



MERCY FLIGHTS, Inc. MERGES WITH BUTTE FALLS AMBULANCE

By now, you may have seen the new ambulance, the new jackets and received the letter informing you of your new ambulance service. One thing remains the same... the people that have been with the Butte Falls Ambulance will still be there when you need them. Here's what's been going on ...

It became obvious about a year and a half ago that as a Basic Life Support Ambulance, Butte Falls was in trouble. It was costing more to exist than we could collect in fees or raise in our fundraisers, due mostly to changes in health care demands and insurance reimbursements.

As a group, we had to make a decision to seek other alternatives in getting quality emergency ambulance service to Butte Falls. One alternative was to merge with Mercy Flights as Prospect Ambulance did. We talked with the folks from Prospect and heard nothing but praise at how they were treated as employees and how well Mercy Flights takes care of them in regards to keeping their equipment up-to-date and in top working order.

After many meeting between ourselves, with Mercy and with the people of Butte falls, Mercy Flights and Butte Falls agreed to merge, giving Mercy the responsibility for all ambulance services in the Butte Falls area.

The changes you will experience will be minimal. Mercy Flights (as they have for many years) will respond with an advanced life support ambulance at every tone that Butte Falls gets. If your illness or injury is above basic life support, Butte Falls will keep the advance life support ambulance coming.

Mercy Flights is a nonprofit corporation but does bill for services provided. All Butte Falls residents will receive a one year membership with Mercy Flights to minimize the impact on local residents. Subsequent area memberships will depend on Butte Falls service group's involvement.

Brochures will be available to you explaining fees. You can pick one up at the store or City Hall.

We respond to every call, every situation, no matter if you have a subscription to Mercy Flights or not ... your cost will be what is affected, not your level of care!

We've been busy training to meet Mercy Flight's high standards of quality emergency prehospital caregiver. A lot of this training and the ability to send eager volunteers to school couldn't have happened without the support of Mercy Flights.

Just before the merger we were contacted by a paramedic student, Robert Stephens. The merger occurred while he finished his schooling and is now with Butte Falls - Mercy 12. Some of the faces you're used to seeing are still with us; Rocky Cowie/EMT Intermediate, Carrie Driskell/EMT Intermediate, Ken Owens/EMT Basic, Georgia Fewer/EMT Basic and Melissa Owens/ 1st Responder. John Adams recently started his Basic class and the following folks have started a 1st Responder class: Dean Smith, Nancy Thompson, Jim Schloesser and Cindy Wright.

So, our roster is growing and we're very excited and proud to be **MERCY 12** in Butte Falls. If you have any questions feel free to call Carrie at 865-3224 or Ken Parsons, Mercy Flights General Manager, 779-1019. If you have membership questions, please call Julie at Mercy Flights, 779-1019.



BIG BUTTE BUSHWACKERS

by Melanie Hampton

Hello, my name is Melanie Hampton. I'm currently in a horse study group called the Big Butte Bushwackers. It is comprised of local horsemen and breeders who also help the younger members of the group with their horses and skill. It provides a learning environment for horse-crazed teens (and other ages) and has been wonderful. We keep learning more and more about our four-legged friends. We practice resistance free training, meaning we don't strike or yell at our sensitive animals but train with a good attitude and positive environment. Our goal in resistance free horsemanship is to create a partnership between ourselves and our horses. We participate in many activities. We had a Trick or Treat Trail Ride on Halloween. The members and their horses dressed in costumes and went on a ride for Halloween candy. We attend training clinics, local horse shows, trail rides, camp outs and hold several study group sessions. There is always somebody in the group willing to help you with any problems. There are about fifteen members in our group and we always have room for newcomers. If you have questions about our study group or would like a monthly newsletter contact Mary Wright at 865-3919.

We are having a Winter photo contest. Is your horse looking like he would win a beauty pageant for Mud-Is-Us? Has the weather left him looking like a giant fur ball, or a distant relation to a pig? Then here is the contest for you! Send in a photo of your horse looking his winter worst. Also on a 3x5 card or paper, provide your name, your horse's name, your address and phone number. Entries need to be sent or given to Mary Wright, PO Box 401, Butte Falls OR 97522 by February 13th. The winner will receive a bouquet of carrots and his owner will receive a T-shirt.