

# Back Country Horsemen of Montana

## “News”

October 2006

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### Chairman's Message

We all welcome our two newest chapters into BCHMT. Back Country Horsemen of Wild Horse Plains, and the Selway/Pintlar Wilderness Back Country Horsemen. They are very enthusiastic and should be a great addition to our state organization. Their officers and contact information appears in our state directory and on our website.

Paul Evenson, our Education Committee Chairman, has been doing an outstanding job in providing us with all types of literature including everything from crosscut saw information to LNT to The Wilderness Act. Anyone interested, see your state board director.

One of my most important goals this year has been to promote and enlighten the general public of what BCH is all about and just what we do and who we are. I am still looking for a PR chairman, but a few members have stepped forward with some good ideas and we are gradually putting pieces together toward this end. Only a small number of our population knows that BCH is a volunteer service organization which also is involved with education, public lands, and our advocacy efforts. Our recreational use of the back country using saddle and pack stock needs to be advanced. I do not want to appear braggadocios, but if BCH doesn't get the word out,

See Chairman, page 2

### Back Country Horsemen of Montana

#### Mission Statement

- ◇ perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
- ◇ work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- ◇ assist various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands
- ◇ educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustained use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public, commensurate with our heritage.
- ◇ foster and encourage formation of new Back Country Horsemen organizations

## Chairman, continued from page 1

so that we do not lose access to these trails and areas of the back country, no one else will. Significant issues also need to be addressed such as trail classifications; the new forest and travel plans in the different national forests in Montana; lack of funding and inadequate trail maintenance; and trail closures, only to mention a few. BCH has made great advances during the past many years, but it appears as if the priorities of the public lands agencies seem to be less and less toward efforts of trails maintenance and recreational use. Whether this is due to lack of funding, lack of trail workers, or disinterest in maintaining trails, I'm not sure. But according to the recent article in the BCHA newsletter in a Public Liaison Committee report by Alan Hill, he points out that congressional appropriations for trails has not declined in the past several years. These funds have been maintained at the same level and in some instances have even increased nationwide. We need to hold the agencies accountable, especially, in the area of funds budgeted toward trail maintenance.

I feel this public awareness program could be addressed in several ways. 1. Contact major local newspapers in the state for items of local interest, feature articles, or just fillers. 2. We are presently getting funds and putting together a colored, multi-page brochure of BCH to be printed by FWP and potentially distributed by the FS, FWP, etc. in addition to our own members. We'll hear more about this at the December board meeting. 3. Scott Kiser is in the process of producing a power point presentation on BCHMT. Anyone having pictures of BCH at work, etc., please send them to Scott at 37218 Glory Rd., Polson, MT 59860. 4. Dan Marsh has a DVD made years ago on BCH which may also be valuable. All this material will be subject to supervision and approval of the state board. If anyone has other suggestions, please contact me.

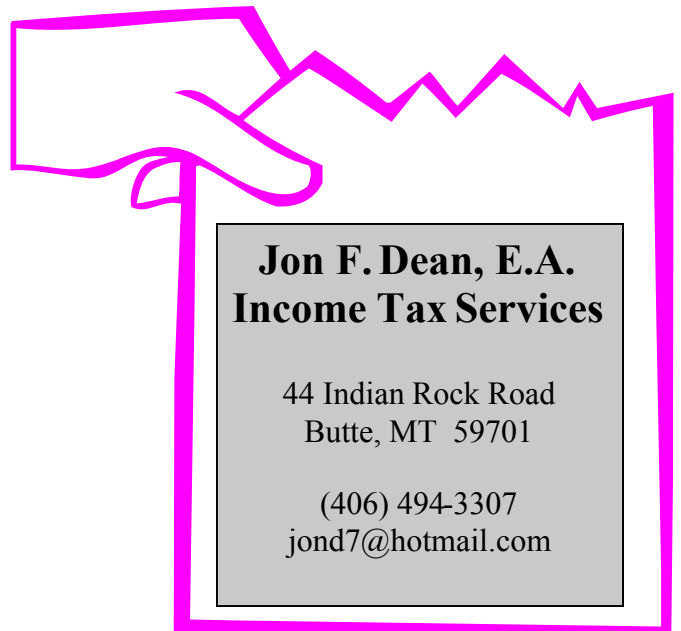
The Trail Trotters' Day 2006 Contest held nationally each year awarded the National Stewardship Award, 2006 to the Charlie Russell Back Country Horsemen of Montana for their work on June 3, 2006 to repair and restore Trail #454, which was deeply rutted up to 18". They won due to the diversity and difficulty of getting the trail back in safe condition so it can be enjoyed. They used pack horses to carry material to the difficult places on the

