

The Picket Line

Post Office Box 3232, Bozeman, Montana 59772-3232



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Brown Parsons 586-9030

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Treasurer:

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586-9030

Secretary:

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585-3493

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Alternate: Ron Rassley

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State Web Site

www.bchmt.org



On The Calendar This Month

Club Meetings in August

August 6th - Board of Directors Meeting - To be held at the Parson's home. 516 North Willson - 586-9030 - 7:00 PM

August 15th - General Membership Meeting - Picnic barbecue at Joyce Haner's - Springhill. Be prepared to swap Trail Tales! 6:30 PM. Directions inside the Newsletter to Joyce's house. Now you do have to read the Newsletter!!

Club Events in August

August 10th - Squaw Creek to Hylite from Butte Meadow. Be ready to ride by 10 AM. Contact Chick Hale for information (763-4105) and let him know if you are going.

August 18th - Spanish Creek Steak Ride - Ride if you want - or come and join us for a steak!

August 24th - Back Country Horsemen and Sportsmen Expo! Contact Linda Roffe 586-2142 - More information inside!

Non Club Events in August

August 17th - Manhattan Potato Days parade. Begins at 9 AM

August 31st - Virginia City Poker Ride

Poker Ride Thank You



I was so proud of all of you who helped with the Poker ride this year. Considering the late start that we had those of you who helped directly and indirectly, just rolled up your sleeves and went to work. It made Beth's and my job pretty easy.

The temperature was close to 100 degrees and we were worried that we wouldn't have as many people as we did. Talk about hearty Montanans! We had 119 paid riders.

Thanks so much to Karen Watson, Josie Powell and Joyce Haner for taking over the duties of gathering and cooking the food. They did a terrific job!

The set up crew on Friday night was so efficient that we were done in no time. We had chili and salad when we finished and had a good visit.

The Read kids and David and the Holborns stayed overnight and guarded our camp.

Watch a Live Grizzly Bear at Camp at this Year's Back Country Horsemen & Sportsmen Expo, August 24th!

Hunters, horsemen and campers are invited to come for food, fun and many great clinics

including *Packing* with Smoke Elser and *Camp Cooking* with Colleen Sloan. \$6/Adults (kids 12 and under FREE). 4 Dot Equine just west of Belgrade on the Frontage Road. Also pre-register for the Private Exchange Auction that evening.

VOLUNTEERS: We need volunteers for this fun event! Come hangout Friday 23rd to help set-up and/or Saturday after the Expo to take down and run returns on rental items. Volunteering is a good way to get in for FREE!!! We also need help with collecting money at the door. The Gallatin Valley club will receive half the admissions.

RAFFLE: We have another opportunity to make money for the club with a raffle. Linda Roffe has donated a new Montana Silversmith buckle with a Grizzly. We also will have a tire feeder. Please contact her for any other donations. **284-6546 (of) 586-2142 (hm)**

August 15th General Meeting and Picnic

This meeting and picnic will be held at Joyce Haners' home. Bring a side dish or a desert. Also bring your own plate, utensils, and beverage of choice. I always forget my chair, maybe you can remember yours. Following are Joyce's directions to her house. We will serve some of the left over roast beef from the Poker Ride.

Directions to 4168 Stimson Lane: From the intersection of Springhill Road and Airport Road, go north 1 mile and turn left (West). Follow the road around the curve back north. Go past the big old yellow farm house and barn, past the cow pasture, just past the cut hay field you will see a 500 ft long driveway. My green GMC truck will be parked at the end of it. Turn right and park between the power poles and the driveway. You will know you missed the turn if you get to Penwell Bridge Road.

See you all there at 6:30!!



Our Sweet Pea entry! Aren't they a handsome group.

