

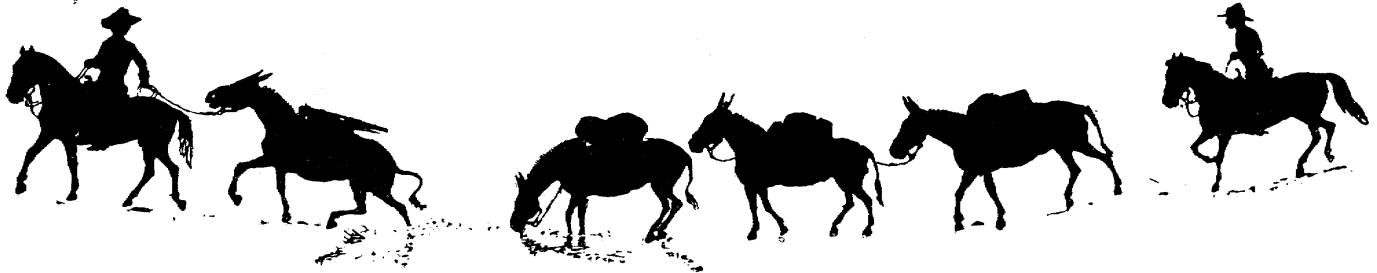
August 2003

The Picket Line

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

Post Office Box 3232, Bozeman MT 59772-3232

www.bchmt.org



Officers

President:

Brown Parsons 586-9030

Vice President:

Ron Rassley 388-4415

Secretary:

Joan Holborn 586-3306

Treasurer:

Bettye White 586-2301

Directors

1 year term:

Bonnie Hammer 284-6822

Rich Inman 388-1564

Aaron Linton 585-3493

2 year term:

Joyce Haner 388-4273

Sharon Lowry 587-4013

Jim Nelson 388-2201

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Harry Boughton

Linda Roffe

Alternate: Ron Rassley

Newsletter Editors

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MEETINGS

Director's Meeting

Wed., August 6th

7:00 PM

Sharon Lowry's
160 Lake Rd
587-4013

Members are welcome

General Meeting

Thurs., August 21st

@ 7 pm

Program

Jessica & Brandon Read

They will speak on their
4 H Youth
Horse Programs

The minutes for the July meetings were not made available to be included in this newsletter.

EVENTS

Sat., Aug. 2nd

Sweet Pea Parade.

Sammylu 586-9030

Sat., Aug. 16th

Manhattan Potato Parade

Sammylu 586-9030

Aug. 8-10th

Downunder Horsemanship
Clinic w/Clinton Anderson

Gallatin River Ranch

Observer seating available

Sat., Aug 17th

Steak Ride

@ Spanish Peaks trailhead

Ride your ride, then eat @ ?

Contact Harry Boughton

388-6700

Sat & Sun., Aug 23rd & 24th

Trail work w/ other clubs @

Bear Basin

?This is questionable?

Sat & Sun., Aug 30th & 31st

Bear Creek ride & campout

Trail bosses Brown &

Sammylu 586-9030

?This is questionable?

New Members

Gary and Jeanne Vraspir
301 Pheasant La
Belgrade MT 59714
388-2466
vshadows@yahoo.com

Larry & Billie Thomas
8242 Huffine Lane
Bozeman MT 59718
586-6878

New address for Parson's
3225 Chestnut Ave., #1
Bozeman MT 59718

Poker Ride big winners are:

David Morrell won the \$400
Custom Hat from Rocky
Mountain Hat Co.

Colleen Haas won a pair of
\$150 Tony Llama Bullhide
Boots from Ardesson Boots &
Shoes

Rich Holborn won the \$150
Hitch Rail from Precision
Fence

Jiffie Hale won the \$100 gift
certificate from Dave Read of
Quality Landscape & Seeding
Note: since the Hale's really
do not need seeding (we
would rather kill the grass
than mow!), we have donated
the check back to the BCH.
We thank Dave for his
generous cash donation to
GVBCH.

*Ever wonder why...
if con is the opposite of
pro, is Congress the
opposite of progress?*

From your president...

