A Message from the Chairman!

We had a great convention in Polson, and the Mission Valley Chapter deserves a big hand for a job well done!

I, more than anyone, know the challenges ahead of me for this year. I realize I have many big shoes to fill from previous chairmen and have many great expectations to meet. I have the time and the energies to give this position my all and I will do everything I possibly can to achieve these goals for the betterment of the Back Country Horsemen. In order to accomplish these goals, I will need the support from all of you, i.e.: advice, suggestions and direction. We need to work as a team to have a successful and productive year.

Anyone who “steps up to the plate” to volunteer for a chairmanship or assistibly giving their time and efforts will be greatly appreciated by the entire BCH membership and particularly by me. To coin a phrase “ask not what your BCH can do for you, but what you can do for BCH”.

One new committee I am implementing this year is a Public Relations Committee. The purpose of this committee would be to send out press releases to all the major newspapers in the state. The press releases or articles would be to cover events, projects, meetings, conventions, etc., thus getting exposure to the general public as to what BCH stands for, our volunteer projects and our affiliation with the Forest Service and BLM. I would also like to expand this to radio talk shows, if feasible. Hopefully, we will have a Public Relations (PR) Chairman by the time this message goes to press, but in the event this position

Please see Chairman, page 2
Chairman, continued from page 1

is still open—if anyone has any experience or desire in chairing this PR committee, please contact me. I think this is a great opportunity for BCH to get exposure and open up new avenues for us. I would like to see BCH travel some new trails, in addition to traveling down old ones.

Another proposal I want to put forth is that I am making myself available to travel to any of our chapters for problem solving, clinics, special events, organizations meetings, etc..

I hope I can meet your expectations and the challenges that lie in front of us this year. I will always be available to any BCH member; either personally, by phone, or e-mail. We need to continue our great partnership with the Forest Service so that both of us can benefit from our volunteerism. Let’s have an outstanding year!

The following quote was written and submitted by Edd Blackler in hopes that the quote might give some guidance to chapters who are maybe questioning their focus.

The founders of BCH had a vision of the continued use of pack and saddle stock in our nation’s backcountry and Wilderness, and very wisely fashioned a cooperative means of assuring that end. They devised a very clear set of guidelines that have proven to keep the members of the organization on the right track for over thirty years. Any deviation or misguided embellishment of these guidelines will most surely result in creating confusion and failure of the organization. As we have done in the past, and must continue to do in the future, strong efforts must be made to preserve the kind of backcountry and Wilderness environment that is conducive to the continued use of pack and saddle stock in that country. That doesn’t mean agreeing to “share” the areas with motorized users.

The Proposed Winton Weydemeyer Wilderness
Some of the Best Riding Country in Wild Montana
Submitted by Jim Brogger

During the two State Board meetings held at the convention, it was apparent that a number of our members were not familiar with the roadless areas located in the Whitefish Range in the Upper Flathead which are under consideration for inclusion in the wilderness system. The Flathead County Citizens Committee spearheaded by the Montanans for Multiple Use Groups petitioned Governor Schweitzers office to remove the roadless status of these areas.

I have asked John Gatchell, who is an MWA staff member and has worked in MT BCH for a number of years, to explain MWA’s position relative to these areas.

The Backcountry Horsemen of the Flathead members have been riding and clearing trail in the Tuchuck-Mt. Hefty and Thompson Seton wild lands -- part of the proposed Winton Weydemeyer Wilderness in the Whitefish Range for more that a decade. Members Deb and Greg Schatz recently described this area as ‘some of the best riding country in Montana’.

The Winton Weydemeyer Wilderness proposal is named to honor the late Winton Weydemeyer of Fortine, Montana. Mr. Weydemeyer (1903-1989) ranched and tree-farmed in the Tobacco Valley and was a life-time progressive Republican who served in the Montana State Senate in the mid 1950’s, helped establish the Lincoln County Fair, served as Grange Master, and was also know throughout Montana for his life-time devotion to wild land conservation. Weydemeyer first proposed that the Whitefish Range be protected as Wilderness in 1925, at the very beginning of the wilderness conservation movement.

