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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
Chairman, continued from page 1

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, 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 designation, 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 June 15-16 at the Seiben Ranch, north of Helena. 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 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 was 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 on to 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.
Packing clinic, projects and fun
were just some of the functions of the East Slope BCH
“2006” A Year in Review
Submitted by: Fred Fitzpatrick & Connie Manning

After holding our annual elections and club dinner in January, it was time to start setting our calendar for the year with the work projects that we wanted to accomplish. We chose five work projects and also a fun weekend for club members and their families. We held a packing clinic and pie social in Choteau. First, we attended the Annual Back Country Horsemen of Montana State Convention. The convention was held in Polson, MT by the Mission Valley club. Along with taking care of the business of the Back Country Horsemen of Montana, the convention was a fun time as usual.

The packing clinic held in April had approximately twenty people in attendance, and we got some incite on packing procedures and fitting pack saddles to your animals. Kathy Howard of Two Trails Saddlery in Choteau provided the part of saddle fitting and Dana Rogers of the ESBCH gave the packing demonstrations. After the packing clinic, we were treated to some very good beef stew and fresh baked rolls for supper, by Connie, Bob and Sue. This was followed by many types of exquisite pies for desserts brought by members and guests. If you went away hungry, all I can say is that it was your own fault. We also had some interest from some of our guests in joining the Back Country Horsemen; so all in all, it was a very worthwhile clinic.

Our plan for the fun weekend that was to be held at Gibson Reservoir west of Augusta was met with our first major rains of spring and unfortunately had to be cancelled. The plan was to hold a fun outing for all club members and their families. We were also going to do our horse safety course at that time and for non-riders, they could go boating, fishing or enjoy some hiking and site seeing.

For our first work project we would be doing some trail clearing in the Dearborn Drainage. The trails to work were Whitetail Creek trail and Blacktail Creek trail. We decided to meet in Augusta at Mel’s at 7:00 A.M., but of course having members coming from all over, it was difficult to get everybody there at the same time. So after departing the trailhead we arrived at our camping spot that Dana and Bob had picked a week earlier. Whitetail Creek is about 7 miles long and this would include doing the initial opening as well as cleaning water bars. Blacktail Creek is about 3 ½ miles long which would include the initial opening, water-bar cleaning, minor retreat in the upper 1/2 mile. The Blacktail creek trail is also part of the National Continental Divide trail. The real excitement of the weekend was when Bob’s horses and mules decided to go for an evening stroll by themselves. Bob and Don caught up with them the next afternoon on the road to Augusta. After a nice weekend and getting back to the trailhead, we were greeted by a thunder storm, so after frantically unloading pack animals and getting horses in the trailers, we all met in Augusta at the Buckhorn for a bite to eat and a beer.

The Elk Creek project was the next order of business. For this project we planned to camp at the Forest Service Elk Creek corral and tack shed. But when we arrived, we found an area that was closer to the trailhead so we would not have to trailer the animals to the trailhead to start the work project. Besides the grass in the area that we camped was four feet high in places and the animals all thought they had died and gone to heaven. We were definitely not ready for this project as we found so much deadfall across the trails (this area had been burned in 1988). The Weasel Creek trail had not been cleared for two years, needless to say, we were unable to clear all the trails that weekend.

In September we were scheduled to build a bridge on Ray Creek on the North Fork of the Sun River. We were going to pack in the bridge planking and materials for the bridge, but the week before we were ready to go, the Forest Service canceled the project because upon further review of the area and heavy rains caused a spring too escalate near the bridge and would require a longer bridge or turnpike, so the Forest Service decided to abort the project and further review their options.

So with our Labor Day project officially cancelled, we decided to hold a fun weekend, but once again the plan fell apart with many members unable to attend. It was then we decided to go back to Elk Creek and finish the trail project there.