on the trail. Twenty-eight crew members coordinated loading, moving, and unloading five tons of clay and gravel - a total of fifty loads. They started working at 9 a.m. and finished the repairs at 6 p.m. for a total of 252 man-hours. There were six riders handling two pack animals as well as other trail crews along the way and at the main work site to coordinate passing along narrow stretches of trail and unloading the fill. Water diversion bars and a bridge were also installed along the route; all were built/installed per Forest Service specifications. This is a huge story of what BCH is all about, and we all congratulate and applaud all the CR members for their achievement toward this project and winning this outstanding award. This is the kind of recognition we need to promote by sending this information to local newspapers and publications, etc.

One last item we, as members, must constantly be aware of, is to write your congressmen, local authorities, forest service, etc. on all issues involving recreational stock use on public lands which include the Right to Ride bill, the new trails reclassifications, etc.

I still have an open line for your suggestions and/or comments. Thank you.

Happy Trails,  
Ron Stuber,  
Chairman, BCHMT



**Jon F. Dean, E.A.**  
**Income Tax Services**

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## State Dues



Each time I set at a key board I think back the many years to my high school typing class. Each morning the teacher said to warm-up on the home row keys for one or two minutes and then let's type the old saying "now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country".

Come on teach, all this messing around never did help my 24 words a minute. Now that I am the Montana Back Country Horsemen's Treasurer, I have figured out that the author of the above saying probably was the treasurer of some obscurer benevolent organization long since forgotten. I am sure he [or she] sent these now famous words out to all his chapter treasurers that their annual dues were due to be sent to him by December of every year. Our state MBCH has adopted these same set of rules.

The two new chapters will receive one year free ride, but all the rest of our state chapters need to send state dues of \$15.00 per single membership and \$25.00 per family. Please remit to P.O. Box 350, Absarokee, MT 59001 by this December.

The national dues are due to be paid from these funds in January. If we are going to play, we have to pay.

There was also "the quick brown fox jumping over the lazy dog". More on the fox next time. You know a good treasurer does not sleep well until all the bills are paid.

Sincerely,  
John P. Simmons  
State Treasurer





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# Back Country Horsemen Who & WhatAre We?

Submitted by: Dennese Schauss  
Founding Member of the Mission Valley BCH

I've long felt that the reason for Back Country Horsemen has been lost to a lot of our newer members, who I believe, join the club sometimes without a complete understanding of just why we were originally formed. As we get involved in trail clearing, gravel hauling, the steak ride, day rides, etc., the original reason for our existence receives less attention.

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

We still need to be aware of the forces at work against us, especially now! If we let our guard down one bit, the people who we have been opposing for 25 years will be right there with their oil and gas drilling rigs, *plus* those mining intentions, and don't forget those who would rather we *didn't* even get to ride in the back country!

We need more than just "numbers" of people to keep this from happening; we need people to be well educated about the constant assault on the back country, by the politicians, land grabbers, and don't forget, by those who want to drill for oil and gas, plus, the big money firms and so on. That's why it's so important to have our good issues committees.

Every time we get on our horses and ride into any area of the back country, we need to remember that at some time in the past 25 years the Back Country Horsemen have probably had a hand in keeping that trail open for us to use to get to our favorite fishing hole or hunting area *OR* just to be able to use that trail to ride on.

We need to say a big "Thank You" to those men who sat around that fire that night 25 or more years ago. They had the foresight to see what was coming and to do something about it. Thank you also to those who have worked so hard to keep these places open and available to us ever since.

When we sign up new members, or perhaps, some of us "older" members return after a hiatus of a few years, we need to be reminded of what and who we are and what brought us together in the first place.

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

**People protect what they love!**

## Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horseman trail work day on *Saturday, June 24, 2006*

