

Summer 2012

Yellowstone River Ranch

PO Box 452, Columbus, MT 59019 www.yrrlc.com



Special Interest Articles:

- Sheep Run Pg. 2
- History of Absarokee Pg 3
- Fly Fishing the Dog Days. Pg 6

Individual Highlights:

Your Board	3
Recipes	4
Welcome	5
River Park	5
Annual Meeting	5
Weeds	8
Summer Fun	8
Resources	9
Calendar of Events	9



From Your Board

By Andy Simpson

It has been a great summer here on the ranch with plenty of sun and definitely a lot of warm days! The mild winter gave us a hint of the possibility of a warmer than usual summer and it didn't disappoint. However, the heat and lack of moisture have presented challenges for fire season and to date Montana has had twenty-eight fires that have burned more than 650 square miles. Hopefully, the next few weeks will give us more moisture and a few cooler days.

It has been a pleasure to meet many landowners who have been able to visit in the summer months and build relationships for the future. Stopping on one our roads for a quick chat or bumping into a neighbor in town offers great opportunity for becoming familiar with residents with a variety of backgrounds and interesting histories. The diversity of our residents is one of the great benefits of living on the ranch.



You may have noticed equipment on the ranch for road maintenance. Dean Bruursema, owner of Central Excavating in Reed Point, will begin his work within the week on the road plan for this year. The road repair and maintenance has been much anticipated. Visit our website at www.yrrlc.com to see the details of where this road work will be occurring and be mindful when traveling throughout the ranch.

The board has developed a comprehensive 5-year road plan that will insure attention is given to all areas of the ranch in a systematic and cost effective manner to get the maximum results with our limited budget.

I appreciate all of the comments, suggestions and concerns I have received over the last few weeks and I encourage all residents to keep communicating with members of the board as we move forward.

Remember that our board meetings are open to all residents and we encourage attendance. There are several challenges we face and it is imperative that we join together in coming to mutual agreements to solve these issues in a manner that will bring harmony and progress to our community.

I look forward to serving in conjunction with our board members to provide common sense solutions and bring us together for the betterment of our association and future.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer!

Sheep Run

By Renate Nieman



The Reed Point Sheep Drive is a must do event. Every summer right before Labor Day hundreds of sturdy Montana sheep charge down the six blocks of main street Reed Point. The Sheep Run turns this sleepy little town into a bustle of activity.

Over 50 vendors line the streets of Reed Point. You can find anything from beautifully crafted jewelry to beaver pelts. Many of the items are made in Montana. As you stroll down the street delicious smell assault your senses from the variety of food vendors.

There are many fun scheduled events though out the day. Around noon



the “Biggest Small Town” parade marches down Main Street. The parade features horses, covered wagons, floats, antique cars, the Shriner’s Band, tractors and much more. First second and third place prizes are always awarded. The auction

starts around 1pm. All kinds of great treasures are up for sale there is always something for everyone.



Later in the afternoon, there is a thrilling gunfight on Main Street which is always great fun to watch.

Of course the running of the sheep is the Main Event. Many people say that it is only matched by the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona, Spain. The sheep usually run between 3 and 4 pm. When the time get close it will be announced

“Clear the street the Sheep are going to Run.” People line the sides of the street and the crowd quiets in anticipation. Suddenly someone will yell ***“Here Come The Sheep!”*** Every one leans out into the street to catch their first glimpse. The sheep come running and jumping down the street. The crowd ooh’s and aah’s over each jump. Finally the last

few stragglers come leaping down the road. The running of the sheep is over for this year.

After the running of the sheep the log sawing contest is set up. This is a fun event to watch. Teams compete to see who can saw the end off of a giant log the quickest.



There is an auction at the beginning of the contest where people in the crowd bid on the team they think will win. The contest starts and the crowd cheers for their favorite.

Later in the evening there is a street dance. The band will set up and play music for the whole family. Sheep Run is a great fun family event. This year it will be held on September 2nd.



“Many people say that it is only matched by the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona, Spain. .”



History of Absarokee

By Renate Nieman



Absarokee is a small scenic town that lies along the Stillwater River. The name Absaroka was the Indian name by which the Crows were first known. The town was originally located on Indian Reservation land. It was opened up to Homesteading in the late 1800's. The first post office was established on December 16, 1892. Sever Simonson served as postmaster.