The proposed wilderness consists of three roadless areas located in the north end of the Whitefish and Galton Ranges, hard up against the US—Canadian border, west of the North Fork Flathead River and east of Eureka. Signature peaks include Mount Hefty, Tuchuck, Thompson Seton, Lake, Nasukoin, Ksanka, and Stahl, among many others.

Long time Horsemen Ken Ausk explained that the late Lloyd Fagerland was asked in 1992 to help open some of the historic CCC trails in the area. Originally opposed to establishing these lands as congressionally protected wilderness, after spending time working those he became an advocate for wilderness, Ausk said.

Deb Schatz relates that Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead was chiefly responsible for opening trails in the Tuchuck, Hefty, Review Mountain and other areas. In addition the Horsemen built the Tuchuck horse camp located 9 miles up Trail Creek Road. This campground is enjoyed by many in summer months and serves as a great jumping off point for rides in all directions into the proposed Wilderness area.

Please see Winton, page 3
It's part of being in that country,' said Deb Schatz. 'Those old CCC Trails and fire lookouts (many of them now gone) represent priceless national treasures. If it weren't for BCH and volunteers who keep those trails open and in useable condition, many of them would be gone by now.'

The Horsemen have held an annual Labor Day trail clearing party each year for over the last decade working on the Seemo and Antley Creek trails for example.

'All those trails were built by people using horses and mules and so stock really work well,' Deb continued. 'But then there's the country itself'.

Once you get up to the ridges you have easy riding and incredible vistas of Glacier Park, the Whitefish and Galton Ranges themselves, and you can see into the high peaks of southern Canada. It's just spectacular'.

Winton, continued from page 2

“High in quality”
“Low in Price”

Our Manty Ropes are here to offer you the BEST 33’ manty rope and 25’ sling ropes available. We ONLY use Multi Line II rope.

406-321-1958
Howdy,

2005 was a very good year and busy for the CBCH. We applied for and received a RAC grant and RTP grant of approximately $30,000 to construct the Sheldon Mountain Trailhead. There are livestock hitch racks, picnic tables, fire rings, parking area, camping area and a vault toilet to accommodate the 50 miles of trails that are multiple use excluding motorized vehicles. This May we will develop a spring to feed a livestock water trough for the trailhead.

CBCH also rode and categorized over 100 miles of trails by summers end for the USFS’s Centennial Weed & Trail Survey and volunteered to help the National Ride & Tie event held in the Libby area.

Our group joined with the Flathead BCH to clear 10 miles of the Elk Mtn. trail and in June of this year with the Flathead BCH and the Tobacco Valley HCH will work on the trail again.

We had a 3 day campout and work projects at the historical Upper Ford Ranger Station in the Yaak, building corrals. Thirty members and guests worked, ate and sang. The Ranger Station was used as a pack station to support the area Fire Look Outs and trail work. The USFS has restored the Ranger Station cabin and it is available as a rental.

The CBCH celebrated our Silver Anniversary in July with 80 dinners served while we listened to a Blue Grass band.
Annual Family Fun Ride
Club Fund Raiser

Date: July 8, 2006
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
Karen Haubbert 846-1088
Need some ideas for writing letters to your officials? Here’s a few submitted by Kathy Frazier.

RE: The Right to Ride Bill, HR 586

To the Honorable _____.

The next time you are driving through the Treasure State, the great State of Montana, take a look around you. Better yet, let someone else do the driving so you can take a good look and observe what you see. Let your mind relax; quit thinking about your constituents and the voter base and the big problem you have to resolve at the next meeting.

Think instead of what you are looking at. As you drive through the rural areas you will see cattle, sheep, llamas, goats, lots of deer and other wildlife. What else is in the pasture? You will see mules and horses in nearly every pasture you pass, even in the cities and small towns. You’ll see a lot of people who may or may not use their equine friend every day, but when they are ready to ride, they want to explore and be free to ride the trails they choose, just as you choose the roads you want to drive.

Please don’t take our freedom away from us. Many generations of Montanans and the recently arrived Montanans are here because of the wonderful scenery, the easy-going pace of life and because this is the best place to live. Let’s not become another California or New York, we don’t care how they do it there. Let’s remain the Treasure State and let Montanans continue to ride the trails we have for so many years.