On Friday afternoon September 1, we set out for Augusta and the Elk Creek Trailhead. After grabbing a bite to eat at the Buckhorn in beautiful downtown Augusta, we were off to the trailhead. After finding our previous camp site at Bailey Creek had been overtaken with bovine and the fact that there was no water in the creek, we had to find a new camp spot. Saturday morning arrived and the preparations of making breakfast and getting ready to tackle Weasel Creek. Dr. Dick and Terry York arrived an hour early (8:00 A.M.), but luckily breakfast was almost done, and Debbie had the lunches ready so after breakfast it was off to work. We started at the bottom of Weasel Creek at the junction of Trail 215. With Ron running the chain saw and having Dr. Dick and Fred getting rid of the logs as they were sawed, Terry and Debbie brought the animals behind us and also did trail blazing and scouting out front when we were unsure of the trail. After 8 excruciating hours, low and behold, we made it a whole half of mile when checked with the GPS. Knowing full well we would never finish on Saturday, we rode off for camp and some much deserved dinner. Dr. Dick and Terry left for home after dinner. Sunday morning arrived, and with some coaxing from Ron, Debbie and Fred agreed to go tackle the trail once again. This time we were going to start at the top. We kind of got a late start; after all it was Sunday. We stopped twice to clear logs that had fallen on the trail since the last time that Debbie, Melinda and Fred were over it on the previous Elk Creek project. We then stopped and fixed the Steamboat Trail sign. We

East Slope continued on page 6
Three Rivers Back Country Horsemen Activities
Submitted by: Larry Jordan

Three Rivers Chapter of Back Country Horsemen had a very ambitious schedule planned for 2006. Best intentions frequently go astray, but we did pull off over two thirds of planned events as follows:

**Trailer Maintenance Day 3/18:** Tom Hough, Andy Allard and Dave Mathson volunteered to conduct a safety inspection for member’s horse trailers. Wheel bearings were lubricated during the inspection.

**Sand Hollow Fun Ride 4/8:** Dan Pence served as trail boss for a combined spring fun ride followed by an outdoor barbecue when members returned to the vehicles. Eighteen members and friends (including two 6 and 8 year old grandchildren) completed the ride. We didn’t get to a historic buffalo jump but finished the barbecue just before a spring thunder storm swept through the area.

**Kid’s Day 5/13:** Tom Hough served as trail boss for Kid’s Day and conducted a packing demonstration at Beaverhead County Fair Grounds. Twelve members brought ten horses for community children to ride around the fair grounds followed by a lunch of hot dogs, chips and cold drinks. Members presented horse packing and Leave No Trace demonstrations. Over 50 children and their parents attended this event.

**National Trail Day 6/3:** Gordon Ash (Dillon Ranger District, USFS) served as trail boss while 13 members used 25 horses and mules to pack bridge decking and other supplies to construction sites on the Sawtooth Lake Trail. Much of the area burned in a major forest fire in 2004.

**Peet Creek Fence Project 6/10:** This project remains for the future. Plans were to roll up a mile of barb wire from an abandoned fence on the BLM. Heavy spring rain with snow at higher elevation forced postponement.

**Beaverhead County Weed Day 7/8:** Members normally treat noxious weeds in areas inaccessible to motorized vehicles. Coordination with county officials did not develop, but we’ll be there next year!

**Bannack Days Horse Packing and LNT Demonstrations 7/15-16:** Dave Mathson, Dan Pence, Tom Hough, Mike Murphy and Bob McNeil presented four packing demonstrations and maintained a LNT demonstration during this annual two day historic celebration at Bannack State Park.

**Rock Creek Bridge Construction 8/5-6:** We were ready to pack decking and construct two bridges across Rock Creek on the Waukina Lake Trail. Unfortunately a major rock slide closed the road miles below the project, turning the crew back. We’ll get them next year!

**Sand Lake Overnight 8/26-7:** Bob McNeil was trail boss for an overnight pack trip to Sand Lake in the West Pioneer Mountains east of Wisdom. Seven members rode various trails around the area and enjoyed fishing in the lake. Significant violations of the Forest Service Travel Plan by motorized vehicles was noted and reported to the Forest Service. Significant damage is occurring along some of the trails and meadows involved.

**Beaverhead County Labor Day Parade 9/4:** Larry Davies was trail boss, leading several members representing Back Country Horsemen in the parade.

