

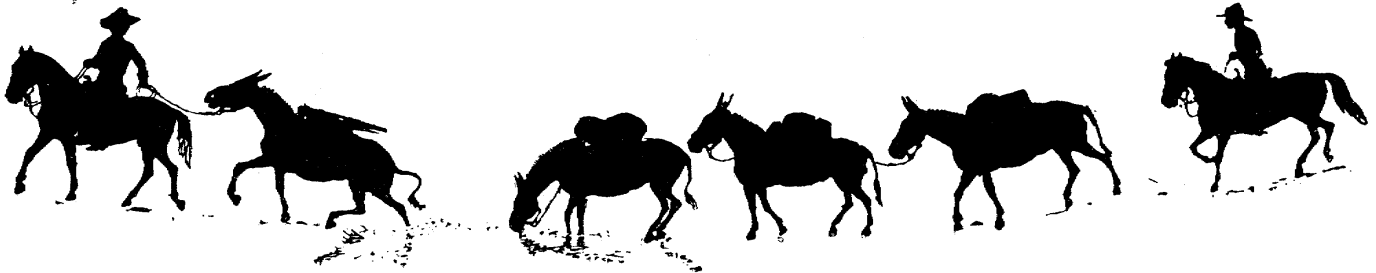
September 2003

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

State Board Members

Harry Boughton
Linda Roffe
Alternate: Ron Rassley

Newsletter Editors

Dan Marsh 587-7578
dmarsh@montana.edu

Jiffie Hale 763-4105
Cell ph 580-6825
jhale@imt.net

MEETINGS

Director's Meeting

Wed., September 3rd

7:00 PM

Sharon Lowry's
160 Lake Rd
587-4013

Members are welcome

General Meeting

Thurs., September 18th
@ 7 pm

Program

Power Point
Presentation
Composed by
José Castro
On the Gallatin NF

IF
(and a big IF)

José
Is not out on fires! He is at this
printing!

EVENTS

Saturday and Sunday
September 6th & 7th
(No scheduled rides)

Saturday and Sunday
September 13th & 14th
(No scheduled rides)

Both weekends are open
dates
Call Ron @ 388-4415
If you have suggestions.

Wednesday, Sept 3rd
Open House with GNFS for
the public to review and
comment on draft alternative
for travel mgmt. planning
4:00-7pm Holiday Inn

Sat., Sept. 20th
Belgrade parade
Contact Sammylu @ 586-
9030

Sunday, Sept, 21st
Elk Bugle Ride
@ Bacon Rind
Trail Boss: Ron Rassley
388-4415

From your president...

Our club has received a gift from Dr. Steel of his horse and some tack to use as we like. Your board reached a decision to sell the horse to Josie Powell who has been a member of our club for \$1,500 if she could purchase it now and have use of it for the remainder of the summer. The board, after a vote by phone of its members, decided to sell the horse now for \$1,500. Josie will give the horse a good home and we will probably see it being used on some of the rides.

Dr. Steel made a stipulation with the gift that we use the proceeds for a special project and not for general funds. So be thinking about a special project. Karen Watson has offered \$150 for the chaps, so if there is not a better bid, we will sell them to her. We still have a saddle. Ron is taking it to a tack retailer for an appraisal so we can put a price on it. If you are interested in either the chaps or saddle, please let one of the board members know.

That was the good news, now for the bad. Our insurance carrier has dropped us because they could not get any reinsurance. In other words, they could not spread the risk. So we have to locate a new insurance company. If you have any ideas, please let us know.

By the time you get this newsletter, you will know that the steak ride was canceled for now due to the fire danger and the hot weather. If we can reschedule it for later, we will. I am not sure if we can get into the mountains any longer. We have to resort to the arena in the Outlaw Subdivision if it is possible to use again. We hope Beth is recovering from her accident and aftermath of infection. We wish her a speedy recovery and return.

The West Nile disease is getting too close for comfort. Be sure your horses have had their shots.

Brown Parsons

Tuesday, July 5th ---Kay, Ron and Dick Haines packed and installed a Wilderness Portal Sign for the Hebgen District on the Black Butte Trail west of Black Butte Ranch near Yellowstone Park. This is not a public access. Permission is rarely granted to cross the property as you have to go through the corrals to follow the trail. The view from the ridge was magnificent. We did not find the camp cache that we were asked to pack out.

Monday, July 28th ---nine riders drove 5.5 miles north of the Corbly Canyon trailhead to a nice trailhead @ North Cottonwood Canyon. There is plenty of room to turn and park for several trailers. The trail is well marked and now cleared of blow down. We added to cairns through the upper meadows where hikers were getting lost so they are now "monuments". It is very rocky so have shoes on your horse.

