

BITS AND SPURS – June, 2008 SPWBCH Newsletter

Mission Statement:

Our purpose is to perpetuate the common sense use of horses in America's back country, wilderness and roadless areas; to assist various government and private agencies in their maintenance of said resources; to work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use; and to educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resources by horsemen and pack stock.



SPWBCH Officers - Contact Information

President: Kathy Hundley	Ph. 821-0921
Vice President: Paula Plettenberg	Ph. 961-2450
Secretary: Joy Price	Ph. 961-4819
Treasurer: Luanne Bauman	Ph. 961-4343
Board Directors: Chris McCabe	Ph. 360-9099
Terry Reed	Ph. 961-3817
BCHM State Directors: Julie Schram	Ph. 961-2457
Joy Price	Ph. 961-4819
Alternate - Kathy Hundley	Ph. 821-0921

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Chapter Update- May General Meeting Minutes

The May meeting of the SPWBCH was called to order by Vice President Paula Plattenberg. Gale Shulund made a motion to approve the minutes from March and April. Julie Schram 2nd that Motion. Motion was approved. Luanne Bauman gave the Treasure report. Said that the T-shirts are selling well. We are making a little money from the sales. They are paid for up front when they come in, so members need to pay for them as soon as they can.

The sign up sheet for the Mule days was passed around for those who want to help with the selling of the programs.

Joe Hundley gave a report on projects. He has been contacted by Charlie Mabet from the West fork. He could use some help in August with the barn at Swet Lake cabin. This is in the Frank Church Wilderness.

There is 2 miles of old wire that is between the Running Creek Ranch and the North Star ranch north of Paradise that need to be rolled up. This is in the wilderness and is a hazard to the elk in that area. Charlie has scheduled this between June 11th and the 20th.

Bruce Scott has completed the pack boxes.

There were 15 members at the May meeting and Jan and Dave Whitaker are our newest members.

A motion was made by Julie Schram to have our June Meeting at Sawdust. This was 2nd by Dennis Price. Motioned Passed. That meeting will be on June 12th. More information will be e-mailed out

Anne Eickhoff made a motion to adjourn. Dennis Price 2nd that motion. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20.



President's Note

Hello SPWBCH members! Thought I would start off with a piece of good news...Deb Gale, USFS Trail Supervisor, has increased our annual payment to \$800.00. This should help us to keep our fund raising needs to a minimum so we can concentrate on trail work, pack trips and back country riding. Our first scheduled project in Blodgett Canyon is right around the corner.

CORRECTION: In the May newsletter I listed the responses to the Fun Fact Survey. The correct total for "Pack Trips in 2007" should have read **58** instead of 5!

REMINDER: MT Mule Days will be on June 13, 14 and 15 at the Ravalli Co. Fair Grounds. Our chapter will be selling programs. This is a small fund raiser and also a wonderful public relation event for us. Hope everyone can attend. Gate fee for all 3 days is \$7.00.

I'm sorry I missed the May hot dog roast at Lake Como. I hear everyone had fun. It looks like we will have another hot dog roast/meeting in June at Sawdust. See the June meeting information for more details. Kathy

Upcoming meetings

The next General Chapter Meeting will be Thursday, June 12, 2008 at Sawtooth at 6:30 pm.

Bonfire and Hot Dog Roast

DIRECTIONS: Skalkaho Rd→take a right on Sleeping Child→approx. 3miles past the last house look for chunk of concrete on the right hand side of road→just past there is parking on both sides of road and Sleeping Child Creek runs along the right hand side

Riding in the afternoon for those interested-more info later the week of the meeting.

Hot dog roast and potluck. Hot dogs and buns provided-members please bring a side dish, snack or dessert.

Bring your own drinks and a chair.

For more info contact Kathy @821-0921 or Joy @ 961-4819

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Request from Joy for meetings: In order that places, dates and times for upcoming events get into the minutes correctly, could those that give reports please have that information typed out to give to the secretary at the meetings? Thanks a bunch!

## **DUTCH OVEN RECIPE**

Campfire Potatoes (Easy) Servings: 5-6 Uses a12 inch Dutch oven

2 Tablespoons olive oil

1 medium onion

5 bacon strips

6 large potatoes cut into bite-size cubes

Seasoning salt and ground black pepper to taste

2 cups shredded mild cheddar cheese

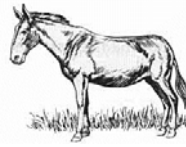
Fresh chives (optional)

◆Heat oil in Dutch oven over 16 coals. Add bacon and fry until crisp. Remove bacon and set aside to drain.

◆Place potatoes and onion in Dutch oven. Add seasoning salt and pepper.

◆Moving 4 briquettes to the lid, with 12 coals remaining under the oven cook for 20-30 minutes or until potatoes become tender.

◆Crumble bacon over the top and garnish with cheese and optional chives.