More ideas: 1) Montana is an outdoor state. We are blessed with spectacular mountains, prairies, lakes, parks, and trails. Do not let your fellow Montanans down. Do not let HR 586 fall apart again. Take action now. Get on board and do the right thing. Sponsor the Right to Ride Bill. You won’t be sorry you did and neither will your grandchildren or their grandchildren. Preserve the rights of the equine riders. Your Back Country Horsemen do! 2) Take a look at the volunteer hours provided by this organization to clean trails, trailheads, camping facilities and work with the Forest Service to do the right thing at the right time.

Share your ideas with other Chapters, lets get a round robin going and keep it going. One idea of yours may inspire more ideas from another, which may motivate even more ideas from another.

Always sign your letter “Respectfully Submitted” and always start your letter “To the Honorable __”. If you want to forward copies of your letters or ideas, I will be happy to forward to all the Chapters.
Our Club started the 2005 year off with a packing and horsemanship clinic in early May. Thirty members attended the clinic to review our skills and improve upon some of the techniques that we have been using for years. After seminars and demonstrations, there was time for hands-on opportunities followed by a potluck and fellowship.

In mid May we started working in the Highwood Mountains on our adopted trails. This usually takes multiple weekends with the wind blowing snags down constantly. Our Memorial Day ride at the Highwoods was widely attended by a good number of members and many guests. Several members and guests vacationed at the campground for multiple nights. The pleasant weather provided us with abundant riding opportunities. A week later mother nature dumped a whopping ten inches of rain down in one evening. This caused major damage and washed out the campground we had just enjoyed; although it was discouraging it gives us numerous opportunities for grant work next year.

In early June we worked in the Little Belt Mountains on National Trails Day. This was the first time we worked in Hoover Creek. We installed many water bars and took out some major water log jambs that were overflowing the creek and washing out the trail. On that weekend our members bumped into a large bull moose on the trail that at first did not want to give way. Upon seeing several horses he soon retreated up the drainage. The area so impressed our members that we are presently in the process of adopting this trail.

Late June we rode the Continental Divide, another of our adopted trails, from Roger’s Pass to Fletcher’s Pass. On this ride we did not have many trees to cut out and the view is always spectacular.

In early July we ventured over to Indian Meadows outside of Lincoln. There we camped out for a week with members clearing many miles of trail with chain saw and cross cut. Our club also built jack fences for the Forest Service that were installed later. This is always a fun week seeing that we have the ranger cabin to ourselves and are secluded from the rest of the campground.

In early August we packed Montana Conservation Corp crew into Tobin’s Gulch. The MCC crew repaired the trail from Tobin’s to Pilgrim Creek. As with any packing situation when you go to pack them back out you take along one less horse for the reason that they should have eaten all of their food consequently having far less to pack out. Well, these guys had a Japanese horse (motorcycle) and must have ridden out every night to bring in more stuff. I couldn’t believe my eyes when we arrived at the campground and found more gear to pack out than they had with them when we packed them in. With a little creative packing we managed to get everything out in one load. Two weeks later we supplied horses to take the MCC crew boss and head of OHV in to look at their accomplishments.

Mid August rolled around and we rode down into the Tenderfoot drainage of the Little Belts where you can be assured of chain sawing all day long. We noticed that after a recent earthquake a rock slide had narrowed the trail in some areas. This will be work for a future year. In this narrow drainage you cross the creek thirty some times in ten miles. If your horse doesn’t like creek crossings this is not the place to take him.

By September the club was gearing up for our biggest packing of the year. Members arrived in Glacier Park immediately following the Labor Day weekend. We hauled gravel to fill in trail that was getting extensive horse pressure from park guides. This was the first time as a club we hauled gravel and we successfully moved 40 yards in four days. Our members worked with the park packer and other trail personnel to make the week successful. By week’s end all horses were tired but we could see the accomplishment and knew that the repair would last for years. It will take several more years to complete the work all the way to Cracker Lake.

We finished out September with small work projects and doing some planning on grant work for next year. We are still very much involved in the travel plan for the Little Belt Mountains. This was by far our busiest year and we look forward to getting out next summer.