Multi-organizational cooperation:
Thursday August 7th ---Dick & Barbara Haines, Jim Nelson packers and Kay Tate and Ronnie Rassley, cook and camp tender (you guess which is which) helped the Hebgen District pack food and personal gear for 7 people into the head of Sentinel Creek from Potomogeton Park on Beaver Creek for a 6 day stay clearing trail. Rich Inman was there too with his mules but the extra animals weren't needed so he returned home. Thanks for coming Rich. We used an outfitters camp for a base, clearing and re-working trail from Blue Paradise Lake toward the trailhead. On Tues. Aug 12th Wally Becker, Larry and Billie Thomas, Jim Nelson and Eldo Heinle returned to pick up the leftover food stuff and personal gear for the trail out. The entire 6 days went perfectly--from cooking to weather to work accomplished!! You couldn't ask for a better time. We saw moose and goats.

O.K., so what's the speed of dark?

Trail Reports from Kay Tate...

And from Dick Haines...

Monday August 4: The Fairy Lake trail clearing included Karen Watson with an out of town guest, Cathy Rubin, and a new club member, Josie Powell. After 10 weeks together, it's nice to have some new faces and new stories. Job security is certainly a hot topic in the papers today. We were relieved to see that this doesn't seem to affect us. We cleared the trail on the way into the lake and had lunch. On our way back out, we discovered that a tree had already fallen and blocked the trail. We'll always have a job.

Trail Report from Chick Hale...

Since our last reported work day on July 10th the following has transpired:

July 16th Wally and I convinced Ernie Rogala, a hiker, that he needed some upper body exercise. He was good enough to spend the day with us at Hell Roaring trail. With the help of a modified roto-tiller we completed 252 feet of new tread,

July 29th without Ernie's help Wally and I completed just 51 feet of new tread. Lack of footage was due to our having to remove some large rocks and re-grade a switch back which always takes time. Again, we spent the day on Hell Roaring trail #84.

July 31st –Jim Nelson, Wally Becker, Eldo Heinle, Eldo's brother-in-law and I took off for the approach to Mirror Lake. Those who have ridden the trail are familiar with the deep 'V' in the open rock trail that has been a hazard for hikers and horses. The rock had been fractured by a method I was not present to see. So, with our heavy hammers, chisels and bull point we were able to provide a reasonable flat tread in the rock formation. An area at the top of this formation had rock loose enough to remove resulting in less steepness. Gravel and dirt were added and a real hazard eliminated.

August 4th ---Wally and I spent the day loading and packing three horses in on the Spanish

Creek Trail to Falls creek. Here we dumped our load and a nine member crew of the Forest Service spent the week constructing a wilderness style FOOT bridge across the creek. Most of the load consisted of food and a large load of tools for the week.

August 7th ---With three pack horses, Wally and I went back to pick up the FS crew up Spanish Creek. Because they had not completed their work we parked our horses and gave them a hand. We also improved the horse ford and finally we were able to load and haul out at about 8pm. I would suggest that the bridge warrants a trip to inspect it. We were blessed with the presence of Jan Elpel and Jiffie Hale who are genetically disposed to officiate and have an inherent ability to direct and oversee practically anything at anytime. Their efforts were enjoyed by all. (And to think I had to type up his report. Jan and I will get back at him for those remarks, won't we, Jan? By the way, we left them long before their late departure and rode further to arrive home earlier, lots earlier).

August 18th ---Again, Wally and I attacked Hell Roaring #84. This time we jumped to a rock knob where the trail had all but disappeared. Our only salvation was the rock was rotten and with a pick, sledge hammer, bull points, etc., we were able to loosen the rock and construct a rock retaining wall to support a new tread. A good day's work oven if only 54 feet of new tread was the result.

**One tequila,
Two tequila
Three tequila,
Floor!**

The minutes for the August board and general meeting were not made available to me at the printing date, which was the last week in August, in order to have them placed in this month's issue. You have made complaints to me because you want the minutes in the newsletter in a more up to date manner, i.e., not a month later, but I can only give to you what I am given. It takes sometimes three days---24 hours at Kinko's, another day to collate, fold and stamp, then in the mail to you.

FOR SALE

Horse

8 year old, 15.1 hand, half Paint, half Arab gray mare. One owner since imprint training. Good manners and excellent trail horse. Easy keeper. To a good home only. Best offer. 586-2142

Hay

Our summer work is done. Come for "Old Dobbins" winter supply of hay.
1st & 2nd cutting alfalfa; 1st & 2nd cutting half alfalfa and half grass. 85-90# bales. \$80 per ton.
Bettye White 586-2301

Looking for horse boarding

Boarding needed for 20 year old Morgan mare. All shots. Easy keeper. Prefer close to town, but good riding nearby is more important. Please call Robin at 586-9136

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried!

GVBCB BOARD MEETING MINUTES July 2, 2003

ATTENDANCE: Brown Parsons~ Bettye White, Rich Inman, Bonnie Hammer, Sharon Lowry, Harry Boughton, Joyce Haner, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Aaron Linton, Jim Nelson, Beth Merrick, & Joan Holborn, Ron Rassley excused.

