

GALLATIN VALLEY BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN
POB 3232, BOZEMAN, MT 59772-3232
[HTTP://WWW.BCHMT.ORG/GVBCH](http://www.bchmt.org/gvbch)

THE PICKET LINE

MAY 2004



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."

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Rich Inman 388-1564

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Dan Marsh 2 yr

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BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh 587-7578

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Director's Meeting

Wednesday, May 5th, 7pm, at Sharon Lowry's 587-4013

General Meeting

Thursday, May 20th, 7pm, Belgrade Alliance Church
Cameron and Hoffman

Program

Kevin Frye, Fish, Wildlife & Parks
"Problem Bears"

Rides for May

Sat. May 1st 10am Trail Ride Horseshoe Hills

Trail Boss: Jehnet Carlson 388-7463

Sat., May 15th 10am Red Bluff Ride

Trail Boss: Rich Inman @ 388-1564

Sat., May 15th Head for the Hills Poker Ride, see flyer

Sat., May 22nd 10am Trail Ride up Indian Ridge-see pg 2

Trail Boss Wally Becker 587-9607

Sat, May 29th— Mon, May 31st, Eagle Creek Trail Ride

Trail Boss: Kay Tate 587-2758

Sat., May 29th Virginia City Poker Ride

Hello fellow GVBCCH members,

I want to extend to each of you a personal invitation to come to our club meetings on the third Thursday of each month. We hold the program first so if you cannot stay for the whole meeting the program is usually over by 8:00pm. Our program committee has lined up a great slate of programs as requested by the membership in January. Our last program was with Dr. Warren from the Hardaway Vet. Clinic. He took questions from the membership and provided answers for anything you wanted to know about horse diseases, problems and vaccinations. It was a very informal and informative session and a great help to those who attended.

We also had one of our "short take" presentations. This time it was John Councilman from the Bozeman Ranger District giving us the information on a noxious weed called sulphur cinquefoil. This is a real bad dude-so control it early. I know, as I had it in one of my pastures. John will be back with other noxious weed info over the next few months. This is great information to help you with management of weeds in your pastures.

Just a reminder that the next trail ride is May 1st in the Horseshoe Hills. Make sure you contact Jehnet Carlson @388-7463 to let her know how many are riding and to get the ride departure location. Make sure you get your West Nile booster in April or May at the latest. Take care out there and come enjoy the programs and activities of the GVBCCH.

Your President,

Rich Inman

Directions to trail ride Saturday May 1st at Jehnet Carlson's

From the Belgrade interstate exit go left (north) onto Jackrabbit or from Four Corners take Jackrabbit north. Follow and go over two railroad tracks to 4way stop sign. Follow straight across for 9 miles past the gravel road at the Y (right) and follow sign to Manhattan. Pass the Old Church and an old school house both on your left and Northwest Equine on right. Turn at the next right onto Spaulding Bridge Rd (a gravel road that only goes north) and which will eventually make an angle turn to the left, goes up and over a roller coaster hill to Round Mountain Rd and turn right. Jehnet's log house with stone chimney is on the left (first house). The entrance has a log arch and a mailbox. You will also see her big red barn and a John Deere Tractor. 5155 Round Mountain Rd, Belgrade MT 59714 406-388-7463 or cell 406-581-7443

New Member:

Greg Cooper, 236 Explorer Trail, Bozeman MT 59718 388-3231

****NOTES****

INDIAN RIDGE RIDE ON SAT., MAY 22

This ride is to check resulting trail work and additional work required.

May 1st and 2nd Townsend C of C is sponsoring a non-motorized parade and week-end of events Call Townsend C of C for info.

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Trail Clearing News

by Chick Hale

On April 14th the Becker-Hale crew started its summer trail work. Wasn't too much like summer, but comfortable if you kept working.

We started where we left off last fall on the Hell Roaring Trail #81. This being done in order to intimidate, shame, antagonize or whatever to motivate the FS to construct a horse bridge across the Hell Roaring Creek.

Truth is we cheated a little and took our modified roto-tiller to the site. It allowed us two old men to re-dig 225 lineal feet of trail. Next time we use it we will modify the controls so it won't shoot off course and roll down the hill to the trail below.

On April 19th, we again attacked the trail and did all the work with pick and shovel because of the great amount of rock. This physical approach is not the best as it reduced our footage to 180' with a noticeable effect on our senior muscles.

If there is a good side to this we came up with another 'off the wall' idea to reduce labor and increase footage. Can't tell you what it is yet, we will have to sucker more help and construct equipment. Only clue is that a horse will be involved.

On April 23, with the absence of Wally due to medical reasons, Larry Thomas and I took to the Hell Roaring Trail with a vengeance. With a harness on the roto-tiller we laid waste to rock and dirt and finished the day with 285 additional feet of new tread. Due to Larry's extreme youth (relative) 'WE' were able to accomplish considerable. Thanks Larry.

