

BITS AND SPURS – November, 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 and Joy Price	Ph. 961-2457 / 961-4819
Alternate - Kathy Hundley	Ph. 821-0921

CONTENTS

Upcoming Meetings	pg 1
President's Note	pg 1
Meeting Minutes	pg 2
Dutch Oven Recipe	pg 3
Trail Update	pg 3
My Favorite Trails	pg 4-5
SPWBCH Elections	pg 6
Leave No Trace	pg 7

Upcoming meetings

THANKSGIVING DUTCH OVEN COOKOUT!!

Please come to our next meeting which will be held on Saturday, November 22nd, 2008 at the Lake Como Horse Camp at 12:00 noon. We will be hosting a Dutch Oven potluck. Don't forget your chairs, drinks and warm clothes! Should weather be too bad we will have the DO and meeting at Joe and Kathy Hundley's in Darby. Members will be contacted should the location change.

For more info contact Kathy @ 821-0921

President's Note

President's Note

As we watch 2008 coming to an end I hope all SPWBCH members had a great summer and put in lots of "time in the saddle". We had a great celebration at Dennis & Joy's in October and discussed a lot of old and new issues. It's always good to know that an organization is changing, growing and moving in new directions. Our addition of the SPWBCH Store this year has proved to be a great fund raiser for the chapter and I hope to see it continue and thrive. Our newest member, Tommy Blumhoefer, has inquired about having a variety of programs throughout the winter centered around packing and Dutch Oven cooking and the prospect of attracting new members to our chapter. I immediately appointed him Chairman of our new Expansion/Program Committee! If anyone is interested in helping him, please give us a call. The FS would like to show their appreciation of our volunteer trail work by giving those members who participated in trail projects a recognition certificate along with a FS ball cap. I have asked Deb Gale, FS Trail Supervisor, to join us at our Dutch Oven cookout in November to give them out.

Thanks again to all members-hope to see you in November.

Kathy



Chapter Update- October General Meeting Minutes

The October General Meeting was held with a Potluck on Oct 9, 2008 at Dennis and Joy Price's house. Meeting called to order by Kathy Hundley President at 7:15 PM

The October meeting was held at the home of Dennis and Joy Price. We had a BBQ and members brought side dishes. This was the 2nd Anniversary of the SPWBCH. There were 13 members present

There were no minutes taken at August meeting and no meetings held in September

Treasurer reported we have \$1,061.00. Have put in for F.S. payment of \$800.00

Joe reported the volunteer hours and breakdown. Will put that info in his project report.

Kathy reported on the State Board meeting. The State has \$18,117.64 in their Treasury. They have for sale Buckles, Shopping Bags and Decals and they are in the process of doing a License Plate Fund Raiser. They will need \$4,000.00 in funds to start. And will need a minimum of 400 people to buy plates. The plate Design will come from each Chapter coming up with a design and then submitting it to the State. From that they will pick what we will use as a State BCH License Plate. All members are invited to bring their ideas to the November meeting

The State is encouraging Chapters to get their resolutions in early. The 2009 Convention will be held in Helena. They are working on having 4 work shops this year (Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship) adding 87000 acres to the Bob Marshall

Chuck Miller sent Kathy a letter on September 14th asking that we support the improvements on trail #43 it is the Bear Creek Pass into the Clearwater National Forest. Dennis Price made a motion to support the letter and Julie Schram 2nd the motion. Motion passed

Kathy talked about a grant from the STAC (State Trails Advisory Committee) from Fish Wildlife and Parks. She will e-mail Deb Gail on trail recommendations. This would have to follow the SPWBCH guidelines of the trails we work on.

Elections are coming up in December. Paula Plettenberg and Linda Habeck will be the election committee. They will be calling members to see if they want to run for their office again. Anyone who would like to run for any of these can call them.

There was discussion on if we wanted to buy a chainsaw for the Chapter. It was decided that Joe Hundley and Dan Brandborg would look into this as they might be able to get a used one from either the F.S. or a private company.

There was some discussion on having a Packing Class Day for the chapter. Tom Blumhoefer said he would look into trying to find a place that this could take place indoors this winter. He will get back to the Chapter at the November meeting.

There was some discussion on whether we wanted to continue the News letter. Kathy Hundley will get a \$ break down on what it costs and will e-mail the members as to if they want to continue. Most everyone at the meeting was in favor of continuing it. It was brought up that maybe we could have members take on a part of each month so the articles doesn't just fall on one or two members.