In addition to the work projects, club members participated in community service and fundraisers to benefit our club.
The Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen have repeated many projects and activities over the years. A notable exception was Camp Eureka! which allowed children who are blind or visually impaired to explore western Montana’s wetlands and forests under the guidance of mentors who are blind, and with educators and naturalists who are trained to work with children who have visual impairments. Most importantly, the camp offered the children a chance to share in activities and stories with other children who have vision impairments, learn new skills, gain confidence and have a great time.

On the last day of the camp, Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen supported this activity by providing a hands-on opportunity for the participants to set up a wilderness campsite and participate in a scaled down equine safety and packing clinic at the Teller Wildlife Refuge just north of Corvallis, Montana. To be honest, it seemed like the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen members had as much fun introducing the eager campers to the joys of mules, horses, packing and backcountry camping as the campers did learning about it all.

The day began with a Dutch oven cooking demonstration. Sue Pearson involved the kids in concocting strawberry and peach desserts called “dump cakes”. While the happy campers headed off to the next station, Sue stacked the ovens and began cooking lunch for the crew. At the next station, each participant had an opportunity to touch and brush a horse or mule. Then they sorted out exactly what went into the packs and assisted with the loading process before leading the animals back to camp. When the animals were tacked up and ready to load, a couple of stowaways were found in two of the pack bags, hoping for a ride to camp. Hmmm, clever guys!

After getting back to the camp, the critters were unloaded and tents laid out and set up. The campers tackled the tent raising process with much enthusiasm and gusto. This required a great deal of courage from our members who held onto stakes while some of the visually impaired and blind participants pounded the stakes into the ground. Eventually the tents were raised and everyone was pleased with their accomplishment.

The final activity involved eating the meal that the kids had helped with earlier in the day. When the day’s experience came to a close, both Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen members and Camp Eureka! campers headed home with great memories, shared laughter and just a bit wistful that it was all over.
The Rotten Truth Behind Rain Rot
By Jeffrey Rolo
Submitted by: Charlie O’Leary
Mile High BCH

Caused by the Dermatophilus congolensis bacterium, equine rain rot is one of the more common skin infections that can afflict horses and is actually unique in a couple ways:

- The fungal infection does not progress further than the skin or cause abscesses like other infections (such as strangles).
- The cure actually hurts more than the infection!

Rain rot (also called rain scald) is an anaerobic infection that requires the absence of oxygen to live and spread. When a horse catches rain rot he will develop a series of crusty scabs and/or matted/raised tufts of hair that, when pulled off, will most often exhibit pink skin laced with some pus. Rain rot is contagious, generally transmitted by shared horse tack (such as blankets), mutual rubbing posts such as a fence, etc. Although contagious, there are some factors that place the odds against rain rot:

- The Dermatophilus congolensis bacterium cannot survive when exposed to air, so the horse's coat needs to remain wet for a long period of time. This usually happens when moisture is captured under a thick coat of winter hair.
- There must be a way for the bacteria to get under the horse's skin, such as an abrasion or a bug bite. If the bacteria cannot reach the epidermis your horse is safe.

Given the way this infection works, the most obvious form of prevention is keeping your horse dry during periods of intense rainfall. Climates that are dry such as Arizona don’t see much occurrences of rain rot, while very humid areas like Florida will be a far easier breeding ground for these bacteria. In addition groom your horse often, particularly during the early spring months. Not only will removing the winter coat make your partner more elegant, it will make it far more difficult for rain rot to take root.

What should you do if your horse does develop an unsightly case of rain rot? First, don’t let it stress you out - studies have indicated a horse feels no pain, itching or discomfort from the infection itself. It is also superficial and relatively harmless. Ugly, yes - but harmless. That being said, rain rot should be addressed as soon as possible to prevent the appearance of secondary bacterial infections that also enjoy the presence of moisture.

Treatment consists of bathing your horse and lathering him in antimicrobial shampoo. As you do this try to pick off the scabs, but beware - this can cause discomfort and pain to the horse (remember when I said the cure hurts more than the infection?), so take it slow. The task might seem distasteful, but it's necessary because otherwise the infection can continue to thrive underneath the scabs. By removing the scabs you are exposing the skin to air (and by default oxygen), which will cause the infection to dry up and heal. The baths should take place for approximately seven days.

