

THE PICKET LINE

August 2004



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Dan Marsh 2 yr

Alternate: Brown Parsons 1yr

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Backcountry Horsemen Mission Statement

"The purpose of this organization shall be (1) to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in Montana's road less back country and (2) to assist the various government agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource and (3) to educate and solicit active participation by various members of the general public in the wise and sustaining use of horses and people, commensurate with our heritage and the back country's resource."

Director's Meeting

Wednesday, Aug 4th, 7pm at Sharon Lowry's 587-4013

General Meeting & Program

Thursday, August 19th, 7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church, Cameron & Hoffman Sts.

Program

Adolescent Resource Center

Rides and Parades

Sat. Aug. 7th Sweet Pea Parade— page 3 for details
Chick Hale 763-4105

Sat. Aug. 14th Trail ride Squaw Creek to Hyalite Divide
Chick Hale, trail boss 763-4105

Sat. Aug. 21st Manhattan Potato Parade

Sun. Aug. 22nd All Day Steak Ride, Spanish Peaks Cabin
Jim Nelson, chairman 388-2201

Sat., Aug. 28th Trail ride from Buffalo Horn trailhead to
Ramshorn Lake
Wally Becker, trail boss 587-9607

A great time was had by all!!!! by Janet Castro, chairlady 2004 Poker Ride

The 17th Annual Back Country Horseman Poker Ride was a huge success. We had a great turn out-almost record breaking...a whopping 182 registrations. The day started with a great breakfast of sausage gravy, home-made biscuits and fresh fruit salad.

Riders took to the hills being graced with beautiful blue skies, and ideal temperatures. Pop stops were busy, dealing cards, pushing pop, and slicing watermelon.

It was a beautiful ride with lots of wild life. Lots of riders even got to see a bear that was just sitting along the trail.

Then dinner came. The beef a-jus sandwiches were delicious. The snake eye beans were a big hit-the best they have ever been, followed by potato salad and cake.



There were lots and lots of wonderful prizes to be handed out. We had so many sponsors this year; it's really great to see how many outside businesses were involved. I know next year will be even bigger!

Getting that trail ready by Kay Tate

6/27 We rode the Poker Ride trail with 10 riders on Sunday and good thing too--we found a large tree blocking the trail, and that is after it had been cleared once. Janet and Jose have taken over marking the trail on the Friday before the poker ride and needed to know the way around. Other riders were members who cannot be there on Poker Ride day or have other commitments that don't allow them to ride that day. Bonnie checked out the route for the pop stop people so all is set.

Friday before the Poker Ride six riders flagged the trail, Danny, Janet & Jose Castro, Kay Tate, Brown Parsons & Reggie Clark. They saw a moose and calf, two bears, 4 deer and 3 grouse. What a great day!

And the take down after the ride by Kay Tate

The day after the Poker Ride Beth and Brown met at Bridger Bowl at 10 to remove trail markers, a daunting job for only two riders. Beth had her own invention to pull flags from her borrowed 1/2 Percheron without getting off. Kay and Ron got there at 11:30 and started the reverse route and took down flags until meeting Beth and Brown at lunch at #2 pop stop. They found Rich's missing clipboard but not the missing camera case. Beth saw the resident bear on the way back, as many did during trail marking and during the Poker ride day.



Sweet Pea Parade and pertinent information:

- ◆ The big day for our first parade of the year is **Sat., August 7th**.
- ◆ To be uniform in appearance please wear blue levis, white shirt and summer hat of straw or similar.
- ◆ A well turned out horse and clean tack.
- ◆ Staging is on Main Street between 8th and 11th Aves. We will meet in the Hastings parking lot, Main and 15th, rear right side.
- ◆ Be there between 9-9:30. Staging begins at 9am. Be there as early as possible so Beth Merrick can decorate you and your horse with sweet pea flowers.
- ◆ We will need some pack horses to display flowers and tools. We will need panyards. Call me if you can bring a pack horse, **Chick Hale 763-4105**
- ◆ Two of you will need quiet horses to carry the BCH banner and two more to carry flags.



All Poker Ride photos compliments
Lisa/Dave Read

GVBCH Board Mtg. Minutes July 7, 2004

ATTENDANCE: Rich Inman, Janet Castro, Sharon Lowry, Cinda Eichenfels, Beth Merrick, Amy Waring, Wally Becker, Joyce Haner, Dave Read, Jim Nelson, Chick Hale, Brown Parson, Dan Marsh, Sonja Berg, & Joan Holborn.

Motion by Joyce 2nd by Wally to accept the minutes from the May board mtg, & the May and June general mtgs. As printed in the newsletter. Motion passes.

Treasurers Report submitted by Cinda. **Motion** by Brown, 2nd by Jim to accept report. Motion passes.

Poker Ride duties and needs discussed for the remainder of the meeting.