Steve Edwards Mule & People Clinics

Mule man Steve Edwards is holding "Mule & People" clinic at the DJ Bar Ranch in Belgrade, MT **June 24-27**. Edwards has 33 years experience with mules, donkeys and horses as a trainer, competitor and clinician and as a professional packer for the Park Service in Yosemite, the Grand Canyon and the Forest Service in Arizona.

Prior reservations are required for the Packing Clinic

Limited to 4 participants

He will conduct a Colt Starting Clinic on Thursday and Friday, and will cover ground skills such as haltering, leading, picking up hooves, pre-riding skills such as grooming, saddle fit, and bridling and biting.

He will teach his Art of Communication Clinic on Saturday and Sunday. In this clinic, Steve focuses on communicating with your mule using your voice, hands, legs, and seat. He will show participants how to walk, trot, lope, back, side-pass, stop, turn on the forehand, and move the hip.

Two special nights, which are free to the public, are Thursday night when the Back Country Horsemen meet at the DJ Bar for a potluck dinner when Steve will give a packing demonstration; Friday night when Steve offers a symposium, question-and-answer session about any aspect of mule owning and training.

For more information, contact DJ Bar Ranch at 406-388-7463 www.djbarranch.com or Steve Edwards at 602-999-MULE www.mulerance.com

Note:

This is a change of date for our General Meeting from June 17th to 24th

Our Poker Ride needs help for the luncheon.
Volunteer. We need you.

Contact: Janet Castro @ 388-0966

Eagle Mount's Therapeutic Riding Program:

Beneficial for All Involved

by

Cheryl Christman

Riding Program Director

As Eagle Mount celebrates its 20th anniversary it continues to improve the therapeutic recreation programs offered for people with disabilities and children with cancer. Starting with 100 participants the first year, Eagle Mount- Bozeman Inc. now serves over 700 people per year. Skiing was the first program offered and now the programs have been expanded to include camps for children with cancer, swimming, horseback riding, golf, ice skating, horticulture, kayaking, fishing, and others.

In 1982, General Robert C. Mathis and his wife, Greta, retired from a 34 year career in the Air Force to bring a dream to reality. They had long dreamed of creating a place where persons of all ages with disabilities could experience and share what an able-bodied person might take for granted. They came to Southwestern Montana and established Eagle Mount.

The therapeutic horseback riding program gives people with disabilities an opportunity to "mount up" on horses and attain both an emotional and physical freedom. Because of the nature of the riding experience, people can enjoy an activity where their disability does not hinder them. They are given four strong legs and a special friendship with their trusty mount. The Eagle Mount staff and volunteers create an atmosphere where safety comes first, and fun comes in a close second. Many games are played which promote and incorporate stretching, strengthening, balance, coordination, good posture and physical awareness. The participants are usually so caught up in the activity they don't realize it is actually a form of therapy. Other games teach leadership and team work, such as follow the leader and relay racing, which improve social interaction.

An important aspect of the riding program is the incredible bond that forms between the rider and his/her horse. Eventually the rider builds a mutual trust and love with "their" horse. The strength and size of a horse can be intimidating at first, but when the rider gets the horse to respond and listen to them, it is a confidence builder like no other. This program provides therapeutic benefits and social interaction through recreational riding, Special Olympic and competition training, hippotherapy (a physical therapist using the horse as a tool for therapy), barn and horse management classes, and a miniature horse visitation and education program.

A disability cannot stop a person from having fun. Eagle Mount realizes this and strives to offer fun recreation in a safe environment. The grip of a disability is loosened, providing life changing opportunities for all involved. It is not only the participants that benefit from Eagle Mount programs, but also the volunteers. Many have been heard saying "I get just as much out of the program as the rider does." The programs strengthen their muscles, challenge their minds, and improve their lives as well. No previous experience is needed, as we supply the necessary training. Without volunteers Eagle Mount would not be possible.

Some adaptive equipment, donated angels with four hooves, many trained volunteers, and the need to have fun, and anyone can enjoy the therapeutic recreation Eagle Mount offers. For more information concerning participation, volunteering, program scheduling, sponsorships and financial support, please check out our website at www.eaglemount.org or contact Eagle Mount directly at 586-1781.

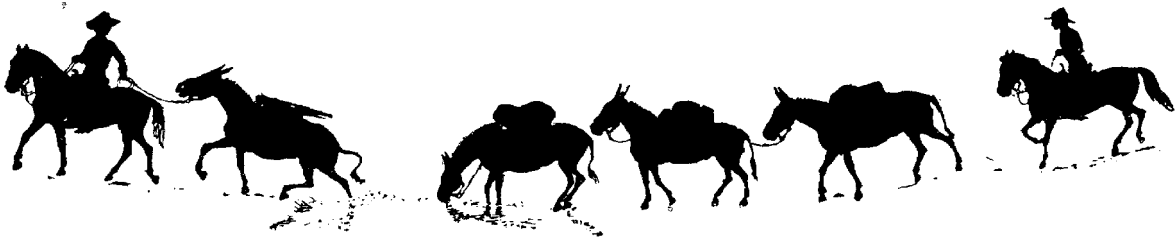


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