

The Picket Line

Post Office Box 3232, Bozeman, Montana 59772-3232

www.bchmt.org



Officers

<u>President:</u>		
	Brown Parsons	586-9030
<u>Vice President:</u>		
	Ron Rassley	388-4415
<u>Secretary:</u>		
	Joan Holborn	586-3306
<u>Treasurer:</u>		
	Betty White	586-2301

Directors

<u>1 year term:</u>		
	Bonnie Hammer	284-6822
	Rich Inman	388-1564
	Aaron Linton	585-3493
<u>2 year term:</u>		
	Joyce Haner	388-4273
	Sharon Lowry	587-4013
	Jim Nelson	388-2201

State Board Members

Harry Boughton
Linda Roffe
Alternate: Ron Rassley

Newsletter Editors

Dan Marsh 587-7578
dmarsh@montana.edu

Jiffie Hale 763-4105
Cell-580-6825

jhale@imt.net

Meetings

Director's meeting

Wednesday July 2nd

7pm

Sharon Lowry's
160 Lake Rd.
587-4013
Members are welcome

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, July 17th

7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church
Cameron and Hoffman

Program

"Dry Cleaning Your Horse"
by
Shirley Lutes

Events

Saturday, July 12th

GVBCH Annual

Poker Ride

@

Bridger Bowl

See next page for all other events for July. They were too numerous to place in this column.

Everyone has a photographic memory, some just don't have film!

Fourth of July holiday rides...Ron Rassley 388-4415

Friday July 4th Day ride packing in two Wilderness signs for the West Yellowstone district up Lightning Creek (Taylor Fork area), camping overnight on Taylor Fork

Saturday, July 5th Day ride Fan Creek to Sportsman Lake in YNP. Coggins test are required to ride in the park. If you don't want to comply we will ride up Sage Creek instead, camping overnight on Taylor Fork.

Sunday, July 6th Day ride up Bacon Rind to install Monument Mountain Wilderness sign at the boundary.

Monday, June 30th Pack in and **Monday July 8th** pack out to transport a group to Fox Creek organized by the Montana Conservation Corp **Chick Hale 763-4105**

***Saturday, July 12th** Gallatin Valley BCH annual Poker Ride at Bridger Bowl—entries 8:30-10:30

Sunday, July 13th Take down flags at Bridger Bowl **Kay Tate 587-2758**

Tuesday, July 22nd to Friday, July 25th Pack out garbage dumps around Cabin Creek cabin. Overnighing at the cabin, **Ron Rassley 388-4415**

Saturday and Sunday, July 28th & 29th is our Upper Spanish Creek maintenance time. If enough sign up an overnight can be planned. **There is a lot of work required. Chick Hale 763-4105**

(Old news, by Chick Hale)

National Trails Day, June 7th, was cancelled because of inclement weather and not the lack of participation. About twenty people signed up to work. The most important aspect of this was that our club and the Montana Wilderness Assoc. put forth a big effort to join in trail maintenance. The organizing of the people who use these trails will now and in the future be key to their condition. Thanks to Rich Inman, Wally Becker and all others who participated.

(News from Kay Tate)

Trail clearing Monday, June 16th had 9 riders and one packhorse. Cleared FS trail #538 from Brackett Cr Y to Bridger Bowl and trail #524 to Ross Pass is cleared and passable for horses. Ron and I dropped out in section 13 on So Brackett Cr to work on draining a bog and redirecting the trail. The crew cut out huge logs to make the area more passable. When it dries out we'll see how well the project went.

Monday, June 9th 9 riders with two packhorses (Apache & Rosie) carrying chain saws rode trail #538 from the Bridger Bowl's north boundary to the trail's dead end at private property to the south clearing trees as needed on. About a 12 mile ride. We saw a moose, several deer, numerous elk and one elk calf. It was a beautiful day.

FYI (for your information) by Kay Tate

The campground at Eagle Creek between Gardiner and Jardine is now a pay station. It costs \$7 for the primary vehicle and \$3 for each vehicle in the party. A Golden Age Passport is accepted for ½ price on the primary vehicle, or \$3.50. The corrals are in good shape. Picnic tables and fire grates have been added, even up at the corrals. The riding is super. We saw elk, but no bear sign.

