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Around The Ranch

By Andy Simpson

We are experiencing a most beautiful start to summer. With lots of moisture and mild temperatures, the landscape is alive with green grasses, flowers and wildlife.



Taking it in reminds us all why we are so attracted to this area and lifestyle. It is amazing. A more powerful element that adds value to YRR is the community of people who have chosen to invest here.

I once read a statement by Wendall Berry that epitomizes my desire for our community. He stated,

“A community is the mental and spiritual condition of knowing that the place is shared, and that the people who share the place define and limit the possibilities of each other's lives. It is the

knowledge that people have of each other, their concern for each other, their trust in each other, the freedom with which they come and go among themselves.”



This is an awesome philosophy that we should acknowledge and embrace. Every community has its challenges. Diversity of opinions and ideas are many, but the one thing we have in common is our humanity. People represent the greatest asset of any community!

We have an important annual meeting coming up and we have many issues that need resolution. I encourage everyone to come together to meet the challenges with a sense of community at the forefront. We need the input of each land owner. Let's approach our annual meeting with a mindset to work together to find commonality.

John Dewey once remarked, *“There is more than a verbal tie between the words common, community, and communication.... Try the experiment of communicating, with fullness and accuracy, some experience to another, especially if it be somewhat complicated, and you will find your own attitude toward your experience changing.”*



Picture taken by Bonnie Lorash

Composed of honest, sober and virtuous people, our community can and will succeed in creating a bright future. I look forward to seeing you all at the annual meeting and picnic afterward. Enjoy the summer!

Natural Bridge Boulder River

By Renate Nieman



About 30 miles south of Big Timber, the Boulder River plunges dramatically over a 100 foot limestone cliff forming Natural Bridge Falls. Although the limestone bridge formation that once spanned the river collapsed in 1988, the Natural Bridge Falls Recreation Area remains a popular destination along the Boulder River Road. Paved paths provide easy access to several overlooks of the falls and Boulder River Canyon. During low water, the river actually cuts through underground channels and bursts out near the base of the limestone cliff. At first sight, this may not seem as impressive as the 100 foot drop seen during high water, but the falls at low water are still a fascinating spectacle and lesson in geology.

Constrained by a deeply cut chasm during high water, the Boulder

River flows over a 100-foot precipice, creating the spectacular Boulder River Falls. At low water, the river flowed under a natural rock bridge, but in July 1988, the bridge that gave the area its name collapsed. The park also serves as a wilderness trailhead and has good trout fishing. The park is 40 acres in size and is 5,000 feet in elevation.



The site offers a picnic area with scenic overlooks, interpretive plaques explaining the geologic process, and paved trails. Some trails are steep, so good walking shoes are recommended. This is a great place for photography. The Natural Bridge footbridge is legal access to Teepee Mountain, Contact Mountain, and Green Mountain.

After exploring the falls, cross the Boulder River on the sturdy wooden footbridge and continue hiking through Gallatin National Forest along Green Mountain Trail 94. The first part of the trail offers views of the Natural Bridge Falls area which many visitors unfortunately miss the opportunity to see because they never venture beyond the paved paths.

After a short climb up and out of the river canyon, the trail brings hikers through open meadows with excellent views of the Boulder River Valley. The path gradually meanders up Green Mountain into thick forest interspersed with small mountain meadows. Watch for elk and deer. As always when hiking in Montana, be bear aware. Eventually, the trail descends into the East Boulder River Valley ending at East Boulder Campground after covering about 5.5 miles. The Boulder River has long been renowned within Montana for its excellent recreation opportunities and many residents will tell you that the Boulder is one of their favorite places to visit.



Directions: Natural Bridge State Monument is located 27 miles south of Big Timber on Secondary 298.

Benbow

By Renate Nieman



For those that like old mines, Benbow mine in Montana is a good one. You can hike the trails around the mine in the Custer National forest. This is a fun day trip from the Ranch. The terrain offers miles of roads and trails, providing access to Chrome Lake or the trailhead to Island Lake for fishing.

