

THE PICKET LINE

July 2004



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Janet Castro 388-0966

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Joan Holborn 586-3306

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2 yr

Wally Becker 587-9607

Dave Read 388-1154

Amy Waring 585-2785

State Board Members

Linda Roffe 1 yr

Dan Marsh 2 yr

Alternate: Brown Parsons 1yr

Newsletter Editor

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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, July 7th@7pm at Sharon Lowry's 587-4013

General Meeting & Program

Thursday, July 15th@ 7pm

Kimberly Schlenker USDA, Forest Service

On the forest service backed Travel Plan alternative

Rides

Sat-Sun. July 3-4 Taylor Fork trail ride Kay Tate 587-2758

Sat., July 10, 9am POKER RIDE

17th annual GVBCH Poker Ride

At Bridger Bowl

Sat. July 17 High Country trail ride Tom Roffe 586-2142

Tues. July 20 Gallatin County Fair @ Fairgrounds

Sat. July 31 High Country trail ride Tom Roffe 586-2142

Email corrections for roster: Lowry: lowry160@msn.com

Haines:: barbwire2@earthlink.net

Rich's message,

Summer officially arrived on June 21, so we Backcountry Horsepeople are in full swing with our summer projects and rides. I apologize for canceling the elk calf ride up Sage Creek on June 12. I was up in that country the Thursday before the scheduled ride and the snow and mud were plentiful. The part of that trip that takes us up on top of Slide Creek is quite steep and hence prone to damage when wet like it was.

On June 5 we had a great work day on our Spanish Creek trails. I believe there were about 18 of us that participated. Wally and Chick had things organized so we knew where each crew was to work. Was a great day in all and we got a lot done. Too bad none of the other trail user groups chose not to join in with us. We did meet quite a few hikers on the trail and they all thanked us for the work we were doing. We made sure they knew that it was GVBCH out doing the work. I encourage each one of you to get out and join in the fun. Whether you walk or ride makes no difference. Just come join in the great fellowship and enjoy the great outdoors we have here in our backyard.

I want to thank Bill Shields, Chick and Wally for the work that they and their trail crews do during the week. The public appreciates you and so do I.

By the time you get this newsletter our big fund raising event, THE POKER RIDE, will be only a few days away. I want to encourage each of you to help our club in some small way. We have leaders and teams handling all the various tasks, but we also need people to come alongside these leaders and be learners for future years. I really want to broaden our cadre of people available to help out with this great event. The Poker Ride is on July 10 at Bridger Bowl. It all starts when we set up on Friday night 7/9. Come help set up on Friday evening about 5:00pm. We have a potluck, so if you come, bring something to throw in the grub fest. Then Saturday either come ride or come help out. Give Janet Castro a call, 388-0966 if you can help. Many thanks to the people who are giving their best to help make this year's Poker Ride a success. I feel blessed to work with you.

Rich Inman, president

Bridger Trail crew schedule:

DATE	TRAILHEAD	TRAILS
July 5	Bracket Cr parking lot.— #538 north & 525 to Ross Pass	
July 12	Spanish Peak trailhead— #400 Little Hell Roaring	
July 19	Spanish Peak Trailhead— #401 to 409 Big Brother Lake	
July 26	History Rock trailhead about 1 mile north of Hyalite Lake on right—#424 to 422 to Mt Blackmore	
Aug 2	new parking lot on Springhill Rd.— #545 North Cottonwood	
Aug 9	Trailhead Rte 191 just south of Squaw Creek— #444 Logger Creek	
Aug 16	At Sedan turn left on Seitz Rd to trailhead— #540 Shafthouse	

Any questions call Bill Shields @ 586-3865

Kay Tate writes that the forest service contractors are doing a beautiful job restoring the #401 trail from the Spanish Creek trailhead. They are installing rock water bars, dirt water bars, digging out rocks, filling in braided portions of the trail, relocating where needed, building puncheon trail and even a bridge.

GVBCH BOARD MTG. MINUTES MAY 5, 2004

ATTENDANCE: Rich Inman, Janet Castro, Cinda Eichenfels, Lisa Read (Proxy for Dave Read), Jessica Read, Sharon Lowry, Amy Waring, Joyce Haner, Kay Tate, Beth Merrick, Dan Marsh, Brown Parson, & Joan Holborn, Wally Becker & Jim Nelson absent, Chick & Jiffie Hale

Motion by Joyce, 2nd by Dan to accept minutes from the April board & general membership meeting. Passed.

Trail Grant: Janet reports she is working on an application due May 15; she will contact Barry Jacobsen for assistance.

Treasurer report submitted by Cinda, **Motion** to accept made by Lisa, 2nd by Dan. Passed.