I think the club can be proud of the poker ride put on this year through loyal and hard working members. There were a lot of people who helped, most of them had worked in the past, but we did have a quite a few who took on jobs for the first time and did a wonderful job. Needless to say, the ride was a success due to those who worked and those who participated. Thanks a big bunch to all.

Next is the steak ride in August and I hope all will help Harry turn it into a fun time and a financial success.

I hope you are enjoying the summer even though we are presently having hot weather. With the lack of rain for over a month now it is likely the Forest could be closed, so work those horses while you can. We have postponed the Upper Spanish Creek trail clearing ride due to the hot weather, but we will get it rescheduled, probably in Sept. In spite of the hot weather, some of our members have continued to pack out the Forest Service and clear trails. We are still planning on riding in the Sweet Pea parade on Aug 2nd as a club, so contact Sammylu (596-9030) for details if you want to participate.

The Board decided not to participate in the Continental Divide VIP Ride. It also conflicts with our steak ride.

It is cool in the evenings, so be sure to come to the general meeting on the 3rd Thurs and learn from programs such as the one put

on in July by Jane Louis on grooming our horses.

Brown

The Hills are alive with music

...our theme for the club entry in the Sweet Pea parade on Sat., Aug. 2nd. Unfortunately, we will be doing it without the talented help of Beth Merrick, who is laid up with a knee operation as a result of her unscheduled dismounting, but we have some good ideas and always welcome more. We are hoping Ronnie will bring his horses and wagon and we have a possible clown in our midst that will follow our tails and clean up the droppings and it would be nice to have some pack animals, too. If you have any special thoughts of something we should do to add to our theme, please give me a call at 586-9030 ASAP. Please leave a message if I'm not home.

The more riders we have the better showing we make, so polish up those horses and make them shine, wear a white shirt, jeans, and a straw hat and meet at 9am ready to ride on Sat. Aug. 2nd at the parking lot in the Osco Drug/Hastings mall. See you all there. The best reward for our efforts will be the smiles and cheers we get as we ride by.

Sammylu

*Ever wonder why...
doctors call what they do
"practice?"*

Trail Reports

By Kay Tate

Mon., June 23rd -- 13 riders and packhorses rode the South Cottonwood Trail to Fox Creek cabin totally willing to "clear any obstacles in our way," but found none. Someone had done the job ahead of us. It was a beautiful day and great lunch spot in the meadow in front of cabin.

Mon., June 30th -- twelve riders accompanied Bill Shields up New World Gulch to Mystic Lake Cabin and return. The trail is now open and clear that far. The Bozeman Chronicle accompanied us in the form of a photographer on a bicycle and Nick Gevock, writer, on Jim Nelson's "Rosie."

Fri., July 4th -- Ron, Kay, Bonnie, Dick & Barbara Haines and 2 pack horses rode up Lightning Creek to the south Wilderness boundary and installed a post and Wilderness portal sign. All went well thanks to good planning on Ron's part. We camped, with permission of the lessee and the FS, at the Taylor Fork corrals. That worked really well. 12 miles.

Sat., July 5th -- Ron, Kay Bonnie, Dick & Barbara Haines and 2 packhorses rode up Bacon Rind to the Burnt Fork trail jct, turned south and continued to the White Peak Pass and installed a post and Wilderness portal sign. This was the prettiest spot I have yet to find in MT. Simply gorgeous. We camped again at Taylor Fork and the corrals. 22 miles.

Mon., July 7th -- 12 riders with multiple saws worked very hard clearing the North Fork of Spanish Creek to the Cherry Lake trail. It hadn't been done for some years and there were a lot of big trees down. Someone has stolen the post and sign that the club installed two years ago at the North Fork/Willow Swamp trail junction. 6 of us got back to camp @7pm after completing the project and had a great potluck of delicious oer'dourves. We six camped overnight. This was to be the FS sponsored thank you feed, but they were all called away to the fire in Bakers Hole West Yellowstone, so it was called off. 18 miles.