The Benbow area was named for T.C. Benbow, who first discovered chromite there. The Benbow mine is located near the top of a mountain in the Absaroka Range just north of Yellowstone National Park. Even if you don't like mines, the scenery is pretty fantastic.



We have taken several day trips there on our ATVs. There are lots of great trails to explore. We explored the old mine on one trip and drove the trails on another.

There is a fun loop that takes you to the top of the pass then around and down through several creek crossing. The route up is fairly straight. On the trip back the trail winds around through the forest and across lots of creeks.



At first the kids were afraid that they wouldn't make it across the small creeks on their ATV's. After several crossing they became pros at it. This was a great trip for the whole family.

If you want to camp there are lots of nice places that you can camp over night in.



To get to Benbow from Columbus take highway 78 through Absarokee. Turn right on the Nye road (Co road 419). The road to Benbow is off the Nye road between Fishtail and Nye. It is a dirt road heading south right by Montana Jacks Bar & Grill. The road is an easy winding climb that goes past huge limestone palisades that sort of look like the back of a stegosaurus.



If you don't want to hike and don't have an ATV try calling Benbow ATV rentals. They are located in Fishtail right by Benbow. Give them a call or check out their website for more information.

Benbow ATV, 62 Trinity Trail Fishtail, Mt (406) 328-4352

<http://www.benbowent.com>

Cowboy Porridge Chocolate Chip Cookies



Ingredients

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1 c. shortening | 2 c. flour |
| 2 eggs | 1/2 tsp. baking soda |
| 3/4 c. brown sugar | 1/2 c. Cream of the West Roasted Wheat cereal |
| 3/4 c. white sugar | 1 c. chocolate chips |
| 1 tsp. vanilla | |

PREPARATION

Beat together shortening, eggs, both sugars, and vanilla. Add and beat in flour, baking soda, and roasted wheat. Add and stir in chocolate chips. Bake at 325 degrees for about 8-10 minutes or until light golden brown. Do not over bake!

Whole Grilled Trout

- 2 whole trout, cleaned
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 1 tablespoon olive oil, divided
- sea salt & pepper to taste
- 1/2 lemon, thinly sliced
- 1/2 sweet onion, thinly sliced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme



PREPARATION

1. Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat and lightly oil the grate.
2. Rub each trout generously with olive oil and sprinkle with sea salt; sprinkle inside of cavities with salt and black pepper. Place half the lemon and onion slices into cavity of each trout, and place a sprig of rosemary and thyme into cavities.
3. Turn preheated grill down to low and place the trout directly onto the grill; cook until flesh flakes easily and the skins are browned, 6 to 7 minutes per side, flipping once.
4. Enjoy!

Summer in the Ranch

Summer is a great time for outdoor events. There are so many fun things to do in our wonderful big sky state. I will touch on a few of my favorites.



The Fourth of July weekend brings a host of fun family events. **Red lodge has its 4th of July rodeo weekend.** The rodeo is held on July 2, 3, & 4. For more information Phone: (406) 446-2422

Email: info@redlodgerodeo.com

Livingston Roundup Rodeo & Parade

The rodeo is held on July 2, 3, & 4. On July 2nd the normally tranquil town of Livingston (population 7,500) swells to max capacity with parade goers. In anticipation, locals stake out prime sidewalk frontage early in the morning. If your lawn chair isn't in place by 10 AM, expect to stand. The Livingston Roundup Parade usually kicks off around 3:00 PM and winds down by 5:00 PM.

For more information or to get rodeo tickets **Call 406-222-3199**

Festival of the Arts at the Depot:

For those interested in pursuits more civilized than rodeo and late-night rollicking, the Livingston Depot Center's Festival of the Arts on July 2nd, 3rd and 4th is a nice alternative. This outdoor art festival held in Depot Rotary Park (next to the train depot on Park Street) is an annual arts and crafts fair that attracts talented artisans from around the country. Stroll from booth to booth, talk with artists or grab a bite to eat.