Motion by Amy, 2nd by Joyce to pay outstanding bill of \$ 16.47. Passed.

Insurance: Janet reports insurance application declined because of trail maintenance. She has clarified our relationship with the forest service and they will write us a new policy.

State Convention 2005: Dan reports convention has been moved from Glacier to Great Falls.

Right to Ride: Dan reports bill to protect access to Federal and State parks being supported by Rep. Denny Rehberg.

State Dues: Dan reports the increase was ratified by 83%

State N.L.: a request for clubs to send articles.

Sportsman Lake Trail: Bill Hopkins has requested a letter of support from the club for a State Grant application for trail improvements. **Motion** to support by Dan, 2nd by Joan, passed. Rich states he will write the letter to verify the need & endorse this application.

Motion by Lisa, 2nd by Janet to authorize Cinda to issue funds for the Poker ride lunch as needed & not to exceed \$500.00. Passed by majority.

Many thanks to Sharon for providing our meeting place and refreshments.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec.

GVBCH GENERAL MTG. MINUTES MAY 20, 2004

ATTENDANCE: Rich Inman, Janet & Jose Castro, Sharon Lowry, Bonnie Hammer, Bettye White, Tom & Jean Griffith, Cinda Eichenfels, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Dan Porter, Beth Merrick, Larry Thomas, Joyce Haner, Sonja Berg, Amy Waring, Dan Marsh, Donna McGeein, Joan Holborn, & guest John Councilman.

Motion by Beth, 2nd by Bonnie to accept minutes from April general & board mtg. Passed

Treasurer's report by Cinda for May 20, 2004:

Checking a/c balance as of 4/15/04	\$1,492.69
Deposits none	
Bills paid:	
Kinko's pd on a/c \$40.00	
Stamps NL	37.00
Reimburse Rich Inman	16.74
	-\$94.40
	<u>Balance to date</u>
	<u>\$1,398.56</u>

Other Assets:

Petty cash	\$23.96	
Money Mkt fund	1,933.90	
3 mo CD (VS fund)	3,084.71	
		<u>Total other assets \$5,042.57</u>

Motion by Beth, 2nd, by Amy to accept treasurers report & pay outstanding bill to Kinlos of \$74.00. Passed.

Insurance: Janet reports cost for 1 year \$400.00 that will cover parades, poker & steak ride. **Motion** by Sharon, 2nd, by Chick to pay. Passed.

Trail work: Chick reports Hell roaring trail work continues thru hail & snow. While Wally is on leave, Apprentice Larry is carrying the load. Three large rocks removed.

Travel Plan: Tom reports the EIS is due out in late August. Public will have about a 90 day comment period following the EIS release. He has a concern with the language of 'seasonal restrictions'.

Nat'l Trails Day: Chick invites EVERYONE to work on the Spanish Creek trail June 5th.

Right to Ride: Dan reports support is needed for bill HR2966 to protect access to federal and state lands with livestock. Contact our Reps. Send your report.

Horse Safety: Dan reports the training guide is on our web site for your viewing.

FYI: Amy states her boss is in search of a yearling mare.

Refreshments: Bettye has volunteered to provide so be sure to attend next meeting!

Thanks to John for answering our questions on weeds and pest control.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec.

TAKING STOCK

Today in the markets, helium was up; feathers were down. Paper was stationary. Elevators rose, while escalators continued their slow decline. Mining equipment hit rock bottom. The market for raisins dried up. Coca-Cola fizzled. Balloon prices were inflated. And Scott Tissue reached a new bottom.

GVBCH General Mtg. Minutes, June 24, 2004

ATTENDANCE: Rich Inman-Pres., Cinda Eichenfels-Treas., Janet-Vice Pres.& Jose Castro & Sons, Sharon Lowry-Board rep., Bonnie Hammer, Amy Waring-Board rep., Dave Read-Board rep., Tom & Jean Griffith, Linda Roffe-State Rep., Joyce Haner-Board rep., Chick & Jiffie Hale, Billie & Larry Thomas, Wally Becker-Board rep., Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Sonja Berg, Bettye White, Kay Tate, Jehnet Carlson, Joellyn Howell, Brenda Kessler, Greg Galloway, & Joan Holborn-Sec., Guests-Jan Schumacher and Coral Dickey. The general meeting was called to order at 7:20pm by the President at the residence of Jehnet Carlson, no printed agenda, the following business proceeded.

Minutes from May dispensed to July for approval.