**National Public Lands Day 9/30:** The BLM has obtained an old mining cabin on Barton Gulch east of Ruby Reservoir that is available as a recreation rental. Four members cleaned the cabin and prepared the site so a corral can be constructed to accommodate cabin rental by those with horses.

**Chapter Christmas Party 12/8:** Members and families joined together to celebrate the holiday season, completing activities for 2006.

Several members were unable to participate in all rides and activities. In reality, we scheduled heavily towards work projects and may need more “fun” rides. Not everyone can take time from work to complete training required to participate in federal...
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 1/2 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
also had to be hospitable and visit with a couple of bow hunters who told us how much they appreciated the work the Back Country Horsemen do. So by the time we got to the top of Weasel Creek it was 12:30 pm. So after spending almost an hour trying to find the trail where Debbie, Melinda and Fred had left off previously, but could not find the trail, we made it approximately another 2/10 of a mile. With both ends of the trail cleared around a half mile on both ends, we still had around 1.3 miles in the middle to clear.

The Swift Dam work project was canceled due to rain. With all the cancellations, rain delays, we were unable to finish the Elk Creek Trail project. Although it was not that we did not try, it was just more clearing than we bargained for. The club will need to address these projects once again this coming year.

In October, there was a new addition to the Hutton and ESBCH family; Abigail Nelle Hutton, was born on the 21st, at 2:31 am, she weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. and came out squalling.
Can plant and weed seeds contained in horse manure, hooves, and hay, cause non-native plant species (plants that were introduced to that ecosystem but do not grow there naturally) to spread along trails and into parks and forests? This is an ecological question that often arises. Stith T. Gower, PhD, of the Department of Forest Ecology and Management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has determined that while there are seeds from weed and non-native plant species in horse manure and hay, the plants that result don't survive or spread on trails. Therefore, horses do not appear to be a major source for the introduction of non-native species.

"Non-native plant species pose a serious ecological and economic threat to managed and natural ecosystems," said Gower. "Therefore, there is a great need to identify major sources for the introduction of non-native species and implement management plans to reduce or eliminate their introduction. Horses have been suggested to be an important source for the introduction of non-native plant species along trails, but the data are largely anecdotal."

The objectives of two studies were to determine if horse hay, manure, and hoof debris samples contained seeds from non-native species, and if so, whether their seeds would germinate and establish on the trails.

Gower took samples of horse hay, manure, and hoof debris from 12-24 horses at each of five American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) rides held in North Carolina, Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Subsets of these samples were sown in potting buckets and grown outdoors in ideal conditions in Madison. In addition, samples from the horses at each ride were placed back on the horse trail.

On average, non-native plant species germinated from 5.2% of the hay samples placed in the potting buckets, indicating horse hay contains seeds from nonnative plant species. However, only three of the 288 hay, manure, and hoof debris samples placed on the horse trail contained plants after the first growing season, and no surviving plants were observed after the second season.

Gower also did vegetation surveys along 50-meter (150-foot) survey lines perpendicular to horse and hiking (horses not permitted) trails at three of the five sites to compare species composition of native and non-native plants. He wanted to determine if newly introduced plant species were moving into ecosystems adjacent to the horse trails and trails that prohibited horses.

Species composition and percent of total non-native plant species did not differ between horse and hiker trails, and the non-native plant species always occurred within 2 meters (6 feet) of the trail. Other potential sources for non-native species might be birds, he said. "Many studies have observed that trails and roads (of all uses) facilitate the establishment of non-native species," added Gower.

"The results of this and other studies demonstrate that horse hay and manure contains seeds of non-native plant species, but native and non-native plant species rarely become established on horse trails because of the adverse effects of harsh environmental conditions and frequent disturbance on seedling establishment," concluded Gower.

For more information about the study, e-mail Gower at stgower@wisc.edu. The study was funded by the American Endurance Ride Conference (www.aerc.org).
What is your horse’s body condition?