July 12-14 is the Annual Yellowstone Boat Float. The float starts on July 12 in Livingston with stops in Big Timber on the 12 and Reed Point on the 13. You can join up with the floaters at any point on the river. This is a really fun event to float the river with lots of friends. The street dance in Reed Point on the 13 is good fun with a live band and street dance. Many of us at the Ranch will be getting together to float on the 13. If you would like to join us please call me at 303-888-0076

Our annual meeting will be held on July 20 at 10am. This year we will be holding the meeting at the Columbus Baptist Church, 55 Centennial Road, Columbus. After the meeting we are planning a Potluck picnic at our community park. This is a great time to get to know all of your neighbors.

Roads In The Ranch

Planned road work for the summer of 2013 is as follows:

Complete Winding River Road from Lot 110 to the intersection with Owl Canyon

Northern Harrier from intersection with Brumfield Road to Kestrel Trail

Wild Horse Run from Lot 26 to Palomino Trail

Owl Canyon from intersection with Winding River Road to Cougar Trail grade, water and vibratory roll only.

First two S-curves on Winding River Road

Balfour Loop from the intersection with Winding River Road to Lot 125



Picture taken by Bonnie Lorash

Community Corner



Here is some exciting news from one of our residents Jeff and Polly Hutchison. They have beautiful home on lot 138.

The article from “Sports Washington Dawgman.com ” is about our younger son Luke who is 18 and just graduated from high school last month.

O'Dea (Seattle, Wa.) LS Luke Hutchison got some good news earlier today when he found out from the Husky coaches that they had a walk-on spot available for him. He didn't have to think about his decision for too long and should be the favorite to take over the long-snapping duties this fall...

"I had an offer from Central Washington and I was talking to Southern Miss and Eastern (Washington) and I talked to the Washington State coach the other day, but when Washington finally figured out that they had a spot open for me to walk-on, I decided I wanted to be a Husky," Hutchison told Dawgman.com. "They had been talking to me about walking on since November and then just recently they told me they have a spot for me. I was really excited and happy they had that spot and they were happy to get me in since they lost their long-snapper from last year (Ryan Masel)."

As a freshman with the Irish, Hutchison handled the quarterback duties on the freshman team, but as a sophomore he decided to give long-snapping a try and it stuck.

"During the playoffs in my sophomore season, I just started trying long-snapping and I was good at it, so I sorta just stuck with it and got better and better," Hutchison said. "I started every game as a junior and senior and I did pretty well."

Renowned long-snapping coach Chris Rubio had this to say about Hutchison after coaching him the past few years.

"Luke continues to impress me. The best part about him, besides his great D-1 snapping size, is how well he listens. Tell him and it is done. Had issues with his hand

placement, showed him how to fix it, DONE. He throws non-stop spirals now and has good speed. Continuing to lean back and fine tune his form will make him better and better. Great attitude."

Hutchison said he's still working on when he will arrive, but it is likely he will wind up enrolling with the rest of the 2013 class for the LEAP program which begins on July 8th.

Jeff and Polly can't wait to get back to the ranch and enjoy the beautiful Montana summer.



GREAT HORSES FOR SALE

The Belvins have 3 great family horses for sale. They are great for any rider. They have the perfect horse for anyone that wants to get started riding.

Call Irene at 406-697-4573 if you are interested

If you have something you would like to share please contact me so that I can put it into our "Community Corner"

Email articles, happenings and pictures to:

Renate@buymontantland.com

Montana's Gem

By
Dave Chadoir

The Treasure State is a well suited name, not for "rocks" but rather for the fabulous trout streams available to us throughout Montana. I'd like to focus this article on one of my favorites, Rock Creek. Now I know of one Rock Creek south of Billings, but I'm talking about the Rock Creek in western Montana that flows north into the Clark Fork just east of Missoula.



For us, the trek to Rock Creek is a multi-day adventure that is well worth the time and expense. The junction of Rock Creek with the Clark Fork is just off of Interstate 90, Exit 126, where one would find lodging (cabins, lodges and camp grounds) and the Rock Creek Fisherman's Mercantile (a must visit for flies and a few other things).