Your president writes...

Here we are approaching the end of June and the weather has not cooperated in enabling us to do trail work. With the shorter season, we will need more people to help trail crews this year. Rich reported about 19 people signed up for National Trails Day, but it was called off due to the rains, so we will reschedule it for later. Chick says the Wilderness Assoc is still interested in helping. Please contact Wally, Chick, Bill, Beth and Ron to help out.

Chick needs packers to get the Conservation crew in and out. Even if you do not have a pack animal, contact these people if you want to go on a ride because they can use your help. Ron brought the Beaverhead National Forest people to our last meeting and they have several packing needs and other projects where they could use our help. Also, remember our annual Spanish Creek lower trail clearing weekend June 28 & 29.

It isn't all trail work and no play, however. Our annual fundraiser, the Poker Ride, is July 12th and we need everyone's help and support. Beginning Friday evening, Joan and Sammylu are planning a delicious chili supper for those who come to set up the tent and get things going. Check with Sharon if you want a job for the Poker Ride.

Tom has our weed sprayer working and will be going to the sites located last year for noxious weeds. If you need a place to ride, he can use you. Chick and Wally have solved the problems with the roto-tiller, so it looks like this will be a great help in building trails.

Thank you all for your efforts so far this year in our club activities. If you are not having any fun, you need to get involved.

Brown

We welcome our new members

C Wayne & Tina Frederickson
6861 Rising Eagle Rd
Bozeman MT 59715
522-9315
westtrina@hotmail.com

.....
Kathryn Hohmann
715 Hunter Way
Bozeman MT 59718
587-2171

Bob Conti's recipe **Non-toxic fly spray**

1 c cold strong black tea
2 T oil of citronella
2 T oil of eucalyptus
1 c vinegar
2 T garlic powder
1 c Avon skin-so-soft

Mix the above with water to make ½ gallon. The less water you add, the stronger the mixture is, so you may want to experiment, depending on how bad your bugs are.

Or you can also make a simpler version with

1 c vinegar
1 c Avon skin-so-soft
1-3 c water
1 T of citronella or eucalyptus

note:

If this doesn't keep the bugs away, then it might work on your friends and family. Your horse will hate you!

ed.

I've learned that I don't suffer from insanity, I enjoy it!

I've learned you never fry bacon when your naked!

The Green Ranch Poker Ride

By Bettye White

It was a perfect day for a ride. Sammylu and I began our trek to Logan for this Poker ride, the Green's first. We rounded a bend in the road and there spread over a large area of grassland was an impressive number of trailers and rigs. Horses and people everywhere. No doubt about it, this is the place. We unload, saddle up and ask where the signup place is located, go and sign up and draw our first card. We are off.

We rode down a draw and then onto a clearly marked trail up and along a ridge. What a view! The Tobacco Roots, Madison Range, Spanish Peaks and Big Belt Mountains all in our viewing. It was unbelievable. The grass on the hill was a foot high. I didn't know there was that much grass in Gallatin County, but it shows what kind of stewards the Green's are for this cherished land. As we rode on to #1 stop, we drew the second card and treated to iced tea, water and three kinds of cookies. So far so good, I had a beginning of a straight!

We rode up another incline along the unfenced field that seemed to go on forever over rolling hills through a gate on our way to the Cow Camp Trailer in what must be a winter camp for cows the ranch pastures. Here, we learned this ranch had been operated by the same family for three generations. We choose our third card, watered horses, rested for awhile, enjoyed water, iced tea and cookies, while we joked with our hosts who were worried about rain. If that happened they would never get out on slippery roads.

We left and went up a canyon where we found the original homestead of the Green family, designated historically, in perfect shape---paint, outbuildings, well house and all.

The trail from here went straight up a hillside and back along a ridge surveying the huge field we skirted before. Obviously this family did lots of grain farming as evidenced by seven grain storage facilities at the present ranch headquarters.

Back to stop #2, our stop for our fourth card. Cookies gone, but enjoyed cold water and iced tea. Wow! great on my straight!

