off those big rough pastures, jack up a leg, saddle up, and climb on.

That process, along with some long miles guiding guests, was how we wranglers made range colts into dude horses. It worked just fine, probably because the Van Cleves knew what they were breeding those Hancock colts for – good minds, good size, and durability.

But one thing Spike Van Cleve was adamant about in this unsophisticated process: neither wranglers nor guests were allowed to hang a bunch of "stuff" on either those colts or the seasoned guest horses.

Our gear for a long day's ride consisted of a sandwich and an orange, these tucked into a rolled-up rain jacket and tied down tight behind the cantle. No horn bags, no extra water bottles or canteens, no guns, no saddle bags – and to the disgust of young wannabe cowboys, not even a lariat to practice with along the trails. If we carried hobbles, they were to hang open, unlooped.

The reasoning for these prohibitions was as unsophisticated as our training methods: "stuff" causes wrecks. And, if you do have a wreck, "stuff" can keep you lashed to a situation you really should be vacating.

I've practiced those prohibitions for my own riding ever since. The only times I've had preventable wrecks involving my gear were when I broke the rules.

Nowadays, I wince when I see what all seems to be necessary trail-riding gear – suitcase-sized nylon saddle bags hanging down on the horse's flanks; another suitcase lashed behind the cantle; horn bags on front; six or eight square yards of Australian duster lashed wherever it will hang; and sometimes a day pack on the rider. There's beer, snacks for a week, extra shoes, clothing for all conditions from Arctic to Saharan, enough first aid

gear to outfit a Mayo Clinic emergency room, GPS, maps, axe, bucket, shovel, guns and, holding it all together, a halter rope long enough for an overnight highline.

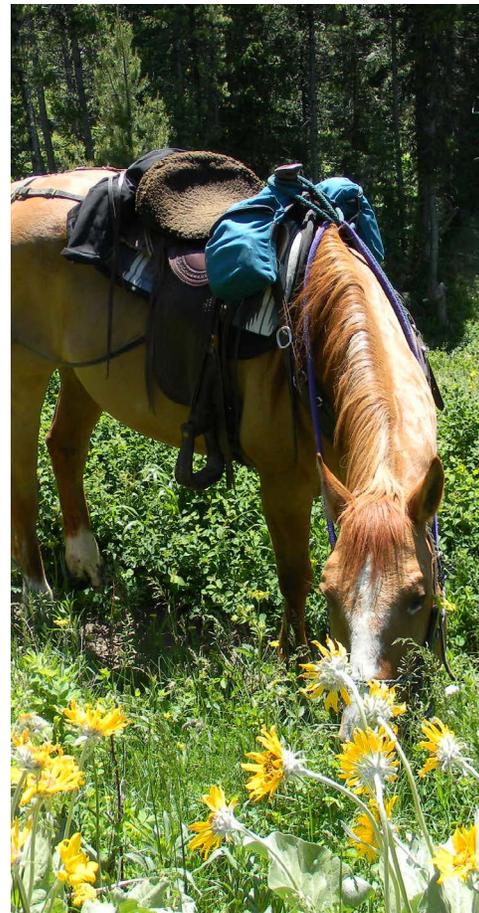
I exaggerate, but not outrageously.

Does my antipathy for stuff mean I don't take anything along when I ride in the mountains?

No. I do allow myself a pair of 9" by 9" saddle bags and a rain jacket. My canteen has to fit in those bags, as well as minimal first aid materials, and my sandwich. I have mixed feelings about my handgun and most days go without it. Anything else – that's what the extra horse is for. It's all "back there." Even a chainsaw sometimes.

Stuff makes you clumsy mounting and dismounting. Stuff scares the horse. Stuff ties you to the horse. And while it has nothing to do with safety, there is such a thing as cowboy pride. "Stuff" makes you look like a greenhorn, like Jed Clampett's jalopy truck rattling into Los Angeles.

Save your life. Lose the stuff.