The following numerical scoring system will help you find the answer to this question

Submitted by: Ron Stuber

This numerical condition scoring system provides a consistent measure of the degree of body fat in horses of various breeds and sizes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition Score</th>
<th>Descriptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>POOR: Animal extremely emaciated. Spinous processes, ribs, tailhead and hooks and pins projecting prominently. Bone structure of withers, shoulders and neck easily noticeable. No fatty tissues can be felt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>MODERATELY THIN: Negative crease along back. Faint outline of ribs discernible. Tailhead prominence depends on conformation, fat can be felt around it. Hook bones not discernable. Withers, shoulders, and neck not obviously thin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>MODERATE: Back level. Ribs cannot be visually distinguished but can be easily felt. Fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy. Withers appear rounded over spinous processes. Shoulders and neck blend smoothly into body.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>MODERATE TO FLESHY: May have a slight crease down back. Fat over ribs feels spongy. Fat around tailhead feels soft. Fat beginning to be deposited along the sides of the withers, behind the shoulders and along the sides of the neck.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>FLESHY: May have crease down back. Individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable filling between ribs with fat. Fat around tailhead is soft. Fat deposited along withers, behind shoulders, and along the neck.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommendations for assigning scores:
Scoring is based on visual appraisal and handling of horses. Conformation differences between breeds or types do not affect scoring when all criteria are applied. Muscle tone should not be confused with fatness.
BCH of Montana Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, May 4, 2007
Lincoln, MT

- Minutes were read and approved with a few spelling corrections
- Treasurer’s Report - Checking balance $11,975.42; CD’s $8780.89 & $5454.27; Total Cash in bank $26,210.58
- RFD TV will air 27 episodes over 26 weeks, 3 times a day for 30 seconds of Mules, Mountain, Memories beginning in the Fall. Scott Thompson is making the video and owns a saddle shop in Sandpoint, ID. Bob Hoverson will have a great deal of input into the making of this video. The total cost for making this video is $100,000. BCH of MT will donate $1000 to the making of this video.
- Charlie O’Leary was involved in a meeting for Partnership Strategy (Citizens for Balanced Use). All this groups supporters are motorized except for a group called Citizens for Environmentalist Genocide. Should BCH sign on with this partnership plan? Motion made that we write a letter of support for the proposal made by the timber companies & MWA and consider a later date for joining this partnership. You can check out Montana Wilderness Association website for details on this proposal.
- Scott Kiser presented the remake of the BCH of MT presentation that he and his wife did. There were a lot of changes like the music, some of the photos and verbiage. Scott then opened the floor for comment. There were a few slight changes to be made and then BCH of MT will have some DVD’s made. Paul Evenson will pursue a grant to produce these videos for educational purposes. Videos cannot be sold. They can be given to someone and they can make a donation. We should send them to politicians, saddle clubs, etc. Ken Ausk made a motion that the state should fund production of these DVD’s because a grant will take some time. We should have enough copies to distribute to the board members by the next board meeting in September.
- Boy Scout Jamboree, June 15 & 16. Dave Crawford reported that he has enough volunteers to put this on; however, they do need someone to do the cooking. They plan to setup on June 14. It’s the 100th year anniversary for Boy Scouts. Dave encouraged all chapters to get involved.
- Defibrillators: this program was discontinued 2 years ago and the grant money that was being used for this program has been channeled to different programs. The cost for each unit is approximately $2500. Roundup for Safety, sponsored by the power company (REA), may offer grants to purchase safety products such as this. Scott Kiser mentioned that a person needs about 8 hours of training to operate this machine. He also added that the yellow electric fence controls would work just fine. Just put one on each side of the chest and “WOOP”.
- Selway-Pentler Chapter gave a presentation on “Quiet Users Coalition”. This is a statewide recreational alliance, (Montana Board continued on page 11
The Lily Pad-Crater Lake Project and other happenings from the Beartooth Range

When tasked with preparing an article for the BCH of Montana News, I was concerned that last summer’s Saunders and Derby fires may have curtailed Beartooth BCH work and fun projects. So I turned to our newsletters and reports for items of interest or significance to report from the Beartooth Range. I discovered two major on-going projects dominated our headlines but the year was also filled with our Mission work.