For the fly fisher, the stop at the mercantile must include buying a map of Rock Creek (\$1 the last time I purchased one) which details everything including the famous holes and rapids, and the picturesque campgrounds. Camping is my favorite; inexpensive and very relaxing, except when the bears are in the area. As a general rule, make sure you have a Montana Atlas and Gazetteer in your vehicle – it is by far the best source of road/river/creek information published.

		Rock Creek							
Insect	Size(s)	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
BWO	18-22								
Midges	20+								
Salmon Flies	4-6								
Green Drake	10,12								
Caddis	12-18								
Golden Stones	8,10								
Gray Drake	12,14								
PMD	16,18								
Terrestrials	10-18								
Hoppers	8,10								

Fly fishing Rock Creek is a dynamic experience at any time during the year. You have access to big rainbows, cutthroat, brown and bull trout with general sizing for the 10 inch size to the size shown

in the post card (really not quite that big) but the browns can get massive.



Hatch Chart

INSECTS	SIZE	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Mayfly													
Pale Morning Dun	14-18												
Pale Evening Dun	14-18												
Blue-Wing Olive	16-22												
Gray Drake	12-16												
Western Green Drake	8-12												
Ameletus*	14-18												
Trico	18-26												
Mahogany Dun	12-16												
INSECTS													
Stonefly													
Capnia (Tiny Winter Black)	16-18												
Nemoura (Tiny Winter Black)	14-16												
Skwala	12-14												
Salmon Fly	4-8												
Golden Stone	6-10												
Summer Yellow	16-18												
Summer Green	16-18												
INSECTS													
Caddis													
Grannom (Brown / Green)	12-16												
Spotted Sedge (Tan / Brown-Tan)	12-16												
Brown Sedge	12-18												
Autumn Caddis (October Caddis)	6-10												
INSECTS													
Midges	18-24												
Hoppers	8-12												
Ants & Beetles	Varied												
Spruce Moth	10-12												

*= No common name
NOTE: Common names have been used in this chart. There are many styles of flies for each hatch. We specialize in a variety to suit each fisherman's personal likes. Nymph, emerger, and at least two dry styles are available for each hatch.

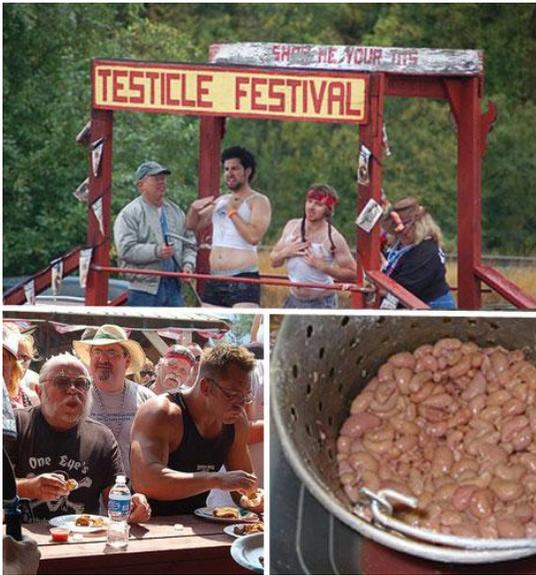
One of the most fabled hatches on Rock Creek, also the Bitterroot and Black Foot, is the salmon fly hatch. Actually a stonefly, it's a large morsel for any size trout to dine on. The salmon flies are about 1.5 to 2 inches in length and are black with a bit of orange trim. I've included a picture of the salmon fly, along with the major hatches on Rock Creek and the general western Montana hatch chart as compiled by the Missoulian Angler Fly Shop.



Montana's Gem

continued

Variety is really the spice of life and Rock Creek area offers it all. Hiking to beautiful flower covered meadows, wildlife viewing (maybe the behinds of a herd of big horn sheep is not the best example, but you get the idea), and we must not forget the world famous Rocky Mountain Oyster Festival.



