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CUSTER COUNTRY

M O N T A N A

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E-Newsletter May 2010

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Sample the wonders of Custer Country. Plan your dream vacation. Please visit our website at www.CusterCountry.com



CUSTER COUNTRY IN FOCUS UNIQUE PADDLEFISH SEASON OPENS MAY 15

1

You might have heard that Custer Country is pretty well known for its prehistoric inhabitants. No, no, I'm not talking about the ones you have to dig for – as awesome as those fossils may be – I'm referring more to the primitive water dwellers known as paddlefish!

If you haven't had the opportunity to lock your eyes on a paddlefish you're really missing out. On average these fish reach 5 feet in length and weigh roughly 60 pounds, but it's not uncommon for one of these guys to tip the scales at over 100 pounds! Paddlefish received their unique name because of their large, bill-like snout. This snout usually accounts for 1/3 of their entire body length. Some research suggests that the bill contains receptors that act as an antenna and helps them detect food sources which largely consist of microscopic plankton.

Paddlefish are found in only 2 places in the world, the Yangtze

THE TYPE RIDER

Review & Trip Planner

Check out the TypeRider website! We hope you make TypeRider your go-to site for planning the perfect trip to Montana and Wyoming. This website is about real people – couples, families, and friends – who've had unique experiences on the roads and in the cities, on the water and in the saddle as they spent 2-5 days in this amazing area of the country. Bookmark this website, watch for what's new, and let us hear from you. Please visit our website at www.thetyperider.com



HORSES HORSES HORSES 2

Horses are racing across Custer Country in May. MetraPark in Billings hosts a number of equine events, from the *Three-Horse Series Show* May 1 and 15 that features 79 classes of horses, to the *Big Sky Reining Horse Event*. The arena wraps up with the *All Breed and Arabian Horse Show*. Get details at metrapark.com. Get in on the *World Famous Miles City Bucking Horse Sale*, *Western Art Quick Draw*, and lay down a bet at the pari-mutuel horse races during this mid-month extravaganza in the town where Lonesome Dove's Gus McCrae ended up. See where cowkids get their start at the *Alzada Kids Rodeo*. And it's point-stacking time for cowboys on the *Northern Plains Indian Rodeo* circuit in Lame Deer May 24. Authentic competition at the *Lame Deer Memorial Day Powwow and Rodeo* wraps the month up in a kaleidoscope of cultural color and competition. Get all the dates and details in the Custer Country calendar of events. Giddy-up!

River in China and the Mississippi River drainage system – better known as the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers of Montana. Every year anglers flock to the banks of the Yellowstone near Glendive, the Paddlefish Capital of the World, in attempt to reel in one of these giants. But it's not as easy as you might think; catching these elusive creatures is a lot of work. Because paddlefish feed by filtering plankton they don't chase bait like other fish. Rather, you have to snag them using very large tackle.

Besides being the oldest resident in the Yellowstone River, paddlefish have another interesting attribute. Their eggs are often harvested for what is considered a luxurious delicacy – caviar! Yellowstone River caviar is packaged right here in Montana and orders come in from around the world.

The paddlefish season runs May 15 through June 30. Make sure you have a Montana fishing license complete with the special paddlefish tag. Planning your trip to Glendive will be well worth the experience - hope to see you on the river bank!



THE GETAWAY GO RVING - 2010 THE RV INDUSTRY IS 100 YEARS YOUNG

3



WHAT'S REALLY HOT IN CUSTER COUNTRY?

4

MAY 15

Wine & Dino at the Makoshika Dinosaur Museum in Glendive . . . what better pairing than merlot with a rare T-Rex? A fine variety of wines, an awesome collection of giant fossils, a silent auction, and a great speaker--special guest; Dave Trexler from Two Medicine Dinosaur Center.

MAY 14-16

Big Sky Challenge - Motorcycle Hill Climb in Billings . . . Do you have the nerve? It's loud. It's scary. Your heart will pound as riders from all over the US try to tame the hill that peaks with a vertical drop so extreme very few actually make it over the top.

Excerpt from *Go RVing E-Newsletter* as posted on www.gorving.org

2010 Is the Centennial Celebration of the RV Industry

America was founded by adventures. Early Americans arrived by sea, but quickly set out across the country by horse-drawn wagons, which gave way to the advent of the automobile. Soon a motorized carriage with seats was not adequate for those with wanderlust, and the auto camper or RV was born. Historians agree the first commercially produced RVs debuted in 1910, so this year we celebrate the Centennial of the RV industry.

An American Journey Continues

Is it any wonder why [RVs first captured the hearts of Americans](#)? In the great land of opportunity, early auto campers and trailers were allowing the adventurous to travel farther, more comfortably and at their own pace. No longer confined to the railway routes, there were out-of-the-way places to be discovered. Car parks, the first campgrounds, sprung up across the country to provide travelers with safe places to stop, rest and converse with fellow travelers.

As more and more motorized travelers took to the growing roadways, they formed groups for camaraderie. One of the first was the Tin Can Tourists, which flourished in the 1920s and '30s. How they got their name is not known, but one popular thought is that they carried with them mostly tinned food that wouldn't spoil on the road. Another theory is that the name came from the practice at that time of tying tin cans to the trailers just above the road level. When a tire would go flat, which happened several times a day, the cans would start clinking on the roadway to alert the driver to the problem.

Yesterday, today and tomorrow, it is the call of the open road and the ability of RVers to answer that call [at a moment's notice](#) that have made RVs a staple in America's pursuit of quality leisure activities.

To check out many of the wonderful campgrounds and RV parks in Custer Country, [click here](#).

JUNE 18-20 **Matthew Quigley Buffalo Rifle Match** in Forsyth . . . just follow the smoke to the largest rifle shooting event in Eastern Montana since the Custer Massacre —last year, 629 shooters from all over the world rode, shot, competed, and entertained—what a show!

JUNE 19 **Melstone Heritage Days** in Melstone . . . Absolutely gotta bring the family! —Skeet Shoot, Duck Float down the Musselshell (big cash prize!), Farmers' Market, Antique Car Show at Jake's, Historic Walking Tour, old fashion soda fountain drinks at the Lazy JC, Firemen's BBQ & EMT's bake sale, and *if* you can still move—dance the night away to live music!

Want to know more about the haps in Custer Country? [Click here:](#)



Matthew Quigley Buffalo Rifle Match

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