Carolyn Eucker

The Lily Pad-Crater Lake project continues to move forward. The project centers on providing access to Montana State School Trust land where both Lily Pad and Crater Lakes are located. The present access is only on an undefined bushwhack trip through federal land or through adjoining closed private property. Beartooth BCH has initiated and is spearheading the project by bringing together alliance partners, including Montana Wilderness Association, Montana DNRC, FWP, Montana Conservation Corps, US Forest Service, BLM and private businesses. In the spring of 2006 survey work was completed through the generous donation of Skip Bratten, a surveyor from Red Lodge, along with Heidi Pfosch and crew from the Billings BLM office. In May of this year, BBHC invited members of these agencies to a weekend camp-out and hike to the lakes. A spring snow storm foiled the basic plan, but 20 stalwart Forest Service, BLM and BBCH members gathered in a tiny travel trailer for an impromptu discussion of feasible trailhead options for the project. A “snow check” was issued to all the participants and the hike and BBQ will be rescheduled.

A grant from the Montana FWP, and with the approval of the Gallatin Forest, funded the first phase of restoration of cutthroat trout into Silver Lake. BBCH members’ packing skills were tested on three separate trips starting from a wilderness trailhead at 6000 feet and ending up six miles later at a 10,000 feet elevation lake.

The event started on July 3 when John Chepulis, Wes Dingman, and Paul Roccoforte did a two-day event packing in the gill nets and the fish shocker. Of course they did a lot of trail cleaning on the way.

July 30 John and Marilyn Simmons made trip number two with the boat and the all-important rower’s chair. The boat is a 12 long, 165 pound affair that broke down to 55 inch long pieces for packing on man or beast. The real problem on the trip was the top pack with the boat chair (the rowing platform) as it was high and round and you know what happens with a round top pack.

Crater Lake

At Jim Olsen’s (FWP) request John and Marilyn stayed a week. It snowed and rained every night but the days were sunny and warm. John and Bonnie Chepulis started trip number three when they joined John and Marilyn to pack out all the FWP equipment back to the dusty dry trail head, starting point 4000 feet below. They still needed the crosscut, since there is lots of wind up there.

BBCH member Bonnie Chepulis watches FWP intern John Clark taking nets out on Silver Lake.

Not every weekend was taken up with work projects. An overnight camp out and reconnaissance ride to the Dead Indian Trail was used to find and mark an abandoned trail which may be considered for future project work. Other weekend and day rides were held for the sheer joy of being in the back country.
and sharing the experience with friends.

While being on horseback is certainly enjoyable, administrative duties must also be attended to: The Bylaws of BBCH were reviewed and revised for clarification and to comply with the BCH of Montana constitution. The club wrote and distributed to all members the Guidelines for Conducting Horse Riding Activities containing rules for trip leaders as well as riders.

The Forest Service mandated Defensive Horsemanship Training course was held this spring. The event, held at Dan and Emily Aadland’s ranch, was well attended and enthusiastically received. Member instructors, with various equine-specialty resumes, trained both the novice and seasoned horsemen in defensive horsemanship practices. Several of the instructors accompanied two separate groups of riders around the ranch and gave all participants an opportunity to demonstrate an understanding of safe horsemanship skills.

Seventeen members received Cross Cut Saw certification and cleared approximately 60 downed trees from the 3 1/2 mile Elk Lake Trail in the process in May. BBCH members had an opportunity to visit with hikers on the trail and let them know about our club and what we were doing there. The hikers were very appreciative of our efforts.

Dan Aadland, host and instructor, reviews his notes while lecturing at the Defensive Horsemanship Clinic.

QuickTips

1. If you run out of sunscreen, white toothpaste can be used in an emergency to cover crucial areas and prevent burning.

2. Eye-drop bottles are a great way to carry small amounts of Tabasco, soap, and first-aid disinfectant. Pop off the dropper spout and rinse the bottle with a mild bleach solution before refilling. Mini liquor bottles work, too.

3. Mark important items like your flashlight, headlamp, watch, and water bottle with glow-in-the-dark tape so you can easily locate them at night.

4. If you are lost without a compass, point the hour hand of your watch at the sun. Halfway between the hour hand and 12 on the watch will be south. This even works with Daylight Saving Time.

