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CUSTER COUNTRY

M O N T A N A

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E-Newsletter September 2010

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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

IN FOCUS - THE NILE

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A Change in Venue... But No Stopping the NILE ProRodeo

This year will mark the 36th consecutive time that the NILE has held a ProRodeo during the fall show, and it has grown into one of the region's most prestigious rodeos. 2010 brought new challenges for the NILE as the MetraPark was devastated by the Father's Day Tornado. Plans have been confirmed to move the rodeo into the Expo Center at MetraPark with seating for around 4,000.

"The changes that we already had in place combined with bringing the rodeo into a smaller venue will truly make it a spectacular event," says NILE General Manager, Justin Mills. "The physical size of the arena will be the same as before; however, every seat in the house has the potential of getting a little dirt on you, and I think people will really enjoy how close they are to the action."

This year the NILE ProRodeo will feature four performances



NOTE FROM THE CUSTER COUNTRY CORNER **2**

Birds and Brews

Southeast Montana is known for its historic battles, cowboys and Indians, rugged badlands and –a strong community spirit that infuses residents from Billings to Wibaux and all points in between. As the days shorten, fields ripen and birds migrate, consider a stop along these sights found along Custer Country's bird and brew trails.

The Southeastern Montana Birding Trail invites visitors to explore the species and habitats that can be found from Billings to Glendive and Ekalaka to Roundup. Experience first-hand some of the unique bird (and wildlife) watching opportunities that exist throughout the region. While many offer year-round viewing, here are two suggestions on where to view the feathery creatures– and other wildlife. Black's Pond near Ashland, due to the cooler season, provides opportunities for migrating common nighthawks, Great blue herons, and Great horned owls as well as elk, mule and whitetail deer and pronghorns. The Howrey Island Recreation Area and Nature Trail, outside of Miles City, encourages visitors to walk the 1.3-mile nature trail and keep a sharp eye out for Sharp-tail grouse, pheasants, Bald eagles and Canada geese that call this 321-acre preserve home.

Meanwhile, the Montana Brewery Trail traverses the entire state of Montana, focusing on 700 miles of roads and 23 breweries that can be found along the route.

starting each night at 7 pm running Wednesday October 13th through Saturday the 16th. The NILE Ranch Rodeo Finals have been moved to Tuesday, October 12th at 7 pm and will feature twelve ranch teams that have qualified at rodeos across the region.

Besides the adaptations that have to be made due to the tornado, the NILE had already instituted some of the most exciting changes in years for both fans and contestants. In an effort to maintain and continue to expand the quality of the NILE ProRodeo, event organizers have searched far and wide to bring you the best NFR stock. "We are pleased about what people will get to see in regards to the level of stock coming into the NILE this year," says Rob Erickson, NILE President and chairman of the NILE Rodeo Committee, "Each night will feature an all-star lineup of NFR stock." The NILE has contracted with organizations known for quality bulls like Banana Daiquiri, Dan the Man, Black Gold, Black Mamba, Bob, Cutt Across Shorty, Hitt Man, Jive Talking, Monkey Wrench, Silent Assassin, Silent Image, Spot Light, and Texas Charm. They are also receiving quality horses from people who offered the likes of 110 RD Mercer, Size Matters, Wildflower, Big Jet, City Lights, Dancer, Polyester Pants, Hat, and Wasp.

As always, the NILE ProRodeo and all of the events associated with the Stock Show and Western Expo will truly offer something for everyone. Tickets are currently on sale for all NILE events; however, advanced purchase is suggested due to the limited amount of seats available. For ticket information, go to www.thenile.org or call the office at 406.256.2495.

Schedule of Events

43rd Annual NILE Stock Show, ProRodeo & Western Expo
Oct. 11-16, 2010
MetraPark
Jr. Fed Sale of Champions – Oct. 12
Club Calf Sale – Oct. 12
Ranch Rodeo Finals – Oct. 13
PRCA Rodeo – Oct. 14-16
Weanling/Yearling Sale – Oct. 15
Performance Horse Sale – Oct. 16

Custer Country contains five stops. In Billings, you'll find Angry Hank's Brewery, Carter's Brewing, Montana Brewing, and Yellowstone Valley Brewing. These four - found only a few blocks apart - offer an opportunity for an unhurried pub crawl, and make it the only walking brewery trail in Montana. Further east, in Wibaux, the Beaver Creek Brewery might be considered an oasis in a desert of no microbreweries; it's located 247 miles from the next Montana brewery (in Billings) or 7 miles to the North Dakota border. Quench your thirst (and hunger) with a signature brew served with a chocolate chip cookie. Or if looking for something non-alcoholic, try their homemade root beer (as a float perhaps?) or enjoy a beer brat on fresh baked bread made with the spent grain from their beer. Check out the details on Montana's breweries at www.visitmt.com.

Whether you hit the birding or brew trail, or strike out on your own with another grand adventure, make Custer Country your destination.

Susan Buhr
Montana Office of Tourism



Sage grouse - [Southeastern Montana Birding Trail](#)



WHAT'S REALLY HOT IN CUSTER COUNTRY

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September 3-6 **Ashland Labor Day Powwow**
Come into contact with Native American culture and see firsthand the care and effort that is involved with preserving the native heritage. Feel the native pulse through drummers and dancers from several area tribes. Popular activities include gourd dancing, hand games and giveaways. Eat the best fry bread, or for the less adventurous, have a hamburger or hot dog. For more permanent souvenirs, check out the Native American art and beadwork. The powwow is located just a ½ mile off U. S. Highway 212 and clearly marked with signs along the road!

September 4-6 **Cowboy Mounted Shooting State Finals, Roundup**
Experience the most exciting, equestrian sport in Montana. Cowboy Mounted Shooting combines skills of horsemanship and target shooting with the added adrenaline rush of racing the clock. Shooting balloons mounted on poles, the rider races around the course of 10 balloons, trying to best everyone's time. But wait, there's more! One pistol only has five shots. The rider then has to switch to a second pistol to finish out the last of the 10 targets!



NILE - Northern International Livestock Exposition

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September 11-12

Medicine Rocks Buffalo Shoot, Ekalaka

If you are a sport shooter, or have ever been curious about black powder shooting, this event is a must-see. Saturday's competition focuses on revolvers and lever-action .22 rifles; then, Sunday features the long-range buffalo rifle match incorporating traditional black powder shooting. All about marksmanship, this event uses steel animal silhouettes at ranges from 25 to 800 yards. This event showcases the weapons, clothing, and lifestyle of Montana's High Plains when the first settlers graced the region.

September 17-19

Bluegrass Festival, Miles City
"Music on Wings" – the Bluegrass Festival in historic Miles City, Montana, features live performances by some of the best Bluegrass bands from around the nation— Special Consensus, CottonWood, High Plains Tradition, and the WoodPicks will share the stage with The Seeger Boys and Milestown. Don't forget to bring your fiddle if you'd like to share the "Open Stage" on Friday evening's jam session. Hourly concert sets and special performances are showcased through Sunday afternoon. This great event is a family weekend— affordable, smoke and alcohol free!

*Want to know more about the haps in Custer Country?
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