The sun has set, the day has passed...but the memories

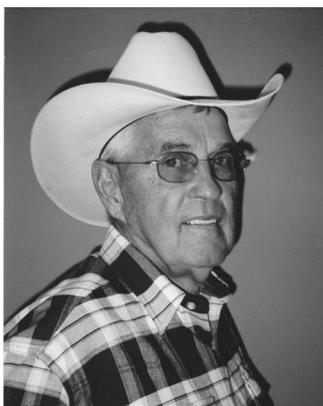


Luanne Bauman

Luanne passed away on October 10, 2016, at the age of 61 after a two and a half year battle with pancreatic cancer. Luanne was born in Hamilton, MT, and grew up in Victor. Luanne was a rancher, along with her husband, Steve. They operated Bauman Ranch, raising beef cattle in Corvallis, MT. She was the District Clerk for Victor School until her illness forced her to retire.

Horses were always a part of her life. She raised and broke her own colts and was a true cowgirl. 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 pastimes. She believed in the purposes 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 and pack support to her schedule...just for fun! As you head into the mountains, pat a tree for Luanne and the other BCH of Montana members that are riding the trails of heaven. We will miss her.

Submitted by Kathy Hundley, Selway-Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen



Lee Elben

Lee Elben passed away in December 2016. He was a very strong sponsor of the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen and the 4-H packing clinics that the GVBCH put on each year. Lee was a very kind man and an avid supporter of M.S.U. Athletics.

Submitted by Harry Huntsinger, Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen

Marg Herndon

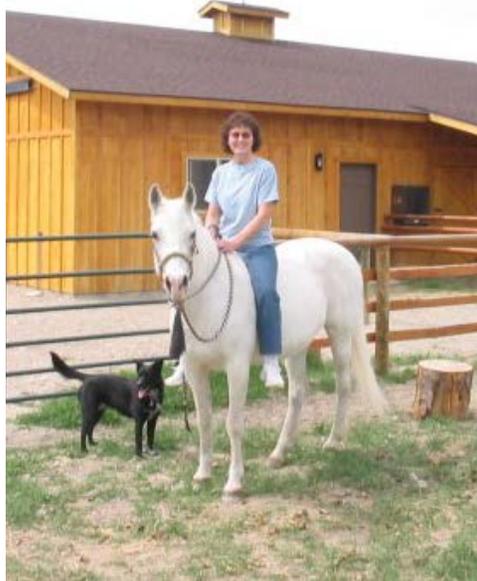
Marg Herndon happily moved to her home in Corvallis, Montana, after many years working in Nevada. She quickly became an active member of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BBCH) and established herself in the community. Over the 16 years she was a BBCH member, she served as Treasurer and Board Member, participated on trail projects, rode with friends, established the auditing of the books (using her past work experience), provided cookies for her audit crew, and sold tickets for the County Fair and Mule Days in Hamilton to support the chapter.

Marg absolutely loved the Bitterroot Valley, as the area brought back fond memories of the days she was a rancher's daughter to the south in North Fork, Idaho. Marg would regale her friends with humorous stories of her days working in Nevada, as well as of her youth on the ranch. She often told her ranching neighbor what a good job he was doing with his cattle and that her father would have been pleased – she even named her favorite cow on the nearby pasture!

Marg introduced another neighbor to BBCH, and they joined right up. Her ranching background may have led to her long-time passion for PBR, especially for the Brazilian bull riders, since they shared a common trait of a Portuguese heritage. She appreciated Vinho Verde (Portuguese green wine), was an avid MT Griz and UNLV fan, thoroughly enjoyed having her family visit her beautiful home, and loved her horse Josie and her “heelador” Carly. She preferred staying home to going out of town as she felt she was always on vacation in the Bitterroot!

Marg passed away in November 2016, and her engaging smile and quick wit are sorely missed. Marg is pictured on Josie with Carly nearby at her home.

Submitted by Kathy Stoppel-Holl, Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



of our friends live on in the hearts of so many.