The November meeting will be at Lake Como on November 22nd at 12PM. We will be doing a Dutch oven. More information will be e-mailed to members.

It was decided that we would try and have future meetings at someone's home or outside instead of at the church.

Meeting was adjourned at 9PM.

HORSE TRIVIA

Adult mares usually have 36 teeth. A mare may have up to 40 teeth if she happens to have any canine teeth, which is possible but less common. Adult males have between 40 and 44 teeth. (These figures do not include wolf teeth.) "Wolf teeth" in horses are teeth that are vestigial premolars. "Vestigial" means something that has lost most or all of its original function through evolution. Wolf teeth are usually just on the upper jaw but are sometimes found on the lower jaw, too. Wolf teeth can be a serious nuisance and most horsemen have them removed. A horse's age can usually be accurately determined by its teeth until the horse is about 9 years old. After that, a horse is known as "smooth mouthed" or "aged" and it becomes far more difficult or impossible to tell its age by its teeth.

DUTCH OVEN STUFFING RECIPE

1 lb. pork sausage	2 Tbs. dry sage leaves
1/2 cup butter	1 Tbs. dry thyme
2 red onions; diced	1 Tbs. tarragon leaves
6 stalks celery; diced	2 Tbs. dry parsley
2 cups fresh mushrooms; sliced	4 eggs; beaten
6 cloves garlic; minced	2 cups chicken broth
3/4 cup pinenuts	2 tsp. salt
9 cups dried bread cubes	1 1/2 tsp. black pepper

Brown sausage in a 12" Dutch oven using 20-22 briquettes bottom. Add butter, onions, celery, mushrooms, garlic, and pinenuts. Saute until vegetables are tender.

In a large bowl combine remaining ingredients and mix until bread cubes have absorbed all the broth. Add bread stuffing mixture to the sauteed vegetables in the Dutch oven and stir until well mixed.

Cover Dutch oven and bake using 10-12 briquettes bottom and 14-16 briquettes top for 60 minutes.

Serves: 12-15



Trail Report for Fall of 2008

By Joe Hundley

Blodgett Canyon:

It was a warm sunny day on Friday, August 15th, when Dan, Gail, and I met up with Bill Goslin, Wilderness Ranger Stevensville FS, at Blodgett Canyon trailhead. Nick Hazelbaker, Trail Supervisor West Fork Ranger District, called a few days before departure and had to cancel due to office work he had to complete. We packed in to nine-mile meadow on Friday morning and set up base camp for three days. Measurements were taken of the bad areas on Blodgett Pass where the drilling was to take place. Small bushes and trees were cut going up the pass along with cleaning water bars and the placing of rocks to help establish the tread. The 12 miles of trail to the lake was now cleared along with the 1.5 miles of Blodgett Pass.

Swet Lake, Idaho:

A week later, after the Blodgett trip, the day was completely opposite. On Thursday, August 21st, Charlie Mabbott, the FS rep, and four SPWBCH members packed 10 miles into Swet Lake Cabin. It was sleeting and raining all the way into the Frank Church Wilderness River of No Return. The Forest Service cabin with the wood stove and plenty of dry wood was a welcome site after the wet and cold ride in. I sat by the stove for hours trying to dry out and warm up. It warmed up the next day and we started to work on the barn that had sunken down in the dirt after 40 years of sitting in the wilderness. The barn was dug out and jacked up on all sides and treated 4x12" boards and rocks were scavenged and placed under the 4x6 joist to form a solid base. I think it will be good for another 50 years thanks to the hard work of Terry, Luanne and Kathy of the SPWBCH. What a year! The following is a breakdown of all the projects completed for the season: 13 projects, 705 work hours, 63.5 hours of travel time to the trailheads, 2394 vehicle miles with 2344 of those being stock hauling with trailers, 98 stock days, for a total of 62 miles of cleared trail.

I would like to ask everyone for suggestions for next year regarding trails that we might consider. One suggestion has already been made that we take on the Buck Creek trail up the East Fork. Now is the time to be thinking about next year. I would appreciate any recommendations or changes that the group might consider regarding trails and how we approach our objectives. I think we are all striving to improve and accommodate everyone's ideas. **-Joe**

“Should I or Shouldn’t I?”

