We are continuing to face new issues as well as continuous problems that are still confronting BCH and our goals. The Right to Ride bill had to be rewritten and must now go through the House in Washington again. There was much opposition to this bill which means we need to try harder and begin letter writing to Congressmen again. Some of the up-to-date information on this bill can be viewed on our website.

Some campgrounds, trails, and trailheads are coming up for closures in certain forest districts in the West. Colorado and Arizona are already being confronted with these closures. We all need to keep abreast of what our local districts are doing along these lines. I urge you to contact your forest supervisors for possible closures this coming year and to remind them that public input is required before closures can occur. Other practices you can do at your local campgrounds and/or trailheads is to make comments on their information cards posted there, as the forest service reads these to ascertain if trailheads are being used. If they find no comments as to trails and trailhead usage, they may assume that these areas are not being utilized and, therefore, justification for their closures. Also, you can write or contact your forest supervisors as to which campgrounds, trails and trailheads you or your groups use on a regular basis. We need to be pro-active, for if these areas are closed, it will be too late to comment or complain.

Our national chairman, Merlyn Huso, reported at our last board of directors meeting that the survey that appeared in the BCHA newsletter this past year that there were only 19 responses out of 1,100 BCHMT members that were sent in. This is very disappointing since it only takes 5-10 minutes to fill out such surveys. If we don't respond to surveys, write letters, make personal contacts, we are only shooting ourselves in the foot. From the responders to this survey nationwide, we (BCH) are perceived as not using the wilderness. This is extremely discouraging!!

At our last board meeting, Joni Packard, with the Forest Service of Region 1, gave quite an in-depth and concise talk on the Fee Demo program now called the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA). She outlined where fees can and may be charged for campgrounds, trailheads, cabins, fishing access, boat launches, etc. One statement she made was quite disturbing in that if there is more wilderness desig-

Chairman, continued on Page 2
nation, this will produce more restrictions, imposed fees, and required permits to use some of our backcountry.

On the lighter and more positive side, the end to drilling on the east front passed the House and Senate. The Gates Park Bridge will probably be replaced, but there are still some hurdles ahead before this is a done deal.

The Boy Scouts of Montana are having a jamboree in June at the Seiben Ranch, north of Helena, and BCH has been asked to put on demonstrations and talks over a two day period. Dave Crawford has volunteered to chair this endeavor. If anyone wants to volunteer their time and expertise, contact Dave. Here is another way to promote BCH awareness to the public, especially to our youth. This should be a great educational event.

This falls into my vision of promoting public awareness of the BCH’s mission statement and goals. We are in the process of putting together a power point, video, or DVD with the principles of BCH presented which includes our volunteerism to the FS, LNT, light on the land, education, etc. A preliminary version will be shown at the convention in Lewistown.

Paul Evenson has put together a wonderful brochure about BCH to be distributed to the public, FWP, FS, BLM, etc. There is also a committee putting together an instructional program on a DVD or video on the Defensive Horse Safety Course which all chapters will be able to use year after year and, hopefully, save the individual chapters expense and time. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, please pass them onto Don Holman, president of the Flathead chapter. This is another big undertaking and, hopefully, will be available by 2008.

I want to compliment everyone who has stepped up to the plate this year to help make my job easier, as I really do appreciate everyone’s efforts.

One last thing, I would hope BCH members respond to the national BCHA directory. This is similar to a yearbook which enables people traveling or just need to contact someone in a specific area concerning knowledge of campgrounds, trailheads, trails, boarding facilities, etc.

I know there has been some concern about personal email addresses and other information that could be distributed to outside BCH members. We have been guaranteed by the company that no personal information will be sold or distributed. I don't see any contraindications to supporting this national directory. They will be on sale sometime this spring in a hardbound copy and a soft bound copy at a reduced price.

Chairman, continued from page 1

Quiet and Solitude

By: Edd Blackler
Flathead BCH

I am concerned about the fact that motorized users do not have any concept of how their presence in an area eliminates any chance for non-motorized users to fulfill their expectations of quiet and solitude. If there are going to be places where non-motorized users can expect to enjoy quiet and solitude, motorized users must agree to accept the fact that there will be places where their access is not allowed. It makes sense that those places include our current roadless and Wilderness areas.