Bernie Lionberger

Bernie Lionberger went on his last trail ride on November 18, 2016. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in early September and was fighting hard to make his 75th birthday on November 28. Bernie and Sherri joined the Panhandle Back Country Horsemen in 1994 after selling their airplane and buying stock. Life was a lot more fun (albeit a bit more work) taking themselves and their twin girls into the wilderness and on trails with horses rather than airplanes. Bernie was an active BCH member at both the local Panhandle chapter as well as the state level in Idaho. Photography was an exceptional hobby of his, so documenting all of the project outings for the yearly Christmas party was one of his favorite things.

Bernie retired from the Forest Service in early 2005 and immediately started looking for retirement property east of the divide in Montana, so he and Sherri could move closer to the land they loved to ride in – the Bob Marshall Wilderness. A little more sunshine and a lot less rain was an added benefit to landing in Helena, Montana. Bernie and Sherri again joined the local Last Chance BCH chapter and became active at the state level as well. He and Sherri expanded their riding destinations to a few more Montana Wilderness areas and added canoe packing to their list of fun things to do in the summer. Bernie noted that paddling a canoe on lake water was the same as leading a pack string down the trail – both go about 3 miles per hour, which is perfect to enjoy the scenery.

Bernie is survived by his wife Sherri, daughters Erin, Tara, Anne, and son Rob.
Submitted by Darlene Horne, Last Chance Back Country Horsemen



Bill Maloit

Bill Maloit joined the Last Chance BCH in 1981, and he served the chapter in all different capacities over the years. He was also chairman, vice chairman and treasurer of BCH of Montana, and helped organize BCH of America, serving on their board numerous times. He was instrumental to the organization and made it his mission to help establish other chapters throughout the state.

Bill participated in the state convention every year, he made sure the meetings were conducted correctly, and always had an opinion to share with everyone. He attended his last meeting in 2013 and was recognized for being part of the organization for 32 years.

He mentored many a member on the skills of packing and put on demonstrations to spark the interest of the younger generation. “Bill gave us individual lessons in packing at his place and was instrumental in our becoming involved in LC BCH,” said Connie Cole. “Bill sold us our initial pack equipment and continued to provide us with outstanding leather goods as our needs grew. In addition, he gave us greenhorns advice on what to look for in packing stock and horses to ride in the back country. We had many years of safe packing and back country riding due to lessons learned from Bill. He will be greatly missed.”

He was known far and wide for his cooking skills, especially for his Dutch oven beans. He was still manning the grill when he was 87.

Submitted by Darlene Horne, Last Chance Back Country Horsemen



Tony & friend Jan

Tony Woods

Alfred (Tony) Woods was a charter member of the Three Rivers chapter and was active in our chapter for the past 20+ years. During that time he has fully participated in meetings, trail rides, community benefit efforts, and work projects. Still riding and actively participating at 86 years young, Tony has been a positive role model for those of us who are also getting a little “long of tooth” and who can only hope that we will still be able to sit a saddle at his age. His strong work ethic and ever optimistic attitude have always served as a good example for the entire chapter. As they say, “he was cheerful in all weathers, and never shirked a task . . .splendid behavior.” Tony went on his last ride on February 23, 2017.

Submitted by Kathy Allard, Three Rivers Back Country Horsemen



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The Charlie Russell chapter hosted the 2017 BCHA National Convention Great Falls, MT

Submitted by Rich Carl, Charlie Russell Back Country Horsemen

It was a chance for our local chapter to meet the national leaders and directors from around the United States. Several of us were able to meet with individuals from other states and hear how they operate.

Prior to the Convention BCHA members met in Belt Creek for a chain saw certification. A total of 11 members from Judith Basin, Last Chance, Beartooth and Charlie Russell attended. Nine members qualified for B level bucking and limbing and two members advanced to C level bucking and limbing.