Upper Spanish Creek

Alice and Dan Marsh, Judy and Ed Long, Bonnie Hammer, Wally Becker, and Jean and Tom Griffin headed out of Spanish Creek trail head Sat July 20. A couple of pack adjustments and we arrived at the upper camp in time for lunch. Wally and Chick Hale had gone in earlier and set up the tent, which was much appreciated. Judy, Jean and Bonnie stayed in camp and made dutch oven biscuits, for breakfast. Then we made peach upside down cake, and baked beans. Supper was at six, and the hungry working crew polished their plates, so there was no need to wash them. That evening we had a very loud echoing thunder storm with a few drops of rain, but hardly enough to wet the dust. Dan and Alice Marsh went back to the trail head and reported a real downpour there. Sunday, everybody was up and at it at an early hour. After a hearty breakfast of peach cobbler coffee cake (a creative use of leftovers), biscuits and chickens in a nest, eggs and hash browns), every body headed up to work on the trail, Bonnie and Jean cleaned up camp. Noon, we ate our sandwiches, broke camp and headed out.

No report on work done, but it sounds like they ate well!!

Steak Ride 2002



The annual steak ride is scheduled for August 18. It will be held at the Spanish Creek Campgrounds. This ride and feed is for members and their guests. Family members and out of town friends all are welcome, and riding is not required. Come up and have a great steak dinner with us even if you don't have a horse. All we ask of you is that you make reservations for the dinner no later

than August 12. Please make your reservations by calling myself (Harry Boughton at 388-6700) or Margot Doohan at 586-4262. We will start serving at 4PM sharp and will shut down by 5:30PM. The menu is steak (8 oz choice New York strips) corn on the cob, dutch oven baked beans, and sheet cakes for desert. Pop and punch will be provided. Please bring your own plates and tableware.

The charge is \$10.00 for this meal, for the big eaters extra steaks will be available (while they last) for an additional \$3.00. Additional cooks are always welcome. Remember that this is a fundraiser for our chapter. Hope to see you all at the ride.

Harry Boughton

Fawn Pass Ride

On one of the nicest days to ride that you can imagine, 13 BCH members made the 21 mile round trip ride to Fawn pass on July 28th. The temperature was in the low 70's and there were no flies to be found. Within the first hour the ride was halted to watch a herd of 75 elk make their way up a ridge. Fortunately, the wolves haven't gotten all of the Yellowstone herd. The rookie trail guide missed seeing half of them because he was too absorbed in listening to Wally's stories about Bozeman when the sidewalks were wooden. We lunched at the lake at Fawn pass - elevation 9100 feet. Some members discovered that Mammoth was only slightly farther than returning to our starting point. They tried to arrange a shuttle, but cell phone coverage was spotty. Thanks to Bonnie Hammer for bringing her GPS. It was fun for us on gaited horses to be able to figure out the speeds we traveled at different gaits. On the drive home about half the group got lost and had to stop at the corral cafe for directions. One thing led to another there, as you might expect. *Dick Haines-Trail boss*

Here is another abbreviated report on the ride

The ride is fairly flat with few rocks, lots of mud (rain the night before), streams, lots of wooden bridges and open views 90% of the time. The '88 fire was quite visible. We viewed lots of elk, thanks to Bob Conti's sharp eyes.

It is reported that Barb and Dick Haines who were the trusty leaders did a superb job. It is also reported that the gaited horses got to get out and stretch their legs and do their gaits. Sounds like everyone had fun.

Trail Reports

Sunday July 7, Bill Shields, Dick Grover, Ron Rassley and Kay Tate packed decking, tools and nails to the bridge on the poker ride trail and in short order restored the crossing to safety. Thank you fellows.

Monday July 8, seven of the members of the Bridger Trail Crew completed cleaning the New World gulch trail to the Mystic Lake Cabin while three members stayed at the second bridge and replaced the decking with locally cut lengths. Both groups worked hard and completed much needed work.

Bill Shields led the Bridger group of 10 up Corbley Canyon in the West side of the Bridgers on Monday July 15, 2002. Loppers and a hand saw were all that was needed this year. No big trees were down for the loggers in the group to practice

their skills. It is a very steep and rocky trail in places and the lunch break on a high saddle was really appreciated. It is best to back into the short road to the trailhead rather than try to turn around at the end. It is a tight fit.