Also important is to make sure the horse remains in a dry and ventilated area during the treatment. Adequate protection against bug bites should also be provided.

Finally, there are other bacterial infections, skin allergies and parasites that can create symptoms that appear similar to horse

♫ Put feeder goldfish in pasture water tanks - they will feed off mosquito larvae (great West Nile prevention!) that mosquitoes deposit in the water.

♫ For homemade Fly Spray, use 1 cup distilled white vinegar, 1 cup water and 1/3 cup DAWN® Dishwashing Liquid.

♫ Keep a gallon of liquid CLOROX® at your barn for cleaning things like water buckets, dog dishes, barn bath areas and stall walls. The CLOROX® will keep fungus from growing and will easily remove algae and bacteria from water buckets.
Upper Clark Fork Happenings
By: Dayna Gilman

Our club’s riding schedule for 2005 began in May with a nice easy ride and I don’t mean for the horse as much as for the riders. We rode across some gradual slopes and a “not to steep” draw. Our weather was good until it was time to eat. We all participated in providing pot luck food and our host provided barbeques chicken. We all had a great time.

In June we went on a four hour ride to Elk Ridge. Well it was suppose to be a four hour ride, but it turned into about an eight hour ride. We had our little mule “Lilly” with use to carry our lunch. The first trickle of a stream began her first peril. She was not going to cross, so after some patient coaxing., I finally dallied the lead on my horn and with a slap from behind and a big “yee haw” from me, this little mule went straight up in the air and out! I was lucky she wasn’t in my lap. After lunch in a beautiful mountain top meadow, we rode further West and came upon this spectacular view.

The most memorable ride for some may have been the Baggs Creek work party or maybe we should call it Baggs Creek “scat” party. Friday afternoon Pat and Charlie met up with a sow and cub and chased them off the trail. Wendy was on her way to camp on her 4-wheeler and misplaced the trail and Pat had to go back and find her on his mule. Once all were back in camp, the guys decided to see how long it would take Wendy to notice the bear scat. They had a nice night sleeping under the stars and got busy the next morning setting up the tents and then went out to clear the trail. Sunday morning they had another bear visit their camp.

The first two weeks in July the club is running with our heads cut off getting the annual “fun ride” set up. Everyone does their part and this “fund ride” weekend has been quite a success for our club. I think the one reason it is such a success is because we have just as much fun as the public does. I could go on and on about the stories the past “fun ride” weekends have created. Saturday morning, at the crack of sawn, members are on the trail heading for their assigned check points. Other members are drinking coffee and greeting riders and selling poker hands, barbeque tickets and 50/50 tickets. Soon it seems all participants are on the trail and we breath just in time to start preparing lunch and setting out all the wonderful prizes. We have a first and second place poker hand drawing and a table full of other donated prizes.

The rest of the evening finds most of the members and guests relaxing around the campfire. Some are tied up with a rope trick and others may be singing songs or trying to sing.

Our next work party was clearing trail at Cottonwood Lakes. This ride was in August and it was hot, hot, hot and the tress across the trail were big, big, big. I did learn one very important thing; if you ride in the front you get first shot at cutting the trees that are in the trail.
Beartooth Chapter continues support of the BCH Mission
Submitted by: Carolyn Eucker

In the February 2006 edition of “News”, Chairman Dave Crawford wrote, “It is very important that we continue to share our knowledge by encouraging and soliciting active participation in our chapters through education of stock handling, packing and leave no trace camping...” He also stated, “...it is very important that the message we give is within our mission statement...”

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen members “shared their knowledge” on a beautiful spring day April 15 when the chapter held its sixth annual Spring Clinic at club member Dan Aadland’s ranch. Flyers and newspaper articles drew an audience from a three-county area. Boy Scouts, 4-H members and kids of all ages were invited to attend. The first segment of the clinic, presented by Dan focused on how to cope with and react to equines met while sharing a trail.

A highlight of the clinic was not presented by the adult BBCH members but by two skilled and experienced back country horsemen.

