

BITS AND SPURS – May, 2009 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: Dan Brandborg	Ph. 363-4791
Secretary: Julie Schram	Ph. 961-2457
Treasurer: Luanne Bauman	Ph. 961-4343
Board Directors: Terry Reed, Anne Eickhoff	Ph. 961-3817, 961-5584
BCHM State Directors: Kathy Hundley Alternate - Vacant	Ph. 821-0921

CONTENTS

Upcoming Meetings	pg 1
President's Note	pg 1
Meeting Minutes	pg 2
Trail Update	pg 3
Dutch Oven Recipes	pg 4
Mule Days	pg 4
Backcountry Tips	pg 4-5
SPWBCH Store	pg 5



Upcoming meetings

May General Meeting - Group decided to have a weenie roast and ride at Sawdust on **Saturday, May 9th**. At last month's meeting the group decided to go riding and have a hot dog roast in lieu of a general meeting. There will be an informal discussion about our 2009 Project List. The details are:

Date: Saturday, May 9, 2009

Time: Ride @ 2:00pm Hot Dog Roast @ 4:30pm

Location: Sawdust trail (Sleeping Child)

Members are asked to bring a side dish, their choice of beverage and a chair.

For more info please contact Dan Brandborg @ 363-0443

President's Note

The weather has been perfect for riding; I hope everyone has been able to get out and enjoy it! Some of us went to the Salmon Mule and Horse sale last weekend. There were horses and mules of all colors, sizes and experience. It's amazing to see a well-trained horse or mule show off its talents. The trail competitions were fun, and make me want to get to work on my own stock. Not everybody has a hole in his or her yard lined with white plastic and filled with water. While our horses and mules will cross water like pros, I doubt they would step down in that muddy hole of doom without lots of encouragement! Or, I wonder if they would drag a log with a dally around the horn? Hmmm, that could be useful when clearing trail. Guess I better get to work on some more training-we can never teach our horses and mules too much! Hope everyone can make the ride up Sawdust on Saturday, May 9th. I will be thinking of you from MO.

Happy Trails, *Kathy*

Chapter Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:05 on April 9, 2009 by President Kathy H.

Guests: Laura Lindenlaub, from CO living in Conner, MT. She has 2 horses. Jerome Yoder from Stevensville, MT and Rebecca Cameron from Darby, MT. She rides and drives.

Special Guests: Jim Stromberg and Rod Knutson. They were there to talk about MT Mule Days June 12,13,14 2009. \$1,500 prize money in the Packers Scramble and limited to 10 teams. There will be a Ladies Team and Men's Team. Husband and wife teams will be on the Men's Team. All loads will be manty. Must pack 2 mules pig tied in each team or more. No tying to the fence. Jim and Rod stayed for the PowerPoint.

Luanne B. showed the Power Point that she made and showed at State Convention. It was about 8 minutes long. THANK YOU, Luanne.

Discussion followed about Mule Days. Joe H. made a motion that the chapter again support the same Youth classes as last year. Dan B. second, motion passed. February minutes were approved.

Projects: Dan B. Chairperson: NeeMeePoo trail, the Chief Joseph Trail Ride will be through on July 22, 2009. That is when the trail needs to be ready. This trail is 3 miles long. Schedule of this is Sunday July 19 Starts, Monday 20 Road 321 Colt Spring, Tuesday July 21 Rye Creek, Wednesday July 22 on this trail over to Hogan's Cabin, A chainsaw can be use for this trail cleaning. Sawtooth- Day Trips- before the over night trip in August 22-24. 8 miles in to the bridges, need to be taken out, wet areas need to be drained. South Fork Big Creek: July 19 Pack in Retired Smoke Jumpers. July 25 Pack them out. Bill Goslin is contact Forest Service person for this. Bruce Scott will help Dave and Julie Schram. Also help needed at trailhead for packing them in. Lost Fish-- July 31- August 2, 2009. 2 nights stay. 2 trails that can be cleaned- one with a chainsaw. Talk about re-supply Shearer Cabin on the Selway, 13 miles from Paradise.