We followed the same trail back to our vehicle for the fifth card. Enjoyed that same multiple mountain

view with rain clouds far off, but nothing in our vicinity. At base camp we were treated to a sumptuous dinner of grilled roast pork, baked beans, potato salad and coleslaw with brownies for dessert. Since prizes were in cash it took a while for all players to get in, draw cards and decisions made as to winners. Sadly, my straight needed one card to make it. Better luck next time. Anyway, it was a perfect day, thanks to the Green's.

Report on her Poker Ride

By Pat Green

I would like to thank all those who attended the "Head For the Hills" Poker Ride. It was a learning experience for me as well as a lot of fun. It was the first time I'd done a poker ride so I wasn't too sure how it would turn out. I was pleasantly surprised to see all the horse trailers pulling in Saturday morning. The Back Country Horsemen's Club was very helpful. Thanks to all, especially Jiffie, for the advertising in the newsletter as well as distributing flyers around town and passing the word.

Things went pretty smoothly with only one mishap, a rodeo demo by my neighbor and a few snake sightings. No extra charge for the excitement. It was the first outing of any length for most who attended. I hope everyone enjoyed the trail. Some thought it was a little long., I intend to do another ride next year and give riders the choice of a cut off trail that is shorter, maybe 8 or 9 miles, as well as the longer route. Bob and I appreciated the entire rider's respect for our property. I haven't seen one cup or piece of paper anywhere.

I had great help. Anna Duderstadt and Jamie Catchings were a tremendous help. Anna designed the cards and the Poker Ride Logo, made the cookies for the intermediate stops and helped transport food and drinks. Both Anna and Jamie helped mark and clear the trail as did Mary Doyle. Bob Decker and Gary Vraspir did a great job at the half way point as well as Libby Brookes and Lavonne Smart at the first and third station. My husband was the chef and gopher. Also, thanks to Kathy Kuharski for helping serve the meal.

Happy trails this summer!

I've learned that you shouldn't compare yourself to others - they are more screwed up than you think!

The Elk Calf Rice

by Jean Griffith

Eight Riders were ready to leave the Sage Cr Trail promptly at 10am Sat., June 14th. At the start, trail boss Rich Inman gathered us together to remind us we should:

- *Stick together*
- *Look out for one another*
- *Open gates and close gates on way*
- *Wait until gate opener is mounted and ready to go*
- *Remember we are not in a hurry, but out to enjoy God's creation.*

Then we headed up the trail following Rich. Along for the ride were Aaron Linton, Sammylu Parsons, Joe Scharber, Bettye White, John Inman and Tom & Jean Griffith.

Our ride started as a sustained climb on trail 71 around the head of Slide Cr. This route follows a ridge to the top of the world at about 8,000'. Spring flowers---lady slippers, shooting stars, and avalanche lilies---brightened the way. The Taylor Fork drainage dipped below us to the north surrounded by Koch Peak. No Man Peaks and the familiar Shedhorn Mountain, with a glimpse of Sphinx Mountain, held our view.

The day was cool and sunny, just right to enjoy the view and keep our soft and underused horses from getting too hot. We saw no game, although a blue grouse could have caused a wreck! Fortunately, it chose to sneak off along a pole rather than fly. Evidence of wild things was around though, such as a bear track in the trail and signs of elk. Bettye said, "We didn't see anything because Tom was whistling to keep the bears away." But, maybe the game stayed hidden because several riders carried bear spray. Unaware and carefree, we hadn't a clue that we were being followed, tracked by an expert.

We continued along the ridge, catching glimpses of various peaks in the distance, until Rich said it was time for lunch. This was near the junction of trails 71 and 68 where we tied up and sat in the grass to eat while looking down on the Little Sage Cr drainage with Monument Mountain and Snow Slide Mountain in the background.

This was where the tracker, Mary Lou Schriener, caught up with us. She hadn't gotten the word that the ride was not on Taylor Fork. As she had headed towards home, when no one else showed up, she noticed our rigs at Sage Creek. About a half hour behind us, she decided to try and catch up. Good tracking, Mary Lou! She says, "Next time I will call the trail boss to be sure plans have not changed."

After everyone was full of lunch, the guys decided to locate exactly where we were on the map. They found the spot, and then the great GPS duel occurred. With readings from nine satellites, John Inman read our elevation at 8,360'. So Tom brought out another GPS to compare, and lo and behold, when all the satellites kicked in, they read exactly the same! Even latitude and longitude matched.