Push and Pull and Wait....

A humorous report on the Poker Ride. (From the tail end)

It was one of our hottest days on Sat. July 13th for our 2002 Poker Ride, but 120 riders entered and rode a great trail. Entries were not to be taken after 11AM, however some riders came from afar and just barely made the deadline. Wally, Chick and I volunteered to "sweep" the ride. We "sweepers-three" were to leave just after the last rider. We were itching to move on. How were we to know that Bettye, in keeping with her reputation for being late, and her neighbor, Joe, would arrive late? Now, I believe that you must keep your reputation, but the heat was heating up and we wanted to move on. They debated whether to accept their entries, but upon considerable consideration relented. We waited while they tacked up. So, now we had riders with us to pull. We started out when Joe had to go back for his sunglasses. More waiting. Wally began leading and moved right along, his horse doing "her thing" and trying to pull those behind to speed up, Chick did his "single-foot" as he calls it, and I did my running walk. We "three sweepers" had to stop often for our two latecomers to catch up. More waiting. The next riders we met were off their horses, one horse on this side of a muddy patch and one on the other side. Seems one horse spooked at this patch, went up the hill alongside the patch, fell with his rider, both coming down and landing in the patch. He was cleaning and re-saddling his muddy mount. More waiting. Off we went, all seven of us now. These two latest riders were in front, quite slow, and had to be pushed by us telling them, "If you don't move on it will be dark and the food will be gone." By now, time is of the essence as we contemplated the pop-stop people waiting for us to arrive so they can be relieved of their post. Our first stop, 5-6 mi., was at Dan Porter's where he was alone, waiting for us. He had watermelon. We ate the whole thing. Now Dan had his horse there and joined our group. We were now comprised of eight riders and still trying to pull some and pushing others. It's like taffy. Our next stop was Barb and Dick Haines, waiting for us. No watermelon, but lots of cold bottled water. Have to give Dick credit as he spent all morning traveling back and forth with his ATV doing his job for the stops. So after resting and taking care of hydration and elimination we were off to the last stop, where they sure were waiting for us. This stop consisted of a large party of Brown, Sammylu, Bonnie, Dave and kids under a few meager trees, lots of bottled water and only a mile or so from the trailers and food, if there is any left. The temperature did not falter, staying near 100+.

We arrived at our trailers for our food and drinks that they had waiting for us. Prizes were awarded and good company to share the misery of the temperature. Regardless of the heat, everyone enjoyed the ride, the trail, the food, and the prizes. When we left the grounds at 5:30, after pooper scooping, the car temperature read 104. What a bunch of tough riders to ride in that heat. Or are we next year's Jiffie



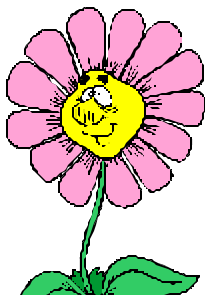
fools? I'm waiting for our Poker Ride.

hum.
Chick Hale

2002 Sweet Pea Parade

Trail Maintenance Expansion

After years of suggesting that hiking groups and others who use our forest trails should help to maintain them, the Montana Wilderness Assoc. has participated in trail repairs. My promise to assist them came to fruition July 20 and 21 when a group of about nine members headed to the Porcupine Trail to work. With the OK from FS Brian McNeil they closed off multiple trails leaving only one, cleaned water bars, relocated two bars and pruned one section of trail. My duty was to pack their tools, daypacks, etc., from work site to work site. Needless to say I had to do some work to keep occupied. The horses were on their good behavior and the girls in the group fell in love with Danny, our Morgan, and insisted on leading him and babying him so I just tagged along. Ho-