Having monitored many of the publishing’s of Montanan’s for Multiple Use, The Blue Ribbon Coalition, and similar motorized user advocate organizations, I have found no tolerance for the idea that roadless and Wilderness areas remain off limits to motorized users. Total access by motorized users to all public lands is their goal.

In my experience as a horseman, sharing the Wilderness and backcountry with the majority of non-motorized users has been very successful. There are always a few purists who disdain the presence of horse pucky on the trails, but for the most part we have found that our expectations for quiet and solitude have been shared enthusiastically by other non-motorized users.

In light of the fact that there has been such a tremendous increase in the number of motorized users, and the fact that their presence has greatly decreased the availability of "quiet" places outside of roadless and Wilderness areas, it is no

Quiet continued on page 4

Jon F. Dean, E.A.
Income Tax Services
44 Indian Rock Road
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 494-3307
jond7@hotmail.com
Another year has gone by and the members of the Mile High Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen are proud of what a small chapter has accomplished with a lot of hard work and saddle sores! We celebrated our 10th Anniversary as a chapter and during that time we are proud to say we have worn out a lot of horseshoes and work gloves. We have traveled many miles across the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and some have even traveled across the state to experience what it would have been like to travel on horseback as part of your everyday life. We have met many friends from here and across the state as we hosted and attended State Back Country Horsemen Conventions.

There are still some who shake their head in wonderment that Butte and southwest Montana can offer such extraordinary backcountry wilderness experiences amid the mining history that surrounds us. We celebrate that history through opportunities to see how miners labored in the hills to find that one chunk of gold that would make them rich. What we have now is a land rich in history and long on scenery. From the Tobacco Roots through the Highlands and Pioneers and across the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness there is an abundance of high peaks and high mountain lakes to keep us busy exploring for years to come.

This year our chapter spent a great deal of time exploring new areas and improving trail opportunities primarily on the Wise River and Butte Ranger Districts. We worked for the first time on the Pintler Ranger District. Some of the highlights of our year include working in the Pioneer Mountains, Anaconda Pintler Wilderness, and many segments of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. From improving trail tread to building new trail tread and trailheads our chapter has worked hard and has developed new partnerships. Among our new partners was an opportunity to work with the Upper Clark Fork BCH Chapter. Together we packed in material for a new puncheon bridge in the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness that was being constructed by volunteers from Americorps St. Louis. What

Tales continued on page 7
Winter Water
By: Ron Stuber
Chairman, BCH of MT

During winter, horses tend to drink less. This may be because the water is extremely cold or frozen making accessibility difficult. Water is the most important intake that a horse needs. Horses require large amounts of water to keep the ingesta in the GI tract soft and moving freely along. Without sufficient water, horses will develop intestinal imbalances.

Just like nutrition, horses are individuals and some will drink more water than their buddies. Very young horses, before they have a full set of teeth, tend to be tender in the gums, thereby, extremely cold water will be sensitive to the young horse's mouth. Horses, especially older horses, with dental problems may also have sensitive teeth and may refuse to drink cold water because it being painful. For the average, normal adult horse, cold water tends to be less of a problem. Regardless of age or feeding program, one needs to make sure your horse(s) is drinking an adequate amount of water. There are several indicators of decreased water intake. One is the skin pinch to see how quickly the skin snaps back to it's normal tone. The best place to check this is just in front of the shoulder blade and to do it consistently at the same place every time. Pinch the skin for a few seconds and it should replace in 1-2 seconds. If it stays constantly distended for longer than 3-4 seconds, it will indicate the state of dehydration. As an example, if the skin stays distended for 5 or 6 seconds, the horse is probably 10% or more dehydrated. Another indicator is to put your finger under the horse's upper lip and feel the moistness of the gums. If they feel "tacky" or dry, the horse is again, somewhat dehydrated to one degree or another. Check the manure for dryness or very firm consistency. If your horse's manure is normally semi-soft, it should be this way as long as he is drinking adequate amount of water. Also, check the manure for a covering of mucous which again indicates a lack of water intake.

If possible, in the wintertime, it is always good to have the supply of water for your horse somewhere around 32 degrees. With heated water supply, be cautious not to have it too warm as some horses will be suspicious of the extremely warm water and may refuse to drink it. If electrical supply to your horse's water is not possible, one can insulate the tank or set the tank down into the ground as there is a certain amount of heat that emanates from the lower part of the ground. If the water supply is high off the ground, it will freeze quicker. If you feel you horse is not drinking an adequate supply of water, make sure he has free choice salt or even add loose table salt (1-2 teaspoons) in each feeding.