Though reluctant to get back in the saddle, we did want to get home, so we mounted up to follow Rich down from our lofty perch on what he called a "coyote" trail. (Even though she is a good tracker, it's probably a good thing Mary Lou caught up with us before we took off in more or less cross country.) No rims though, just steep. At the bottom we followed the creek side trail back to where we started.

Back at the trailers by about 3pm, we all agreed it was a great 10 to 12 mile loop ride. Even though it was a loop, the horses knew when we turned the corner and headed home. They were "raring to go" and hard to hold back.

Rich did a great job both in scouting out the ride and leading the troops. He even came back with more than he started. Eight set out together and nine returned.

GVBCH June 4, 2003 Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Rich Inman, Bettye White, Bonnie Hammer, Sharon Lowry, Aaron Linton, Ron Rassley, Joyce Haner, Linda Roffe, Beth Merrick, & Joan Holborn. Minutes correction from May board mtg to show Ron Rassley attendance.

Treasurer's report accepted as follows:

Beginning balance			\$576.84
Cash disbursements:			
Bettye White stamps	37.00		
Kinkos-May NL	63.86		
Public Lands Access-dues	10.00		
BCH of America-Pamphlets	30.00		
USPO stamps	37.00		
Gallatin Co.-Trailer License	19.50	197.36	
Sub total			379.48
Accounts receivable:			
New member dues:(Myslic, Brockway	44.00		
Petty Cash	28.20		<u>451.68 (ending cash balance)</u>

Money Market 1,925.57

Total funds \$2,377.25

Motion by Sharon, 2nd by Bonnie to pay bills submitted by Bettye, passed voice vote Ron reports Coggins test required for riding in Yellowstone. Ride planned for July 5th.

Cabin Creek-Ron will ride in July 22-25 to remove refuse.

Motion to pay Poker ride bills by Bonnie, 2nd by Rich, passed unanimously.

Poker ride posters handed out for distribution. Green mountain ranch poker ride-Bettye shared her enjoyable experience & noted how they ran their event.

Motion by Bonnie for any bills over \$15.00 to be submitted to the Board for approval before turned over to the Treasurer for payment, 2nd by Joan, Passed unanimously.

Linda & Harry discussed the State Mtg they attended. Convention cost discussed. Linda joined task force to change host club responsibility. Nat'l dues to increase. Linda reports that resolutions need to be submitted by Sept to her to bring to State Meeting. Discussion on how to bring resolution to state will be looked into by Joyce.

Discussion to set expenditure policy for OOT expenses of mandatory attendance at meetings agreed at the following rates: Hotel:\$35.00/night, mileage reimbursement @18c/mile for one vehicle to encourage carpooling, 9c/mile for members if ride separately. Meals@ \$5/breakfast, \$5/lunch, \$12/supper, and providing receipts to Board.

Poker Ride Set-up Friday night-Sammylu & Joan hosting w/chili & cornbread meal, please call if you plan to eat so we can serve everyone heartily. 586-3306.

Many thanks to Sharon for the comforts and refreshments at her home.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Secretary

GVBCH June 19,2003 General Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Ron Rassley, Bettye White, Bonnie Hammer, Sharon Lowry, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Joyce Haner, Linda Roffe, Aaron Linton, Jim Nelson, Harry Boughton, Wally Becker, Kay Tate, Ed Long, Sonja Berg, Dan Marsh, Tom & Jean Griffith, Reggie Clark, Joan Holborn, Guest Speaker Bonnie Morgan, Guest from West Yellowstone USFS-Milt Fusselman & Chad Kashmier, & guests Lorraine Decker & Billie ?.

Treasurers report accepted as follows:

Beginning balance			\$451.68
Cash disbursements:			
Poker ride printing (Beth Merrick)	57.50		
Kinkos –June NL & agenda	85.69	143.19	308.49
Cash rec'd:			
Dues: Frederickson & Hohman	54.00		362.49
Petty cash	28.20		<u>390.69 (ending cash balance)</u>
Money Market	1,926.57		<u>\$2,317.26 Grand total</u>

Motion by Brown, 2nd by Rich to pay expenses for attendance of reps at state mtg. according to adopted rates passed unanimously.