Submitted by Jiffie Hale  
photos by Kay Tate and Janice Cartwright

**DEDICATION**

**PARTICIPATION**

**TEAM WORK**

**HARD WORK**

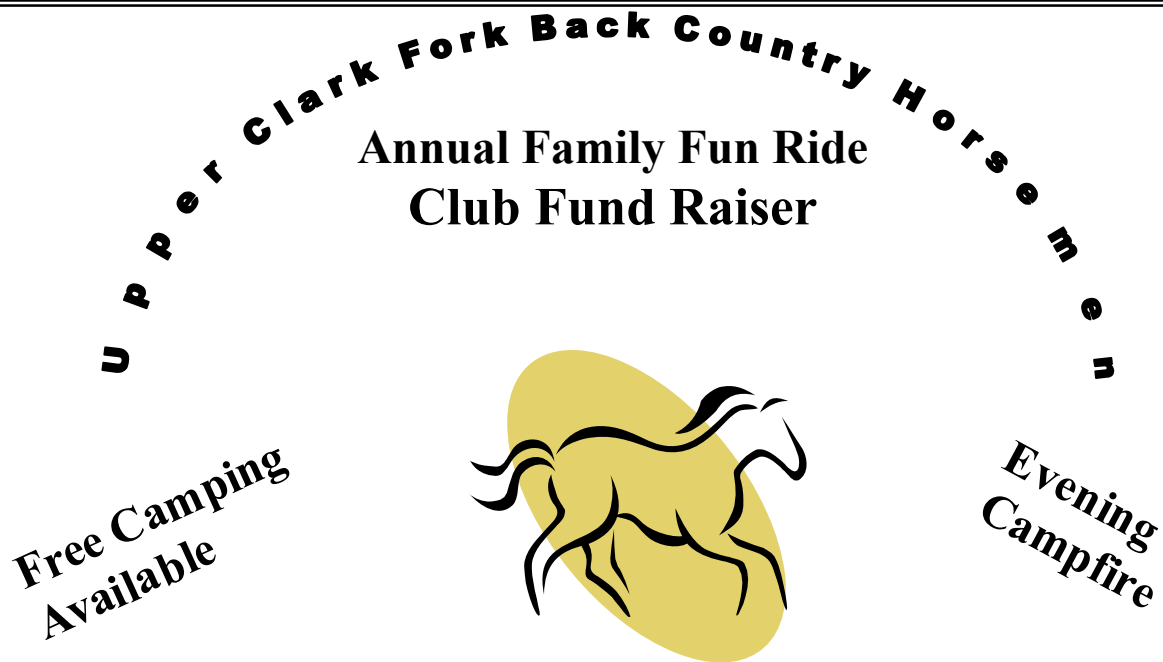


Our yearly work on the adopted trail brought out dedicated members and their guests for the day participating with team effort doing a hard day's work on our adopted Spanish Creek Trail in the Spanish Peaks.

The day began with three of the five pack horses each belonging to Reggie Clark, Dan Porter and Kay Tate. These

three horses were loaded with picks, shovels, Pulaski's, saws, pruners and various other items. The three crews set off crossing the creek and headed up the trail. Dan Marsh told of his group. "We headed out with Bonnie Hammer leading Kay's horse, never having been packed before, with riders Ron

**See Gallatin Valley, page 7**



**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  
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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

# Judith Basin wraps up a busy year

Submitted by: Karen Johnson, President  
Judith Basin BCH

**2006** has been a busy year for us here in Lewistown as we plan and prepare for the 2007 BCH of MT Convention to be held March 30 through April 1, 2007. Yet we have had plenty of time to play and work throughout the year also.

In January we hosted our 2nd annual stick horse rodeo for children ages 3 to 8 at the Montana Winter Fair. The attendance was great with over 80 children participating in steer wrestling, calf roping, barrel racing and wild cow milking. And of course, convention planning. Dr. Greg Carlson of Horizon Veterinary offered his services April 15 for an equine vet clinic for spring and West Nile vaccinations. This clinic has become a primary fundraiser for JBBCH. Did I mention convention planning?

From July 26—July 30, members of JBBCH manned the vendor gate for the Central Montana Fair. This is an annual community service along with a fundraiser for JBBCH (every little bit helps and with the convention). In August Ace Hardware donated a Stihl Model 180 chainsaw to our chapter. Let the trail clearing begin! Now for the rest of the year, it's convention priority time.

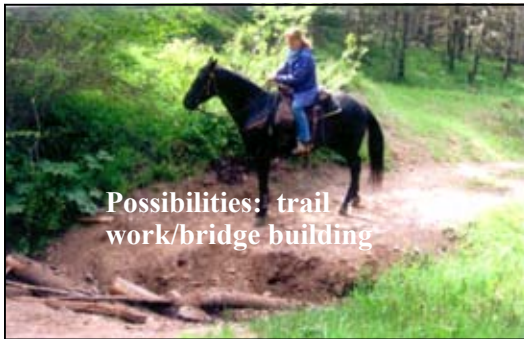
Our riding/trail work year started off April 30 with a ride from Hilger up to Maiden Canyon in the Judith Mountains and back to Hilger. On Mother's Day, May 14, we rode at the Benson Ranch in the Bull Mountain outside of Musselshell. Charlie Russell Chapter hosted a ride over Memorial weekend up Thane Creek in the Highwoods however, due to adverse wet weather conditions, our chapter members did not attend. National Trails Day was June 3 and we started our trail clearing work on the Limekiln Trail in the Judith Mountains. Our chapter adopted this trail and we are working with the BLM on clearing and maintaining this equine trail. On June 16—18, JBBCH began work on Deadhorse Trail in the Russian Flats area of the South Fork of the Little Belts. It was a fun-filled three days of work and riding with a large attendance of our members and five guests from Charlie Russell BCH. Our follow-up work weekend for Deadhorse Trail scheduled July 22 & 23 was cancelled due to the extreme

