

Poudre Trails

The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Newsletter

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March 2001

A Taxing Matter

Keeping track of PWV expenses can lead to big deductions

By Bob Kretschman

When you're on the trail, income taxes are probably the last thing on your mind. But as a Poudre Wilderness Volunteer, you can tally up a hefty deduction if you keep track of expenses related to your volunteer work.

Mileage, training costs, equipment, clothing, and horse boarding and veterinary care are some of the expenses that can qualify for tax deductions, says Kathy Burgess, a certified public accountant and member of PWV. "If you file Schedule A with your personal income tax return, you are entitled to a tax deduction for expenses pertaining to your participation in PWV," Burgess says. The Internal Revenue Service allows taxpayers a deduction for contributions to nonprofit agencies such as PWV, so if you have

kept records of your qualified expenses, you can report them on Form 1040 Schedule A.

Burgess says your expenses must meet two key IRS requirements before you can deduct them — expenses must be unreimbursed, and they must be directly connected to your service to the nonprofit agency. In other words, you incurred the expenses only because of the service you gave, and the expenses are not personal, living, or family expenses.

Here are some examples of what's deductible, according to Burgess.

- **Uniforms**—The shirts provided by PWV aren't deductible because you don't pay for them. However, if you bought a jacket with the PWV logo on the sleeve, you can deduct the cost.

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Spring Training Fever!

PWV's annual spring training is scheduled for the weekend of May 18-20. Last year's "on trail" training format was a big success. Look for a similar training experience this season, along with an exciting entertainment and guest speaker line-up. Join us at Jack's Gulch campground for a taste of the wilderness, the fruits of budding friendships, and our annual inauguration to another exciting season. Lastly, keep your eye out for an invitation to the first-ever Spring Training Kick-Off Event scheduled for the evening of May 5.



PWV Winter Programs 2001

By Brett Berlin

Mark your calendars and join PWV for some fantastic winter program events!

Poets On The Poudre

Tuesday, March 27—7:30pm

Jade Creek Book Store

Jacques Rieux

Jacques Rieux, an Advisory Director of PWV and the former owner of the Stone Lion Book Store, will host an evening of readings by local writers who have been inspired by our Poudre Wilderness patrol area. Among those

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Safety First!

The following letter was sent by Forest Supervisor James Bedwell to all Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grasslands employees and volunteers. Please keep these ideas in mind as you walk or ride the trails and backcountry while on patrol.

The safety and well being of all Forest Service employees and volunteers of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland is of my utmost concern. I fully support the Forest Service Safety Policy Statement.

I expect all employees, regardless of their job, function, or level to make a personal commitment to safety. All too often, when we get in the "thick" of things and the "pressure is on" we look for the easiest way to get a job done — but these short cuts often lead to mishaps. Each one of us should expect to go home to our loved ones healthy and with all body parts intact.

If you think something is unsafe — it probably is. Take the time needed to access the situation and identify the potential hazards or risks, and then take the steps necessary to eliminate or lessen the potential hazard(s). Use your influence to encourage others to do the same.

A "near miss" or a "close call" should alert you that there was a potential for a serious or even fatal injury, mishap, or accident. All accidents and mishaps are to be reported to the supervisor — no matter how minor.

As we strive to improve safety, we will continue to take a proactive approach by utilizing the Integrated Safety Process. In the coming months, we will be taking steps to continue the integration of this process into our way of doing business. Remembering the Forest Safety Creed "No job is so important that we cannot take time for safety" will do much in helping to keep each of us safe. Safety has to be a way of life.

JAMES S. BEDWELL
Forest Supervisor

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- **Clothing**—If you bought socks, boots, pants, shorts, sweaters, gloves, hats, or other articles of clothing for exclusive use in carrying out your PWV duties, you can deduct them from your taxes. The best way to assure that the items are for exclusive PWV use is to permanently and visibly affix the PWV logo to the items.
- **Animals**—Expenses pertaining to horses and dogs that you use in your PWV duties are deductible. "With respect to any tack for the horses or survival equipment for canines, be sure that our PWV or U.S. Forest Service identification logos are permanently affixed and visible," Burgess says. You can also deduct the cost of a conditioning program you put your horse through to toughen the animal up for PWV patrol duty. Be sure to document conditioning activities with dates, places, time, mileage, and conditioning records. If your horse needs to be properly shod to handle the rocky terrain, you can deduct the cost for the period of use. During the time that your animal actively participates in horse patrol, all expenses relating to feed, health, husbandry, and equipment exclusively used for PWV are deductible in proportion to the percentage of time your horse works for PWV.
- **Transportation**—You can deduct unreimbursed expenses, such as the cost of gas and oil, that directly relate to your vehicle's use in service to PWV. However, you cannot deduct general repair and maintenance expenses, depreciation, registration fees, insurance, or the cost of tires. If you don't want to track actual vehicle expenses, keep a log of the miles you drive between your home and any PWV-related destination, such as training or a patrol hike. You can deduct mileage at a rate of 14 cents per mile (for 2000).

Burgess says you can also deduct the cost of park passes (such as fees to enter Horsetooth Mountain Park,

Lory State Park, or Rocky Mountain National Park) if you use those facilities to condition yourself or your animals for PWV patrol duty.