Treasurer Cinda requests approval to pay following bills

- Kinkos bill from Beth for \$35.00 for Poker ride
- Kinkos bill from Jiffie for \$27.30
- Mini Nickel bill from Beth for \$52.00 for Poker ride ad

Motion by Joyce, 2nd by Brown to pay outstanding bills passed unanimously.

Cinda requests current checking acct balance \$949.92 as of 6/24/04

Insurance- Janet reports Ins. paid and binding.

Grant Application Janet reports application completed and requests approval to submit.

Motion by Sharon, 2nd by Chick to approve application submission for Spanish Creek Trail and Maintenance Bridge Grant as completed by Janet Castro. Motion passed unanimously.

Poker Ride Janet requests members to turn in prizes to her asap. Kay will take Janet, Jose, Jiffie and Chick to show placement of trail for marking. Greg and Coral have volunteered to be advance riders to check trail markers day of ride.

Bridger Trail Crew Schedule was submitted by Kay. Work on the following dates: 6/28, 7/5, 7/12, 7/19, 7/26, 8/2, 8/9, 8/16. Questions, call Bill Shields @ 586-3865

Many Thanks to Jehnet for her hospitality at her ranch and giving us an interesting program on mule packing by Steve Edwards of Queen Valley Mule Ranch from Queen Valley, AZ. For more info go to www.muleranch.com

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec.



Trail report for June 2004 by Chick Hale

June 5 was our first work day on our adopted trail, the Spanish Creek Trail. Seventeen workers arrived consisting of eleven members and six non-members. Wally divided the people into groups of three to five and each group worked on about a mile of trail up to Mirror Lake trail junction. One group went part way up the Pioneer Falls trail. General trail maintenance including cleaning and replacing water bars, blow down removal and the usual rock removal. Wally's crew worked too hard and too long. The day was considered a big success.



Photo by Jean Griffith... "lunch time and rest"



"rock removal"

June 14 Wally and Larry took four pack horses and their load of tools and equipment up South Cottonwood trail to the site of a new foot bridge near Fox Creek Cabin. The work crew completed the bridge and rerouted the trail as required.

June 15 saw Donna McGeein, son Roan, Larry, Wally and Chick back on the Hell Roaring trail.

June 16 Wally, Larry and Chick, with five pack horses, as shown, headed up South Cottonwood trail to pack tools and equipment out from the new bridge and trail site.



Wally, Larry and Chick ready to depart from the South Cottonwood trailhead to pack out the Forest Service equipment

June 17 Larry, Wally, Chick, Mike - our young volunteer, Michelle Ratliff - supervisor, with six young people from the Adolescent Resource Center attacked Hell Roaring trail with a vengeance. Our young workers were a willing group and only good things can be said for all of them.

June 22 Wally, Larry and Chick again worked Hell Roaring trail. We had a new volunteer in the person of Ernest Rajola who worked once with us last year and now back again to help this year. With good soil and the roto-tiller we were able to complete 720 feet of new tread setting an all time world record. Two or three more days should see the end of the Hell Roaring project.

June 27 will be our work day on the upper Spanish Creek trail and after completion of the Hell Roaring trail from the trailhead to the creek it has been suggested that the Garnet Mountain trail be retread from the trail head on up. This will be a good opportunity for the Adolescent Resource Center (ARC) to participate.

The Forest Service has been working on additional gravel bags. It would be advantageous to have three or more sets to achieve a measurable amount of fill for badly eroded trails. Here is my opportunity to mention to BCH members that **Janet Castro has made the club two gravel bags** that attach to a pack saddle and can be filled while on a horse, transported to the desired location where the bottom of the bag can be opened to deposit the gravel. This has been a great piece of work, Janet. She had spent many hours on the internet getting the necessary information, then making a sample for us before going ahead on the real bags. A lot of energy, time and love went into this project and when the creeks come down enough to expose the sand bars they will be put to use. The club owes her a ton of thanks.

June 24 brought out the ARC with ten people and four so called adults in the form of Wally, Larry, Chick and Ernie. The bad news is that we broke our trail record. The good news is that we established a new 'probably' new world record of 750 feet of new tread...if anybody cares.. Again, good soil and our roto-tiller helped. Interesting observation: girls outnumbered boys from the ARC. Don't know what that means!

June 27 was our work day on our adopted trail at Spanish Creek.. Fortunately the David Reed family of four came out and along with the crew of Wally, Larry and I we started up the trail. With two pack horses we were set on cleaning water bars in the upper reaches. We were able to remove some small blow-downs, but had to perform a full out attack on two trees ten to twelve inches in diameter.



A picture is worth a thousand words.