Many Thanks to Sharon for providing our comfortable meeting place.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec.

GVBCH General Mtg Minutes July 15, 2004

ATTENDANCE: Janet & Jose Castro, Cinda Eichenfels, Bonnie Hammer, Joyce Haner, Bettye White, Sonja Berg, Dave Read, Brown and Sammylu Parsons, Sharon Lowry, Beth Merrick, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Joan Holborn, and new member Denise Jensen.

Treasurer report submitted by Cinda as of **July 15, 2004** with outstanding bills for approval:

Checking a/c balance 6/24/04 **\$945.90**

Deposits:

Poker Ride	\$2,590.00		
Money gift (J. Howell)	50.00		
Extra hand money	100.00		
Bank credit	20.00	\$2,760.00	<u>\$3,705.90</u>

Bills paid :

Stamps	\$67.00		
Kinko's pd on a/c June	62.30		
Beth Merrick (adv)	52.00	\$181.30	

Checking a/c balance as of 7/15/04 **\$3,524.60**

Other Assets:

Petty Cash + \$2.00 sale of patches	\$25.96		
Money Mkt fund	1,935.17		
3 month CD (V.S. fund)	3,084.71	<u>\$5,045.84</u>	

Outstanding bills:

Poker Ride expenses:	Kinko's	\$44.12
	Beth	128.81
	Sharon	205.50
	Amy	41.01
	Jiffie	3.60
Sweet Pea parade		10.00

Motion by Joyce, 2nd by Bonnie to accept the treasurer's report and approve payment of outstanding bills. Motion passes.

Sweet Pea Parade interest fielded. Chick volunteers to oversee. Beth offers to assist with decorations. This years theme is books.

Brown volunteers to call Shamrock Stables to contact owners for a repeat ATV manure pick-up. **Motion** by Joan, 2nd by Brown to pay fee for club to participate in parade. Motion passes.

Travel Management Plan affecting 2 million acres was the topic of our meeting. Kimberly Schlenker from the Gallatin National Forest Service discussed possible changes for stock users where safety issues & forest health are concerns. The Lava lake change rec'd much discussion, Kimberly welcomes ideas. Seasonal restrictions, which will begin in areas fragile to thaw and heaving will have monthly cut-offs from April 15 thru the summer. Restrictions will be lifted or extended depending on degree of moisture and footings of trails. The Beartooth plateau will have closure to stock above Russell Lake.

Thanks Kimberly for keeping us informed and educated.

Refreshments to be provided by Janet for our August meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec.

Our members, **the Read family**, will be moving August 19th to PLAINS, MT Lisa has mentioned how she will miss a lot of things, especially BCH. "It's been a great group for us and everyone has welcomed the kids as well. We've never been part of such a willing group. Lots of ideas and personalities with the willingness to make a difference. It's been our pleasure to be a part. Perhaps we can stay in touch and we can attend the Poker Ride next year (and maybe even help?)" Her email is remaining. And to add, her mother has made a significant improvement from her head injury in a fall she sustained earlier this year. They are moving to be near Lisa's family. Lisa and kids move on the 19th, but Dave will be back and forth with business. Since their house is not yet sold, he will make that his home for awhile.



Dave crossing Spanish Creek



The kids



Lisa ready to go work @ Sp. Peaks

A letter of appreciation has been received by Wally Becker from Pat Jennings of the BWAG's and it quotes: "Please tell all your Backcountry Horsemen pals that the BWAG women's hiking groups really, really appreciate your trail work and bridges over these raging spring creeks. You have no idea how nice it is to have a bridge vs. a log to walk on. Thanks to you all."



All photos this page by Lisa/Dave Read

Tuesday—Thursday trail report by Chick Hale

July 6 Dual work day. Larry and Wally first picked up tools and equipment from the FS on Monday. On Tuesday they packed a work crew into Bear Basin helping the crew to clear blow downs much of the way and putting in a good eight hour day. I was left with our Tuesday Adolescent Resource Center (ARC) group. Fortunately I was able to enlist the aid of my daughter's fiancé, Jim Hamilton, to help along with two supervisors and their six young people. We started work on the Garnet Mountain trail #85. We concentrated on rocky areas and eroded spots leaving the better areas. Even with some large rocks to remove we restored 468 feet of trail.

July 13 Wally, our hiking friend, Ernie Rajola, and I proceeded to rebuild 522 feet on the Garnet Mountain trail—after the usual initial training of eight people from the ARC. In general the digging was difficult and required the removal of some good size rocks.

July 15 Wally, Ernie and I resorted to the roto-tiller to repair 300 feet on the Garnet Mountain trail, a trail which is beginning to dry out and feels like concrete. However, we were still pleased with our work.

