

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,  
1956-present

University Relations

---

5-14-2001

### Backroads of Montana' program celebrates 10 years

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

---

#### Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Backroads of Montana' program celebrates 10 years" (2001). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 17278. <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/17278>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).



The University of  
**Montana**

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS • MISSOULA, MT 59812 • 406-243-2522 • FAX: 406-243-4520

---

## **NEWS RELEASE**

---

This release is available electronically on INN (News Net.) Or  
the News Release Web site at [www.umt.edu/urelations/releases/](http://www.umt.edu/urelations/releases/).

May 14, 2001

**Contact:** KUFM's William Marcus, John Twiggs or Gus Chambers, (406) 243-4101.

### **'BACKROADS OF MONTANA' PROGRAM CELEBRATES 10 YEARS**

**MISSOULA —**

"Backroads of Montana" will celebrate 10 years of exploring the state's hidden nooks and crannies with a special hour-long broadcast at 8 p.m. Sunday, May 20, on Montana PBS. The hour kicks off with the premiere of the 15th episode of the award-winning series, titled "Backroads of Montana: Medicine Lake to Missoula," followed by a retrospective of the past 10 years with the show's producers.

Montana PBS can be seen on KUFM-TV Channel 11 in Missoula, KUSM-TV Channel 9 in Bozeman and AT&T Cable across the state.

"It's been an incredible 10 years - we hope it goes on and on," said "Backroads" host William Marcus, a Montana native and program host for KUFM Montana Public Radio.

"Medicine Lake to Missoula" begins with a story about Montana's historical roadside markers and the man who created them, Bob Fletcher. Then it's off to eastern Montana and a visit to the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site on the Montana/North Dakota border. Fort Union was a center for the fur trade and steamboat travel on the upper Missouri River.

Next, "Backroads" flies to Montana's smallest wilderness area at Medicine Lake in search of pelicans. Then viewers will meet Jan Schoonover, a Billings artist who creates three-

-more-

Bckrds10.rl--2

dimensional animals out of leather. Finally, the program visits Marshall Mountain near Missoula, where Devin Armstrong will slide down a hill thanks to an new adaptive skiing program.

Throughout the episode, Marcus will highlight the historical OTO dude ranch near Corwin Springs.

"This program skips through Montana history like a pebble across Medicine Lake," said Gus Chambers, who produces the program along with John Twiggs, Ray Ekness and Marcus. "We start in the past and bring you to the present."

During the second half hour, viewers will meet the producers as they reminisce about the program's past 10 years.

"It's fun to look back at all our trips," Twiggs said. "We're able to tell some of the stories behind the stories."

"Backroads" highlights interesting people, places and events from around the Treasure State. The program is produced by The University of Montana Broadcast Media Center and KUFM-TV Montana PBS. It has won three Program of the Year Awards from the Montana Broadcasters Association and a national Award of Distinction from the Communicator Awards.

"Backroads" is funded by grants from the Greater Montana Foundation, Travel Montana and UM and is seen around the world as part of PBS Heartland USA international broadcasts.

Montana PBS is a service of UM in Missoula and Montana State University in Bozeman.

###

CBS  
Local, state papers  
Bckrds10.rl