An inactive 1,000 pound horse requires about 12 gallons of water a day, and as I said, some may require more and some less. A horse being used to any degree on a daily basis may require 30-40 gallons of water depending on the degree of work, amount of sweating, and condition of the horse. Good quality grass hay will tend to hold fluid in the hind gut and will tend to dehydrate less than the horse fed high concentrated feeds. Roughage in the GI tract will help to maintain the fluid balance as long as there is sufficient intake. Horses that are on a hay diet will generally drink twice as much water as horses that are on a hay and grain diet. It cannot be emphasized enough that horses require water for the GI tract to maintain its motility, assimilation of nutrients, and to prevent the intestine from developing an ileus which is a total lack of GI motility and will lead to colic which may even become a surgical matter.

For horses that are finicky drinkers, especially in the wintertime, or away from home at an event, the water may not taste the same to the horse as his normal at home water. If this should occur, there is a new product on the market that is a powder to be added to the water supply which has flavorings such as apple, etc. to entice the horse to drink and also take in certain nutrients and electrolytes.

Horse Hair: Potentially Dangerous!!
In a press release today, the National Institute of Health has announced the discovery of a potentially dangerous substance in the hair of horses. This substance, called "ano-bacter equiui" has been linked with the following symptoms in female humans:

- Reluctance to cook
- Reluctance to perform housework
- Reluctance to wear anything but boots
- Reluctance to work except in support of a horse
- Physical craving for contact with horses (may be an addiction)

Beware: If you come in contact with a female human affected by this substance, be prepared to talk about horses for hours on end.
This has been a public service announcement.
Annual Family Fun Ride
Club Fund Raiser

Date: July 14, 2007
Registration: 8:00 am to 10:00 am
Place: Gold Creek, MT

(Exit 166 off I-90, follow the signs, 5 ½ miles)
Approximately 4 hour Ride. And we will go through a
Historic Ghost Town and Gold Dredge

Children under 12……………………… $7.00
Ride & BBQ .............................. $15.00
Poker Hands (18 yrs & over).......... $5.00 each
50/50 Tickets.............................. $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00

BBQ starts at 3:00 pm and Drawings for Door Prizes to follow.

Everyone Bring Your Horse or Mule and Have Fun!

Absolutely NO Dogs on Ride!
Dogs in Camp must be on leash!

For More Information Please Contact:

Patrick George 560-1670
Wendy George 846-3499
Karen Haubbert 846-1088
A Few Thoughts on Wilderness
By: Charlie O’Leary
Vice Chairman BCHM

An early American settler described the vast wilderness before him as “a dark and dismal place where all manner of beasts dash about uncooked”. So was the view of those unknowingly lucky early Americans who saw this continent before it’s taming by modern man.

Several hundred years have passed and the boundaries of the United States have been determined by purchases, wars, and Manifest Destiny. The beaver trade, the gold rushes, the great cattle drives, and the wild, wild west are now just relics of what must have been one hell of a good time for a horseman. Many of us, I’m sure, have thought we were born 150 years too late. How exciting it would have been to cross Montana on horseback before there were roads, fences, or towns. 147,000 square miles of pure wilderness!

But alas, it’s 2007 and we 300 million Americans are, in fact, all civilized with our automobiles, warm houses, and modern electronic conveniences. Today’s ‘frontiers’ are in medical labs, outer space, and in liquid crystal television screens. We live life vicariously through an endless diet of crime scene investigations, the non-stop cycle of professional sports, and a host of so called ‘reality shows’.

But periodically there comes a time in our lives when we realize that all this civilization and plastic entertainment has only served to disconnect us from the earth. We tire from too many hours in the office, too many cell phone calls, too much traffic, taxes, tuition, and reports of terrorism.

While our early settler friend feared the wilderness and greatly appreciated any of the creature comforts, we find ourselves frequently longing to retreat from civilization, if only for a few days. To simply listen to the silence, to see a landscape that has only been changed by natural forces, to feel the textures of the high country. To taste a freshly caught trout, nibble on some glacier lily leaves or savor the sweetness of grouse whortleberries. To have our olfactory nerve tickled by the scent of elk or alpine fir. Re-connection.