If you are interested in exploring Rock Creek and the surrounding area, there is an abundant body of information on the web or you can just head that direction and see where you end up.



Contact Your Board

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Touring Yellowstone

By Renate Nieman



Yellowstone in the summer is a great time to see wildlife, elk, moose, bears, buffalo and all kinds of birds from giant golden eagles to beautiful swans. Yellowstone Park is about a 2 hour drive from the Ranch. The closet entrance is through Mammoth Hot Springs.



Another great way to enter the park from the Ranch is to go through Red Lodge and take the "Beartooth Highway" entering the park through Cook City. This route is longer but well worth the time. The Beartooth Highway is one the most scenic routes in the United States. The road snakes its way up through the Beartooths with fantastic views and stunning vistas. At the highest part the highway levels off onto a wide plateau near the top of the pass. It then descends and connects to the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway dropping down into the

charming town of Cook City.

To truly see all of Yellowstone Park you need to spend two to three days. I will try to highlight some of my favorite attractions in the park.

If you enter through Mammoth one of your first sights will be the 5th Parallel Bridge and Boiling River, a sign north of where the road crosses the Gardner River marks the 45th parallel of latitude. The 45th parallel is an imaginary line that circles the globe halfway between the equator and the North Pole. This same line passes through Minneapolis-St. Paul, Ottawa, Bordeaux, Venice, Belgrade, and the northern tip of the Japanese islands. Contrary to popular belief, the majority of the Montana/Wyoming state line does not follow the 45th parallel through the park. A little distance south of the sign, a parking area on the east side of the road is used by bathers in the "Boiling River." Boiling River is closed in the springtime due to hazardous high water and often does not reopen until mid-summer.



The historic town of Mammoth Hot Springs will be the next stop. The colorful terraces are situated above the town and are unique colorful thermal areas. The features are quite different from thermal areas elsewhere in the park. Travertine formations grow much more rapidly than sinter formations due to the softer nature of limestone. As hot water rises through limestone, large quantities of rock are dissolved by the hot water, and a white chalky mineral is deposited on the surface.



From Mammoth you can travel south toward Norris, Madison and Old Faithful. On the route to Old Faithful a great picnic spot or for a fun cool off swim stop at the Firehole River. The water is fed by some warm springs and is a little bit warmer than the rivers. There is a nice shallow pool area for younger children and a deeper area for the more adventuresome.



Touring Yellowstone

Continued

The water in this river is cool, not hot. The swimming hole is far enough away from the paint pot area that any warm water entering from there can barely be felt.



There are plenty of eddy pools that you can get into and stay in one place as you feel the water swirling around you. There are also a couple small caves and underwater ledges that you can stop to rest at during your swim. You will want to wear water shoes to protect your feet from the rocks. Downstream of the stairs to the swimming hole it is calm and sandy, upstream has stronger currents and rocks. There is a bathroom at the parking area where you can change into your swimsuit. To get to the Firehole swim area from Madison, travel about 2 miles south on the Grand Loop Road, turn right on the Firehole Canyon Drive (one way road) follow it until you come to parking for the swim area.



Old Faithful in is undoubtedly the world's most recognizable geyser and is a must see attraction. It was aptly named by an 1870 expedition for its remarkable consistency. Unlike most thermal features in the park, its heights, intervals and length of eruption have changed very little in 100 years. It erupts about every 92 minutes, or 18–21 times every day.



The time-sensitive column of boiling water normally reaches an average height of 130 in just 15 to 20 seconds. After about 20 more seconds, the water column lowers rapidly. The eruption ends with a few puffs of steam for an always appreciative crowd of visitors from across the globe. On average, about 5,000 to 8,000 gallons of water are shot out of the ground.

For a vantage point away from the ground-level benches and viewing areas, hike up to Observation Point and take in this behemoth from 250 feet

above; the view gives an entirely new perspective of the utter uniqueness of geysers. While you are waiting for the event you can hike the Upper Geyser Basin: trails lead you to Beehive and Grand geysers and up the hill to Observation Point. If you don't feel like hiking stop at the Lodge ice cream shop and enjoy a cool treat while you wait for the "Big Event".



