



# Foxtrotting News

June/July 2011

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## It's Showtime!!!

It is that time of year again, and most of you are more familiar with the process than I am, but still, I have a few reminders for you.

The deadline for class entries is an entry form and check **postmarked by June 27<sup>th</sup>** – a Monday. After that, the class fees go up to \$15 a class from \$10. To be fair, these guidelines are in effect for everyone.

We have a very nice package from the Sapphire Event Center, \$65 for a stall from Wednesday through Saturday, with the first bag of shavings included! **After that, they require that you buy additional shavings from them for \$8 a bag.**

We will be enforcing their rule. Anyone found in violation must pay a \$20 fine per violation. Failure to do so will void their entry fees and ability to show until fines have been paid. But, one added benefit to buying the shavings from the Sapphire Event Center is that there is no stall cleaning fee. They will clean the stalls after the event.

We will have stall tags, so make sure that you check in and get your tag before you

put your horse in a stall!

As show secretary, I will be available at the Sapphire Center on Wednesday evening, from 4pm to 6pm to assist with early arrivals. Please contact me by email or phone if those hours won't work for you.

The show secretary office will be open from 7 am to 10 am each day of the show. Please try and work within those hours. Outside of those hours, I can't guarantee that I will be available.

I am looking forward to another exciting show!

Show Secretary  
Lauren Johansson  
3336 Wright Way  
Darby, MT 59829  
406.821.4647  
Lauren@FrogWeb.Net

# BSFTA at Back Country Horsemen

By: Mark Goss

How do you show the great smooth and easy going Missouri Fox Trotter so that people will see your demonstration as effective? Well, pretty simple really, you just put an 85 year old guy up on a 16 hand horse and have him walk, trot, and canter around the arena.



That is exactly what Bill Free did at the Missoula Back Country Horsemen Expo at the Missoula Equestrian Center. Bill and Mark Goss represented the BSFTA at the expo and gave a very well received demonstration of the Fox Trotter to a crowd of a hundred or so enthusiastic horse people.

Other breeds were there, the Morgan Horse, Arabian Horse, and the Tennes-

see Walking Horse all had a group there to talk and show their horses. However, as we were told by the organizer, the BSFTA demo was, by far, the most interesting and entertaining.

Bill and Mark entered the arena and Bill went right to work on the rail with his horse Echo. Mark sat on Frank in front of the crowd and talked about the different gaits and attributes of the Fox Trotter. While Bill ably showed everyone a great smooth fox trot, Mark talked about how Bill had said his riding career was greatly extended by the smoothness of the fox trot. When Mark announced that Bill is 85 years old and a veteran of WWII the crowd really responded with extended applause.

Then Mark discussed some of the myths about Fox Trotters. Some of which were, the Fox Trotter will not walk with stock bred horses, that they are high energy horses, and only go around in circles. To dispel these myths Mark asked Frank to walk a very slow trail walk and said, "As you can see he will walk as slow as any stock bred horse, but why do that when you can do this?" and asked Frank to walk out at a rapid flat foot walk. That got a round of head nods and chuckles. Then Frank two tracked, side-passed, backed, turned on the front and rear, and cantered at

the two track to show that the Fox Trotter can be handy with his feet.

Echo and Frank had pens at one end of the grounds beside the Arabs. After the demo many people came over to see the Fox Trotters and talk about how nice they were. Unfortunately, we did not get a great deal of notice about the expo and were not able to put together our usual outstanding display and crowd of BSFTA enthusiasts. But we were profusely thanked for coming and asked back for next year's event.

All together it was a great day, Bill didn't fall asleep at the pens, and the expo management was able to get Mark to quit talking in less than 30 minutes.



## Tell Us About your Accomplishments

The MFTHBA promotions committee is committed to spreading the word about the accomplishments of the Missouri Fox Trotter in different venues. The committee is set up to share this information through nationally and, when appropriate, internationally distributed press releases, through our breaking news email alert system, social networking and articles in our MFTHBA news email and *The Journal*. **However, we often do not hear about these accomplishments until well after they have been achieved or in many cases not at all. We hear rumors of the success our breed is having in**

***roping, team penning, mounted shooting, ACTHA events, competitive trail riding, endurance riding, jumping, and many other events. We want to promote all aspects of the Missouri Fox Trotter!***

***The Promotions Committee encourages all Fox Trotter owners, whether they are MFTHBA members or not, to share their horse's accomplishments in these all breed competitions or any story they feel would be of interest.***

***To better facilitate the committee receiving this information,***

***a new email address has been established. Story ideas should be sent to***

***newsletter@mftgba.com.***



## Up-Coming Events

**BSFTA Show**— July 7-9, 2011  
At Sapphire Event Center, Corvallis, MT

For info call Jerry Christison 406-227-5400 email: lazyJC@mt.net

**BSFTA Memorial Trail Ride:** July 10, 2011 at Larry Creek, Stevensville 11 am  
Lunch will be served after contact: Lauren Johansson Lauren@FrogWeb.net