Along Main Street you can still see many historical buildings dating back to 1896. During the summer of 1910, the Sandstone School was build and in 1917 the Cobblestone High School was build with rocks hauled from the Rosebud creek. Both schools are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Rosebud Creek flows into the Stillwater in Absarokee. This is an excellent area for fly fishing.



There are many other fun things

to do in the area. You can enjoy horse training and roping events at the Anipro Arena located 4 miles south of town.



1-800-334-RAFT(7238)

Rafting the Stillwater River is exciting. Rafting trips are available from Absarokee River Adventures.



wanda@paintbrushadventures.com

If horseback riding is your passion there are great rides available through Paintbrush Adventures.

Absarokee lies 14 miles south of Columbus on Highway 78, the Donald J. Ruhl Metal of Honor Memorial Highway, the most beautiful route to Yellowstone National Park.



Contact Your Board

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TEXAS CAVIAR

By Diana O'Neil



- 2 cans Black eyed peas, drained
- 1 can Hominy, drained
- 3/4 c. chopped red or yellow sweet pepper
- 1/2 c. onion, chopped
- 1 can petite diced tomatoes, drained - or 3 med. tomatoes, seeded & chopped
- 1 8oz bottle Zesty Italian salad dressing

Mix together. Let it chill several hours. When ready to serve, drain excess liquid and sprinkle with garlic salt. Serve with tortilla chips or tostitos "scoops".

This recipe was one of several I got from my friend and neighbor Betty Smith, who was an excellent cook. She told me that it was always a hit when she took it to a gathering, and that has proven to be true for me too.

The first time she served it, I tasted some before asking what was in it. Had I just seen an ingredient list first, I might not have tried it, as I had never eaten hominy and blackeyed peas. Glad I did!

Smores Ice Cream Treats

A cool treat for a Hot Day

It has been a hot summer in Montana and we have all been looking for a way to cool off. All of us love to make Smores over a camp fire but when the temps are in the 90's and there are burn bans on open fires we need to have a new idea on an old favorite. Smores Ice Cream Treats are a great twist on this delicious family treat.



Ingredients

1/2 (1.5 quart) container of your favorite ice cream
9 graham cracker sheets
2 regular Hershey chocolate bars, melted

1/2 (10 ounce) package large marshmallows
1/4 cup 2% milk.

Preparation

1. Lightly coat an 8-inch square cake pan with cooking spray; line pan with plastic wrap, leaving a 6-inch overhang on two sides. Fill bottom with ice cream. Top evenly with graham crackers and cover with chocolate. Place in the freezer for 10 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, place marshmallows in a medium microwave-safe bowl on high heat 40 seconds. Add milk, mixing well. Let cool slightly. Spread marshmallow mixture over chocolate and top with remaining graham crackers. Wrap in plastic wrap and freeze until firm, about 8 hours. Turn upside down onto a serving plate and serve immediately.

Annual Meeting

Our 2012 annual meeting was held at the Columbus Fire Station. The board of directors updated the members on the activities of the corporation.

We elected three new board members; Harold Riensche, Andy Simpson, and Matt Catlin. Kim Skelton continued as Treasurer and Renate Nieman continued as the Developers Director.

The Board of Directors is here to serve you, the members. If you have questions, concerns or just want to some information on the ranch give them a call they will be glad to help you.

Next year's meeting will be on July 20, 2013.

We had a great BBQ at the park after the annual meeting. Everyone enjoyed burgers and dogs. We all had a chance to meet and talk to our new neighbors. There were lots of great salads and sides. Thank you everyone.



River Park

We had a great group of volunteers help get our community park ready for the summer.



David and Irene Belvin brought their tractor down and mowed and the weeds and brush. Kim Felt, Mike Fatchett, Renate Nieman, and Kim Skelton worked with the Belvins moving picnic tables, raking weeds and doing all the other things necessary to get our park ready for the summer.



Cody's first trout caught at the River

The park is a great place to get together with your neighbors. Come on down, play a game of horse shoes or put your pole in the river. Spend some quality time with your family and friends.