Board continued from page 9

Traditional Trail Alliance). Would BCH of MT like to come in on a coalition with MT Back Country Hunters And Anglers and other recreational users, businesses, etc.? Feelings were that the directors should take this back to their membership and then bring these opinions back to the meeting in September. BCH of MT has an MOU with the MT Wilderness Association.

- The convention for 2008 will be held March 28-30 at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls. They plan to have workshops and possibly will have an agenda ready by the September meeting.

- Ken Ausk asked if BCH of MT would be interested in having the National Board of Directors meeting in 2010. It usually lasts about five days. No motions were made on this.

- Meeting adjourned at 3:50.
work projects, but are anxious to participate in rides where special “certification” is un-necessary. Others can’t participate in overnight trips due to family commitments. We are planning to schedule one fun ride and not more than one work project per month during the 2007 riding season.

Tony Woods

Andy Allard

Kathy Allard

You can also read your newsletter on-line at bchmt.org.
Pre-Convention – Friday, March 30, 2007

- A negative coggins is needed to ride in Yellowstone Park this year.
- Smoke Elser needs to know of any accidents involving horses in the back country.
- June 15-16, 2007 – Boy Scout Jamboree outside Helena. This will include packing, LNT, Dutch oven cooking. If you’d like to get involved/help out, contact Dave Crawford. Dave would like the state to pay for food for the Dutch oven classes for the BCH participants.
- The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation magazine “Bugle” will print quality written articles from BCH members. The BCH of MT has formed an alliance with the RMEF and they are currently working on a Memorandum of Understanding.
- The LNT course is full but there is another one coming up for Agencies and Smoke said we could probably get a couple people in this one. BCH can put in for a grant from the LNT Center for ½ of tuition for this course to be paid.
- Ron Stuber wants to start having workshops for new chapter officers at the conventions. These classes would teach newcomers to the officer positions what is required of the job.

General Session – Saturday, March 31, 2007

- Allen Rowley (USGS) spoke on the Northern Divide Grizzly Bear Project explaining how the study is conducted in order to get the bear population by area in the Glacier Park area.
- Charlie Russell Chapter will host the convention for 2008.
- John Favro (USFS) spoke on the 2007 budget for the USFS, travel planning, and trail maintenance funds. David Jaynes (BLM) spoke on travel planning. Mack Long with BCH of Missoula gave a presentation on wolves and wolf management.
- The 7 chapter resolutions were discussed. All resolutions were passed with the exception of #3 which was withdrawn by the chapter. All but one of the passed resolutions had changes. The National Directors will adapt resolution #6 to be for the BCHA and take it to the National Board meeting.
- National Directors were chosen: Senior Director: Chuck Miller (he has two more years before his terms out); Junior Director: Ken Ausk; Alternate Director: Rich Inman (Gallatin Valley Chapter)
Monies made for the state: $1697 from the state auction and $425 from the 50/50 raffle.

BCHMT officers were selected:
- Chairman: Ron Stuber
- Vice-Chairman: Charlie O’Leary
- Treasurer: Mark Himmel (Laurie Crawford & Mark Himmel were the nominees for this office)
- Secretary: Kathy Frazier

May 14-18 – Master LNT Trainer class
BCHMT will pay half ($312.50) each for 4 participants from MT to attend this class at the LNT Center in Boulder, CO. The LNT Center will pay the other half.

Ron Stuber is sending a press release to each chapter's local newspaper. The article will be about the local chapter members who attended the convention and something about the convention itself.

The president and spouses breakfast was extended to 3 delegates from each chapter that were experiencing difficulties. There was about 45 people in attendance. A few folks spoke on problems in their chapter, but time did not allow for much discussion. A form of this will be extended to the next convention, probably in a workshop format.

The next state Board meetings are:
- May 5 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Lincoln, MT
- September 8 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Broken Arrow in Deer Lodge
- December 8 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Smokes’ barn in Missoula

Smoke stated that communications between BCHA and BCHMT was lacking. A letter from BCHMT will be sent to BCHA asking that our national directors receive quarterly reports from each National Chairperson.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm Board of Directors Meeting
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

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Advertising Rates

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A 25% commission will be paid to individuals or chapters.
### MONTANA BACK COUNTRY HORSEMAN STATE CHAPTERS

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