**BSFTA Meeting:** October 1, 2011 place and time to be announced

**The Great Western Celebration**  
July 14-16 Spanish Forks, UT contact Val Strong <http://uftha.com/>

**Utah Grand Show and Clinic:** Aug 6, 2011 contact Val Strong  
<http://uftha.com/>

Big Horn Fox Trotter Show Aug 11-13, 2011 Thermopolis, WY contact: Robyn Gabel rgabel@wyoming.com 307-349-2049

## BSFTA April Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the April 30, 2011 At Joker's Wild, Missoula, MT

**Call to Order:** President Randy Olson called the meeting to order at 11:40 AM. Officers

and board members attending the meeting were: President Randy Olson, Vice President

Jerry Christison, Secretary Donna Goss, Treasurer Gale Mowry, Dianne Shriner, Eastern Director, and Bob Womack, Director at Large. Others attending the meeting were: Mark Goss, Bill Free, Jerry Shriner, Cole Younger, Ann Johnson, Gary Hanson, Catherine Hanson, CJ Johansson, Lauren Johansson, and Bobbi Dyrud. Sixteen were in attendance.

Randy stated that he would like to see something put in place that is standard for each committee. He wants to have the officers, committee heads and directors to have input. They need to come up with something that is standard that can be carried on from year to year. This would help people that are doing these jobs to know what is expected in doing their particular job.

**Minutes:** Randy asked Donna to read the meeting minutes. Jerry Christison made a motion to accept the meeting minutes sent out by e-mail. Diane seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Gale Mowry gave the treasurer's report.

End of 2010 our balance was \$5,833.49 since then we've had a total income of \$1,929.00 with total expenses of \$3,060.99 which leaves us with a total balance as of April 29<sup>th</sup> of \$4,281.02.

Gale wanted to bring up our membership. We budgeted taking in \$1,400.00 for 2010 and what we brought in was \$1,345.00. So far this year we have taken in \$860.00. Gale stated that our by-laws state that we are supposed to have our membership dues paid by January. Mark Goss stated that members normally pay their dues by our annual show if they haven't paid dues in the first part of the year. Donna Goss mentioned that she will be sending out letters along with membership forms and a stamped envelope to those members who haven't renewed their membership. Randy has a list from national that he will be sending Donna. Donna will send letters to

those people in Idaho and Montana that are not members of our affiliate.

Also, stallion ads are down from \$80.00 to \$40.00.

Gale looked into saving accounts. The way our money fluctuates thru the year we won't be able to do this. The money market account that we could apply for has to have a minimum of \$1000.00 and we have a point in the year that we get down pretty low. The interest rate on the money market is .05%. There are CDs with different lengths of time. Their interest is from .03 to .085%.

The audit report was done by Jerry Christison and everything was fine.

Gale would like to have a discussion on a change in by-laws. Randy gave Gale his by-laws so Gale could look up what it

Mark Goss made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and seconded by Bob Womack. Motion passed.

**Correspondence:** Randy had a couple of things that he was going to do from the last meeting till now which he did. One of them was to recommend to the board of directors of the Missouri Fox Trotter Association that they consider Craig Dansie for a director. They did take that into account and did accept him as the regional director.

We did draft a letter that we shared with the officers and board of directors. This letter was commenting on the remarks of Clyde Connelly in the April issue in "The Journal". These remarks were about the regional representation. We originally drafted it by Mark Goss, but officers and board of directors thought it was a little harsh. Therefore Randy asked Diane Shriner to draft a similar letter. She spoke with Mark Goss and Bill Free and came up with an appropriate letter. In the latest journal these letters were published from affiliates in Tennessee, Utah, Michigan and ours. We wanted something to be done for Clyde Connelly's remarks. Also, they (meaning Ava) found out our affiliate was not in compliance. All officers need to be members of na-

tional by their by-laws. Randy read our by-laws and these state that not only officers but board of directors need to be members of national. Randy wanted to know if we need to address this.

Discussion followed on the benefits of being a member of this affiliate and not necessarily benefits from national. Also, we can get membership list on all members from national.

Diane Shriner said what we might do to stay on top of the regional concept is for our affiliate in coordination with other affiliates is to encourage members to join national. This would protect the regional concept.

Randy will stay in contact and keep us informed about what is going on with the regional concept.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Trail/Diane Shriner:**

There will be a trail ride at Remount Station hosted by Jerry and Diane on May 7<sup>th</sup>. There has been no response. They will still go and if anyone wants to go to notify her.

Then in June Mark Goss offered to do one. Mark will let Diane know the date.

Diane stated that if the trail rides are put on the calendar and no one shows up they will still go. Randy said that they will be hosting a ride in September near Yellowstone.

The ride in July will be the after the show ride that will take place at Larry Creek. Karen Philips and Annette Padgett will host this. Jerry Christison told about the ride to pick up antlers May 15<sup>th</sup>. Diane did not put this on the calendar. Mark Goss wanted to know if anyone has heard about the National Trail Ride that is Wyoming's turn to host this year. Diane will follow up with Wyoming to see if they are going to host this. If Wyoming doesn't put on the ride this year we can do it. We have done this in the past. Diane asked Mark to help her if this does happen.