To continue your tour, travel the loop past Yellowstone Lake and Fishing Bridge. If you have time there are many great sites to see around Yellowstone Lake.

The next must see area of the park is the Canyon area. From Old faithful The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone is the primary geologic feature in the Canyon District. It is roughly 20 miles long, measured from the Upper Falls to the Tower Fall area. Depth is 800 to 1,200 ft.; width is 1,500 to 4,000 ft. The canyon as we know it today is a very recent geologic feature. The present canyon is no more than 10,000 to 14,000 years old, although there has probably been a canyon in this location for a much longer period. These area of the park is featured in Native American

Touring Yellowstone

Continued



lore and in the accounts of early explores.

The falls are erosional features formed by the Yellowstone River as it flows over progressively softer, less resistant rock. The Upper Falls is upstream of the Lower Falls and is 109 ft. high. It can be seen from the Brink of the Upper Falls Trail and from Uncle Tom's Trail. The Lower Falls is 308 ft. high and can be seen from Lookout Point, Red Rock Point, Artist Point, Brink of the Lower Falls Trail, and from various points on the South Rim Trail.



The Lower Falls is often described as being more than twice the size of Niagara although this only refers to its height and not the volume of water flowing over it. The volume of water flowing over the falls can vary from 63,500 gal/sec at peak runoff to 5,000 gal/sec in the fall.

A third falls can be found in the canyon between the Upper and Lower falls. Crystal Falls is the outfall of Cascade Creek into the canyon. It can be seen from the South Rim Trail just east of the Uncle Tom's area.

The Canyon area is one of the prettiest awe inspiring areas of the park. The tremendous vistas and colorful rock formations are incredible. This is a must see area.



From the canyon area the best way to finish the loop is to continue to Tower Junction. From there you can exit out through Mammoth or through Cook City at the Northeast entrance.

As you drive through the park you will be able to see all types of animals. Early mornings and late afternoons are the best times. Generally if you see a group of cars pulled over there is something worth seeing. Park your car safely, bring your camera and binoculars and look for the animals.



A word of caution, do not approach ANY wild animal stay at a safe distance. There are too many occurrences where an over enthusiastic tourist has tried to get close-up for that perfect picture with not so perfect results. Remember you are in the animal's home give them space.



Resources on the Ranch

<p><u>Unbound Architecture</u> <i>Kristi Skelton</i> (406) 780-0744 skeltonarchitect@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>Mallard Cove Realty</u> <i>Mike Fatchett</i> (303) 548-7222 or (866) 600-1100 mike@mallardcove.com www.Buymontanaland.com</p>	<p><u>Farmers Insurance</u> Auto*Home*Life*Business*Health <i>Irene Belvin – Agent</i> Bus: (406) 446-4900 Cell: (406) 697-4573 ibelvin@farmersagent.com www.farmersagent.com/ibelvin</p>
<p><u>Sewing, Embroidery and Handmade Gifts</u> Sewing* Embroidery* Handmade Gifts <i>Kristy Brown</i> (406) 326-2416 kbshopn@mtintouch.net</p>	<p><u>Free River Gravel</u> 263 E. Frontage Road, Reed Point <i>Jim</i> (406) 698-1829 <i>Dean</i> (406) 321-0424 www.freerivergravel.com</p>	<p><u>Property Repairs</u> Carpentry*Plumbing*Minor Electrical* Etc <i>Ed Brown</i> (406) 326-2416 grumpops@aol.com</p>
<p><u>Lone Pine Plumbing</u> <i>Kim Skelton</i> 406-326-2148 kimskelton@reagan.com</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><u>Twin Rivers Construction</u> <i>Chuck Hall</i> 406-321-3327</p>

The newsletter is produced by Renate Nieman. If you have any articles or pictures you would like to submit please email them to renate@buymontanaland.com