A story by Gail Shulund as written by Paula Plettenberg

Should I or shouldn't I? Should I or shouldn't I? Should I or shouldn't I? That was the question I kept asking myself a few days before the Blodgett Pass Campout. At first, about a half a dozen people were planning to go, at the last minute, all the other gals backed out and only 2 of the guys were still planning the trip. This meant that I would be the only gal, but I really wanted to go. I had never taken the horses and actually packed my own horse with my own stuff. It had been a dream of mine for a long time.

Oh hell, I wanted to go! So, I started getting stuff ready. Nobody seemed to know for sure who was going or what to take so I decided to take what I needed to survive a couple of days. We were supposed to meet at Blodgett trailhead at 8 a.m. When I got there, Joe and Dan were packing their stock. I unloaded the horses and finished putting last minute stuff in. Dan then helped me weight each pannier (about 50 lbs each) and we hooked them onto the saddle. Dan tied my sleeping bag on top and we were ready to go.

The adrenalin was running and the fact that a whole bus load of kids pulled in right when we were getting ready hurried us up a little quicker. Those kids watched every move as we rode by. We hurried right on out of that trailhead.

Joe, riding Missy mule and leading Gypsy, took the lead with me on Sonny and leading Traveler next and Dan on Lotty and leading Cider bringing up the rear.

It was a pleasant August morning. Not much talking and the packs rode great. The trail was good and before we knew it, we were at the 9 mile meadow.

The guys pointed out a great sheltered place to highline my horses, leaving placement of my tent to me. I picked right in the middle of the meadow. Dan dropped his boxes as the kitchen area and Joe set up to the west with his ONE-man tent (See photos, below). Dan then highlined his mules in the trees to the east of the camp.

We were getting settled when F.S employee Bill Goslin with horse and mule pulled into camp. As he was setting up his camp, we made preparations for the evening meal. Becky had sent some delicious soup to which I contributed a pound of home grown hamburger and Boy! Was it good!!

As dusk fell, the mosquitoes and black gnats moved in and attacked!! Thank God, Paula had made me take this ridiculous head net which I immediately put on. It was too late, I woke up in the morning with one eye swollen shut, and the guys agreed, it looked like I'd had a Botox treatment in both cheeks!! Not to worry, though, breakfast was light and everybody ate what they had. We then saddled up and rode to the base of Blodgett Pass. Tying the horses at the bottom, we all took off like the mountain men and woman we were to work on water bars, weeds and brush and to inspect some spots when pinning and rock work was needed. Next year, maybe?

It was the most beautiful day that anyone could experience and all enjoyed our lunch, the views and clean fresh mountain air at the top of Blodgett Pass. After lunch, we went back to the horses and rode to Blodgett Lake at the end of the trail. Once more, the 3 mountain people lounged, waded and scouted the muddy shoreline for animal tracks.

We were all surprised to find that logs on the way to the lake had been cut with a chain saw. Of course, this being very illegal, the question was brought up as to who had cut the logs out with a chainsaw? We were innocent and finally (I think) we convinced Bill that we didn't do it.

Getting toward late afternoon we went back to camp. It was fun to use the time taking showers, having naps and just plain enjoying life. When dusk came, the guys hatched a plan to outwit the damn bugs with a smudge fire. I wasn't convinced, so I put the net back on. We pooled the food, mashed potatoes, polish sausage, smoked fish and banana bread. Why does everything taste so good when you are up in the mountains? It was absolutely delicious! With a sip or two of spirits, the stories for better and better as the evening lingered on and the campfire glowed beautifully. Soon, sleepiness overcame us and we crawled into our tents knowing that tomorrow we had to head back home.

Morning came and we hit the trail early to avoid meeting weekend hikers. The trip out was a little more eventful than going in was. Dan took the lead, Joe followed and ?I brought u pthe rear. I was soon aware that my pack horse was trying to go faster than my saddle horse. Sonny tried several times to get him to stay back, kicking, biting etc. but it made for a rather bumpy ride for me. When we stopped for lunch, I asked the guys if /I could go out front and maybe get my stock to line out a little better. This was working pretty well until I got out of sight and Joe had to adjust his pack. When I looked back and noticed that he wasn't coming, I turned around to see if something bad had happened. I was surprised to see that Missy

mule had gotten a little unhappy with Joe. There he was sitting out in the brush minus his hat. He soon retrieved the hat and was back in the saddle. The rest of the trip went uneventfully.