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## Meet the Committees

### News Letter Editor:

**Annette Padgett**

406-777-0577

[Padgettboys4@msn.com](mailto:Padgettboys4@msn.com)

### Trail Chair:

**Diane Shriner**

208-667-2949

[Shriner.diane@gmail.com](mailto:Shriner.diane@gmail.com)

### Promotion Chair:

**Mark Goss**

406-961-3119

[Mrq1947m@netscape.net](mailto:Mrq1947m@netscape.net)

### Clinic Chair:

**Thea Gervais**

### Sponsor Chair:

**Karen Philips**

406-961-0101

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### Website:

**Lauren Johansson**

[bossmare@frogweb.net](mailto:bossmare@frogweb.net)

### Awards/Banquet:

**Annette Padgett**

### Youth:

**Annette Padgett**

### Hall Of Fame:

**Bobbi Dyrud**

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### Show Chair:

**Jerry Christison**

406-227-5400

[LazyJC@mt.com](mailto:LazyJC@mt.com)

### Budget Chair:

**Gale Mowry**

406-461-4198

[mowryg@bresnan.net](mailto:mowryg@bresnan.net)

### Meet the Committees

I would like to introduce to the committee chairs with a summary of the functions of each. Please say thanks to these dedicated individuals with your help and support.

**News letter Editor: Annette Padgett-** It is the hope of this newsletter to continue in the tradition to provide informative articles to our members. Regular contributions from our members and Committee chairs are greatly encouraged.

**Trail: Diane Shriner-** To tailor and coordinate a schedule of trail events to meet the needs of our members. (See Diane's article in this newsletter)

**Promotion: Mark Goss-** Promotion of our breed on a National and local level with emphasis on the latter.

**Clinics: Thea Gervais-** As with Trail, Thea will be coordinating clinics that meet the needs of our members. This could be anywhere from showing to trail to gait and from big too small. Ideas?

**Sponsorships: Karen Philips-** Karen has compiled a SUPER sponsorship program over the years and would welcome everyone to join in gathering new sponsors.

**Website: Lauren Johansson-** Lauren has developed a tremendous website for us, <http://bigskyfta.org>, and currently is setting up for an auction to run during the Month of April. (See article in this newsletter) Stay up on all the latest BSFTA news.

**Awards/Banquet: Annette Padgett-** This will involve criteria and tracking of those deserving of awards or recognition at the yearend Banquet as well as the Banquet facilities and menu.

**Hall of Fame: Bobbi Dyrud-** It was learned this past year that much research of the nominations is needed in order to determine those that qualify to be inducted into the HOF. This committee will research and present qualified candidates to the board for voting.

**Youth: Annette Padgett** – Youth are the future of this Association so this committee will promote youth activities.

**Show: Jerry Christison-** This Chair will coordinate all aspects of our Annual show as well as enforce all rules and actions during the show.

**Budget: Gale Mowry-** This chair will coordinate budgets for all activities as well as assist in creating those budgets.

As you can see many of these committees overlap authority and it is the hope of this association that we can work together to the betterment of the Association. If you are Passionate about anything here, please call and volunteer to be a part of that committee.

Thanks

Randy Olson

President BSFTA

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**Promotions/Mark Goss**

Mark needs people to notify him if there is a horse expo or something going on with horses in their area. That way we can represent the Fox Trotter. Ava could even send their brand new display. Also, if members have done something with their horses please let Mark know. He can put out a press release to their local paper and with "The Journal". People seeing this might want to know more information on Fox Trotters and there will be information in the press release to tell them to go to our Website. This will drive them to all the information on our website.

Mark told everyone about writing articles for the Journal and the Fox Trotter University newsletter. He asked if we knew about this e-letter. You have to sign up for it. Go, to Ava's web page. There is something on the old foundation horses, instruction articles and stories that don't go into the Journal. If members have pictures of doing something with their horses, please send them. Mark will send them to the e-letter. The editor doing this newsletter is doing a fine job.

**Clinics/Thea Gervais**

No report

**Sponsorships/Karen Philips**

Lauren Johansson presented this report.

Karen had stated that there was some opposition to the show poster because of the expense. Last year 100 copies cost \$209.00 for an 11 X 17 and were expensive to mail. She got prices for smaller size. A 5.5 X 8.5 is about \$71 for 100 copies. An 8.5 X 11 is about \$100 for 100 copies. Smaller copies will be less expensive to mail. These posters are given to show sponsors as a thank you. Hopefully they hang it up in their businesses. Randy stated that Karen feels this is a proper thing to do in saying thank you to our show sponsors. Mark stated that he would like to see the big poster like we have had in the past. Randy agreed with Mark. The one thing that Mark would like to see on the poster is our members instead of a non member. Karen gives the show disc to the graphic designer and she decides what pictures to use on the poster. Discussion

followed on this topic.

Monies brought in from show sponsors last year was \$3,400. Sponsor's Expenses were \$830.00.

Mark Goss made a motion that we keep the poster size that we have done in the past and instruct Karen as a sponsor chair to pick BSFTA members for the poster. Jerry Christison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Lauren Johansson will be designer for the show program. Everyone said thank you to Lauren.