We bring back photographs and stories of close encounters with wildlife that dazzle our co-workers and friends, but the Wilderness experience remains a very personal thing. The total sensory event coupled with our own visceral-emotional reaction is one that simply cannot be conveyed to another person. It is a feeling that addicts, and calls us back over and over for one more hit.

On another note, I’ve always thought that describing wilderness in terms of acres was a strange thing. Bob Marshall – 1,009,356 acres, Scapegoat – 239,936, Anaconda Pintler – 158,615. The numbers sound enormous, almost beyond comprehension, easily leading the average man on the street to believe that there is enough wilderness to go around and no more is necessary.

But when you look at a Wilderness area in terms of percentage of the state’s landmass, the Bob Marshall is barely one percent. Add together the Scapegoat, the Great Bear, the Anaconda Pintler and the fragmented Lee Metcalf and you almost get another one percent. The fact is that only 3.7% of this state has Wilderness protection.

Montana’s population count is poised to exceed 1,000,000 in this decade and most of those people will live in the western 1/3 of the state. The Rocky Mountain region is now referred to as the Third Coast because the other two coasts are full. California is starting to lose population and those fleeing that frantic smog filled civilization are heading north. Montana is being subdivided at a record rate and land prices are at an all time high. Many counties struggle with the growing pains of increased population, new high schools, bigger jails,
Wider roads, more open space. Where will it all end? It won’t. And because it won’t, setting aside the last good potential wilderness is of critical importance in the next few years.

Of particular interest to those of us in Southwest Montana are the small add-ons slated for the Anaconda Pintler and the proposed Torrey Mt. Wilderness in the East Pioneers. This area, flanked by I-15 and the Wise River Scenic Byway, would include about 80 square miles of some seriously scenic backcountry, about 20 lakes and over 15 peaks higher than 10,000 feet, including the grand daddies Torrey and Tweedy, each at around 11,150. The usual mega fauna: deer, elk, moose, goat, black bear, and sheep are abundant. The area is surrounded by a rich collection of ranching, recreation, and history.

I have personally tramped around this rough and rocky area for the last 44 years on both foot and horseback. The Mile High Chapter of BCHM does several work projects there each year in cooperation with the Wise River Ranger District. If ever there was an area worth protecting for future generations this is it.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to our forefathers of four decades ago who had the perseverance and foresight to gain protection for the Bob, the Pintlers, the Selway Bitterroot, and the Cabinet Mountains. We benefit immensely from these rare and special places when our minds cry out for relief from the insanity of daily living. The wave of humanity that is coming to Montana in the form of American transplants and our own offspring will need the same periodic re-connection as we have needed. In the year 2050 most of us will be long gone, pushin’ up daisies, or glacier lilies maybe, but there will be many more Montanans and many more horsemen, wanting the Wilderness experience.

The recently approved Memorandum of Understanding between BCHM and the Montana Wilderness Association is an important gesture, symbolic as it may be, toward a common goal of preserving that, which is vital to us all. Montana’s political winds are blowing in a direction that may bring rain to the Wilderness drought that has persisted since 1983. We are now the forefathers of the next generations and now is the time for us to persevere.

Photos courtesy of Russell O’Leary

Charlie overlooks the Headwaters of Bond

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Photos courtesy of Russell O’Leary

Tales, continued from page 3

A great weekend we had, eating and talking by the ‘campstove’ (fire restrictions prevented the campfire) and listening to music. Not many in our chapter can carry a tune so we take every opportunity to listen to those that can. This was the first experience Americorps volunteers had in the wilderness. Many were in awe of the primitive experience of having to cut trees and build bridges with crosscut saws and hammers – no DeWALT drills. Most of them are ‘youngsters’ in their 20s who have spent most of their lives in urban areas and have never been around horses let alone a wilderness! As one person put it, it was an experience he would never forget.