Tues., July 8th -- 4 riders cleared from Spanish Creek Campground to the 2 mile saddle on Little Hell Roaring Creek. That trail is now clear to Arrow Lake according to Archie and Mary Huenergardt. Then the rains came and we slicker up and returned to camp and shared a gourmet tortellini, salad, bread, wine, beer lunch. This trail clearing is GREAT! 4 miles

Mon., July 21st -- 13 riders of the Bridger crew worked on the trail from the Flathead R.S. to Fairy doing overhead trimming. A new portion of the trail has been constructed to zigzag up the mountain instead of going straight up. A new style of water trap was used. Go take a look, it is interesting.

Tues., Wed., July 22nd -24th -- Ron, Kay, Bonnie, Dick and Barbara Haines on Tues.,, packed into the Cabin Creek cabin (5 miles) on the Hebgen Lake Ranger District. Wed. we rode to a site found by GPS and cleaned up an old camp, packing out 30# of trash. (6 miles) We had permission to stay in the cabin until Sat but due to home commitments we had to return on Thursday July 24. Total miles 16.

Trail Reports

By Chick Hale

I am tickled to death to report that our Lower Spanish Creek work weekend was very successful. With 14 people out Sat., Jun 28th and 5 out Sun., June 29th work moved rapidly.

Joyce Haner, Sammylu and Brown traveled on foot and "popped" rocks like shooting bullets. I know because our gray horse, Bubba, spooked at every relocated rock.

Members that traveled to the Mirror Lake Y also cleared rocks, cleaned water bars and replaced water bars as required.

The intermediate crews did the same and all crews re-dug tread areas that had sloughed.

A great effort and thanks to all that participated

If we could give as big an effort, or even bigger, I would suggest we work Saturday only and fish on Sunday

On Mon., June 30th five members met at the South Cottonwood Trail Head with their riding and pack horses. We packed for 6 members of the Montana Conservation Corp who were headed for the Fox Creek Cabin to spend a week working on trails in that area.

We were able to pack all personal gear, food, stove, sleeping bags, tents, chain saw and tools for the crew.

In our string we had a total of 8 pack horses of which 2 had no load and were 'in training.' They soon caught on to our no nonsense requirement and all horses and mules did great.

On Fri., July 4th the Wally and Chick team met Bill and Lee of the FS at the trailhead of Beehive Basin. We packed one of Wally's horses with one 2' x 3'6" sign---designating the Wilderness Boundary, one post, 2 small signs and tools. On foot and astride we proceeded about 3 miles to Wilderness Boundary, erected our signs and proceeded on up to Beehive Lakes on a pleasure cruise. The area is beautiful, but was soft and muddy from winter snows. Packed out some tools left by the Rangers that worked for 3 or 4 more days and headed home.

Again, on July 7th we hit the trail at South Cottonwood Trailhead. 3 riders with 6 packhorses headed up the trail to Fox Creek Cabin. There we found a mountain of gear, tools, trash, etc., from the 6 Montana Conservation Corp members who spent the previous week working on trails in the area.

No matter which direction you are packing, how efficient you think you are or how many people are participating, it works the same, i.e., 2 hours in and ½ hr lunch, 2 hours dividing and packing horse loads and 2 hours out.

Another great day and no wrecks!

Thurs., July 10th was again Wally and Chick day. Back again to our Tuesday and Thursday workdays as we headed to Hell Roaring Trail #84

We constructed 174 feet of new tread which included removing all size rocks and detouring around a really large one. Next Tuesday we will hit the trail this time with our modified Roto-Tiller to do some of the work.

A hiker (Ernie) we met was so impressed with our work that he has called two times to come work with us. We have decided to give him his big opportunity on Tues. As with many people, one day is too much for them, but we keep trying. Note: Ernie came, worked with us and did a fine job.

Poker Ride Report

By Sharon Lowry

The 17th annual Poker Ride was a great success. The trail was good and well marked and only a few people got lost. They admitted that they were busy visiting and just missed the markers. Bohart Ranch had a few people they weren't planning on. We had, at last count, 152 riders that signed in. There were a few people that paid for just the meal and we counted 33 breakfast eaters, but that one we weren't so sure about. There could have been more.