Karen asked that everyone at the meeting be a sponsor or get a sponsor for our show.

Sponsors will also be on BSFTA website. The amount of monies given will determine how they will be listed on our website.

Randy asked Lauren about the auction. When Lauren left home we had \$830 profit so far. She stated that we didn't really have time to advertise it very much. Also, people thought we should have had more items. This was our first year though. Diane Shriner suggested that the minimum bid be put on the front page. Next year Lauren would like to have a committee. Lauren will send thank you cards to all donors.

Randy said that the auction did very good for the first year.

**Awards, Banquet, Youth and Newsletter/Annette Padgett**

No report. Randy said that Annette was working on things. He just didn't have the information.

Randy stated that Annette needs articles for the newsletter. The newsletter comes out 6 times a year. It is mailed to all members that request it.

**Budget**

Gale still needs committee budgets. Gale stated that our by-laws have 3 sections about dues. The voting members shall in the voting meeting in January shall determine the annual membership dues. Section 2 states that dues shall be payable in advance from the first day of January of each year. Dues paid in the last quarter count for the next year. Gale would like us to encourage members to pay dues like our by-laws state. Mark Goss stated that people have always paid

and usually before our annual show. Discussion followed on raising dues or doing a fine for being late. Randy wants to talk about this again in September. So people need to bring their thoughts and plans for dues.

**Annual Show/Jerry Christison**

All committees are working well. Duane Scott is excited about coming and being our judge. Extensive discussion followed about having a judge's clinic on Sunday after the trail ride.

It was decided not to do the judge's clinic. Maybe we can have Duane come back next year and do a clinic for us in May or June to help our members get ready for our show.

Mark Goss got the cows. Still need a barn steward and Diane Shriner said she will do this.

Discussion followed on the team sorting that will be done on Thursday evening. It will need to be limited to 30 people. People who sign up for this need to pay in advance.

Discussion followed on times of our show. Since there will be team sorting on Thursday evening Mark Goss made a motion to do model on Wednesday evening at 6PM. Bob Womack seconded the motion. Motion passed. Extensive discussion about the team sorting followed.

The next meeting will be on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM at Jerry Christison.

Catherine Hanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jerry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## BSFTA PROMOTIONAL COMMITTEE

BSFTA members, Randy (the all wise, omnipotent, benevolent President) has formed a promotional committee this year and asked me to chair. I am real interested in getting some members involved in our promotional efforts. If this is something you would like to do please call, or email me. There will only as much work as you can stand.

The promotional committee is tasked with raising the awareness of both our organization and the Missouri Fox Trotter in our affiliate area. To do that I plan on BSFTA participating in any horse related expos or events we can do with minimum cost. We will also send out news

releases to media about our member's and their horse's accomplishments in all areas of horse activities. We will also submit articles to regional and local media about the MFT and the benefits of owning one. We will encourage the same media to attend and report on our show and trail rides.

If you are aware of any member who has been involved in any activity with their MFT, regardless of what venue, please notify me. If you have done something with your horse that you are proud of, please let me know. This could be any awards you may have earned in any type horse discipline or event. I am really interested in how we are using our

horse outside the BSFTA.

I must warn you though that this is not going to be a ranch or farm advertising forum. We will report in a manner that relays accomplishments and will not remark on that person's horse sales, stallions, etc unless that is the story. For example, I will send out notices that Randy's stallion won something, but will not mention that he is available for stud.

Mark Goss – Chairman

[Mrg1947m@netscape.net](mailto:Mrg1947m@netscape.net) 406-360-6355

## Gentle Horsemanship

What is gentle horsemanship? It is a way of training your horse using methods that give your horse trust and confidence in you and instill a lack of fear of you. Some traditional training methods use fear and intimidation to achieve their goal of a "broke" horse. The terms "broke horse" and "breaking a horse" got their start as part of breaking the horse's spirit, using pain and fear to get them to do what we wish.

There is a better way. Using gentle methods it is possible to have the horse become a partner. Using fear, pain, and intimidation does not lend itself to creating a well functioning team. Think about it like this. What if I was teaching you how to muck a stall and every time you made a wrong move I whacked you with a broom until you found the right move? How would you feel about me?

Many traditional methods use quite an assortment of gear. Our method uses very little stuff. We mainly use our minds and our energy. But we do need a few things to get this done. The preferred halter is a rope halter with an attached 12 foot lead rope. This is a very specific setup. The easiest way to get the best halter/lead rope setup is to contact one of the makers. Double Diamond Halter Co and Silvertip Halters make exactly the right deal. Avoid any halter that has the lead attached with a metal clip or snap. The lead rope should be directly attached to the halter. The lead rope should be made of yacht braid or tree braid rope in 5/8 in. diameter, this has the right feel.

We need a "flag" to bring our energy up and extend it. These can be as simple as a riding crop about three feet long with a Walmart bag tied on the end. Or you can call Buck Brannaman and order his flag (which is the best).