Saturday, August 3, was our day to parade through the town of Bozeman. Fourteen special and devoted riders participated with nineteen horses. This is something to be proud of and it seems we get bigger and better each year. We begin with Wally on his mare and his packhorse with the panniers decorated and filled with sweet peas and a sign denoting the Backcountry Horsemen Next we have Ron and his two Morgans driving his newly painted wagon with Bonnie alongside as his groom. Then we have all the wonderful riders: Kay Tate, Bettye White, George and Karen Watson, Cathie Rubin, Bob Conti, Ruth Hall, Sammylu Parsons, and Diana Swan, all decorated with boutonnieres, flowers on their hats and flowers on each horse's tail. Between these riders we had Dick Haines with his packhorse, and finally dragging was Chick and his packhorse with tools in his panniers and his sign denoting "Trail Work by BCH". The final sweep, literally, is Beth with her shovel and trash can scooping/shoveling/sweeping up the crap our horses dumped on her. Some of these horses were really full of it and she had to empty one trashcan at the police station before moving on. Next year we have to do something about this! We will need more pooper scoopers. Not only was Beth the best scooper, she purchased all the flowers (not real, because we are going to save them for next year), put them all together with clips, pins, etc. and also had hatbands for riders. She also put together all the flowers that went into Wally's horse's pannier and attached to Ron's wagon. Nine people wore our BCH vests with their white shirts, white hats and flowers. If it had not been for Beth the BCH would have looked plain. The group looked wonderful, kept in fairly good formation and had no mishaps. The day was sunny and warm and the crowd in town was in the thousands to view this spectacular event of the year. We even had our Senator Baucus walking in our parade.

Jiffie

More Trail Work - Chick Hale

Trail work, Tuesday and Thursday workdays and weekend work since last regular meeting:

- 6/25 Replaced rotted rails on feed bunks and tie rails at Spanish Creek.
- 6/26 Surveyed and flagged work.
- 6/29 Seventeen people completed repairs, etc., to Spanish Creek Trail.
- 6/29 Clear blow downs on trail to Mirror Lake.
- 6/30 Continued work on Spanish Creek Trail.
- 7/1 Painted new wood, etc., on Spanish Creek feed bunks and tie rails.
- 7/9 Continued work on Spanish Creek Trail between first and second creeks.
- 7/12 Continued work on Spanish Creek Trail.
- 7/18 Packed in to campsite and erected wall tent, cashed tools, etc., for work weekend.
- 7/20 Work crew went to Spanish Creek campsite and worked the upper trail.

7/20 Assisted MT Wilderness Assoc with their work weekend.

7/21 Again assisted MWA.

7/24 Removed tent from work weekend and packed to trail head.

More from the Bridger Crew

On July 22 eight BCH members of the Bridger trail crew cleared the Little Hellroaring Creek trail #400 without incident. All agreed this ride has some of the best views in the entire Spanish Peaks area. Got back to the trailhead to find a large group of horsemen and women from Minnesota had just arrived for a visit. They were glad to talk to fellow riders from Montana who knew the trail layout for the Peaks area.

Monday July 29: Flathead Pass Ranger Station over Shafthouse Mtn to Fairy Lake, 11 miles Ten workers with four pack horses and chain saws cleared the Shafthouse Mtn trail on Mon. July 29. Plenty of trailer parking. The boardwalk over the swamp near the cabin is in poor shape. We walked through the swamp instead of using the boardwalk. Bill has repeatedly asked for repairs but none have been forthcoming so far. Kay took some pictures to send to the F.S. to illustrate the problems. We hope that works. We don't want somebody's horse putting their foot

through the holes. Ruth Hall lost her hat and camera case to the gale on the top. We all looked like we had headaches while holding our hats on our heads. The trail is now cleared.

