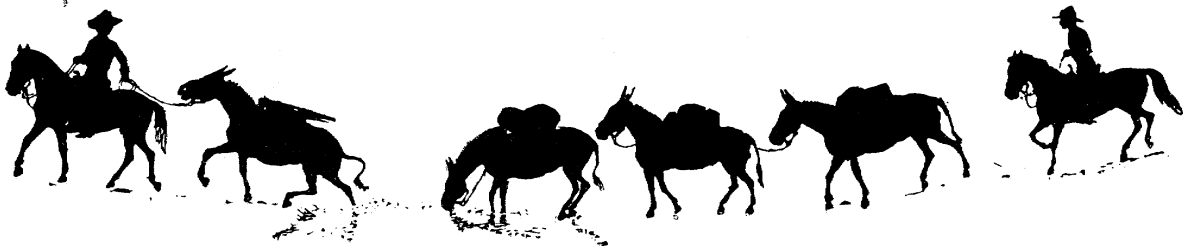


The Picket Line

Post Office Box 3232, Bozeman, Montana 59772-3232



Officers

President:

Brown Parsons 586-9030

Vice President:

Margot Doohan 586-4262

Treasurer:

Sammylu Parsons
586-9030

Secretary:

Joan Holborn 586-3306

Directors

Aaron Linton 585-3493
Bonnie Hammer 284-6822
Rich Inman 388-1564
Bettye White 586-2301
Jacki Conti 586-5047
Ron Rassley 388-4415

State Board Members

Harry Boughton
Linda Roffe
Alternate: Ron Rassley

Newsletter Editor

Sharon Lowry
587-4013
lowry@180com.net

State Web Site

www.bchmt.org

On The Calendar This Month

Club Meetings in October

October 1st Board of Directors Meeting at Brown Parson's home. 516 North Willson

586-9030. **Reminder** - If you cannot attend this meeting, please get a proxy to stand in for you.

October 17th - General Membership Meeting - Dr. Caitlin will speak on winter horse feeding.-This is a topic we are all interested in. It should be very informative. Belgrade Alliance Church at 7:00 PM.

End of the scheduled rides

This month marks the end of our scheduled trails rides and possibly the end as well of the hard work the trails crews have done this year. The articles you have all contributed to our Newsletter over the past few months have been superb. There have been many favorable comments on things that you have done and sent in to the Newsletter. People have commented on the articles about the rides. I have had some say to me that it looked like we had more rides. Not so, they were just written up this year so everyone could enjoy the stories about them if they couldn't be there. I also am happy about the trail reports. Now everyone can tell how much time and effort have gone into making our trails passable, safer, and as important keeping them open.

This is leading up to something!..... Now if any of you have any fun things you would like to see in the Newsletter for the next two months, please send them to me. This could be about private rides, tall tales, horse

tales, something new you and your horse learned this year, or how you feel about Back Country Horsemen. Endless possibilities.

Membership



Our newest member is:

Reggie Clark
9420 Dry Creek Road
Belgrade, MT 59714
388-1413

Reggie has an email address but she doesn't have a computer, so she doesn't check her mail very often. If you want her address, contact me:

Sharon Lowry
587-4013
lowry@180com.net

From the Lunch Cook

This is from Joyce Haner. I didn't have room last month (sorry Joyce), so here it is now:
Thanks so much to all who helped unload the food on Friday and Saturday for the Poker Ride. Special thanks to Sharon & Beth for the final adjusting to taste of the beans.
Additional special thanks

to Darren (Ron Rassley's son-in-law) and Alice Marsh. Darren started the generator to cook the beef and both stayed to help serve food to all the participants.

A Find Find Day

This is a quote from Wally Becker who led 5 of us on the Porcupine ride Saturday, September 14. Kaycee, (Wally's neighbor's girl), Chick, Jiffy, Beth and Bonnie, bundled up in coats and hats, (there was frost in the air) mounted up and took off at a brisk pace. Every body soon warmed up as the sun was out and we were traversing the south side of an open grassy slope. We got almost to Eagle Point and Onion Basin. We spent too much time arguing the politics of the BCH, during our lunch break. Bonnie had to take Tums.

Wally found a hunters arrow in a tree right by the trail, and also a small animal trap, so he said it was a "find, find trip."