- **Meals and Lodging**—"Generally, you can claim a charitable contribution deduction for travel expenses necessarily incurred while you are away from home performing services for a charitable organization if you are on duty in a genuine and substantial sense throughout your trip," Burgess says.
- **Equipment**—A percentage of the cost of tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, and other equipment that carry a visible and permanent PWV logo is also deductible, Burgess says. The amount of the deduction depends on the amount of PWV use vs. the amount of personal use the equipment gets. For example, you might be able to deduct only a portion of the cost of a tent that you use for both PWV patrols and personal backpacking trips.

"No Log, No Deduction"

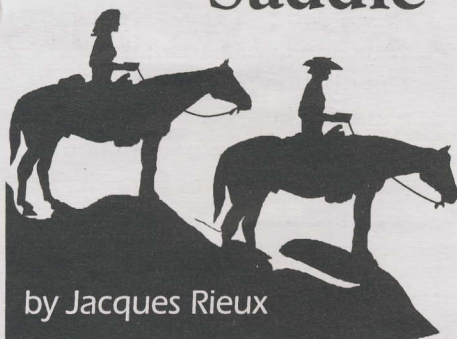
The strict rule of thumb when you're planning your tax deductions is "No log, no deduction." Burgess suggests that you keep precise records of beginning and ending mileage, meal costs, and other patrol-related expenses by writing such information on a copy of your patrol report form and filing that information with your tax records. If you participate in horse patrol, include information about which horse you used for the patrol, if you have more than one horse.

"Do this religiously and responsibly, and you will have no trouble getting through a potential audit of your return where these items will surely be examined carefully," Burgess advises.

PWV members who have questions about the deductibility of expenses should check with their tax preparers, or they can contact John or Kathy Burgess at 482-4465.



From the Saddle



by Jacques Rieux

Spring Horse Training

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming horse training events.

Wednesday, April 25

6:00-7:30 pm

Avery House Carriage House, 108 North Meldrum, Fort Collins.

We will meet (without horses!) to talk about PWV mission and history, horse lore, experiences on the trail, and what to expect during the hands-on horse training May 5.

Saturday, May 5

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Bonner Peak - 7 miles north of Ted's Place on Highway 287.

We will meet with horses for an experiential trail workshop that will include common hazards horses face during wilderness patrols: tents, llamas, dogs, water crossings, and others. Refreshments and cookies will be served. Volunteers are needed to help assist with this event.

Please contact Jacques Rieux at RIEUX-BEEZ@webtv.net.



PWV Discounts

Various merchants in northern Colorado offer merchandise discounts to Poudre Wilderness Volunteers. Here is a list of businesses that offer discounts to Horse Patrol members and PWV members at large (don't forget to thank these generous merchants!).

- **Ranch-Way Feeds** in Fort Collins — 10 percent off "All American" feeds
- **Four Winds Tack Shop** of Fort Collins — 10 percent off store merchandise (excluding saddles)
- **Vetline** of Fort Collins — 10 percent off store merchandise (excluding sale items)
- **Latigo Lariat** of Loveland — 10 percent off store-owned merchandise, including new saddles (without trade-in)
- **Mountain Vet Supply** of Fort Collins — 10 percent off store merchandise (excluding dewormers). They also have good prices on easy boots.
- **Northern Colorado Feeder's Supply** of Fort Collins — Discount on the following alternative weed-free products: Pack Pellets, Pack Cubes, Horse Chow 100/200, Alfalfa Hay Cubes, Equine Senior, Junior, and Adult.
- **Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS)** of Fort Collins — 10 percent off store merchandise (excluding sale items), 20 percent off on special days twice per year.

When you buy discount merchandise from these retailers, be prepared to show proof of your Poudre Wilderness Volunteer status.



(Winter continued from front page)

reading will be Bill Tremblay, author of The June Rise, Jon Thiem, Deborah Sattler, and others.

Map, Compass & Radio Training

Saturday, April 21 — 8:00am

Lory State Park

Dave Hake

We all need to upgrade and refresh our map and compass skills. Dave Hake does a great job of helping us do this and making it fun. The morning session will be classroom and after lunch we go into the field to practice what we've learned. We'll even incorporate some radio work for extra fun. *The number the class can accommodate does have a limit so please email James Johnson at jandajohnson1@home.com or call him at 221-0432 to make sure of your spot.* Don't miss this great preparation for your summer hikes.

Winter Get-Together

Friday, April 27 — 7:00pm

Avogadro's Number 605 S. Mason

Winter get-together to share stories and meet potential hiking partners. Some of us joined PWV not only to help take care of Mother Earth, but to meet others who have that as a similar interest. We invite you to join us at Avogadro's where you can order food, drinks and we can get better acquainted. A chance to share experiences, meet new hiking pals and just be a community of friends! Your family and friends are welcome! We won't be in uniform so look for the green balloons.

We hope to see you there!



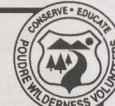
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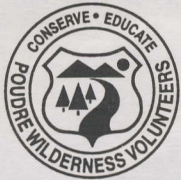
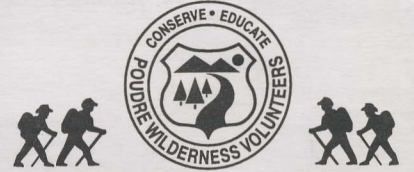
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