Buck Highberger, age 16, and Ceily Highberger, age 13, were the hit of the morning when they rode their horses and lead a pack mule to a demonstration Leave-No-Trace camp site on the ranch. While members Ernie Strum, Dave Schilz and [proud dad] Tom Highberger discussed LNT techniques, Buck and Ceily were efficiently securing their stock and setting up a comfortable camp.

Tom reviewed the equipment he takes on a camp trip and explained items that could serve double duty. Dave Schilz made clear that horses tied to trees can leave damage. The training required to acquaint a horse to hobbles or picket was discussed.

Ali Lorash and Mikela Lorash, ages 10 and 9, showed their reining skills as their dad, professional horse trainer Mike Lorash, discussed transitioning from a snaffle bit to a curb bit. Guest presenter Vickie Wilson, LPN, gave a lively demonstration--complete with an unconscious “victim”--of first aid in the back country. Guest speaker Mark Matheny told his story of surviving an attack by a grizzly bear. Mark used two youngsters from the audience to play the roles of the grizzly bear and the bear-spray wielding hiker, illustrating reaction time when surprised by a bear.

The event was a success by all measures. Four families signed up to become members. In keeping with the mission to assist various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands, BBCH is actively spearheading a partnering among the Montana Wilderness Association (Eastern Wild lands Chapter), Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Stillwater County, Montana Conservation Corp and private businesses. The partnership is an ambitious venture to provide access to a State School Section upon which is located Lily Pad and Crater Lakes. The area currently has access only by an undefined bushwhack trail through federal land or through adjoining closed private property.

The wish-list of recreational activities and features includes an interruptive trail system, a primitive state park, a trailhead with a parking area and non-motorized trail across the federal land. In an effort to give BBCH members and representatives of the involved agencies an opportunity to become better acquainted, BBCH hosted a weekend hike, ride and camp out at Weatherman Draw in the Pryor Mountains. Howard Boggess, Director Emeritus of the Hardin Museum and Crow Tribal Oral Historian, served as guide and teacher as 39 BBCH members and guests hiked and rode through the draw viewing countless pictographs and petroglyphs.

Mike Penfold, retired Assistant Director of the BLM and former National Forest Supervisor was also on hand to lend his knowledge of the high desert area. Mike and Howard were made honorary members of BBCH.

Please see Beartooth, page 15
WOMEN ONLY
Submitted by: Sue Peterson
Bitterroot BCH

The plan was simple—BCH Women’s Only Day to practice survival skills as well as talk about “The Fear Factor” in going to the hills. The speaker was lined up. She is a dyed-in-the-wool outdoors woman, retired physical education instructor from the U of M, now instructs with FWP Hunter Education Program, an avid, and very successful hunter in her own right. She’s taken 18 bull elk, 3 big horn sheep, caribou, and moose, etc, etc. Often she hunts alone and loves to X-country ski. Her name is Mavis Lorenz and she is 79 years young.

The advertising is done, and the sign-up sheet has 22 names. March 11 dawns a little chilly to start, but the sun is shining. Cowboy coffee and hot water for cocoa and tea are hanging over an open fire. Dutch ovens full of chili and corn bread are ready and there are goodies galore. Eighteen women start the day, and yes, guys, 18 ladies are accounted for at the end of the day. We all survive.

Mavis begins with a session on what is needed to survive in the out-of-doors: warmth, shelter, food and water. We can survive 30 days without food, 6 days without water, and only 24 hours (shorter in extreme conditions) without warmth and shelter. We discuss 5 ways of losing heat: 1. Conduction – the transfer of heat to an adjacent colder medium-air, ground, etc. Wear clothing with many pores such as wool or down. 2. Convection – removal of heat by motion of surrounding air – wind chill – especially dangerous if clothing is wet. Always have rain gear or something like a garbage bag for protection. 3. Radiation – transfer of heat waves to the air. Wear proper clothing, especially a hat. We can lose up to 75% of our body heat through the head. From Mavis, “If your feet are cold, put something on your head.” 4. Respiration – warm air is exhaled, cold inhaled. Breath through the nose, cover your mouth. 5. Clothing- Keep dry - wear breathable clothing so you don’t overheat, sweat and by evaporation become cold.