As we store our tack for winter we are planning for another decade of work and great rides. We plan to continue our work in the Pioneer Mountains and along the CDNST. So pack your horse and trailer and come down to southwest Montana to experience the beauty and primitive Backcountry that still exists. Like Lewis and Clark we want to explore new country and meet new people to see what opportunities lay waiting for us in the future.
Out and about with BCH of Missoula
Submitted by Myra Mumma

Wilderness Trip for Special Forces Veterans
.....as told by Kirk Sybrandt

Paul Evenson and Kirk Sybrandt did the hands-on packing to take two deserving special forces veterans, Gary and Dammon, into a Pretty Prairie camping on August 4. The two veterans got in some fishing in the West Fork of the Sun River. Their military point of contact, Jim Krause, had advised the two to bring MRE’s for meals, but truth, the food was a far cry from military rations. Pearl Cash of the Pearl Bakery and Restaurant cooked for the group so they all ate good! Liz and Kirk took the men to Indian Point and beyond on the 8th where they got a glimpse of the Chinese Wall. While they were riding, Pearl, Bob Brugh, Christian Sybrandt and Paul picked knapweed. The entertainment of the trip was an event that happens to the best of them. Paul let half of the animals loose to graze, then declared, “Aw heck, I’ll let the whole bunch graze.” That’s when Fibber, Paul’s horse, decided to take all the horses and mules back to Benchmark. Lyal Stott brought them back up to Pretty Prairie and jokingly told Paul to “Hang onto Fibber.” The group packed out on August 8. Upper left picture is of the two veterans. Bottom left is of the Sybrandts and the two veterans. Bottom right picture shows the veterans, Kirk Sybrandt and that’s Christian Sybrandt winking at the camera around Paul Evenson. Pictures courtesy the Sybrandt Family.

Defensive Horsemanship Safety Course

On April 22, Dan and Marge Harper hosted about 20 volunteers, Forest Service employees and Back Country Horsemen in their barn for a safety course required by the U.S. Forest Service, Region 1. This course is mandatory for employees and volunteers who work with stock on the National Forests. The initial course consists of eight hours with a four-hour refresher course once every three years. District Rangers, with assistance of District and Forest Stock Managers, designate instructors in their area who are experienced in stock handling and have the ability to teach the curriculum, be they Forest Service employees, volunteers or Back Country Horsemen. Below, left to right, are some of the organizers of the course; Paul Evenson, Rick Sherman, Smoke Elser, and Mike Chandler. Far right is Keith Guschausky. These photos were submitted by Don Dodge.
When to blanket your horse in winter
By Melissa Hower-Moritz, Ph.D.

Some horses are happy in all but the most bitter temperatures, while others shiver on the first cold night of fall. To figure out if your horse needs a blanket, answer the following yes-or-no questions. A "yes" answer to any one means your horse would appreciate a little extra insulation.

1. Is it below 50 degrees Fahrenheit? Even if your horse has a natural (uncropped) haircoat, he may appreciate a blanket at this temperature. This is just a general rule of thumb, since other factors (such as wind, humidity and/or precipitation) may call for a blanket when it's warmer. On the other hand, some horses acclimate to colder temperatures, especially those with thick haircoats.

2. Is his coat clipped? If so, your horse may need a blanket (or at least a sheet) when the temperature drops below 60 degrees F.

3. Does he usually live indoors? If your horse lives even part of the time in a warm barn, he'll feel the cold more than a horse that lives outside full time.

4. Does he live in an open pasture? A full-time outdoor horse will grow a heavy coat to ward off the elements, but wind and rain can destroy that insulating effect. If there's no shelter in his pasture, he may need wind- and water-resistant horse clothing to stay warm.

5. Is his stall drafty? Drafts in your barn may have the same effect as outside breezes--they blow away that layer of warm air next to your horse's skin, making him feel colder.

6. Is he shivering? Don't go by formulas--check your horse to see whether he's too cold. If he's shivering, blanket him (or add blankets) and get him to a shelter. (To see if your horse is too warm, slide your hand under his blanket; if he's sweaty, he needs a lighter covering, or none at all.)

Dr. Hower-Moritz is an associate professor of equine science at University of Minnesota, Crookston.

This article originally appeared in the October 2000 issue of Horse & Rider magazine.
Upper Clark Fork 2006 Happenings
By: Paul & Pat Bissonette

Kicking off our club activities was a “Chain Saw” training course conducted by the US Forest Service. There were two days of learning which consisted of 1 day in the classroom and 1 day in the field. It was quite an experience for those of us who hadn’t had any opportunity to use a chain saw. In all there were 8 members that participated in the training, 6 received their certificates and 2 will receive theirs after they finish their field work in the spring.