The trailhead proved to be another story. We all unpacked and loaded the horses and mules up. Joe headed for home and Dan hit the key to find his truck wouldn't but for a few seconds. I went over and we inspected under the hood. As we weren't mechanics we thought it best for me to take Dan home. Becky was nervously waiting. I went home to give Paula the scare of her life. She thought I had been in a horrible horse accident. I explained it was only bug bites!!

Well, to end the story, Dan had to get his some to go back with another truck to get the trailer and mules home. They then had to come-along the truck onto a trailer and tow it to the Ford garage. There, they were told that in the new rigs, you can't just have a copy made of your key, you have to get a computerized chip of some kind. Oh, my!!

Anyway it was the best trip of the summer for me and I hope to do another some day.

Thanks guys! Gail

TRAIL UPDATE: On 10/26/08, Gail and her mom walked about a mile up Blodgett. They had to cross several logs in the trail – the wind has been at it again!!

SPWBCH - 2008 Elections

Elections for the SPWBCH will be held at the December General Meeting. (Date to be determined)
The following are positions that need to be filled. If anyone is interested in any of these, please call or e-mail either Linda Habeck at 961-1435 / linda5117@msn.com or Paula Plettenberg at 961-2450 / tv cows@copper.net

President: 1 year term (Current): Kathy Hundley
Vice-Pres: 1 year term (Current): Paula Plettenberg
Secretary: 1 year term (Current): Joy Price
Treasurer: 1 year term (Current): Luanne Bauman

Montana State Director: 2 year term; requires travel 3 times yearly across the state. (Current); Julie Schram.

Montana State Alternate Director: 1 year term; requires travel 3 times yearly across the state. (Current); Kathy Hundley

Local Board; 2 year term (Current); Chris McCabe

Those with remaining terms are:

Joy Price; 1 year State Director

Terry Reed; 1 year Local Director

Nominations from the floor will also be accepted the night of the elections.

Please let either Paula or Linda know if you are interested in any of these positions by November 15th.

Tack Care - As leather ages and is exposed to the elements, it loses the fats and oils used to saturate the hide during the tanning process. The dryer and harder leather gets, the greater the likelihood it will crack, split or warp. So along with keeping your leather clean, you will need to condition it from time to time. Things to check:

1. Check for any wear and tear that might need to be addressed now by checking the saddle rigging. On saddles take a look at where the latigo rings are sewn to the saddle. Make sure that the leather is not worn and that the stitching isn't frayed.
2. Check that the holes on the latigo and reach cinch straps haven't stretched to the point where they might rip.
3. Horse sweat is one of the worse enemies of saddle leather. The salt in dried sweat absorbs the natural oils in leather. Eventually, if left there it will first dry the leather out and then the leather will start to split or form cracks. Make sure your saddle leather is not dry and cracking; if it is, clean and oil the leather to make it supple again.
4. On Western rigged saddles, first check the area around the rigging plate. Look over the leather for dryness and cracking. Check the rivets that attach the plate to the leather. Make sure they haven't stretched the leather and pulled loose.
5. Check your latigo and offside billet for wear, drying and cracking.
6. The next area to really focus in on is the stirrup leathers or fenders. Check all rivets and check the stitching that attaches the buckles/D-rings to the leather. Make sure nothing is worn and fraying.
7. On Western fenders, check the rivets that attach the Blevins buckle to the strap. Make sure they haven't stretched the leather and might pull loose.
8. Check the area where the fender is attached to the strap. Look over any rivets or stitching for wear. It's much better to take care of a problem now rather than have a failure on the trail.
9. Periodically cleaning, oiling and conditioning of all of your leather goods and tack will dramatically extend their life.

In Memoriam - "Cody"

The Eickhoff's lost their beloved kid's horse, Cody, in a freak accident in September when he stepped on a large broken willow branch in his own pasture and it went deep into his abdomen. He was put down after 5 days of trying to beat the infection. Through out the entire process of removing the stick, transporting him and the treatments he received at Dr Gleason's, Cody remained a perfect gentleman and took it all without complaint. He is sorely missed and it seems like an empty farm without his playful antics.



Leave No Trace

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

7. *Be Respectful of Other Visitors*



- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- When hiking, step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- When riding, put red ribbons on the tail of any possible "kickers".
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

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. 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

This content of this newsletter shall not be reproduced in any form or manner without prior written agreement. This includes reproduction of articles, photos, and the SPWBCH logo.



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