Bear Creek Ride - July 5th, 6th, 7th

Aaron Linton and Connie Scott had their stakes laid out and camp claimed for the BCH Independence Ride. Bonnie Hammer showed up about 5:00 and Brown and Sammylu Parsons, came about 6:00 While they set up camp, Bonnie, Aaron, and Scott, set out for a quick fishing trip up the middle fork of Bear Creek. Aaron caught a little cutthroat, in a pool and then threw him back. We headed back to camp for Sammylu's fantastic stew. We had cornbread, and brownies with the stew. Then fell into bed. About 10:00 Saturday morning the sun came out bright and sun-shiny, so we headed up the middle fork to the Sphinx and Helmet pass. We had 944 foot elevation gain, and ran into two snow banks at the top of the pass. It made things a little slippery and exciting, for the faint hearted. There was a wonderful lunch view looking for mountain goats. There was a lot of traffic around (over 20 hikers). We rode down the other side and back to camp.

For dinner we chipped in what ever we had and Chef Aaron cooked up buffalo burgers on his Special \$1.00 garage sale grill. Were they ever delicious. Sammylu's salad was wonderful, and Bonnie's watermelon was a real treat. Chef's assistant, Connie, coordinated everything and furnished some delicious "On the Rise " bread to go with everything. Aaron had a great bonfire with scraps of lumber from his shop and then did the Independence Blaze with a waxed cardboard box, that brought the whole camp running. Sunday dawned with a threatening gray haze that tried to dampen our spirits, but we were hardened seasoned riders and nothing was going to stop us. We rode up to Cameron Lake where the biggest thrill of the whole weekend greeted us. An immature bald Eagle was perched on a tall dead tree on the edge of the lake. He was right along the trail to the lunch site so we rode right under him (nobody got dropped on) and he just sat there and stared down his beak at us. About midway through our lunch he flew over to the other side of the lake. Aaron changed into swimming suit and fly fished the lake , getting several hits, but nothing in the creel. Bonnie bobber fished and caught a couple of nice cutthroat. Then we headed back down the trail, getting a little sun burned as the clouds had blown away by then. This was quite a climb for the horses, 2239 feet, in four miles. A wonderful weekend with beautiful weather, sunsets, and good company.

Bonnie Hammer



“At its finest, rider and horse are joined not by tack, but by trust.

Each is totally reliant upon the other...Each is the selfless guardian of the other's very well-being.” -----Michael J. Plumb, Olympic rider

GVBCH July 2, 2002 Board Minutes

Attendance: Margo Doohan, Bonnie Hammer, Aaron Linton, Sharon Lowry, Harry Boughton, Beth Merrick, Sammylu Parsons, Ron Rassley, Chick & Jiffe Hale, Joyce Haner, Kay Tate, & Joan Holborn.

Treasurer Report accepted as follows:

Checking Acct Balance	\$719.23
Money Market as of 5/31/02	<u>1907.68</u>
Total Cash	\$2,626.91

Bills paid since last report:

Harry Boughton for Stat Board Mtg Expenses	\$41.80		
Redd-E-Sharp, Saws used in trail clearing sharpened	<u>64.00</u>	Total	\$105.80

Minutes from June approved

Chick reports a very productive work weekend and would like to thank the following members for their help: Bonnie Hammer, BettyWhite, Jiffe Hale, Violet and Kay Sumidon, Jim Gould, Reggie Clark, Ed Long, Ruth Hall, Bill Shields, Jean Griffin, Tom Griffin, Aaron Linton, Beth Merrick, Sammylu Parsons, Brown Parsons, Wally Becker Dan Marsh, & Chick Hale.

Chick began discussion concerning poor condition of dangerous bridges on the club's dedicated trail. They are not only a hazard but reflect on the club. It was decided to draft a letter scribed by the combined knowledge of Beth & Chick to address the Forest Service in hopes of replacing or removing dangerous bridges.

Steak Ride: Harry reports the serving time will be 4pm., the steaks are 8 ozs., and for an add'l serving \$2.00. the meal will include corn, baked beans, and dessert. Margo will take calls to confirm orders.

Fawn Pass Pleasure ride is in Yellowstone Park. Call Dick Haines for info.