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May was our first ride of the year, we had a grand turnout, mother nature was nice to us for the approximate 2 hour ride over rolling hills with a breath taking view of the Deer Lodge Valley and the Flint Mountain Range looming in the background. After the ride we all participated in a great pot luck, as usual with all the varieties of good food & good conversation. One has a tendency to try to founder themselves. A big Thanks to the Cappa’s for hosting the ride.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

June we had a couple of work project scheduled, one was to put up 2 hitch rails at the Gold Creek Ponds where we have our Fun Ride every year. Thought it would be handy for people to use when they sign up or just come to camp and visit.

Happenings continued on page 11
Happenings continued from page 10

The other project was cleaning trail up Baggs Creek, this is where our certification training with chain saws came in handy.

The first of July is very busy for our club, it’s time to prepare for the “Fun Ride”. Everyone has a hand in the week long tasks of cleaning camp, setting up the registration tent, cleaning & marking trails. We have lots of fun also a wonderful time to visit with old friends & meet new ones.

Other project for the rest of the year consisted of cleaning trails, camping out and some bridge work at Carp Lakes in the Pintlar’s, this was in conjunction with the Mile High chapter of Butte.

A few of the riders found some trouble with ground bee’s this year but no one was hurt, a little run away & one rider did get unseated.

We hosted the quarterly Directors meeting in Sept.

Ended the year with our Christmas party/dinner and Chinese Ornament Exchange, fun time for young and old.

Happy trails for a safe 2007 season.
Write An Article??

Wow, as I sit at my desk watching the snow swirl about outside my window, I contemplate the thought “how can we come up with enough to say about our chapter … we’re only 3 months old”? The stories, the thoughts, the hard work all leading up to this begin to pop into my head! Yes…we do have something to share.

Who would have thought or is it fate?

As we sat around the table in Smoke Elsers’ barn at the December state meeting/Christmas potluck supper, we were all filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. There we were, friends and co-members of the new Selway-Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen. My husband, Joe Hundley, shared a story that over twenty years ago he ordered and read Smokes’ book “Packin’ In on Mules and Horses”. He was a bachelor living in a small cabin on a mountain located in the Ouachita Mountains of central Arkansas where he was born and raised and all that knew him thought he would stay until his last day. As he looked up from the table and gazed around the room at all the saddles, pack saddles, saws, and gear, he said “and here I sit in the mans’ barn as a Back Country Horseman ...who would have thought it”? It’s a strange story indeed, but who of us at the table would have thought that we would be beginning the adventure of creating and forming a fledgling BCH chapter just 3 months ago?

Going through the gaits….

Before you gallop you lope, before you lope you trot, before you trot you walk and before you walk you have to climb aboard. The same applies to starting a new chapter. We all knew what we wanted, but how do we do it? Kindred spirits, similar passions, the deep desires to get into the back country…who knows for sure what it was that brought the nine founding members together, but it worked. Once the conceived idea of a new chapter was out on the table the whole process was like riding a good horse/mule! Excitement filled the air, smiles were abundant and everyone rolled up their sleeves. After a few short meetings and a gathering of knowledge and information from those who came before us, we were on our way to the September BCH of MT state meeting in Deer Lodge with our new name, constitution and officer list in hand.

Weathering the storm!

Becoming a new chapter was not as easy as we thought it would be. There were doubts as to whether our valley could support two chapters and other issues to dis-

uss. It was at this point that our metaphor of going from a walk to a trot felt more like a “rodeo”, but through persistence and determination and an hour long of debate, we were voted on and approved as a new chapter. We wish to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to all those who stood up in support of our new chapter…we owe it all to you.

Inspiration from BCHA

The nine founding members of SPWBCH are Julie and Dave Schram, Joy and Dennis Price, Alan and Christine Waltz, Chris McCabe and Joe and Kathy Hundley. In the B C H A O r g a n i z a t i o n a l H a n d b o o k , page 21, #4 reads: include both men and women in the group. Experience has shown that two women are some of the strongest supporters, best leaders, and most dependable workers. Our chapter is an example of such thinking. Our President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer are all women. I think we can honestly say though that behind every good woman is a good man.

