

# Missoula Equestrian Park Times



## Welcome—Ken Rolf Missoula Equestrian Park Groundskeeper!!

### NEW PARKING REGULATIONS AT THE PARK

To be in compliance with the Big Sky Tower Street Park Plan, parking at the stalls is restricted to events only. Please observe the NO PARKING signs in and around the Event Course. We are striving to be user friendly but also need to be aware of our obligations to the Park Plan.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## Remember to use the New Alternative Entrance To The Park

Please remember to enter and leave the Park from 31st Avenue, on the east side of Big Sky High School. The Council, the Big Sky Stewardship Committee and the neighbors appreciate your cooperation.

The Missoula Equestrian Park is proud to introduce our new Groundskeeper, Mr. Ken Rolf.

Ken and his wife Barb have been a members of the Missoula Equestrian Park for approximately 15 years. Ken has served in various capacities at the Equestrian Park including volunteering, show announcing and assisting in property maintenance. Currently, Ken and Barb own, manage and upkeep approximately 18 acres of horse property in the Missoula area. Those duties include but are not limited to fencing and field care management. Barb, has a therapeutic riding program on our property and they are both very involved in its operation.

Throughout his career, Ken has worked in several positions. His work experiences included installing, sanding and finishing hardwood floors. Ken worked as a lead man and supervisor of several construction companies and served as a foreman in the wind energy field. Ken is currently a self-employed businessman and owns a hardwood flooring company. For three years Ken was a maintenance manager for three local motels involving interior and exterior maintenance and repairs. Ken is familiar with certain aspects of the Park organization as far as land irrigation, mowing, general upkeep and power sources. Ken has a solid background in small engine repair and is capable of repairing broken machinery and handling tractor maintenance and operation. Ken loves working outdoors and is an asset to the Park. Welcome Ken!!

### A Message From the President

I want to thank everyone for the wonderful opportunity of working with such a great Board of Directors and Membership. We have had an eventful year.

Some of the things that we have accomplished and are working on:

- The Western Events Arena has been approved by the County Commissioners.
- The Dressage Arena is in the process of being upgraded.
- We have approved the expansion of the sprinkler system.
- The perimeter fence is being replaced in sections over the next couple of years.
- We are constantly working with the Park & Recreation Department to eradicate noxious weeds.
- We are exploring upgrading the Cross-Country Course to include Preliminary Jumps.

These are just a few of the things that we are trying to accomplish, in an effort to make the Missoula Equestrian Park more useable for everyone.

If you haven't been to the Park lately, you need to. Go say Howdy to our new Groundskeeper Mr. Ken Rolf. Many of you may already be familiar with him and his involvement with the Park. I'm sure he will be a great addition. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact any Board member. You can find a list of Board Member on the Website; [missoulaequestrianpark.org](http://missoulaequestrianpark.org).

Happy Trail! Hope to see you at the Park! Barbi Howell, President

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## More Park History!



Roberta Brady and Rita Baumgardner

Interview by Dee Dee Gianchetta

This is the last of our series on Missoula Equestrian Park History. Check out prior newsletters for articles on Smoke Elser and Marge Harper.

A lunch meeting with Rita and Roberta produced many Equestrian Park memories and a scrap book meticulously kept by Rita. Excerpts from the scrap book –

The Missoula Equestrian Park idea started with a small community riding arena on the corner of 37th and North Ave. This park was dedicated to the Target Range community as a public park in 1971. The Target Range Saddle Club consisting of about 15 members including Jack & Rita Baumgardner, Laura Bakker, Fred & Mike Hartkorn hosted a horse show in the early 1980's to raise money to rebuild the existing arena. The success of this horse show sparked Rita into writing a letter to the County Commissioners to lease the 90 acres east and north of this community riding arena.

Numerous horse organizations were interested in being able to use this 90 acres parcel that was part of the land grant from Fort Missoula that Missoula County had acquired. The Commissioners requested horse groups form some kind of co-operative to use the land and the Missoula Horsemen's Council was formed. Rita was instrumental in getting this organization going and was the first secretary. This organization consisted of two representatives from each horse organization in Missoula County. The total Horseman Council organization in August of 1983 represented about 1500 families! Those influential horse groups consisted of:

- Target Range Saddle Club
- Lolo Saddle Club
- Back Country Horsemen
- Five Valley Arabian Horse Association

- Missoula Dressage and Jump Club
- Charles Russell Riders
- Western Quarter Horse Association
- Five Valley Appaloosa Club
- Paint Association
- Halter & Hackamore 4-H Club
- Big Flat Buckskin 4-H Club
- Five Valley Pony Club

First lease between the Horsemen's Council and the County of Missoula was August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1983 for 3 year terms.

March 1, 1996, Rita writes... We were given a 1 year lease until the commissioners could consummate an official "Park Plan." 1998 Rita writes... What a year, it seem the Equestrian Park is here to stay with a long term lease of approximately 100 acres for use by the Equestrian Park. A new organization was formed called the "Stewardship Committee" to oversee the entire Tower Street Complex. This includes the Little League Baseball Association, American League Baseball, Bicycle Group, Community Gardens and the Missoula Horsemen's Council. That settled we are beginning construction on the long awaited stall project. We will start with one barn of 50 stalls. Goal is for 3 barns of 50 stalls each. These early founders of the Equestrian Park were able to organize people, volunteers and raise funds for materials to construct the main show arena, announcers stand, garage, dressage arena, cross country jump course designed by Peter Costello, trail course and practice arena all in a ten year span.