Luanne B. showed us the Web Site of the SPWBCH, NICE JOB, LUANNE! Please send stuff for this to Luanne.

Issues: Kathy H. Meeting with Lisa Phillips end of April about Mountain Bikes. Kathy talked about the Grants, RAPP Family Foundation said no to the chainsaws, the RAC presentation is April 27, 2009.

Membership: – Tommy B. (not present)

Natalie Riehl- Editor of the Rocky Mountain Rider RMR-will print SPWBCH article submitted last November. Perry Baucus- contact person on the Ravalli Newspaper-would like to do some articles this summer-take a pack trip with us.

Talked about Scouting Rides - Nez Perce Pass is closed as of April 9, 2009 - Paradise is open

Old Business: Newsletter needs more stuff, Photos, Dutch oven Recipes, Misc. Stories. Due date for the Newsletter is 22nd of every month.

Terry R. showed the chapter the Brochure that she made for SPWBCH. NICE JOB, Terry! Business/saddle cards that Terry also made were handed out. Talked about having these in the saddlebags for members to hand out on the trail. Good idea.

New Business: We are getting Newsletters from other chapters in the State. Julie S. talked about Pre-Convention State Board meeting. Kathy H. talked about how much money the State BCH is saving the Forest Service, \$550.00 for last year. The State Convention was held in Helena by Last Chance BCH. The next year it will be in Bozeman. Bob Holverson did his Leave No Trace LNT did a good job. Salmon ID. Mule and Horse sale is April 17 and 18.

Chris Mc. made a motion that the “/” be changed to a “-“ in our name Selway-Pintler Wilderness BCH, Dave S. second, motion passed.

Willing Servants is having "Able Fair" September 26,27 2009. They would like us to do Packing Demonstration, Dutch Oven Cooking and Leave No Trace.

May 16 at Equestrian Center in Missoula- Education on Back Country Riding and Packing. The Missoula BCH chapter would like some help from us.

Next meeting is May 9th at Sawdust at 2pm for a ride and meeting after.

Linda H made a motion to adjourned, Joe H. second, motion passed.

Trail Update – by Dan Brandborg

Saturday, May 2nd. First Sawtooth trail clearing up to the first crossing of Sawtooth Creek as conditions permit. Meet at trail head at 9:00. If Roaring Lion crossing is too high, we will come back down road quarter mile to John and Tina DeVries' bridge and property to access trail. Their bridge is a railroad flatcar with a smooth steel surface and no side rails. Trailing across is probably best option and parking space at DeVries' place is pretty limited so let's coordinate at trailhead. Questions contact Dan at 363-0443.

After talking with Dave, Julie and Kathy and our Forest Service contacts we have put together a list of trail projects. Please bring your thoughts to the May ride.

Day Trips:

Nee-Me-Poo trail. Trail clearing in June and July, especially right before Wednesday July 22nd, Appaloosa group trail ride.

Sawtooth preparation work. Daytrips to cut out this trail as high water permits, ahead of our main trip later this summer. No dates other than May 2nd as of yet.

South Fork of Big Creek. This is a packing support trip only as the Selway foundation will cut out this trail and only require support. Dave and Julie have volunteered to do this. They would appreciate help at the trail head packing the folks gear and then pulling the gear back out. They have plenty of pack stock but more may be needed. Pack In date Sunday, July 19th. Pack out day Saturday, July 25th.

Blodgett type trail clearing days as called upon by the FS. Short notice trips.

Overnight Trips:

Lost Fish Trail. Friday, July 31st through Sunday August 2nd.

Camp with our rigs at the top of Lost Horse at the Bear Creek Pass Campground for two nights. We can work on two trails from this location, the Bailey Lake 1.5 mile trail. Outside of Wilderness so chain saws are usable. The second trail being the Fish Lake trail which starts in Idaho and crosses back into the upper end of the South Fork of Lost Horse. Members could come for one or two nights, whatever works.

Upper Sawtooth trail. Saturday August 22nd through Monday the 24th.