Guest speaker Bonnie Morgan attended a 3 day course on liability & horses. She related scenarios leading to liability and recommended writing a procedure manual to provide measures for safety, heighten awareness and to mitigate lawsuits, a manual also shows good faith she states. her email address is: twodraggins@msn.com Thanks Bonnie for taking your time to come to talk to us on this issue.

Guest Speaker and fellow member Reggie Clark shared her Power Point program on weed ID/education. The importance of “pulling together” our energies, attention and resources to save our lands from the degradation of noxious weeds. Thanks Reggie for the great pictures and information.

Tom reports after needed repairs on the newly purchased pack sprayer that a field test with his mules was successful. Tom requests mapping weed locations at your best effort is better than none, turn them into the Forest Service.

Milt Fusselman from the Hebgen District USFS is looking for volunteer manpower to assist packing in food & tools August 7-12 in the Hilldegard Basin to do tread work up Centennial Cr., Expedition Pass. He is also looking for a camp cook/camp tender. He is also looking for assistance to put in a hitching post at Cabin Creek trail head. He would also like to start hay check stations and would like to have an example of 'leave no trace' campsite to educate the public. He also offers assistance to writing grant applications. You may contact him thru Ron or at mfusselman@fs.fed.us .

Chick reports June 28 & 29th set for Spanish Cr. trail work to remove rock on lower trail. He showed off pictures of his redesigned roto-tiller for trail work.

Ron reports on July 4,5,6 he will be packing in signs for Hebgen District FS. Plans to go to Sportsman Lake.

Thanks to Sharon for cookies and lemonade.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Secretary.

Safety ,cautious, legal and scary. Today’s lawsuits are coming at us on horseback.

Watch out!

Our speaker for June’s General Meeting was informative, yet scary. Bonnie Morgan told of bad tales, all true horror stories ,of problems that occurred and could occur to any one of us. Kay gave me some printed info that I would like to pass on to you members for serious consideration in your horse ownership and use of these animals .Also you may check out Bonnie’s web site as she serves as an equine safety expert witness. www.horsemanshipsafety.com

- *Don’t take for granted that your best friend would not sue you.*
- *A signed waver means diddly squat.*
- *Safety at all times, both with rider and by-standers. Best to keep your horse at a safe distance and giving permission to approach may mean a law suit, i.e., if the horse kicks or bites or steps on them, etc .Our most docile ones can surprise us.*
- *Think twice when you loan out your horse or let someone ride on your property.*
- *She strongly advocated helmets as often as possible. 15% of accidents are head injuries with 80% fatal or paralyzing.*
- *.Strongly recommends checking with your insurance agent as to your coverage. You may be surprised. Also, try and find a lawyer who knows the law with horses.*
- *Remember how vulnerable you could be.*
- *Does not advocate letting people use her horses, no matter how accomplished and experienced a rider they “claim” to be.*
- *Strongly advised for anyone that has the public near their horses to write up ‘procedure manuals’ and follow them. This includes everything from putting the halter on until the halter is removed. The accident that could happen at each point is dealt with, i.e., the horse is standing tied – it pulls back, kicks, steps over quickly knocking someone down – what exactly would you do? Where did you tie the horse? How did you tie the horse? Who was hurt and how badly?*
- *Think safe at all times*

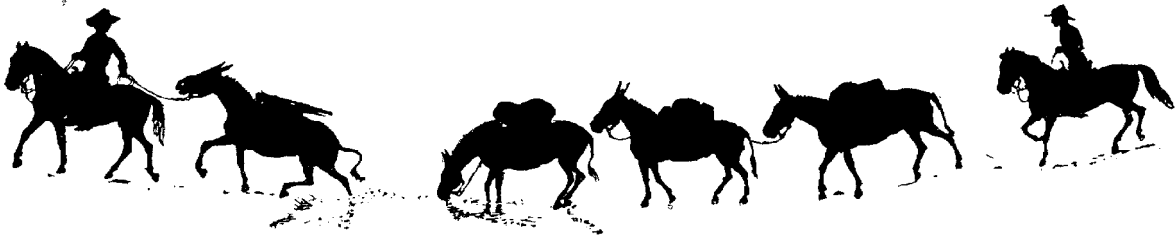
Jiffie

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