These two items will get us into the saddle. Once there we will need a simple eggbutt snaffle bit and a mecate rein. These can be had on the internet from various places, but Jeremiah Watts ([ranch2arena.com](http://ranch2arena.com)) makes the best snaffle and Double Diamond Halter makes a great mecate.

This is all we need for the first year at least and maybe longer depending on our progress.

Now let's talk about how we start. First it is very important to remember that whenever we are within sight of our horse, we are training him. We should not just go out, halter him up as best possible, drag him to the barn, and then start to train. When we go to get the horse we should be ready to catch him, in fact, this is the first step in getting your horse to be your partner. Have your halter in your left hand and ready to put over the horse's head when you get to him. The first thing that we are going to teach our horse is to halter himself.

Station yourself to the left of your horse and near his shoulder, take the part of the halter that goes over his poll and reach under his neck and hand it to your right hand which is reaching over his neck. Now we take the halter in our left hand and the halter tie in our right and move them up so that the

halter is held down and to the left of the head with the side piece on the right side against the horse's face. This allows us to apply pressure with the halter to the right side to ask him to tip his nose left and into the halter. We apply a light pressure to the halter and wait for the horse to tip his nose left. If this is something new, he may search around for the correct answer to your question (which is, "Will you put your head in the halter, please?") We just wait for some movement to the left and when we get the slightest try, the lightest movement, we take the pressure away and tell him what a great horse he is. Then we repeat the exercise progressing to the point that he places his nose in the halter. Don't tie the halter now. At this point, it is good to just take the halter away and pet him and make like he is Secretariat and just won the Derby. Leave him there and walk away. You can wait a whole day to go back and repeat the haltering or you can just wait an hour. During this exercise if he moves his mouth and licks his lips, stop and let him finish before going on. That is an indicator that he understands what you are asking.

This haltering exercise may take a few days or a few tries, but get it right before you go on and lead him out. This will get him to the point that he will look for the halter when you offer it and just halter himself.

Remember that our goal is to get control of the horse's feet through his mind. To do that we need to

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## Gentle Horsemanship cont.

*(Continued from page 7)*

ask him to let us control those feet with our lead rope. It is a relatively simple task. But it requires we think and closely observe the horse. We must "feel" for the horse, because he is going to feel for us.

Before we begin our lead rope ground work, we must understand some basic concepts that govern this training method.

First "pressure and release". We can apply pressure any number of ways, but for our ground work we will be using our energy and the movement of the lead rope to apply pressure to the horse and give the horse relief from that pressure. Horses move away from pressure and by giving them relief from the pressure when they do right we teach them to hunt that relief when we apply that pressure.

Second, stay down on the lead rope. Many people are taught to hold the lead rope at the halter, but that is just wrong. The lead rope is most effective when you hold it at the end and at no time is it acceptable to be closer than four feet on the rope to the halter. You sure can stand closer, but never hold the rope closer than four feet from the halter.

Third, when we ask for movement we start the ask with the amount of ask we want our final, finished, soft on the rope horse to require. That is, if we want to be able to ask our horse to back by wiggling our finger back and forth, we must, on the very first ask, start by wiggling our finger. We may have to go from wiggling our finger to a baseball bat between the eyes, but we have to start with the finger wiggle if we ever expect to get there.

Fourth, always stop on a good note. Even if it is so slight a change that it is almost imperceptible, it is a good stopping point. If you are in a spot that is not working out and you feel you need to step back and quit and put him up for a while, go back to something that you both are confident with and do that a couple times, then quit. Never stop and put him up after a disagreement.

It is very important to watch the horse's mouth during his training. A horse works his mouth and/or licks his lips often during training. This is an indicator that he understands what you are asking of him. It usually comes after he has accomplished a task that you are working on and may have just made a step forward. Whenever the horse works his mouth you should stop and let him finish working his mouth before moving on. This is also a very good time to stop your training session because it indicates you and the horse are at a good point.

Okay, we have our horse to the point he will halter himself and we are ready to start his ground work training. The first things we will want to teach him are to back and come forward on the lead rope.

So, we start with the horse in a confined area like a round pen or small arena. Start with the end of the lead rope in your hand and you facing the horse at a distance that is sufficient to suspend the lead rope slightly off the ground between you when you raise your hand. About 10 feet with a 12 foot rope.

Now we will teach the horse to back. Hold the rope in your hand with the end coming out of the bottom of your fist and the part going to the horse between your thumb and forefinger, with all fingers wrapped around the rope. Raise the rope off the ground about a foot and with the back of your hand up, extend your index finger toward the horse. In quick sequence proceed through these steps until your horse shifts his weight back. He does not have to step back or even move his feet, just shift his weight backwards initially. Begin to wiggle your finger back and forth without moving the rest of your hand or the rope. When you begin this wiggle, lean slightly forward toward the horse, projecting your energy. After two seconds, start to slightly wiggle the rope enough to have the halter knot move a little. After two more seconds start to escalate the force of the rope wiggle until the horse shifts his weight back. When he shifts his weight back, immediately, and I mean right NOW, drop your hand so the rope is on the ground and stops wiggling. This is the release. The horse learns from the release that they did the right thing. The escalating wiggle force is the pressure that is applied to get him to back or initially just shift his weight. You may have to apply a significant wiggle that requires your hand to go from one side of your body to the other with force, but usually far less is

The most effective release is that which comes as the weight shift starts, so the better your feel for the horse the more effective your release will be. Continue this exercise trying to use less and less pressure on the lead rope wiggle until your horse backs when you wiggle just your finger. It may take a month, but it will take about two minute to have the horse back with a moderate wiggle on the rope and two days or less for him to be backing with a slight wiggle. All during this wiggle and release sequence, anytime the horse shifts his weight or moves his feet or backs up; he needs to be rewarded with pets and encouraging words. This is good for you also.