dry hot conditions and have been rescheduled for this Fall. During June, July and August day rides were hosted by members of JBBCH in the Judiths, Snowies and South Moc-

casin Mountains with after ride potluck barbecues. The September calendar had several day rides planned, and weather permitting, another over night weekend. Gene Couch and James Chalmers have been working with the Forest Service on the proposal of a horse camp at Crystal Lake in the Snowies. Seven members of JBBCH attended the 2006 BCH of MT Convention and lots of notes were taken on hosting a convention. Our compliments to Mission Valley BCH for hosting the 2006 Convention in Polson and to Connie for all his advice and words of wisdom in our preparations for the 2007 Convention. The 2007 Convention will be held March 30, 31 and April 1, 2007 in Lewistown, MT: Trail Mix - Pleasures, Pitfalls, Politics and Possibilities. Convention brochures, registration forms and raffle tickets will be distributed at the December State Board of Directors meeting. This information will also be posted on the state website. If there are any questions regarding the convention, please contact Karen Kuhlmann at 406-538-4575 or Karen Johnson at 406-538-3023. There are still a couple of vendor booth areas available, so if you know of anyone interested in reserving a vendor booth let us know. See you in Lewistown in March.



Pleasures: time to play, enjoy,



Possibilities: trail work/bridge building



Pitfalls: where's the chainsaw?

Oh, did I mention there is convention planning. Hoping all is going well for everyone; ride safely and have fun!



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## Gallatin Valley continued from page 4

Rassley and Paul Pilgeram (Alice Marsh's brother). About three miles in Bonnie's horse spooked at nothing and did a pirouette and ended up facing the pack horse. In the melee Bonnie dislocated her shoulder and after Reggie and I tried unsuccessfully to get it back where it belonged, Ron said he would take Bonnie back to the trail head. We bound her arm to her body and off they went. Meanwhile, Paul and I and the horse that had never packed before, headed down the trail. Did I mention that Paul is sight-impaired and has narrow field of view? As we headed up to Spanish Lakes we removed four blow downs and Dan Porter and his crew stopped to clear out some water bars. Reggie, Janice Cartwright and a young rider (Caitlin) continued up with us just past the last creek crossing where they turned around because the young rider was nervous going down steep trails. Reggie and crew cleared brush on the way back. The Paul and Dan crew went ahead and rode to the Dubious Trail (du-be-ous?) where we had lunch. We decided to clear the nine or ten water bars that were filled in on the upper trail. We met Dan P. and his crew coming up the trail and they were going to see if they could get to Spanish Lakes. The horse that had never packed before did very well and learned not to get too close to the trees. We met a lot of hikers with a majority of them that had shown up to ski the 'blaze.' There was even a Boy Scout Troup out for a weekend camping trip that thankfully we met in a big meadow with lots of room to get by. Overall a lot of trail clearing was accomplished with a good turn out."

In Dan P.'s group was two nonmember friends, Dennis Doran and George Beland, with Brenda Kessler and Jim Albright. Dan P. said, "We worked on the trail, cleaning water bars, trimmed over hanging brush, and removed rocks that hikers had placed across the stream where high water was causing the water to dam up and run down the trail. We got almost all the way to the lakes till we hit deep now drifts."

Reggie's group consisted of Janice, her young 12 year old friend, Caitlin Faehl, who is staring as one of the main characters in the Starlight and Miranda movie. Janice is working with her and her horse. After starting out Janice led Reggie's pack horse for most of the day since, she said, "her horse was being such a BUTTHEAD!" She also mentioned that, "The crews got kudos from many trail hikers this day thanking us for our work." She also added that, "Brenda, who was in Dan P.'s crew, was a good spokes person, being her chatty outgoing self, made sure that everyone that passed was aware of our purpose out on the trail that day. Some of the skihikers were a bit rude by just barging right through our crew while we were regrouping on the trail. They could have walked around. It takes all kinds and crews were lucky to have some sound safe horses that didn't spook at those skis sticking up. They looked though!"