Remaining calm is perhaps the most important factor in survival. Knowledge and skills are essential in overcoming fear. We list some fears and discuss ways to combat those fears. Some that we discuss are: 1. Bears and other animals. Carry bear spray and know how to use it. Keep it on your belt-not in your pack. Know the difference between grizzly and black bears and the difference in how to react. 2. Things that go “Bump in the night” – investigate – may only be a mouse or a pine cone falling. 3. Dark – use your night eyes as long as possible. A fire or a flash light can help. 4. Injury to self or horse – prevention is best. Know First Aid. 5. Getting lost – have and know how to use a map and compass. Take note of landmarks. 6. Heights – get off horse and walk. 7. Weird-o’s – bear spray and other weapons.

On a short hike, we find a good spot for a shelter and make a bough bed with 8-10” fir boughs. We then make a shelter with a small tarp/space blanket, and a plastic bag. We also make a water proof sleeping bag with plastic bags. Mavis showed us how to use a fir tree for shelter and natural materials to make a wind break.

Back across the creek, we talk about materials to start a fire. Fires are important for heat, cooking, purifying water, drying clothing, signaling for help and to cheer you. In pairs we gather our kindling, etc., to make a fire that we could boil water over. The assignment is to sing when we get our fire started – soon there’s singing and lots of laughter. Singing and playing mind games are ways to pass the time while waiting for help if injured or lost. Three of anything, for example fires, is a signal for help.

While lunch is being finished up, Mavis empties her pack, showing all of her survival gear. One unusual item is a dog collar that is used for tracking hounds – a system she has worked out, so that her hunting friends with hounds can find her if she fails to return on time. Always leave a note telling where you are going and when you expect to be back. Mavis is asked if she carries ID or medical information. Her reply is that she has her hunting license with her name and a credit card with her name. Next question, “Why a credit card?” Reply, “I may be stopping to have a beer on the way home.”

Each person receives a small survival item: whistle, space blanket, or match case. Door prizes are given out: flash light, flint and steel, horseshoe hangers, chocolates, etc. Lunch is served and we all enjoy some visiting time. There are lots of questions for Mavis. She even gives instruction on boning an elk without gutting. I’m sure, I for one, would have trouble keeping up with our teacher. All in all --- a successful and informative day --- but most of all – fun!

Big thank-you’s to Mavis our teacher, Joy Price with help from Sue Pearson for organizing, Dennis Price and John Pearson for their help and to Joy, Sue, and Kathy Mauer for the food. Special thanks to all who came and made the day!!!
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@vikingcable.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
September 10  Flathead, Gallatin, Greater Yellowstone, Hi-Line, Judith Basin & Last Chance
January 10  Mile High, Mission Valley, Missoula, Three Rivers & Upper Clark Fork

IF YOU HAVE MOVED OR PLAN TO MOVE

NAME: ___________________________ PHONE NUMBER: ___________________________
ADDRESS: ___________________________ CITY/STATE: ___________________________

Please complete this form and mail to Linda Brewer, PO Box 31837, Billings, MT 59107.
Right to Ride Bill in jeopardy from hikers!!!

Hi Montana:
The attached is a position taken and being pursued by the High Sierra Hikers Association in California. It is necessary for horsemen to overwhelm our congressional delegation to establish our continued “Right to Ride”. Please contact all horsemen and other supportive groups to affirm our position on this legislative bill.
Merlyn Huso, Chairman
BCHA

Attention Back Country Horsemen!!!

The below statements come from the High Sierra Hikers Association and can be viewed on their website in its entirety. Are we going to idly sit back and let them get away with this? I for one think not, if you have written your letters to your congressional delegates already about Right-to-Ride Legislation, I would encourage you to do it again and get everybody you know that supports stock use to please do the same! This is a prime example of how things would like to be in California, we can not afford to let this slip by with out taking action. I know our club has just asked all members to write letters, but please do it again, and for those that did not, now is the time to get it done. PLEASE DON’T LEAVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE; it does make a difference if everybody does their part. To find the addresses of our congressional delegates and/or e-mail click on; http://www.bchmt.org/Delegates.htm

Support H. R. 586 (“Right-to-Ride”)

Hiker Alert! http://www.highsierrahikers.org/ha-right-to-ride.html
Oppose “Right-to-Ride” Bill

Horse and mule users (including commercial pack stock outfits) are lobbying Congress to “grandfather” their existing stock animal uses (and abuses) of wilderness, parks, and forests. All concerned hikers are urged to contact their U.S. representative and their two senators, as soon as possible, to prevent this horrible legislation from becoming law. Your letters now will make a huge difference.