On the way home Wally told us about the railroad tie camps that were in the Porcupine drainage. There were two of them, one at the bottom of Lemon drainage and one closer down to the mouth of the canyon. There isn't as much left of the dam as is up Taylor Fork, but he told us they used hog wire to catch the logs which were all cut about 8 or 9 ft in length before they were floated down. All the logging was done in the winter when there was ice on the ground. When the hog wire was cut, the loggers tried to let the logs string out in stead of going in one big bunch. The loggers would jump from log to log and turned the logs to guide them to the bank then they would jump off the log and run ahead and catch another log and then guided it across the river to the other side, jumped off and unhooked something and then got back on. When the logs jammed they would tie dynamite to a rock, light it and sink it in the river under the dam and the dam would blow up. The logs were floated all the way down to Central park where they were used as ties for building the rail road.

It was really interesting to hear him talk We rode about 14 miles and did not hear one elk or see any game except a red tailed hawk, But what great weather and the fall colors are starting to appear.

Bonnie Hammer

Inner Strength

If you can start the day without caffeine or pep pills; if you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains; if you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles; if you can eat the same food everyday and be grateful for it; if you can understand when loved ones are too busy to give you time; if you can overlook when people take things out on you when, through no fault of yours, something goes wrong; if you can take criticism and blame without resentment; if you can face the world without lies and deceit; if you can conquer tension without medical help; if you can relax with liquor; if you can sleep without the aid of drugs; if you can do all these things.....you are probably the family dog.

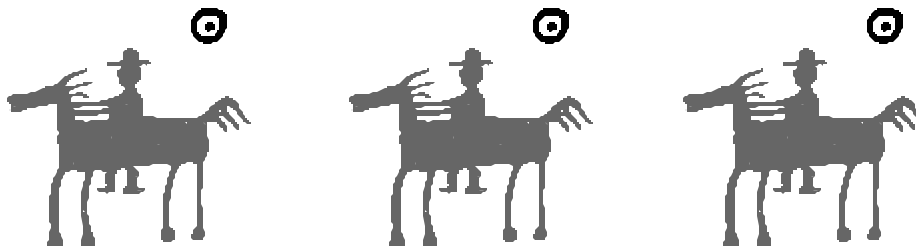
Submitted by JH and whose author is unknown

Cherry Creek Trail Clearing

This account is from Bonnie Hammer. She and Kay Tate and Ron Rassley did this work over the Labor Day weekend.

We started out early and got a little rain while we were in the truck. We had a few sprinkles on the trail Saturday morning, but it was great as it settled the dust. We drove over to McCallister and around the lake and started up the Cherry Creek trail head about 9:00. The black flies were bad. I got bit so much my one eyelid was about half shut. We got up to the cabin at noon, had lunch then went out to the 408 trail and sawed logs and cleared trail till 6:00. Then we headed back to the cabin and saw a moose on the way. It was late when we got back - 8:00. We ate supper and fell in bed, tired but satisfied with our work. Saturday we rode around the back side of the mountain to finish marking the new trail to Cherry Lake. We built cairns and cut logs and marked trail until noon and then went on down to Cherry Lake and fished. No luck, but as we grazed our horses on the way up the trail in the

morning, about 10:00 a black bear came out of the woods right where Chico was hobbled. They looked at each other face to face 20 yd apart, then the bear turned and scampered off. then We came down the 408 trail back to the cabin and had a leisurely evening. Sunday, we went back up to Cherry Lake and finished marking the jeep trail. We came back to the cabin, packed and headed back to the trail head. Had supper at 7:30 and got home by 10:00. It was a long day, but we really accomplished a lot.



Thank You notes from the Poker Ride

Backcountry Horsemen! Not only do the contributors deserve a thank you, but all of you do as well. I know the Poker ride takes a lot of work and time - but WOW! This was the best ever. Your planning, great trail, and delicious meal made us all (and even in the heat that was a big group) feel like this was the best Poker Ride ever, and that those of us that aren't formal members a real part of the group.

I was proud to have brought a new rider the to ride and her rave to others at work what a great time she had. Thanks for all the fun and for making me proud. - I hope to be able to be more help to you in the future.

Sincerely,
Cathy Decharry

To all the Back Country Horsemen,

Your Poker Ride was great. Trails well marked and the meal was delicious. It was fun and I won a halter in the raffle which was a great way to end the day.

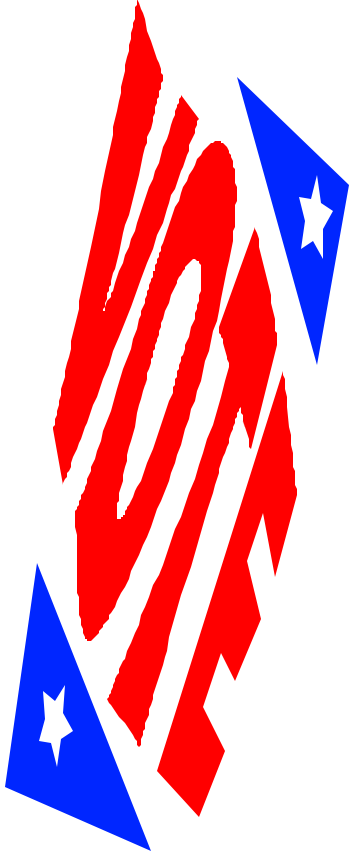
I'm looking forward to joining the BCH as soon as my husband retires.