Getting back to the trail head and that dirt pile. The other two pack horses were Rich's mules and they had a big job to do. "We shoveled gravel into buckets, lined them up for the mules to walk between and held mules while the guys dumped the buckets into the gravel bags. Not too exciting, but rewarding to see the pile dissipate." Kay tells. The club used, for the first time, the set of gravel bags hand made by our own past president, Jane Castro, and they worked like professionally made bags. Alice walked out to where the gravel bags were unloaded, not far up the trail, to spread the gravel. Rich's mules made a total of 14 trip-loads, packing a total of 2100 pounds of gravel. WOW!

Returning to Bonnie and her bound up arm. When she and Ron got back to the trail head Ernie and Alice took her to the emergency room. The doctor put her shoulder back in place and strapped her arm tightly to her body. This was just as Dan and Reggie had performed with their "first aid in the

**See Gallatin Valley, page 8**

## Gallatin Valley continued from page 7

wilderness.” While Bonnie’s shoulder was fixed up at BDH, Ernie took Alice home to get her car and she returned taking Bonnie home to Manhattan. By the time Kay and Ron returned to Bonnie’s home with her horse, she had arrived with Alice. Ernie returned to the gravel pit and helped finish the job. “Kudos to Alice and Ernie,” Kay said.

After Reggie got back to the trail and after everyone had gone home, she proceeded to pull weeds at the trail head. And some final notes from Janice, “How smoothly I thought the entire day went especially with this being my first work day, how welcoming everyone was to Caitlin, how appreciative most of the hikers were, how courteous all of the dog owners were by stepping off the trail and keeping their dogs under control, and how well Chick divided everyone up to accomplish so much more than we thought would happen.”

This story report is not over. This was the day your trail boss, Chick Hale, celebrated his 79th birthday. How better to celebrate by being proud of those dedicated members Chick



Chick Hale, trail boss and birthday boy

Hale, trail boss participating with and birthday boy team effort doing hard work.

Thank you all for a job well done. Come back again.



Paul, who is sight impaired



“The horse that never packed before”



Getting the gravel ready





# Greater Yellowstone Poker Ride 2006

Submitted by: Daren Brown

We held our third annual poker ride at Rapelje on Saturday, June 3. The ride was sponsored by the Greater Yellowstone Back Country Horsemen and the Stockman Café of Rapelje. The weather was partly cloudy with moderate temperatures. We had door prizes and four main prizes for best poker hand. This year we did a Texas-Hold-Em style of poker. Riders drew a card at registration and a card at a stop half way thru the ride and shared five common cards at the finish. This gave GYBCH members more of a chance to ride and not have to work at pop stops.

There were 44 riders this year, 5 of whom were members. There were three members working registration and the one pop stop, with two guests helping out.

The prizes were awarded to:

First Place	Arrah Carr (belt buckle from Montana Silversmiths)
Second Place	Carolyn Eucker (coat rack)
Third Place	Rose Fritz (afghan)
Fourth Place	Rebecca Haaland (saddle stand)

Some of the door prizes included gift certificates to Witt's Saddlery and Western Ranch Supply, various tack items, and folding pocket knives. Thanks to everyone who donated prizes.

Lunch was served at the Stockman Café with a choice of a cheeseburger, chicken strips, or a BBQ beef sandwich. We wish to thank the Stockman Café for providing lunch.

We would also like to thank Pepsi for the donation of pop and water and especially the people of Rapelje for the use of their land for our poker ride.

Photos courtesy of Steve Dale



The winners from left: Rose Fritz; Arrah Carr; Rebecca Haaland; Carolyn Eucker



Riders enjoy the view



Participants wait to start the ride.

# BCH of the Flathead Comments

Submitted by: Don Holman

Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead Chapter has had a very exciting and busy spring and summer. We have been involved with a number of community projects as well as many trail clearing projects. In today's environment with competition and pressure from all user groups of our Forest and Wilderness lands, we feel that not only must we strive to accomplish our purpose statement, but we must do it while gaining recognition of who we are and what we are about. We, as members of BCH of the Flathead, feel very proud of what we accomplish on the trails. We work hard at community projects as well in order to gain the recognition and support we need from the public. In order to preserve our trails for stock use in the future, it is important to maintain our reputation as good stewards of the land and to be recognized by the public and government agencies in so doing. To that end, our members have been involved with a number of events that have helped strengthen our reputation and standing in the community.