The bill (H.R. 586), called the “Right-to-Ride Livestock on Federal Lands Act of 2005,” would create a new federal law that says (among other things):

“As a general rule, all trails, routes, and areas used by pack and saddle stock shall remain open and accessible for such use.”

The bill could be interpreted to require the completion of expensive and time-consuming “environmental impact statements” before

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Cost By Number of Insertions

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the land management agencies could place any new restrictions on stock use. This would make it very difficult for the agencies to close any routes to stock animals, or to limit stock numbers, even where resource damage is well documented.

**What You Can Do:**

Send a letter ASAP to your U.S. representative and to each of your two U.S. senators and ask them to OPPOSE H.R. 586. Say the following:

1. You strongly OPPOSE H.R. 586 (“Right-to-Ride”)
2. No user group should receive such preferential treatment
3. The agencies should be able to limit any and all uses that are damaging to public lands and/or substantially harmful to the experience of other visitors. HR 586 would only delay and/or prevent them from doing so.

End your letter by repeating that you urge your representative or senator to strongly OPPOSE HR 586.

If you live in California, your two senators are Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer.

This is the current address list of our congressional delegates from Montana.

**Senator Max Baucus:** Home Office: 222 N. 32nd St. Ste. 100 Billings, MT 59101 Phone: 406-657-6790
Washington Office: 511 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-2602
Phone: 202-224-2651
Baucus Web Site: [www.baucus.senate.gov](http://www.baucus.senate.gov) Send e-mail from this web site.

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**Senator Conrad Burns:** Home Office: 222 N. 32nd St. Ste. 400 Billings, MT 59101 Phone: 406-252-0550
Washington Office: 187 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-2603
Phone: 202-224-2644
Burns Web Site: [www.burns.senate.gov](http://www.burns.senate.gov) Send e-mail from this web site.

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**Rep. Dennis Rehberg:** Home Office: 1201 Grand Ave. Ste. 1 Billings, MT 59101 Phone: 406-256-1019
Washington Office: 516 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-3211
Rehberg Web Site: [www.house.gov/rehberg/index.shtml](http://www.house.gov/rehberg/index.shtml) Send e-mail from this web site.

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### Remembering Homer……

I’m sure that by now everyone has heard the bad news. Homer Shanoltz, a long time member of the Charlie Russell Back Country Horsemen has passed away. He served in both director positions and several times as an officer of our organization. Homer was always pulling a joke on someone and you never knew when it was going to be your turn. He was also most generally the first one to be at a campsites, I think he wanted the best site, always ready to go for a horse-back ride and the last to leave. For many years he took care of our tool boxes and picked up the mail from the post office and mailed the newsletters. He worked on many of our work projects and on numerous times was the trail boss. He was a very familiar with the Bob Marshal Wilderness and enjoyed hunting just about any place he could do so with his horses. Although he was not on many of our rides last year, due to illness, he will be missed.

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Beartooth, continued from page 11

A Saturday night barbecue was provided by BBCH and club members demonstrated no-trace and camp cooking skills by “wowing” everyone with varied dutch oven desserts. Ron Nusbaum, BBCH member and event coordinator, observed, “whether we call our groups Back Country or Wilderness there is a common thread that ran through all of us assembled for this outing, that being our love, respect and passion for the pristine natural places and things still available.”

BBCH is made up of a band of individuals who share a vision and passion--preserving the heritage of horses in America’s back country and wilderness. That passion supports and sustains the day-by-day and year-by-year effort necessary to remain true to the mission. The club logged 1290 hours of trail work and education on its 2005 report to BCH of America. Over 7800 miles of personal vehicle mileage and stock hauling mileage, combined with 365 hours of travel time, illustrates it was a busy year.
### MONTANA BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEÑ STATE CHAPTERS

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