Thursday, the first day of the convention, was mostly about business of BCHA. Being able to sit in on the session and see how the national level functions compared to the state and chapter level was interesting. Thurs-

day night we departed for the Meet & Greet starting at the Charlie Russell Museum and then over to the Sip & Dip lounge to watch the mermaid swim. We even managed to squeeze 94 people into a room that holds 74. With the tight space and all, everyone had a great time.

On Friday (public lands day) LeAnn Marten (Regional Forester) delivered the welcome from Region 1. Also attending from the Forest Service were Jaime Schmidt (national trail program manager) who briefed us on the Trails Stewardship Act and Glenn Casamassa (USFS Assoc. Deputy Chief) who spoke about trails and connectivity. Joni Packard (R1 volunteer coordinator) spoke on volunteer agreements and partnerships. Also speaking were Paul Spittler (Wilderness Society),

Land Tawney (Back Country Hunters & Anglers), Lee Gault (Montana Conservation Core), and Ben Pendergrass (American Horse Council).

On Saturday it was back to business with committee reports and concluding the day with elections of the National Board. Elected were Chairman – Freddy Dunn (Utah); Vice Chair - Darryl Wallace (Washington); Treasure Sherry Copeland – (Missouri); Director on Exec board Yvette Rollins (Indiana); and Non-Director Exec board Becky Krueger (Missouri). Congratulations to everyone.

There was a lot of effort put into preparing for this event and I think everyone involved did a tremendous job.

Thank you and stay safe on the trail,

Rich

Web Extra Page

BCHA.org ACTION and ALERTS page: <https://www.bcha.org/blog/current-alerts/>
BCHA keeps you up-to-date on the latest legislation and land management decisions - watch this page for issues that you may influence.

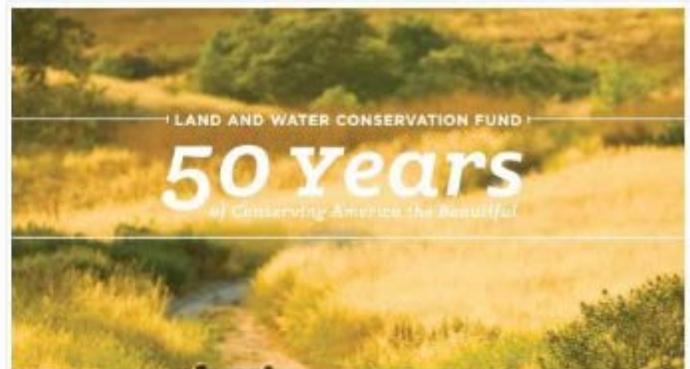
Current Alerts



Take Action! - Voice Your Opposition to H.R. 1349



Uphold the Integrity of the Wilderness Act Voice Your Opposition to H.R. 1349 Mountain bikes in designated Wilderness? For over 50 years it's been prohibited by the landmark Wilderness Act. But a new group, the Sustainable Trails Coalition (STC), intends to change that. The STC's president proclaimed that legalizing mountain bikes in wilderness is inevitable. We need your help to ... [Read More](#)



Take Action : Support the Land & Water Conservation Fund



This Bill in Congress Would Benefit Trails and Horsemen in Three Ways As the 114th Congress looks toward its final months of work, we urge you to support the bipartisan agreement to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund that passed the Senate in April as part of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015. BCHA is a member of the LWCF ... [Read More](#)



Help BCHA secure more horseback riding opportunities at Mount Rainer National Park



In 2002 the National Park Service all but eliminated horseback use at Mount Rainier National Park, with the sole exceptions being the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and one feeder trail to the PCT. That decision



Take Action: Weigh in on Yosemite Wilderness Plan



Comment Online with BCHA Talking Points Below Yosemite National Park recently issued "Preliminary Concepts & Ideas" for its forthcoming Wilderness Stewardship Plan. The plan covers over 704,000 acres of designated Wilderness, or 94%, of Yosemite National Park. The park identified four topics that have substantive effects on wilderness