We are still looking for someone to head up the "Park Committee". We need someone to organize next year's mowing and clean up. We have had some great ideas from members to build a gas BBQ area so when we are on fire restrictions we can still grill. We need to do a bit more work on the horse shoe pit and would like to hang a tire swing. If you are interested please contact a board member and they will get you started.

Welcome New Neighbors

We have lots of new neighbors on the ranch this year. Tom and Sue Robbins have moved in to their new home on Granit Peak Place. They love horseback riding and look forward to exploring the ranch on horseback.

Bob and Luana Moss have started on their home on Haystack Coulee. They have been spending their summers here for the last several years. They love coming to the ranch with their grandchildren. They are looking forward to moving here full time in the next year or so.

The Chrismans are building a beautiful log home in the second meadow off of Balfour Loop.



If you are planning on building please send Kristi Skelton, head of the architectural committee (406) 780-0744 your plans for approval.

Fly Fishing the “Dog” Days

By Dave Chaudoir

Each year fly fishers around the US wait for the massive run off from the Rocky Mountains to subside and the major rivers of the state of Montana to run slow and clear. The timing of this event “usually” occurs around the 4th of July, but this year the event was accompanied with an extremely hot rest of July. So, what does a fly fisher do – drift the major rivers under the hot Montana sun with temperatures approaching 100°F or does one just wait for more reasonable temperatures? I for one, wait for the hot spell to wear itself out.

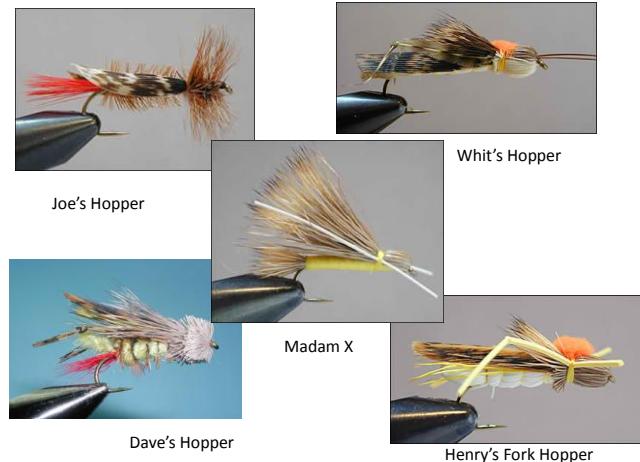
Assuming that the temperature moderates, July through September has some super opportunities for the fly fisher. Mayflies are hatching, caddis and stone flies are emerging rather sporadically and the terrestrials (ants, crickets and hoppers) become more available as the

summer wears on. As I write this in early August the Yellowstone River is at about 65-68°F, cooler in the morning and rising throughout the day under Montana’s “Big” sky. An approach during this time span is to fish with a Pale Morning Dun dry fly imitation or emerger pattern in the late morning or early afternoon, hopper patterns in the early afternoon through evening (don’t rule out black ants and crickets) and caddis dry fly imitation (Elk Hair Caddis or Stimulator) near dusk. As always scouting with Royal Wulff attractor dry fly pattern or a big streamer patterns will work also. Last fall, I provided some hopper patterns that have proven success on Montana waters; I’ve reproduced that chart here for your reference.



Stillwater River as viewed near the Fisherman’s Point Access

“September has some super opportunities for the fly fisher.”

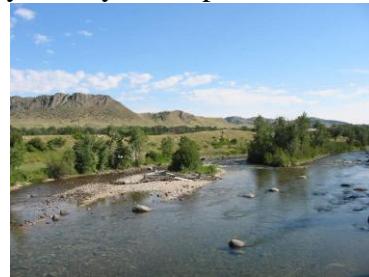


Effective Hopper Patterns

Other than the Yellowstone River, Montana offers a wide variety of blue ribbon trout fishing. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) offer a significant collection of information that is of value to the fishing public. The document I've found the most useful over the years is Montana's Fishing Access Sites Booklet. I've used this document effectively while fishing the Missouri, Beaverhead and Ruby, just to name a few. It's available off the web and Montana FWP has a site that you can print the document or search for sites by name, nearest city, regional area, closest water body, activity or facility; <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishing/searchFas.html>. Cleve Schuster and Don Youngren are property owners on YRR and are employed by the FWP and responsible for the enhancement and maintenance of the access sites in our region – obviously, they are excellent sources of information.