In March, we held our annual packing clinic in order to help all of us become better at what we do on the trail. Ken Ausk was the project leader for this event. We were fortunate to have Smoke Elser present the packing class. This year we concentrated on some of the more difficult objects to pack, such as large timbers, wheel barrows, water bars, tools, culverts, etc. We invited members of other BCH Clubs to the clinic and had folks from the Bitterroot, Last Chance, Mission and Cabinet Clubs join us. This was a good class with 70 people in attendance and a good time of the year to host it since people were getting a little cabin fever. We also gained 14 new members, which helped us spread the workload a little. There is no doubt that Smoke is a "Dean" among packers with his ability to keep coming up with new material about an old skill. Every club should get Smoke to show his idea for packing gravel in buckets on a pack board he designed. It would certainly add efficiency to the loading as well as unloading and spreading the gravel on the trail. It would make a tough job a lot easier.

Also in March, we opened our Defensive Horsemanship Course to the community and had about 140 individuals attend. We also had members from neighboring BCH Chapters attend. Ray Knotts was the project leader for this event and was supported by 17 volunteers. The course was offered free to the public. Ray and his volunteers did a terrific job in presenting how to be around stock and handle them safely. The clinic fulfilled the Forest Service requirements for Defensive Horse Safety. The clinic was very successful and BCH received some very good recognition from the community. Although we all have grumbled about how redundant some the material was for the experienced packer

and horsemen, it didn't hurt any of us to be reminded of safety issues around stock. I believe all of you will agree that it is much better to spend a day being reminded or taught how to be safe around stock than to spend months recuperating from a horse wreck that could have been prevented.

For the 17<sup>th</sup> year many BCH of the Flathead volunteers supported the Family Forestry Exposition in May. This was an opportunity to reach out to youth of the community in a week long affair. During the week of May 8 – 12, 1,200 fifth graders from 30 area schools toured our BCH of the Flathead's Bernie Lund Memorial Camp. The camp has been a star attraction of the Expo since its inception 17 years ago. The camp is named after Bernie Lund, who was a counselor at Flathead High School, an early member of BCH, and one of the organizers of the Expo. The main thrust of the camp is to teach light-on-the-land camping techniques and how to enjoy and preserve the resource. This year's event was lead by Jack Bradford and Jack Meyer, as well as Ardis Christofferson who supplied the stock. For the last several years the back country camp has been a joint effort of this BCH chapter, the Forest Service and the Bob Marshall Foundation. Each of these groups presents light-on-the-land, safety and camping techniques. The thank-you letters that the kids write to the EXPO committee always give the highest rating to our back country camp. BCH gets lots of positive publicity for this effort.

For the last three years, in June, BCH member Dave Moore has coordinated our Ed Quigley Memorial Poker Ride and BBQ. Ed Quigley was an active member of our chapter who passed away a few years ago. Dave and his volunteers work hard to put on a good ride and BBQ and the community always responds with a good turnout. The ride has always been successful and is a good source of information to the public about BCH and our purpose.

The Broussards at Rebecca Farm in August hosted a triathlon Horse Trials consisting of dressage, cross country and show jumping for the USEA Adequan Gold Cup and Federation Equestre International World Cup Qualifiers. Total registration was 476 riders from around the country and the world. This is a very big event for them. Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead members were privileged and proud to be asked to be volunteers for this event again this year. Some two dozen members assisted in crowd control, as jump judges, score sheet runners and medical support for the three days of eventing. Rebecca Farm donated a large up-front booth, under the big top tent at the Trade Fair, to BCH. It gave us the opportunity to reach not only our local community but communities across the nation and



## Flathead, continued from page 10

the world as to what we are about. This happened during one of the hottest weekends in August. Ask Phyllis Ausk, Dave Moore, Terry Lindley, Jim and Kay Bailey, Dave Pierce and some of the other participants just how hot it was! Many of them sat out in the hot sun all three days.

When it comes to public relations, our chapter is fortunate to have member June Burgau. June is a tireless advocate of "Leave No Trace." She is not only persistent in teaching our members about LNT, but spends hours teaching LNT to the community. June has attended Nine Mile Training and is a Master Trainer of LNT techniques. June takes every opportunity to reach out to the community to teach LNT and also teaches a LNT class at Flathead Community College. She is an avid horseperson with years of packing experience in the back country and longtime member of our BCH Chapter. In August, June participated in a three-day trail project in the Great Bear Wilderness lead by member Gary Dalen. She was able to show a bunch of longtime backcountry horse campers that with just a little thought and planning, LNT camping is just as easy to use as what they had been doing in the past. It gave all of us a lot of satisfaction to leave a camp in as good or better condition than we found it. In fact, I'll bet you would be hard pressed to find that camp in the future. In July, June and Dave Crawford of the Mission Valley BCH Chapter went to Plains to help our newest chapter get off the ground with LNT techniques and packing know how. In September, June and Dave Crawford will again travel to Rexford, Montana, to teach LNT techniques at the Boy Scouts of Hands Across the Border event. June is good for our Chapter as well as BCH overall due to her tireless energy and ability to promote BCH and our mission. She is a great spokesperson for us.