July 20 Wally, Larry and I, along with four ARC members, completed 160 feet of trail tread on #85. We used the roto-tiller which tended to polish the hard, dry, packed dirt in the trail rather than dig. We also were able to install about six water bars. We collected all the tools, the roto-tiller and equipment and loaded everything on the truck. Because of conditions and the fact that the next work site is 1½ miles up the trail we have decided to use our horses for transportation.

July 22 Wally, Ed Long and I spent the day on a 'survey' ride extending up to the second new bridge on the Spanish Creek trail. There were three primary reasons for our trip:

1. Check gravel bars along the creek and their location relative to packing gravel to trail sites needing fill to correct erosion and undo wear.
2. Check the need for gravel fill at two new bridges and our 'turnpike' that had been installed some years ago.
3. Check and record pipes needed to drain water off trail in one 300 foot long trail area along with required rock and gravel fill required to eliminate mud in the wet season, ice buildup in the winter and trouble some rocks protruding from the trail bed.

This project, if it is to be completed, would require a great deal of manpower and horsepower considering that approximately 25 yards of gravel would have to be transported. One horse could carry about 200 pounds per trip and possibly make three trips per day depending on the source of the gravel fill. Questioning the current interest in trail repair one would also have to question the ability and interest of the club to undertake such a project.

July 27 We had four riders: Rich Inman, Wally, Larry and me and thereby decided with that size crew it would pay to go up past Mirror Lake junction to do some repairs. Larry supplied his pack horse. Both his horses behaved better than the others who, because of their age of two years and up and lacking experience, kept us on our toes. This type of riding experience does a world of good for a green horse. We cleaned water bars from Mirror Lake junction up the trail noting that some bars need replacing with 8 to 10 foot long bars. A section of trail, muddy with spring water, was cleaned and channeled. Another section was slumped downhill and required two sizable logs to stabilize the lower edge and then digging and raking resulted in a good trail. We headed back to the trailhead and with good travel arrived around 6pm. Not bad for 15 miles plus work

**Beth Merrick reports that she and Ed Long traveled to Jerome Rocks and spent much of their time removing four trees from the trail. They also report some of the trail is in poor condition

I was thinking about how a status symbol of today are those cell phones that everyone has clipped on. I can't afford one. So, I'm wearing my garage door opener.

Bridger Trail work

July 19: The Bridger Trail Crew rode the Fairy Lake Trail to the steep hill that bikers have eroded with their kamikaze vertical flights of terror. They laid out a series of zigs and zags to make it safer for all travelers. The eroded trails were filled in with brush in hopes of sustaining some soil on the hillside. Completion of the project will have to wait until next week. *Kay Tate*

July 26: Nine riders and 3 pack horses returned to the Fairy Lake Trail and with much exercise completed the trail relocation on the steep hill. We hope you all enjoy the changes. Two riders continued to Fairy Lake and cut the trail open for this year. *Kay Tate*

Ride Reports, *by Kay Tate*

Fourth of July campout: A total of 11 riders participated in the club campout at Taylor Fork over the holiday. Sat, July 3, 8 of us had a short, uneventful weather-wise ride of 5 miles to the Sunken Forest and beyond toward Cinnamon. The sky was threatening but we seemed to skirt the storms. On returning we hobbled and picketed the horses when out of the blue the wranglers from Covered Wagon moved their horses and they bolted. Ron's Noah was badly injured in the knee and Dick's horse was hobble burned. Bryce Camine, one of our riders, is a vet from CA so Noah had expert care before being transported by Bonnie and Ron to All West Vet at 4 Corners. It was quite a rhubarb and some hard feelings remain for the method of moving horses. We feel some warning should have been given—a post rider, belled horses, or a person by car passing the word that horses are coming through. There could have been children, dogs or people along the path. After all the excitement had settled down we ate salad, stew and cake in Kay's camper as the showers began.



Photo by Bonnie Hammer

July 4—10 of us headed up Slide Creek to the junction of the cross-over trail down to Sage Creek. Not as lucky as on Sat. we wore our slickers but were still afforded beautiful views of the Taylor Peaks and Sage Peak. The sun came out for our lunch as we had been good boys and girls today. We could see another approaching storm so we opted to drop down into Sage Cr., even then we took cover in the forest for a while as thunder and lightening crashed around us. Continuing the trip down we found two other riders huddled under a lone tree—not a safe haven in a storm. At camp Ron had arrived back and told us there were no broken bones in Noah's knee. We had beans and cornbread, coleslaw and Bonnie's brownies for supper.

July 5 Only three of us left now (does this sound like Robert Scott's journal?) Laura, Bonnie and Kay trailered to Wapiti trailhead, unloaded and rode to Albino Lake and fished, catching only mosquito bites. Coming back the high trail Bonnie jumped off often to take flower pictures with her digital camera that takes a great macro. Back at the trailer we stopped on the Gallatin and fished with a little better luck.



Photo by Bonnie Hammer

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