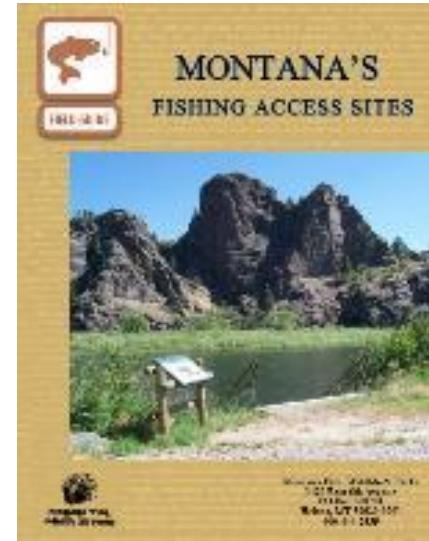
As an example of the information available, I've included a map that is presented for the Stillwater River along with the location of the access sites plus photos of the river near Columbus (Fisherman's Point Access) and Nye (Buffalo Jump Access). The Stillwater is a pocket water fishery for the

most part, so proper equipment is critical to success and safety – waders and or wading shoes with felt soles and wading staff are essential for this type of water. Again, fishing with dry fly attractors has proven very successful, and don't forget to try the branches of the Rosebud – you may be surprised.

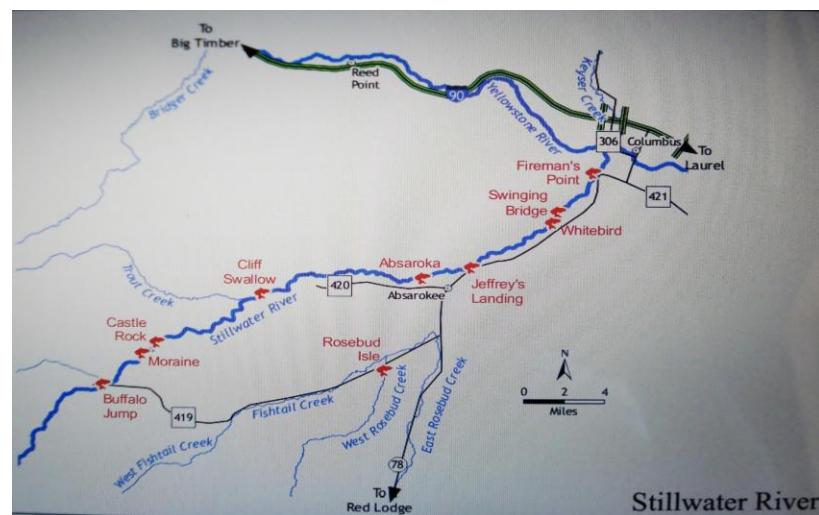


Stillwater River near Nye, Montana

Finally, as you search for the perfect spot make sure you check with your local fly shops for "hot" waters, hatches and effective patterns. They are in the business to help you and increase your success.



Montana's Fishing Access Sites Publication, A Must for the Fly Fisher



Stillwater River Map with Fishing Access Sites



Don't Spread Your Weeds Spread the Word!!?

Our Montana List

- ⊕ Yellow starthistle
- ⊕ Dyer's woad
- ⊕ Flowering rush
- ⊕ Japanese knotweed complex
- ⊕ Purple loosestrife
- ⊕ Rush skeletonweed
- ⊕ Eurasian watermilfoil
- ⊕ Scotch broom
- ⊕ Curlyleaf pondweed
- ⊕ Tansy ragwort
- ⊕ Meadow hawkweed complex
- ⊕ Orange hawkweed
- ⊕ Tall buttercup
- ⊕ Perennial pepperweed
- ⊕ Yellowflag iris Blueweed
- ⊕ Hoary alyssum
- ⊕ Canada thistle
- ⊕ Field bindweed
- ⊕ Leafy spurge
- ⊕ Whitetop
- ⊕ Russian knapweed
- ⊕ Dalmatian toadflax
- ⊕ Spotted Knapweed
- ⊕ Yellow toadflax
- ⊕ Diffuse knapweed
- ⊕ St. Johnswort
- ⊕ Sulfur cinquefoil
- ⊕ Common tansy
- ⊕ Oxeye daisy
- ⊕ Houndstongue
- ⊕ Saltcedar
- ⊕ Cheatgrass
- ⊕ Hydrilla
- ⊕ Russian Olive
- ⊕ Common Mullein
- ⊕ Black Henbane
- ⊕ Common Burdock



Field bindweed

***Remember, it is unlawful in the state Montana to "permit any noxious weed to propagate or produce seeds" on your land.