June minutes accepted with correction to show Rich Inman in attendance 6-19-03 for general member meetings.

TREASURERS REPORT ACCEPTED FROM Bettye as follows:

Checking acct beginning balance:			\$334.29
BILLS PAID			
Harry Boughton, State rep.	-22.28		
Linda Roffe State State rep.	-18.50	-40.78	<u>295.51</u>
DUES REC'D			
Larry & Billie Thomas	+32.00		
Jeanne & Gary Vraspir	+32.00		+64.00
Checking acct. balance			<u>\$357.51</u>
Petty_Cash			+28.20
Money Market			+1,926.57
TOTAL ON HAND			<u>\$2,312.28</u>

Motion by Brown and 2nd by Rich to pay USPO \$37.00, & Kinkos bill \$ 72.09 for N.L. and Agenda passed, all in favor.

Chick reports lower Spanish Creek Trail clearing brought 14 members on Saturday. New Water bars installed and old ones cleaned. Also Chick reports a successful collaboration with the MT Conservation Corp on Monday June 30th to pack MCC equipment to Fox Creek via Cottonwood Canyon assisted by Rich Inman, Ed Long, Wally Becker and Dan Marsh & 7 pack Horses. Another issue, Chick reports he has been approached by the Forest Service to receive payment for packing service. Discussion resulted in committee, of Chick, Rich & Jim, formed to work out compensation and liability issues. Sharon and Bonnie brought 2 proposals for the Board to vote on concerning expenditures to members attending OOT mtgs. Motion by Brown, 2nd by Rich to accept their "suggestion 2" with section 2 & 4 to be combined and re-written by Sharon & Bonnie. Passed by majority.

Many thanks to Sharon for her hospitality and to Rich for providing delicious white chocolate cookies, thanks Judy for baking!
Respectfully submitted, Joan Holborn, Secretary

GVBCB GENERAL MEETING. MINUTES July 17, 2003

ATTENDANCE: Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Bettye White, Sharon Lowry, Bonnie Hammer, Ron Rassley, Kay Tate, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Jim Nelson, Wally Becker, Jim Gould Marianne Meyer, Ed Long, Sonja Berg, & Joan Holborn. Minutes from June accepted.

TREASURERS REPORT accepted as follows:

Checking acct balance as of 7-2-03 \$357.51

BILLS PAID:

Jiffie Hale stamps -37.00

Kinkos newsletter -72.09

Sweet Pea Parade registration -10.00

EXPENSES Poker Ride cash for till -150.00

Quality Landscape Poker ride prize -100.00

Total expenses -369.09= -\$11.58

DEPOSITS:

Quality Landscape Check +100.00

POKER RIDE INCOME \$2,642.00 +\$2,730.42

Petty cash + 28.20

Money Market + 1,927 .49

TOTAL ON HAND \$4,686.11

Motion by Sharon, 2nd by Bonnie to pay Karen Watson's expenses from Poker ride breakfast passed unanimously.

Chick reports he has befriended a hiker to assist in trail work, thanks to Ernie Regale for help.

Future trail work needs discussed. Bonnie brings 3 areas of concern from Mirror Lake to Jerome Rock. Wally raises concern about bog holes up Spanish Creek.

Ron reports successful pack trip to Lightening post in Wilderness. Ron going up Cabin Creek on 7/22. Ron also reports Forest District out of West Yellowstone is looking for people to paint signs .Ron rec'd a gift of\$50.00 for club from Jane Huffine towards Poker Ride, THANKS JANE! Ron announces that Spanish Creek road is to be paved. Did you see the story about us in the chronicle? Ron was contacted by reporter Nick Gevock from the paper about doing the story. Jim Nelson provided him a horse and they rode up New World Gulch. Ron had hoped the writer would allow him to proof read before print but despite lack of he felt the article turned out alright.

Kay has been approached with an offer from a member to the Club by Dr. Volney Steele. He is retiring from riding and has offered his Horse and tack to us. He would need a 501 tax exemption and although the club does not have this designation, discussion resulted in a motion by Sharon, 2n by Kay and Jim to accept donation, motion carried, Brown will contact another club regarding tax exempt status.

Sharon reported on the Poker Ride, thanking all workers, sponsors and riders, a report will follow on funds raised. Kay presented Sharon with a poker hand decorated sweat shirt for her work on a successful Poker ride.

Sammylu reports fee for Sweet Pea Parade 8/2 paid. Meet at Osco parking lot and please be ready to ride at 9am. Dress in white shirt, jeans and straw hat. Chick suggests the club practice with kazoos for music theme, rehearsal just prior to ride-contact Chick for details! Thanks to whoever provided ice cream, Sammylu? Respectfully submitted, Joan Holborn, Secretary