Many thanks for a great day.
Billie Thomas

Vet School Motto: Barb wire puts my kids through school.

Elections

The nominating committee is working very hard to put together a slate of officers and board members for the coming year. If you would be interested in any of



the positions please give either Jiffy 743-4105 or Bettye White 586-2301 a call. Their biggest need right now is a volunteer to run for President. Maybe you could sweet talk someone you know into volunteering for one of the positions. They would like to have enough names that we have candidates to vote for.

Bait and Switch

Just 52 miles away, as the crow flies

and the GPS charts, the Beaver Creek Labor Day weekend was conducted at Buffalo Horn Creek behind the 320 Ranch.

Seven great horses, two rigs, five adult (Jack & Sharon Lowry, Beth Merrick, Dave, Lisa Read) and two kids (Brandon and Jessica Read) gathered for the rare and elusive PERFECT WEEKEND.

We set up camp, electric fences and lashed up a cross beam to a tripod to hold a tarp and keep the Saturday morning rain away. A quick lunch, and saddling followed for a trip up Elkhorn Creek and over the ridge into the Porcupine drainage. Jessie (9) and Brandon (11) do all of their own horse chores: Jessie, slightly shorter than the hitching rail to which the horse is tied, shinnies up the post, walks this iron tightrope to where she has placed her saddle and tosses it on her horse: poop barely has time to reach the ground before being promptly disbursed; horses barely get thirsty before they are whisked away for a bareback trip to the watering hole, knots are perfect and locked, and all disputes are quietly settled with a round of Rock, Paper, Scissors. Back in camp, Chick and Jiffie Hale are expected for dinner, where can they be now?

Up, Up and Away was the theme for our second day of riding. We traveled up over Teepee Pass and continued up the east ridge to the edge of Yellowstone National Park. Our trail followed the Park boundary to a spit of crest ten feet wide that fell away on both sides so steeply that the inclines were not even visible. We followed the earthen span to a limestone wall that blocked our passage north. Instead we took steep switchbacks that were scraped out of an adjacent cliff face and barely afforded a place for the horses to make the turn. At the top was lunch, a rest and spectacular views of the Paradise Valley, Tom Miner Basin, Yankee Jim Canyon, Black Butte drainage and the Gallatin Canyon where the highway touches the Park. Words don't convey the pride we all felt in achieving this view. Even the horses took in the views. From there we rode the crest looking for elk over the edge till we reached the Buffalo Horn Pass and Trail. This estimated 20 mile ride really tested the courage of the riders and the heart of all the hoses with its climb from 6100 feet up over 9100 feet. One mare was observed to have dropped two dress sizes on the trip! Regardless, she built up a head of steam and upon her return to camp and broke through her electric fence then went looking for company taking out the Lowry's fence as well. With three horses loose in the canyon, our evening entertainment was guaranteed. Jessie and Brandon catch horses, too.

Monday brought silly songs, bad jokes, and new lyrics to the Marine Marching Drill tune ("I don't know, but I've been told, chasing horses is getting old") on the trail to Rams Horn Lake. What is Irish and stays out all night? Answer: Paddy O'Furniture. Each family claimed on of the beautiful corrals near the lake for their mounts, and the buckskin mare shuffled back and forth in her hobbles trying to build alliances. Some serious fishing produced two dragonflies caught and later released. Back in camp, the group folded our tents and slid away in record time and headed home, some via a Swiss and Mushroom burger at the Corral. Say, has anyone seen Jiffy and Chick, they still haven't shown up for dinner.

Beth Merrick

Bacon Rind Ride (Say it fast 3 times)

On Sun., Sept 22 our club had the "member's ride for experienced riders and experienced horses only" as announced in our newsletter. We had 20 riders, 10 members and 10 guests. 4 members started out at our scheduled time at