The main backcountry trip of the summer up Sawtooth roughly 8 miles where we place a camp for two nights. Hopefully we will have the lower section of trail cut out before this trip and have little cutting to do with our pack animals in tow. Spend the second day removing the old bridges, possibly draining the boggy areas and generally sizing up the project for 2010 season work.

Shearer Guard Station Resupply.

Volunteer at Shearer requires a grocery resupply on June 12th and 27th, July 11th and 25th, August 8th and 22nd. This trip would depart from Paradise, down the main river trail 13 miles to the Shearer landing strip and cabin. If people want to commit to a resupply trip date, then I will write it down and let the FS know. Will need to have a backup person for each date just in case

Dan 363-0443

Horse Trivia



There are 9.2 million horses in the United States

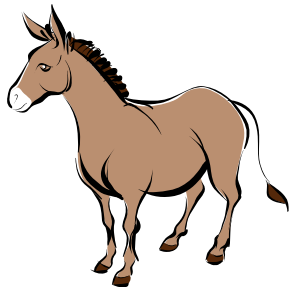
DUTCH OVEN RECIPE - Anytime Breakfast (Serves 4-5)

6 slices bacon	6 eggs
1 small onion, chopped (or 1 Tablespoon dried minced onion)	1 clove garlic, minced
1 cup grated cheddar cheese	1 Tablespoon olive oil
1 small package shredded frozen hash browns	Salsa, optional

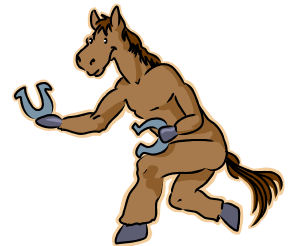
Cook bacon in Dutch oven until crisp (can cook ahead of time at home). Remove bacon and drain fat. Set aside to cool to handle for crumbling. Beat eggs. Add onion and garlic and stir. Spread oil in Dutch oven. Pack hash browns in bottom of oven. Place crumbled bacon on top of hash browns. Pour egg mixture evenly over top. Sprinkle with cheese and bake 30 minutes. Serve with a side of salsa (optional). You can substitute boxed, dehydrated hash browns for the recipe, just hydrate and drain first. You can also substitute ham or cooked and crumbled ground pork sausage for the bacon, or add all three!

MONTANA MULE DAYS

Sponsored by Montana Longears
Assoc.



June 12, 13, 14 2009 Ravalli
County Fairgrounds
Hamilton, MT



If you fancy mules and donkeys mark your calendars for the MT Mule Days coming in June! Or better yet, enter some events and have fun. Rod Knutson and Jim Stromberg, promoters of the event, spoke at our March general meeting to present the Packers Scramble held on Sunday the 14th around 1:00pm. There will be a mens and womens division with a total of 10 teams allowed. Entry fee is \$35.00 and entry deadline is June 4, 2009 @ 8:00pm. The SPWBCH has one entry to date. For more details and entry blanks go to www.montanamuledays.com

BACKCOUNTRY TIPS - Staying dry on those not so perfect days

Checking out my saddle from a thorough cleaning and oiling made me think back over the reasons I put some work into an annual gear check. Ninety five percent of last year's rides were very enjoyable and the weather cooperated with beautiful days. But these aren't the days that I am concerned about; it is those tough days that pay for the time spent on gear preparation.

One such day occurred early last June. Bob and I rode down the Selway River trail from Paradise. Our five days was spent combing the hills for antlers and just knocking around this beautiful

country. We ended up with our main camp at the mouth of Bear Creek on a sand bar of the river. We spent some time on the lower end of Bear Creek where fire had bared the slopes. One can see everything here for several miles around and the country was full of elk. It was hard to leave at the end of the day because it felt if you could just hang here to the last bit of the light, some wildlife event or another would unfold and I didn't want to miss any of it. The sky's sometimes were overcast but the temps hit the 60's and 70's each afternoon until, you guessed it the last day!

Rain started in the middle of the night and pretty much never stopped. The temps dropped to the upper 30's and the snow line was visible on the canyon walls. We packed up our wet gear and started out on the 16 mile trek back to Paradise. We had taken a leisurely two days to come in this distance, but the plan all along had been to go out in one day. It was cool and it continued to rain but we always carry our rain gear and the extra layers in our saddle bags whenever we ride. Our slickers were well oiled and I even had an extra pair of gloves, all be it leather gloves. Besides why would I need my wool gloves, it was June and I had sweated heavily on this same trip last year.