Now why do we want to be able to back our horse with a wiggle of the rope and finger? Well, when you have your horse on the lead rope and you are doing something with your hands, if he decides he needs to help, you can just wiggle the lead rope slightly and he will back away. You can back your horse around the barn and through gates and impress your friends.

But most importantly, it lets the horse know that we are in control of his feet. And we are controlling those feet without threat of pain. The hardest you can wiggle the lead rope will not hurt the horse, it just makes standing still very uncomfortable for him.

Remember, make the right thing easy (when he backs the rope shake goes away) and the wrong thing difficult (as long as he stands still, there is that danged rope shaking his head).

Don't overdo the exercise. When you start to get some movement watch his mouth and stop when he starts to lick his lips and move his mouth. Give him time to finish working his mouth and begin again. When you get to a good spot, maybe not all the way to him backing on a small shake of the rope, quit for the day and praise him and give him lots of rubs and scratches.

To get the horse to lead up, start in the same position in front of the horse, with the rope in your hand the same way. In sequence, and rather quickly, start by lifting the rope up and letting the horse feel the weight of the rope while very slightly leaning back, then without holding the rope with your fingers lift your hand toward you a couple inches without the rope slipping in your hand. Then grip the rope with your fingers and pull toward your body slowly increasing the pressure until the horse shifts his weight forward. Again, as soon as you detect the beginning of the weight shift release the pressure on the rope by letting the belly of the rope hit the ground.

It may take quite a lot of tugging and pulling to get movement, but it is very important that once you start the pull you never lessen your pressure until he shifts his weight forward. Lessening the pressure before the weight shift will teach him to stand still. If necessary, you might step to the side while maintaining the pressure; this will often cause the horse to step up. As before, progress to less and less pressure as he responds. When he begins to step forward toward you as you just offer the weight of the rope, ask him to follow you with a very loose rope and stop with a very small shake of the rope.

Practice the backing and following until he moves up and back on a draped lead rope. Now you have control of the feet to a great extent, but more is necessary and that is the next lesson.

## WHO IS IN YOUR HALL OF FAME?

<p>Hi BSFTA members, it's time to start thinking about who you would like to nominate for the Hall of Fame award this year. , Who do you admire for the way they have promoted our amazing Foxtrotter breed? Has this person(s) earned your respect though their work for the club, their impressive show career, their productive breeding program, or other accomplishments?</p>	<p>We plan to do things a little differently this year. Our Hall of Fame committee will create a form that you will be able to access on our web site, or through me if you don't have a computer. You will be asked to fill out the form and turn it in. The board will choose the winner, or winners from all of the application forms that are submitted.</p>	<p>We have many deserving members in our club who have earned the recognition that this award brings. Please start planning your nominations and our form will be available before long.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bobbi Dyrud Hall of Fame Committee Chair</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BRANDEE</b></p> <p>By Pete Peterson</p> <p>The year was 1989 Montana was celebrating 100 years of statehood We had taken the day off to ride With the Centennial Wagon Train that was in our neighborhood It was well after 6 that evening When we pulled into our ranch yard Before unloading the our two geldings We'd better check our mare Katie "B"'s dance card</p>	<p>Kate was standing on the south side of the barn Lying under her neck was a dandy A dark sorrel roan filly We now call Montana's Centennial Brandee Three years are now past for our Brandee She carries a freeze brand N Hanging P, right thigh Brandee is now saddle broke and riding her is a might "high" Brandee and N Hanging P horse bunch Are strange to Montana's cowboy ways Our horses are not your hard trotting kind</p>	<p>And their traveling ways are not always seen on most Montana days The N Hanging P horses and crew Have no need for hard riding courses For you see Brandee and the rest of the bunch Are smooth gaited Missouri Fox Trotting horses! This is the poem was wrote to poke some fun at the Quarter Horses. I have recited this poem at a couple of cowboy poetry deals here in Sheridan. Take care Pete</p>
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# From The Trail Head

As most of you know our BSFTA survey showed that trail riding was near the top of the list of activities that folks enjoyed with their horses and one they wanted the association to promote. Mark Goss did a great job of starting the trail program in 2010 and organized and led most of the rides. I have agreed to be the Trail Chair this year but due to distance and time will need to make a few changes.