Donated tire feeders will be stored by Beth, one to be raffled among trail clearers!

Thanks to Sammylu for providing refreshments.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Secretary

GVBCH 07/18/02 General mtg. President Brown Parsons called meeting to order, Joan Holborn's Husband cut his hand and had just got out of the operating room so Bonnie Hammer acted as secretary, Treasurers report from Sammylu accepted as follows Checking account balance \$1482.93 / Money Market acct. as of 6/30/02 - \$1909.63 / Total Cash \$3392.56 . Bills paid since last report Tire Ramma Service Center \$196.00 Kinko - Monthly bill (Includes \$13.20 for Poker ride 16.56/ Gallatin Meat -- Meat for Poker Ride - 220.90/ Joyce Haner - Food/Supplies for Poker ride b-b-Q - 374.58 Karen Watson- Food/Supplies for Poker Ride Breakfast 91.06. \$899.10 Proceeds deposited - \$1662.80
(Includes all proceeds received plus one \$22.00 membership)119 entries.

Chick Reported on Bridges on the Spanish Creek Trail. He talked to Brian and Chick suggests we let Brian McNeil go though the channels to get bridges rebuilt on the trail. Tom Griffin suggested we ask for a copy of the Spanish Creek Wilderness Plan and then sit down with Forest Service, and put in a rustic bridge. Aaron Linton suggest we ask other Clubs such as Wilderness Assn. to band with us to then go to Forest Service and put in foot bridges. Correspondence - We had a letter from Eagle Mount, their Ride-a-Thon is at the 320 up at Rams Horn this year. Also had a letter from Forest Service with all their projects listed and Spanish Creek was not on the list .Club Video - Beth Thanked every body and said there was lots of 'raw' talent They had a lot of help and she has the 'rough cut' and is working on it Expo- Aug. 24, Linda said it was coming well, we are going to have a booth, the Grizzly demonstration and Smoke Elser will be there. She needs volunteer 'hunter and pack string'. She also needs clean up people for Sunday and some volunteers to collect money at the gate. She showed the silver bear buckle that will be raffled off and asked for any thing else to raffle. It was suggested we have a TV at the booth and videos to run on the TV. Lovers Spanish Creek trail Improvement.- there were 17 people with 102 hours, feed bunks were replaced and painted. Mirror Lake trail got cleared, gravel was added to the 'turnpike', water bars were installed, and trees cut back from the trail. Sweet Pea Parade- Chic has enrolled us in Sweet Pea parade, anybody that wants to ride, wear a white shirt, jeans, and white hat. Meet at Hastings parking lot. Poker Ride- Sharon and Beth thanked everyone, Kay Tate and Volney Steel, donated the ice. There are several extra cases of water and 12 packs of pop available for club members to buy at a very, very reasonable price. Sphinx Mt. Trail Ride- Aaron reported there were 5 people who had a glorious ride seeing an immature bald eagle at close range. Upper Spanish Creek trail - Tom Griffin says be there at 9:00 and we leave trail at 10:00, we will stay up at the same camp as last year and work on water bars and finishing the "new" part of the trail that was built last year. Sonja made a motion that Club pay for food for this trip and Chic seconded, motion passed. Fawn Pass July 28- Dick Haines will be trail boss. Meet 10:00 ready to ride - 10 mile ride. Bring lunch and snacks. Guest Speakers were Connie Lien and Pat Hess from animal control. Connie Lien is the City of Bozeman's Animal control officer, she enforces the laws of animals in the city of Bozeman, mostly cats and dogs. Exotic animals owners have to apply to house them before getting them. She has been working for 25 years and is a little bit of counselor, peace officer, go between, and generally a person with many 'hats'. Pat Hess is the Gallatin County control offices and puts 60,000 miles on a vehicle in three years. She deals with a lot of poor pasturing of large animals, especially during the drought we have had for the last three years. She also acts as a counselor and peace keeper, go between and wears many 'hats. Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Hammer, acting Secretary