10AM arriving at their destination viewing sheep and elk. The weather was clear and crisp, warming as the day progressed. Our remaining riders, some late, started out at 11am. Now folks, let the circus begin. There were guests and one member who made this ride interesting, to say the least. Some horses could not keep up at the walk and therefore trotted or jiggled most of the way, while another cantered in place, never having been on a trail ride till today. Then we had another guest rider on her trusty horse cantering out in the field alongside the trail schooling her horse in large circles doing her "environmental impact study" and "leave no trace." Then we had a member on his young horse he had trained himself who had never crossed a creek or been on a trail ride. Well, we had a great show at the first creek. Of course the horse would not cross, nor would he follow others. So, our member rider, after much hassle, dismounted and began leading, when the horse leaps up high and jumps across, knocking his rider down...no injury. The creek was about 8' across and that's a big, high leap from bank to bank. We had all crossed by now, but our trusty BCH member had to do this again...and

again...and again until one member stated, "Hey, this is a trail ride, not a schooling show." So, about 15 minutes into this "cross country event" we proceeded on with our newly schooled horse now following in the rear. We arrived at our viewing site and managed to view some elk and listened while one member, using his elk call, spoke with the bulls. We spent a long while enjoying this and then 10 of us proceeded back to our trailers, while 6 others rode up further. Our group stopped often to wait for those horses that jiggled and jogged on the way up and we noticed some riders off their horses---walking. Now I wonder why? Our group arrived back about 5:30 while the other group arrived about 6:30 having viewed much more elk and sheep. It was a fun day I must say and I am glad I did not miss this circus full of "experienced riders and experienced horses." It was free, too.
JH

Whistling Elk BugleseeeeEEE, umph, umph UMPH

Bright sunlight CRISP fall air and 1/2 inch ice on the mud puddle , greeted Sharon, Jack, Neal and Bonnie, Sept. 21, at Bacon Rind Trail head. We rode steady up to the first meadow where we stopped to let the sun warm our backs cupped our hands around our ears to listen. No sounds , but just as we moved out of the meadow, Neil and Jack saw two cows, melt through a small edge of the clearing. Excited that the prey had been spotted we edged on, much quieter than before. Mid way into the next meadow, there were two more cows, gazing intently at us from about 200 yards. We stopped and stared back, then they melted into the forest edge. There was much sign in the meadow, grass eaten down, dropping all over and pawed up areas we visualized big raked bulls snorting and pawing. Cautiously, we moved on up and when we got to a lunch top from a previous years ride we heard a bull. Bonnie cow talked back and he answered again, A couple more cow talks, and then silence. We aimed our horses heads up the last steep hill pulling our coat collars even tighter about our ears, as that wind was still a nippy 40 degrees. Topping the ridge we could neither hear nor see any elk, the wind was making too strong a noise and our noses were running and we were sniffing too much to hear any thing. So we popped on over and found a hollow, tied the horses, put on big rain coats for wind protection and then huddled in the sunlight out of the wind and ate lunch. The wind died down a little and the sun was out bright and we warmed to a very pleasant respite. We threw a few rocks over the side and that must have gotten the bulls stirred up because they stated bugling one on the left and one on the right. We cow talked back a little and then the finally quite. We were rejuvenated so we rode on up to the top of the first knoll and looked down into cabin creek. We saw two cows on the same side of the hill as us, pop out of some trees and then head down the hill into the valley. About this time, the bulls stated bugling again and they sounded like they were all over. When the cows reached the bottom, their 'BIG Daddy" came out of the woods and herded them up the other hill side. Then a little while later another cow came out followed by a smaller bull. Then a third bull with two cows came out of the same bunch of trees, and all headed up the side hill and disappeared into the trees. All this while Bonnie, the bulls and the cows were conversing. .About 3:00 we turned back and headed for the trail head. What a blessed day we had. *Bonnie Hammer*

GVBCH Sept. 19,02 General Mtg. minutes

Attendance: Margo Doohan, Bettye White, Bonnie Hammer, Sharon Lowry, Sammylu Parsons, Beth Merrick, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Wally Becker, Rich Inman, Aaron Linton, Ron Rassley, Linda Roffe, Sonja

Berg, Joyce Haner, Kay Tate, R.J. & Jacki Conti, Tom Griffith, Ed Long, Marianne Meyer, Michelle Barker, guest Mary Keifer, and Joan Holborn.

Treasurers Report by Sammylu accepted as follows:

Checking Acct.:	\$ 2,497.56
Money Market Acct:	1,913.74
Total	4,411.30
Bills Paid since last report:	
Kinkos-newsletters	\$72.00
Beth Merrick-decorations	31.23
Total	103.23

Issues: Tom brought maps on loan from forest service delineating changes for trail use. They may be reviewed at the Forest Service on the 3rd floor. A CD is also available, a copy of the proposed 'benchmark' is also at the public library. Feedback will be taken until Nov 22nd of 2002. A public meeting is planned by the Forest Service on Oct. 9 at the Holiday Inn from 3-7pm.