Regulated Plants: Technically not listed noxious weeds but have the potential to have significant impacts and therefore, may not be intentionally spread or sold other than as a contaminant in agricultural products.

Our County Noxious Weed List: Specific to Stillwater County



Spotted Knapweed

How can you do your part?

This is a new weed awareness program being utilized in Montana. It is unique in that it takes the overwhelming task of fighting noxious weeds and brings it down to a manageable level for everyone.

It takes 5 simple steps:

1. Pick an activity that is important to you.
2. Review the noxious weeds that have the potential to impact your activity.
3. Pick five weeds that could impact you.
4. Learn how to identify your five weeds, and how they are spread.
5. Learn what to do if you find one of your five weeds.

We've picked our five! Have you?

Please call the Stillwater County Weed District's office for more information or to have us conduct an educational program for you (322-1106).

Summer Fun on the Yellowstone



The Yellowstone River is not only a great place to fish it is fun to float and swim. Late July, August and early September are the best times to grab a tube and float the river. Floating is the best way to see eagles, pelicans, and all types of water fowl.

If you don't have much time and just want to cool off, put your tube in at the ranch river park and float to the new fishing access point Holmgren just off of highway 10 heading into Columbus. If you want a bit longer float, the trip from Reed Point to the ranch is a lot of fun. Depending on the speed of the river and the stops you make, it usually takes 3-4 hours to float this section.

For day trips Bratten and Pelican are other great places to start from. Bratten fishing access is 4.5 miles west of Reed Point on North Frontage Rd. To get to Pelican continue 7.8 miles on the frontage road. Both of these floats are day trips so make sure you pack a lunch and bring plenty of water.

If you just want to go for a swim the ranch river park has a great swimming hole. There is also a great swimming spot at Indian Fort in Reed Point. It is located just north of town on the river.



Resources on the Ranch

Unbound Architecture

Kristi Skelton

(406) 780-0744

skeltonarchitect@yahoo.com

Mallard Cove Realty

Mike Fatchett

(866) 600-1100

mike@mallardcove.com

Farmers Insurance

Auto*Home*Life*Business*Health

Irene Belvin – Agent

Bus: (406) 446-4900

Cell: (406) 697-4573

ibelvin@farmersagent.com

www.farmersagent.com/ibelvin

Sewing, Embroidery and Handmade Gifts

Sewing* Embroidery* Handmade Gifts

Kristy Brown (406) 326-2416
kbshopn@mtintouch.net

Free River Gravel

263 E. Frontage Road, Reed Point

Jim (406) 698-1829
Dean (406) 321-0424

www.freerivergravel.com

Property Repairs

Carpentry*Plumbing*Minor Electrical* Etc

Ed Brown (406) 326-2416
grumpops@aol.com

Stillwater Plumbing

Kim Skelton (406) 322-8523
Jim Gebel (406) 321-2898

harvestbuilder@yahoo.com

Your Ad can go here!!

If you have a business you would like to advertise let us know and we will put your ad here.

Twin Rivers Construction

Chuck Hall 406-321-3327

Stillwater County Calendar of Events

AUGUST

- 9TH** Columbus Farmer Market
Railroad Park 4pm
- 11TH** Stillwater Fundraiser for Museum of the Beartooth
- 16TH** Columbus Farmer Market
- 23RD** Columbus Farmer Market
- 30TH** Columbus Farmer Market
- TBA Absarokee Art & Wine Festival

SEPTEMBER

- 1ST** Absarokee Farmers Market
- 2ND** Running of the Sheep
Reed Point
- 6TH** Columbus Farmer Market
- 13TH** Columbus Farmer Market
- TBA – Stillwater Quilters Show

OCTOBER

- 11TH** Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet

DECEMBER

- Dates TBA
- Columbus Parade of Lights
- Winter Bazaar-Absarokee
- Absarokee Snowflake Festival