We have spent considerable time and energy with the community in our causes, politically we have sent dozens of letters to our congressmen asking for their support



Ray Knotts, Jack Meyer & Paul Pasley at Cedar Lake June 2006

on the Right to Ride Bill, now before the US Senate. Keeping us abreast of local issues and national issues, members Deborah and Greg Schatz have kept other members aware of what is happening. From roadless issues and Forest Plans to LAC (Limits of Acceptable Change) meetings with the Forest Service, Deborah and Greg have nurtured our members' support with the issues affecting how we use our Forest and Wilderness.

Through the efforts of many project leaders, we have also had over 13 trail clearing projects this summer. Dan Oursland, our Trails Coordinator, worked with Forest Service personnel and project leaders to make this a very productive summer of trail clearing and maintenance. From our traditional Memorial Day kickoff until the last week of August we had members in the Forest and Wilderness areas. At times we had two or three projects going on the same weekend. We had projects in the Flathead Forest as well as in the Great Bear, Bob Marshall and Mission Mountain Wildernesses. Many of our members assisted the Bob Marshall Foundation with their trail clearing projects in addition to the other projects. The Bob Marshall Foundation does a good job on trails in the BMW. They often put people in the field for a week to 10 days at a time so they are able to get a lot done. It is good for us to support them by packing tools and supplies into and out of the Wilderness in order to support their efforts. After all, along with the hikers, we are the ones who most often use these trails.

As President and State Director it has been a pleasure to work with such a group of individuals as the members of the Flathead Chapter of Back Country Horsemen. It is important to work with the community, politicians and various government agencies to insure that we maintain access to the trails that our forefathers laid out before us. We have inherited a heritage of access to the Wilderness that might not be there for those who follow us without our due diligence.



LNT camp at Great Bear Wilderness August 2006



# Last Chance Back Country Horsemen

## Helena, MT

Submitted by: Grace Senseney

### FIRST RIDES OF THE SEASON

With our open winter this past year, we were able to get out on the trail early with a couple of tune-up rides. February 2<sup>nd</sup> on the old McMaster's Ranch was a crisp, clear day with a great view of Canyon Ferry Lake. A group of riders spent the day riding, trying to identify noxious weeds left over from the summer before and just enjoying the outdoors.

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, another group ventured out in the Crow Creek area of the Elkhorn Mountains. Darlene Horne wrote: "Friday was a great 56 degrees, sun shining, you couldn't ask for a better day to ride. Tomaskie's, Milliron and Horne's left Slim Sam Gulch parking area to venture around the Elkhorns. There were still a few ice patches which Bob & Jim managed to find, but mostly it was dry and bare. That was until Saturday!!! Anna and Phil got there early and took off to do some exploring. Tomaskie's, Horne's, and Jeff Clausen took off later from the Crow Creek Campground. Shortly after the bunch got going, it started to snow, and snow it did! Spring time in Montana. Barlett's and Cannon's showed up for the potluck that we moved into the tent to stay dry. We still had a great time and lots of food."

New members, John Ricks and his wife Natalie Gonzales, hosted a similar early ride on May 20<sup>th</sup> for a small group from the club. It was a good opportunity to become acquainted with a GPS system to be used later in weed mapping for the Forest Service. The ride was through some beautiful country along the Missouri River and overlooking Hauser Lake.

### GROUND WORK TRAINING

Beginning in March, Helenann Cannon put on several ground work training sessions. She demonstrated communicating with a horse, building mutual trust, respect, understanding by giving cues for actions, and rewards for the horse's positive responses. Desensitizing with 'spooky' objects and the one-rein stop were also demonstrated. Participants had questions answered and physically participated in the clinics.



Helenann Cannon using a 'spooky' object

### PACKING CLINIC

Our packing clinic, professionally presented by Jeff Brandt at Tomaske's Arena in Helena on April 1st, was well attended by members, hunters, and other outdoor enthusiasts who use packhorses to haul equipment into the mountains. As a welcome 'promotional bonus', the clinic was covered by Helena's Independent Record with an almost full-page spread and an excellent, large, color photo. The article also gave some history of Back Country Horsemen and our mission.