Expo 2003-Linda brought us up to date on plans for next year's expo. A collaboration with the fairgrounds for next year is proposed and discussion of having the state chapters join the expo has taken place at the state meeting Linda attended. Discussion among members about unknowns ensued. The issues were unresolved and a special board meeting was set for Sept. 24 to address matter.

Club Banner-it is now a reality and was shown off at the meeting. Thanks to the combined efforts of Aaron and Beth, it is beautiful.

A motion from Bettye, 2nd by Jiffie was brought to members as follows: "If members are unable to attend to vote at the December meeting an absentee ballot may be obtained from a member of the nomination committee signed and submitted to Box 3232 prior to December 1." A count of votes in favor was 8, opposed 10. Brown distributed a proposed amendment to change the constitution's format of voting. It will be voted on at the October general meeting.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Jacy Cook DVM accompanied by his wife Karen Cook DVM. Jacy & Karen presented a program on dental health & disease in horses. Jacy studied at Washington University taking special interest and instruction in this facet of equine medicine. Did you know that horses teeth grow continuously? The tearing and grinding action of grazing wears the surfaces down, keeping their teeth in the most natural state as they continuously forage. Silica from the ground is introduced and helps maintain proper wearing of dental fields. Our alteration of their grazing limits the time of grinding. Alternate food stuffs, such as pellets further reduces exposure to grinding action on teeth surfaces. Some signs that a horse has a dental problem: Weight loss, nasal drainage-2nd to abscess, halitosis-bad breath, shaking of the bridle bit, painful palpation on the face along the upper jaw due to sharp points, etc. How do you determine if there is a dental problem? Jacy recommends an exam under minimal sedation to fully inspect all the dental fields. Without sedation a horse will rarely allow or maintain an open access to feel the extreme posterior molars, and only the 1st 2 molars can be safely felt for deformities without sedation. What treatments are available? Floating with a rasp can file off sharp edges. Technology has developed power driven burrs, dremel tools that can safely reduce long unopposed teeth and even off wave patterns to correctly align upper and lower surfaces. A slide show and horse skull helped us learn more about equine dentistry and its role in a horses health, performance and longevity. Thanks Jacy & Karen.

A Delicious Dutch oven dessert was enjoyed by all, Thanks to Jiffie for baking.

GV BCH Sept. 10, 2002 Board mtg. minutes

Attendance: Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Bonnie Hammer, Bettye White, Sharon Lowry, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Aaron Linton, Jacki Conti, Kay Tate, Beth Merrick, & Joan Holborn.

Treasurers Report by Sammylu accepted as follows:

Checking Acct. Balance:		\$2,484.79
Money Market Acct: (8/30/02)		<u>1,913.74</u>
	Total	\$4398.53
Bills Paid:		
Sharon Lowry-postage for newsletters		\$ 74.00
MSU Meat Lab-meat for steak ride		113.44
Albertsons-food for steak ride		75.71
Postmaster-Qrtly box rent		24.00
Kinkos-Newsletters		<u>72.00</u>
	Total	\$359.15
Proceeds from steak ride		\$448.00
Expenses		<u>-189.15</u>
	Net profit	258.85
Proceeds from Expo: Raffle ticket sales		\$314.00
	<u>½ gate proceeds</u>	<u>785.50</u>
no expenses	Net gain	\$1,099.50

(Comment: Expo net \$1,099.50 / Poker Ride net \$821.15)

Nominating Committee: Bettye & Jiffie volunteered to take on the task. TX Ladies!
Discussion of next years expo at the fairgrounds followed.
Meeting concluded with refreshments from Sammylu, many thanks.
Respectfully Submitted by Joan Holborn, Secretary

GVBCH Sept. 24,02 Special Board Mtg. for Expo

Attendance: Margo Doohan, Sammylu & Brown Parsons, Bettye White, Aaron Linton, Rich Inman, Sharon Lowry, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Ron Rassley, Linda Roffe, Beth Merrick, Sonja Berg, Wally Becker, & Joan Holborn.

Linda reported her latest meeting with Sue Shockley from the fairgrounds. A tentative date of May 17 & 18th is proposed to put distance between the Poker Ride and the Expo. After much discussion 2 motions were voted upon as follows:

1st motion by Aaron, 2nd by Margo "Do we as a club want to participate in the Expo? 8 votes in favor, 1 opposed. Jiffie voted as Bonnie's proctor.

2nd Motion by Aaron, 2nd by Margo "I move to include the state chapters participation in the Expo 2003." 8 votes in favor, 1 opposed. Jiffie voted as Bonnie's proctor.

Thanks to Jiffie for providing an ambrosia dessert for everyone, delicious.
Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, secretary.