I would like to see more of our trail rides be ones where we would come to the trailhead on Fri eve. or Sat morning and have the option of staying over Sat. night to allow more riding opportunity. I envision lunches on the trail and potluck suppers and campfires whenever possible to allow us to get to know each other better. I would also ask members to be "Trail Bosses," leading a ride they would enjoy sharing with others or ex-

ploring together. I know from experience this can be a fairly simple undertaking and hopefully would be a ride you and a spouse, partner or friend would take even if no one else came-though I am sure others would both help and join in with enthusiasm.

I will be asking you to let me know if you might consider leading a ride and, if you are hesitant, will help you understand how easy it can be. I'll also ask if any of you have a stove, coffee pot, tarp or portable table that you might bring or loan for a ride. To start things off, my husband Jerry and I will lead a ride at the old Remount Station just out of Perma, Montana the end of April, Jerry's health permitting. More on that soon. In setting that up I will let you know what we are doing and how as well as the other factors; weather, terrain, water crossing or not, features of interest, how to obtain a reservation per-

mit. etc. A checklist might facilitate this for future trail rides. Hopefully it will encourage others to say "I can do that!" I would love your input or comments on any of this. Now I am off to the muddy pens to think of spring and comb out the winter tangles.  
Diane Shriner [shriner.diane@gmail.com](mailto:shriner.diane@gmail.com)  
(208) 667-2949

## Campfire Cooking



### Dutch Oven Chocolate Lovers Delight

- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1/4 cup coco powder
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1 10oz bag of miniature marshmallows
- 1 chocolate cake mix prepared as Directed

Directed

- 1 6 oz. bag of chocolate chips

Line the bottom and sides of a "12 Dutch oven with heavy foil, Mix water, coco powder and the brown sugar together and pour into Dutch oven. Add marshmallows and spread out evenly. Then add the prepared cake mix over marshmallows, Sprinkle chocolate chips over the cake mix.

Cover oven and use 8 to 10 briquettes on bottom and 14 to 16 briquettes on top.

Bake for 60 minutes Serve warm with whip cream. Serves 10 to 12

### Ziploc Omelet By Colleen Long

Have guests write their name on a quart-size Ziploc freezer bag with a permanent marker.

Crack 2 eggs (large or ex-large) into the bag (don't use more than 2 eggs), shake to combine them.

Put out a variety of ingredients such as: cheese, ham, onion, green pepper, tomato, hash browns, salsa, etc. Each guest adds prepared ingredients of their choice to their bag and Ziploc and shake.

Make sure to get the air out of the Ziploc bag and zip.



Place the bags into rolling, boiling water for exactly 13 min. (we did our for 15 min). You can usually cook 6-8 omelets in a large pot for more, make another pot of boiling water. Open the bags and the omelet will

roll out easily. Be prepared for everyone to be amazed. Imagine having these ready the night before, and putting them in boiling water while you get ready. And in 15 min you have a nice omelet for a quick breakfast!



# BSFTA Youth Program

## Eastern Chair Report

I am so excited to be the Youth Director for this year. I am looking for any youth that would like to join.

The first order I am asking from our youth is to have a logo design contest for our club. So please send your design.

You do not need to own a fox-trotter to join.

So come and have some fun!

Attention: I just received the program books from Ava please let me know if you would like to

join and I will send you one!!!

Youths you are the One!

Please email me or call me

Annette Padgett

padgettboys4@msn.com

406-777-0577



### EASTERN CHAIR REPORT:

As the newly elected Eastern Chair I am actually responsible for giving and getting input from all members outside the State of Montana. In mapping the membership I note members in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Wow we are everywhere! Are there any member states I have missed? I want to ask if there is anything I can do to make your membership more enjoyable or productive? And to ask you to share stories and pictures of why you are a member of BSFTA and what do you do with your horses where you live and where you enjoy riding? Maybe also whether you are open to visitors! :-)

Hope to hear from you,

Diane

shriner.diane@gmail.com

## Big Sky Auction

As many know, we held an on line auction benefitting the Big Sky FTA on the club web site the month of April. This was an experiment of sorts, to see if this kind of auction would work, and what kind of interest it would generate.

For a first time effort, it probably could be called a success. One \$50 item hasn't been paid for, but if it does, then the club will have cleared within pennies of a thousand dollars. We had a variety of items, from donated stallion services to home cooked meals! There were new and used items up for bid, plus gift certificates to local businesses!

With each item having a separate web page, complete with information about the bidder and links back to their business, the hope was to give the donors advertising for their generosity.

For me, this was an experiment to see if this would work, and how

much work is entailed in making it happen. This year I volunteered all the time needed to complete the project, but next year, I would like to do it differently.

I would like to move the auction to a neutral web site, such as Foxtrotter.Us (a domain name I own, but am not using), and open the auction up to interested affiliates. Each affiliate would have a personalized web page listing the items that they have gathered, and as in this auction, each item would have an individual web page.

Bidders can register and bid on any item listed, but the affiliate that secured the item would get the money for it. By expanding the auction to other affiliates, I think we could have a bigger auction, with more bidders. The greater the involvement, the more money each club stands to make!