## 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:

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

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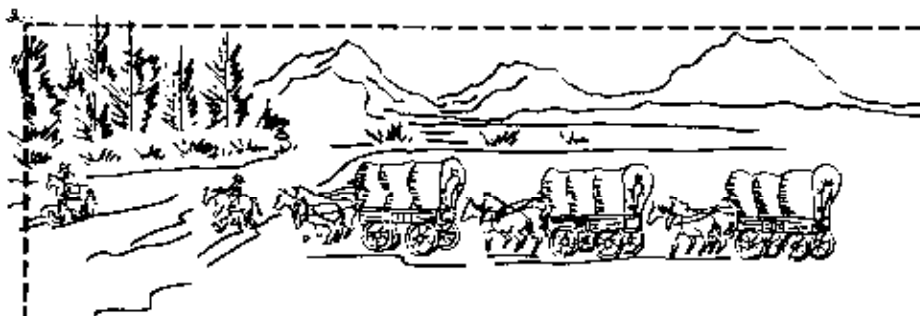
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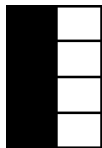
Neil Horne & Jim Milliron with a tree cleared



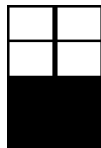
Enjoying a hot meal after the trail work

### HUNTER'S GULCH WORK RIDE & HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC (By: Ron Crawford)

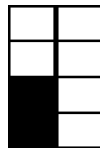
The day started out with a Defensive Horsemanship Clinic conducted by Helenann Cannon for new members. The work ride was attended by about 20 people who enjoyed a beautiful day riding in the mountains, clearing a number of fallen trees off trails, and some rerouting of a trail where necessary. The work parties went out in three different directions and covered a lot of miles of trail. Meanwhile back at the trailhead, our tent was set up with a fire in the stove and dinner simmering in a pot thanks to the generous effort of Jean Bartlett. She served the returning riders with a hearty soup and special salad. Luscious chocolate desserts were provided by Darlene Horne and Lynda Milliron. In addition, we picked up a new member who was riding in the area. We invited him in for a hot dinner and conversation and he signed up.



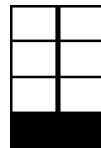
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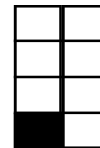
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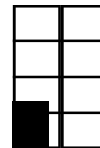
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A 25% commission will be paid to individuals or chapters.

#### Cost By Number of Insertions

	<u>Once</u>	<u>Twice</u>	<u>Three Times</u>
Full page	\$100	\$200	\$200
1/2 page	\$ 75	\$150	\$150
1/4 page	\$ 40	\$ 80	\$ 80
1/8 page	\$ 25	\$ 50	\$ 50



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## FREEZE BRANDING

Once more, Darlene and Neil Horne graciously hosted our annual freeze branding and May meeting. After the branding, we enjoyed a satisfying meal with Lynda Milliron presiding over the grill and dishes brought by members. Jay Winfield of the Helena District of the Forest Service gave a basic training course on the use of GPS units, and passed around artificial replicas of noxious weeds to familiarize members with what we are hoping to eradicate. It was agreed that we would be willing to spray as well as map weeds with the Forest Service acting as the licensee for the applicator's license.



Getting our group together



Jean and Kerry Bartlett starting out

## SUPPORTING UCFBCH

On July 8<sup>th</sup>, about a half dozen of LCBCH members traveled to Gold Creek, MT to participate in Upper Clark Fork BCH's annual ride and BBQ. We were happy to support this sister club that does work similar to ours, and enjoyed the ride, BBQ and their hospitality.

## WEED MAPPING/SPRAYING CHALLENGE COST-SHARE AGREEMENT WITH USDA FOREST SERVICE

By: Ron Crawford

The Forest Service came to us in November of last year saying money was available. We received the okay after the first of the year. Many hours of diligent work by the Application Committee and others in the club finally got the Forest Service to complete and sign the agreement on July 19, 2006.

The hot, dry summer didn't stop the dedicated members of our club who fought the swarms of flies and the extreme heat to get out on the trails North of Helena in the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness to do the agreed upon work. That part of the weed-mapping project is complete. We are now awaiting training from the Forest Service on proper application of weed spray. As soon as this is done, we will put our training to the test in the Elkhorn Mountains south of Helena. If the weed season ends before we get the training, hopefully the grant will be extended into next year.



Making a note of weed location

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