Chomping at the bit!

Less than one week after being approved as a BCH chapter, 4 members including Julie Schram, Alan Waltz, Joy Price and Kathy Hundley packed 8 miles up Blodgett Canyon into the wilderness of the Bitterroots and cleared a waist-high 17” log from the trail with a crosscut saw borrowed from the Forest Service. Over the next month members Julie Schram and Helen Engle cleared downfall on Boulder Creek and did some brushing out up Mill Creek before the weather turned and forced us out of the back country….at least until next year.

Dreaming, hoping and planning…..

Our membership has grown to over 30 members, many seasoned, native Montanans with expert knowledge of the back country and horsemanship skills. We are “hock high” in the winter process of planning our projects for next year in partnership with the Forest Service, along with some wilderness pack trips amongst friends. We are taking a firm stand on OHV use in our national forests and are looking forward to participating in the upcoming Travel Management Plan process. We are keeping a close

Selway continued on page 13
Selway continued from page 12

eye on the events nation-wide with regards to other groups trying to keep stock out of certain areas. Even though the shoes are pulled, the saws oiled and hung, the horses/mules shaggy and the mountains covered in snow, we can smell the pine, see the wildflowers, hear the laughter and dream of the good times ahead and the difference we, as Back Country Horsemen, will make over the years to come. Our dream is to keep things simple and our work in the back country. Our chapter has a banner and a new logo with our name proudly printed on one side and the Back Country Horsemen Mission Statement on the other for inspiration at every meeting and function.

2007

We are looking forward to the State Convention in Lewistown in March and sharing thoughts and stories with old friends and new friends. Well, it’s still snowing and tomorrow is Christmas Eve. I wonder how many cowboys and cowgirls, young and old alike are hoping Santa will bring them a new saddle or bridle or as we all know “something horsy”! Happy trails to all.

Have you hugged your mule today??
33rd Annual
Missoula Backcountry Horsemen
Steak Ride

June 17th, 2007
Blackfoot Clearwater Game Range
Advance Tickets $15.00 for ride and BBQ
$20.00 Day of Ride
Non Riders Welcome

Ride leaves the Boyd Ranch at 11:00 a.m.
Meet at the Boyd Ranch entrance
off Highway 200, 4 mi. east of the Cow
at Clearwater Jct.

Tickets available at:
Quality Supply, Pet Smart,
Blue Mountain Veterinary Hospital
Sportland Trailers, Trader Brothers,
Mountain West Cooperative (Cenex)

Over-night camping available Certified weed seed free feed mandatory
No studs or dogs on ride please

For more information: 728-3459
About Your Newsletter

Back Country Horsemen of Montana News is published three times a year by BCH of MT, PO Box 4051, Helena, MT 59604-4051.

Publication dates are June 1, October 1, February 1. Deadline for submission of advertising and articles is the 10th of the preceding month (May 10, September 10, January 10).

The newsletter has three main emphasis areas: (1) issues (2) club activities/volunteer projects (3) light material (i.e. Humor, history, etc.). Please submit a copy that is typewritten or legible handwritten copy is acceptable. Photos should be prints only (no negatives or proofs). Black & white or color is acceptable. Please do not cut or write directly on the photos.

Submit articles, photos, and advertising to Linda Brewer, PO Box 31837, Billings, MT 59107. Phone: (406) 698-5880 e-mail: lbrewer@tctwest.net

BCH Chapters are once again responsible for submitting articles for publication in this newsletter. Chapter divisions and deadline date for articles is as follows:

May 10 Beartooth, Bitterroot, Cabinet & CMR, East Slope, Flathead
September 10 Gallatin, Greater Yellowstone, Hi-Line, Judith Basin & Last Chance, Mile High
January 10 Mission Valley, Missoula, Selway/Pintler Wilderness, Three Rivers, UpperClark Fork, Wild Horse Plains

Adverting Rates

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Advertisers that choose to run their ad two times get the third time running free.

Submissions can be received from individuals, chapters, or directly from the advertisers.

A 25% commission will be paid to individuals or chapters.

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**State Newsletter Editor**
Linda Brewer
(406) 698-5880
lbrewer@tctwest.net
### MONTANA BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN STATE CHAPTERS

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If you would like to join, please contact a chapter in your area.