And no, I wouldn't be undertaking this amount of work for free. It is not

uncommon to see a 5 or 10% buyer's premium at auctions, and I would like to collect 10% of the funds received. At that rate, I doubt that after expenses, I would even make my hourly wage, but this is more work than I want to continue with for free. This isn't eBay, there is a lot of detail work that has to be done by hand, not automation.

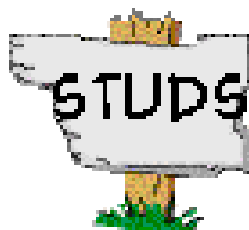
No decisions have been made about what we will do next year, but I hope to see this auction expand and benefit more of the clubs. Economic times are hard, and we all need to work together to support our clubs and promote our breed!

Lauren Johansson

Lauren@FrogWeb.Net

## Stallion Listings

<p><b>One Of A Kind</b>            Black #91-38291            End of The Trail Foxtrotter Ranch            Patricia Smith            541-798-5522            Kalmath Falls, OR 97603            Web:<a href="http://etranch.net">http://etranch.net</a>  <a href="mailto:etranch@centurytel.net">etranch@centurytel.net</a></p>	<p><b>Cloud's Jubalation</b>            Amber Champagne            Mountain Gait Horses            Rod &amp; Kristi Thompson            3474 E 200 N            Rigby, ID 83442            208-754-4493  <a href="mailto:modit@srv.net">modit@srv.net</a>  <a href="http://mountaingaithors-es.com">mountaingaithors-es.com</a></p>	<p><b>CR Rocky's Golden Devil</b>            Palomino            CR Foxtrotters            Randy &amp; Cathy Olson            111 N 4100 E            Rigby, ID 83442            208-745-7631  <a href="mailto:colson10@msn.com">colson10@msn.com</a>  <a href="http://CRFoxtrotters.com">CRFoxtrotters.com</a></p>	<p><b>CR Shadow of a Storm</b>            Buckskin            CR Foxtrotters            Randy &amp; Cathy Olson            111 N 4100 E            Rigby, ID 83442            208-745-7631  <a href="mailto:colson10@msn.com">colson10@msn.com</a>  <a href="http://CRFoxtrotters.com">CRFoxtrotters.com</a></p>
<p><b>Dynamite R</b>            Double Creek Foxtrotters            Eldo Heinle            3090 South Alaska Rd            Bozeman, MT 59718            406-388-4206            Cell 406-600-0002  <a href="mailto:Dbblfoxtrotter@earthlink.net">Dbblfoxtrotter@earthlink.net</a></p>	<p><b>GR Patriot's Climax</b>            Black            Thea Gervais            3162 Mittower Rd            Victor, MT 59875            406-642-6546  <a href="mailto:mtgervais@hotmail.com">mtgervais@hotmail.com</a>  <a href="http://GervaisFoxtrotters.com">GervaisFoxtrotters.com</a></p>	<p><b>Cloud's Real McCoy</b>            Grey            Double Luck Ranch            Cliff &amp; Laura Brown            Beautiful, Stylish and still going strong. Don't miss your chance for a McCoy Baby.            360-435-1760  <a href="mailto:Lucky2ranch@aol.com">Lucky2ranch@aol.com</a></p>	<p><b>Honkie Tonk</b>            Black            Aajker Creek Farm            W. Toney Bishop Jr.            Ellen J Bishop            3100 Branding Iron Road            Bozeman, MT 59715            406-223-9477  <a href="mailto:bishopapp@earthlink.net">bishopapp@earthlink.net</a></p>
	<p><b>Mr. Lexus</b>            Black Tobiano            Double Creek Foxtrotters            Eldo Heinle            3090 South Alaska Rd            Bozeman, MT 59718            406-388-4206            Cell 406-600-0002  <a href="mailto:dbblfoxtrotter@earthlink.net">dbblfoxtrotter@earthlink.net</a></p>		



## Classifieds

The newsletter is published 6 times a year. This publication is mailed out at the beginning of the following months: January, March, May, July, September, and November. Members can advertise in the classified section for free and owners of stallions may have a listing at no cost. Classified ads will appear in only one issue unless instructed to run it again. Submission of material for the newsletter must be received prior to the 15th of the issue month.

Advertising Rates: Full Page - \$20, 1/2 Page - \$10, 1/4 Page - \$5, Ranch Listing - \$10 annual cost, Flyers - \$17.50 A flyer includes

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cell 406-642-6464  
email: gaitedtranch@live.com

Web: www.gaitedtranch.com

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Thanks, Matt and Thea Gervais

Please email me with your

Classified ads

[padgettboys4@msn.com](mailto:padgettboys4@msn.com)



**Big Sky Foxtrotter Assn**

5150 Hill Drive  
Florence MT, 59833

Phone: 406-777-0577  
Fax: 406-542-4706  
Email: padgettboys4@msn.com



**Foxtrotting News**

**Information**

I'm looking for any good stories, recipes or pictures to put in the newsletter. Also, any youth in our club with great stories or pictures. Please e-mail me, thanks.

padgettboys4@msn.com

Take care and Happy Trails!

Annette, Editor