To build the first barn of 50 stalls involved substantial fundraising efforts. Roberta Brady stepped up and helped organize and host two very successful fundraisers at her indoor arena. The first one (dinner, dancing and auctions) raised \$36,000. The highlight was a concert by Hoyt Axton, with several local bands participating. That was Hoyt's last public appearance. The next fund raiser was also at Roberta's and Rob Quist gave a great concert. Barb Rolf organized the third fund raiser at the Elk's Club. Results were good; enough money to finish the 50 stalls. Many of the stalls were adopted by people at \$1000 each and their names are memorialized on the stalls. Penny Oncken was a major supporter of this effort.

The goal for two more barns of 50 stalls has not materialized. Lighting and permanent bathrooms will need to be addressed before addition of stalls. These two very bright businesswomen also spearheaded the current endowment fund the Equestrian Park now enjoys. Major gifts of \$40,000 each from Roberta Brady and Arlyn Lemere and \$25,000 from Kathy Marquette allow the Park to receive monthly interest payments on this \$100,000 endowment.

Rita and Roberta like Smoke have one outstanding goal. That goal is to have the Equestrian Park dedicated in perpetuity as a horse park. If you meet these hardworking horsewomen, please tip your hat and give a thank you for their belief in the Missoula Equestrian Park.

**PS: Ever wonder where our Missoula Horse Council Logo came from? It came from the artistic hand of Jeanette Manley.**

## 2010 PACKING & EQUESTRIAN SKILLS EXPO A HUGE SUCCESS.

Even the wet Spring weather co-operated on May 22nd as the Horse Park was literally overflowing with people, well over 600 people, not counting all the great volunteers. There was almost too much to take in with demonstrations of different styles of horsemanship, trail riding safety, Smoke Elser's packing demonstration, lectures by veterinarians and instructors on everything from emergency shoeing and taking care of horses to handicapped riding programs. The 4H opened the day by presenting the flag, followed by the Bitterroot Mountettes drill team thrilling every one with their precision riding. This was followed by the Nine Mile Pack string, and it just went on from one exciting thing after another. There was jumping, both stadium and cross country, dressage and vaquero horsemanship, all geared toward education. The Townsend family gave a demonstration on mounted cowboy shooting which was a real crowd pleaser and the day ended up with draft horse and mule driving demonstrations, then the Charlie Russell Riders provided the grand finale. The high light for children was the "kids tent" where there were pony rides provided by Parson's Ponies, roping lessons and stick horse races. There were a number of excellent food vendors and businesses pertaining to the horse industry were well represented. All of this was provided free to the public by a partnership of the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula and the Missoula Equestrian Park. It was a great way to promote horse safety and show the public what a great facility we have with the Missoula Equestrian Park. See you next May 21st 20011 for another fun day of horsens' around.

## 2010 Calendar of Events at The Park

July 6, 2010 -Council Meeting  
7:00pm Perkins

July 10, 2010—Treasure State  
Horse Show

July 11, 2010—Big Sky Classic  
Horse Show

July 12-13, 2010 Russell Riders  
6pm—Main Arena

July 17, 2010—Buckle Up & Ride  
Open Horse Show

July 19—20, 2010 Russell Riders  
6pm—Main Arena

July 20 & 27 , 2010—4-H Station  
Judging—4-H Arena

August 2-3, 2010 Russell Riders  
6pm—Main Arena

August 7, 2010—Flying Colors Mini  
Event

August 9-10, 2010 Russell Riders  
6pm—Main Arena

September 25, 2010—Flying Colors  
Mini Event

We are advertising in the Times!  
Full Page Ad: \$100/year  
1/2 Page Ad: \$50/year  
Business Card: \$25/year  
Please contact Marj or Laura for more information!

### DRESSAGE ARENA TO GET REPAIRED:

The dressage arena is to getting a make over. The footing has been a chronic problem since the arena was built. When the sand was removed from the arena this spring, followed by all the rain, it became obvious that the base was no longer level. The arena had lost it's crown and needed to be repaired. Currently we have two bids for the work and the Horsemen's Council, with the assistance from the Committee on the Dressage Arena will be making a decision soon so hopefully the arena will be ready before the August dressage show.

### Our Thanks to our Lifetime Members of the Missoula Equestrian Park

Kim Ashwell	Andy Cross	Larry Cleric	Roy & Betty Malcom	Mary Roberts	In Memory of: <i>Laurie Demarais</i> <i>Deloit Wolfe</i>
Jack & Rita Baumgardner	Judy Jerome	Kathy Markette	John Schuler	Patricia Webber	
Shannon Beach	Begonia Duran	Drue Kerns	Sue Mathewson	Anita Scott	
Gretchen Benbenek	Wes Finch	Willis & Caroline Kurtz	Trish McKay	Mike Sousa	
Bill Brown	Joseph & Susan Gillan	William & Helen Larsen	Rick & Penny Oncken	Kurt Stappenbeck	
Dan & Marjorie Harper	Sandra Larson	Peggy Pruyne	Jamison Starbuck	Kate Templeman	
Rebecca & Caitlin Creighton	Virginia Hinton	Marilee Malcom	Dick Richardson		
Bob Chapieski	Val Ziegler	J.B. & Darlene Yonce	The Nichols Family		

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#### **MISSOULA HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL—MISSION STATEMENT**

The Missoula Horsemen's Council, Inc, was founded in 1984 in response to the need of area horsemen for a park developed for equestrian use. The Council is a charitable organization as described in Chapter 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

The purpose of the Missoula Horsemen's Council is to perpetuate a high standard of accomplishment, safety, and enjoyment of horsemanship throughout the region; to develop maintain and upgrade equestrian facilities at the Missoula Equestrian Park, and to assist the various government and private agencies in the maintenance and management of the habitat areas within the park boundaries.

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