As we worked our way up the river trail we found much of the tall brush had bowed to the weight of the water and leaned into the trail or even laid horizontal across at head height. With a good hat and slicker, it feels as if you are surrounded by a dry tent and one can shed a good bit of water. But it is a whole other issue when one is being painted on a regular basis by water laden brush from hat to boot. We would tuck our chins down as low as one could go into the slicker, close your eyes and wait, thinking this too will pass.

A little way up stream of Shearer we dove through a good thick patch of brush and Bob's wool cap was swept from his head. Now Bob is not the tallest sort, and the mule he was riding was not short. Kind of reminded you of a man climbing a tree when he mounted. Of course the rainy night also included some wind, which added a number of new trees that needed cutting to pass, causing us to be in and out of the saddle a few times. When his hat was knocked off, Bob said, "Hell, let her go". By this time the mules where drenched and they remembered well where the truck was and needed no extra motivation to get going. I was sorely tempted to stay in the saddle and let her go as well, but then I thought again, this day was just starting and we didn't know what else might lie ahead so we pulled to a stop once more and retrieved the hat.

We made it to the halfway mark where the Running Creek Bridge crosses the river. We ate our sandwiches standing up as it was too cold and uncomfortable to do anything else. My partner was very thankful for his hat as we were pretty cold and stiff even with our dry heads and slicker covered bodies. My leather boots and gloves on the other hand had been near useless, even the second pair of gloves that were dry for ten minutes did little. Our hands and feet were cold and not all that effective, but our torsos were dry and this made all the difference. I believe if this had not been the case and our cores got wet, we would have broken the cardinal rule of the backcountry, "stay dry" and hypothermia could have started its downward spiraling course. If this had been the case we would have changed our plans and gone for a big fire and another night just to get everything dry and warm again.

We finally arrived at Paradise pretty cold and stiff. We felt some satisfaction when we got into the truck and saw the temperature was 35 degrees. It started to make sense why we felt so beat. Nez Perce Pass had accumulated 8 inches of snow from this storm requiring chaining of all four tires and a good amount of time in granny gear until the last switch back was behind us.

I do believe that our freshly oiled slickers were what kept this day from being any more than tough and uncomfortable. The saddles, looking like they had been thrown in the creek to soak for a day or two, took a good week to dry out. So oil that rain gear and make sure that "extra gear" is ready before the riding season is upon us and it's too hot to be thinking about such details.

SPWBCH STORE*

T- SHIRT:	\$11.00	LONG SLEEVE T- SHIRT:	\$12.00
TANK TOP:	\$10.00	CREW NECK SWEATSHIRT:	\$15.00
HOODED SWEATSHIRT:	\$21.00	ZIPPERED HOODED SWEATSHIRT:	\$27.00
BASEBALL CAP (embroidered):	\$12.00	DENIM LONG/SHORT SLEEVE:	\$15.00
SPWBCH LOGO PATCH	\$8.00	FLEECE VEST (embroidered front only)	\$26.00

*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 black or silver lettering.

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

Dave Stamey's 'Horse Camp Music' Concert

Nominated "Male Performer of the Year" by the Western Music Association, **Dave Stamey's** performances transcend the genre.

Bitterroot Therapeutic Riding will host Dave Stamey's 'Horse Camp Music' Concert, **July 11th** at the Performing Arts Center, Hamilton High School.

Silent auction at 6:30, performance 7:30.

Cowboy poet **Shad Pease** will also join the evening with all proceeds going to benefit the challenged riders of the BTR Program.

For more information or sponsorship opportunities call: Linda Olson 406/880-6599 or 406/961-2999

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 22nd of each month so I can be sure to get it in. Send to Anne Eickhoff: phone 961-5584, Mail: 1433 Wild Apple Lane, Corvallis, MT 59828, e-mail: anne.eickhoff@earthlink.net

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Selway - Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen

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