Once again we had great people helping with this event. It always comes together with all the wonderful help we get. I guess I have never worried about finding someone to help when a slot needs to be filled. The pop stops started out preplanned and at the last minute, Brown took the boys that were with David Read with him, while Dave's daughter, Jessie, went riding with my family from Lewistown and Bozeman and Dave took my grandson, Tyler, with him to man a pop stop. Bonnie ended up going alone to stop 3. It was hilarious! Kay Tate took David and Tyler to Pop # 2 and when she came back she said she wasn't too sure we would ever see them again! It was in a BAD spot! Later in the day, when they came down, Dave said it was a piece of cake! (He had a big grin on his face.)

Thanks to all of you for the prizes you gathered, and to Rich Inman for the super job he did of keeping track of them and organizing them all at the ride. The morning breakfast, once again, was super---thanks to Karen Watson and her crew. The noon meal was excellent and kudos once again to Joyce Haner for all the hard work she did. She got a super deal on the meat and I do believe we will return to the Meat Shoppe next year. She also mixed up many batches of Harry's Rattlesnake bean mix and the remarks were very positive for them. Thanks to her crew as well.

There were many people gathered for the set-up on Friday and Joan and Sammylu really put on a feed for all of us. Thanks to the trail crew for the excellent trail, the marking and the de-flagging. Thanks to the sanitary crew who cleaned the parking lot, bringing the trailer to the ski hill by Aaron and David for taking the trailer back. Aaron for setting up all the cook stoves. It was a great crew who stayed and helped us take everything down and load the trailer. Sure glad Dave hung with the Porta-Potty deal and insisted they get us our toilets up there! Thanks to the pre-rider, Ron, and the drag riders. Many thanks to Bob Steinman, Kay Tate and Jack Lowry for supplying and getting the ice to us. Special

thanks to Beth who got all of the paper work done with a great deal of effort considering she was in a great deal of pain and enjoying her pain pills. Thanks, George, for handling the 50/50 pot and the grand prizes.

I probably missed someone and you will hate me forever, but my brains are fired. Just know that I thank all of you and appreciate everyone who participated.

Poncho de Oro

by Bob Conti

Dear Horse Lovers,

I thought I should tell you that yesterday, Thurs., July 11th, I lost my Best (Friend) Horse to a bad incident of colic. When they were operating on him, his small intestine was too far gone for repair and it was their advice to put him down. The vet said it really didn't matter how soon that I brought him in, the outcome would have been the same. Seems there was this fatty solid growth that was attached to the small intestine by a stringy cord that over time wraps itself around the small intestine and chokes it off, thus making the damage pretty much un-repairable. I watched the operation and right away they told me it didn't look good. They told me that this was going to cost \$2500 to \$4500 if he pulled through. I really didn't have to think twice about it. I owed him that much. Poncho was an awesome tough stout horse who always gave me his best effort. The vet said it was amazing, considering his condition, that he was able for me to bring him in without showing much more pain than he was in. He said he credits that to his breed. Poncho was a Peruvian Paso. He was by far the smoothest riding horse I've ever been on. He just turned 15. And a bit of a freaky deal.

So, I'm not working the rest of the week. Got pretty hammered last night. Man, I really miss him. I'm having him buried at this place just out of town. They GPS the site and farm over him. So, any time you want to visit they can lead you right to him. Love them hard and love them fast, cause you really don't know how long they'll last.

Salesman beware...

A little old lady answered a knock on the door one day only to be confronted by a well dressed young man carrying a vacuum cleaner.

"Good morning!" said the young man. "If I could take a couple of minutes of your time, I would like to demonstrate the very latest in high-powered vacuum cleaners."

"Go away!" said the old lady. "I haven't got any money." And she proceeded to close the door.

Quick as a flash, the young man wedged his foot in the door and pushed it wide open. "Don't be too hasty!" he said. "Not until you have at least seen my demonstration." And with that, he emptied a bucket of horse manure onto her hallway carpet.

"If this vacuum cleaner does not remove all traces of this horse manure from your carpet, Madam, I will personally eat the remainder," said the man.

The old lady stepped back and said, "Well, I hope you've got a damned good appetite, because they cut off my electricity this morning!"