## ***Trail Report for the Spring, Summer, Fall of 2008***

*By Joe Hundley*

After our last meeting and discussion about trails at Lake Como I contacted Charley Mabbot at the West Fork Ranger office. He was very pleased to hear that a number of members were interested in helping with his project at North Star Ranch north of Paradise. This would consist of winding up 2 miles of FS communication cable left over from the old days before satellite phones. This would be scheduled for the first week of September or the first week of October. His other project in the Frank Church Wilderness would be helping to jack up a barn and block it up with treated timbers. This would probably take 3 to 4 days including travel time. The cabin is located at Swet Lake about 8 miles south of Salmon Mountain. We would probably drive to Salmon Mountain and camp overnight and pack in to Swet Lake Cabin the next morning for a few days to work on the barn. The barn is used by the FS to store grain and hay for their pack string. I have not been in this area of the world but it is about as remote as a person can get in western Montana. Charley had planned on working on the barn the last week in August. After explaining to him some of the members scheduling conflict he has changed it to the third week of August to accommodate our members who have a date conflicts.

**Blodgett Canyon:** The workdays are tentatively set for June 21,22,2008.

**Sawtooth:** The workdays are tentatively set for July 12,13, 2008

**Blodgett Pass:** Pack in and work on the pass August ?, 2008

**Swet Lake Cabin, Idaho:** The week of August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**North Star Ranch, Idaho:** The week of September 1, 2008

Please remember that the Idaho trips will require Coggins testing and health certificates.



SPWBCH member Bruce Scott, has generously donated to our chapter a custom made set of plywood tool pack boxes. Bruce is a custom cabinet maker who lives in Florence.

## SPWBCH STORE

|                        |         |                            |         |
|------------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| TEE SHIRT:             | \$10.00 | HOODED SWEATSHIRT:         | \$20.00 |
| LONG SLEEVE TEE SHIRT: | \$10.00 | TANK TOP:                  | \$10.00 |
| CREW-NECK SWEATSHIRT:  | \$15.00 | FULL ZIP UP SWEATSHIRT:    | \$25.00 |
| DENIM LONG SLEEVE:     | \$15.00 | BASEBALL CAP(embroidered): | \$12.00 |

\*Items come in various colors. All items are screen printed with large logo on the back and small logo on the front. Screen print can be dark or light lettering.

Please contact Kathy for ordering information @ 821-0921 or montanakath@yahoo.com

## **MONTANA MULE DAYS!!** **JUNE 13, 14, 15 2008 - RAVALLI COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

### **Selling Programs Volunteer Work Schedule**

**Friday: 8am-12 Julie and Kathy**      **12pm-4pm Kathy and Terry**  
**Saturday: 8am-12 Terry and ???**      **12pm-4pm ????????**  
**Sunday: 8am-12 Anne and ???**      **12pm-4pm Luanne and Joy**

**We could still use some volunteers for Saturday am and pm and Sunday am. MT Longears Association has approved anyone who wants to wear their SPWBCH Logo shirts to sell programs. Please let me know if you are interested. Kathy @ 821-0921**

## **Leave No Trace**

There are 7 points to this program. The third one is:



### **3) Pack it In - Pack it Out**

- a) Pack everything that you bring into wild country back out with you.**
- b) Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations securely.**
- c) Pick up all spilled foods.**

## **TRAINING TIP**

Submitted by Mike Jorgensen

This is a pasture-gathering tip we learned a few years ago while attending a clinic for Back Country Horsemen. The question was: How do I easily call my loose stock into camp to be packed for travel or high-line for the night or simply calling at home when your animals are in a large pasture?

In our case, we have six head with two very alpha geldings. We purchased a whistle...the high shrill type, and started by blowing three quick bursts to get their attention, we waited a few moments and repeated the same sequence. Once they started toward us we showed them our grain bags. We fed them a hand full of grain, haltered the alpha and the rest followed. In our case we did this for maybe a week. This was over 8 years ago and I can say that weeks can go by and that whistle works every time in all kinds of weather. We lease the neighboring 13 acres and even when they're out of sight, they will respond on the Queue using the whistle. I've never lost any stock using this method but I haven't lost the whistle either!

## **RECENT TRAILS**

The general meeting was held at Lake Como in May – Trail and meeting photos



Members at Lake Como trail overlook



May 2008 General Meeting

**WE NEED NEWS!!!!** Please send any articles, news, pictures or horse/mule/back country-related classified in to me for the monthly newsletter by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month so I can be sure to get it in. We will also accept business card-size ads. Send to Anne Eickhoff: phone 961-5584, Mail: 1433 Wild Apple Lane, Corvallis, MT 59828, e-mail: [anne.eickhoff@earthlink.net](mailto:anne.eickhoff@earthlink.net)

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***Just for laughs . . .***



## **Recipe Korner by Ben the Horse**

### ***“Hay Cube Salad with Dandelion Dressing”***

*50 lb bag Brophy Hay cubes*

*14 bunches of freshly picked dandelions, roots removed and washed*

*2 cups finely sliced carrots*

*3 tablespoons corn oil*

*In a large feed bucket, mix hay cubes, dandelions, carrots and oil. Serve with mint or mustard flower garnish.*



***Selway - Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen***  
***2059 Walking Mule Lane***  
***Corvallis, Montana 59828***