Continued on next page

Pushing on and hoping to at least see the lakes we were surprised and rebuffed by the snow drifts.. After traveling up to their bellies we felt the horses had had enough, as did riders, therefore we were forced to turn back. We stopped for lunch about 2pm, continued back and arrived at the trail head at 5pm. The water bars will have to wait, but access to the trail was assured for the time being.



June 29 was our Tuesday work day at Hell Roaring. The ADC had 5 crew members and 2 supervisors. Wally, Larry, Earnie and I filled out the total crew. Each day means training the ARC people because they are a different crew each time. With the help of the roto-tiller we **completed the trail from trail head to Hell Roaring Creek —a total of 9,000 feet.** All equipment was removed and we are now intending to do some repair work on the Garnet Mountain trail.



Our general meeting Thurs, June 24 was so much fun. We were blessed with a sunny and warm evening for a potluck to share with our member friends. We enjoyed Chick's chocolate birthday cake and Rich's ice cream. Heading to the barn after our fill of good eats we had our short and brief meeting then on to

Steve Edwards and his demo on packing, saddle pads, girths, saddles and trees and especially the fitting to mule and horse. It was a great night..



This is serious business!, folks!



Potluck @ Jehnet's



Steve Edwards giving his demo.

Bridger crew trail work: by Kay Tate

6/15—12 riders and 3 pack horses joined Bill Shields to clear and check out the Poker Ride trail #538 south, counterclockwise from the Bridger Bowl parking lot. It was a beautiful day and trees were cut and flung with abandon. On the bottom half of the loop much damage was reported from the recent downpours in the Bridgers.. Several crossings were washed out. On Sunday a crew of 6 returned and rerouted and dug out the washes so horses and the poker ride 4-wheelers could pass in safety.

6/21— The Bridger crew was scheduled to clean trail #422 up South Cottonwood to Fox Creek cabin. We knew Chick's crew had been up there 3 times and that nothing

further needed to be done, but after numerous calls to the F.S. to get another trail on the schedule, with no response, 6 of us met at the trailhead for a beautiful day and ride to the cabin. We did work on the new crossing where Ron and his horse "Sport" popped a lariat on a large section of tree that blocked the horse crossing and drug it downstream while the rest of the crew worked on the new trail where it had already washed out.

6/24 Kay and Ron were unable to attend the Spanish Creek trail clearing day so they took a ride to Dubois Lake today and cleared what they could on the way up and back with my 24" saw, not out of love for the saw work, but because I couldn't find my fishing license. We left some big ones for Sunday in the lake as well as on the trail.

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.

6/28 For our Monday work Bill Shields was contacted by Brian McNeil and told that the New World/Mystic Lake trail was already clear and would we instead clear the Bangtail Ridge trail beginning at the Brackett Creek Y. It is a beautiful trail with fantastic views of the Bridger Ridge, Ross Peak, Sacajawea, etc. It is primarily a bicycle/hiking trail and therefore dangerous for horseback riders as the bikes come up on you suddenly. A quarter of a mile from Olson Meadows we met a F.S. employee who thought it best that we turn around as a helicopter was in the area making aerial drops for a base camp and a 10 man crew was just up the trail. They are going to do a prescribed burn in the area. Another case of the right hand of the forest service not knowing what the left hand is doing and a misuse of 12 riders and 4 pack horses with chain saws.

Eagle Creek campout and trail ride May 29-31 by Kay Tate

Due to inclement weather we drove to Eagle Creek on Sat. and because there was only the three of us, Bonnie, Ron & I, we rode the shortcut to the Black Canyon of the Yellowstone on Sun.. The portion to Crevice Lake was rocky but in good shape and always spectacular. There was a fresh elk kill on the trail but we couldn't tell cause of death (lion, wolf, bear). The ice cave was beautiful at the time of day we passed there. We saw the osprey nest with babies and an adult on the top of a pine nearby. We saw lots of elk antlers and a mountain sheep, lots of deer but no elk or buffalo. After lunch overlooking Crevice Lake we searched and found the Crevice Creek trail (poacher's trail) to the Park boundary north and circled back to camp through Jardine. It was a ride of 20 miles and we wished we had not found the connection because it turned out to climb 2000' in 2 miles. Quite an effort for us and our mounts. Needless to say if there had been more of us we wouldn't have tried this route and definitely never will again. When we got back Bob Steinman and Connie Myslick were in camp having arrived at noon and taken a nice ride around Eagle Creek basin. Monday, Connie and Bob rode around in the basin again and we three rode over to Little Yellowstone and saw the buffalo trap that was used all winter. I sure appreciated the phone calls so I could keep in touch with those considering coming to the camp.



Photo by Bonnie Hammer

We thank these sponsors for their generous contributions to our 2004
Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen 17th annual Poker Ride

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