

GALLATIN VALLEY BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN
POB 3232, BOZEMAN, MT 59772-3232
WWW.BCHMT.ORG

THE PICKET LINE

AUGUST 2005



Officers

President

Rich Inman 388-1564

Vice President

Janet Castro 388-0966

Secretary

Trina Fredrickson 522-9315

Treasurer

Cinda Eichenfels 227-6508

Directors

2 yr

Lori Brockway 587-7198

Joellyn Howell 388-4493

John McIlhattan 586-9094

1 yr

Wally Becker 587-9607

Donna McGeein 587-5645

Beth Merrick 388-4047

State Board Members

Brown Parsons 2 yr

Dan Marsh 1 yr

Alternate: Linda Kelly 1yr

Newsletter Editor

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BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh 587-7578

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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."

Board Meeting

Wed., August 3rd

7pm

@ Janet Castro's

See page 2 for August events

General Meeting

Thurs., August 18th, 7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church

Cameron and Hofman Sts

Program

Equine Chiropractic

by

Dr. Don Funke

Events for August

Saturday, Aug 6th Sweet Pea Parade in Bozeman— Trina Frederickson 522-9315

Meet in the Hastings parking lot (right side, rear corner) @ 9am in time for you and your horse to be decorated with sweet peas and a BCH vest. Wear white hat, white shirt, blue levis.

Monday, Aug. 8th to Friday, 12th Nine Mile Mule Pack Train for work on our adopted Spanish Creek trail—Chick Hale 763-4105. We need **lots of people** to load gravel from the mules each day. This can be done without your horse—Or with your horse if you want to ride in to help unload mules at site. This is a once in a lifetime experience to be with this mule team.

Saturday, August 13th Trail ride @ Porcupine Creek—Trail boss, Wally Becker 587-9607

Sunday, August 21st Trail work day at Hell Roaring Trail or Spanish Creek Trail
Trail boss, Wally Becker 587-9607

Saturday, August 27th @ 3pm Our annual BCH Steak Ride at the Spanish Creek FS Cabin.

The Belgrade Chamber of Commerce is feeding their Pitch Fork Fondue of steak, salad, bread, dessert and beverage. Bring your utensils and chairs. Take a ride beforehand with your friend(s) then come enjoy the feast and camaraderie. Or come just for the food and friends.

The price is \$12.50 per person. RSVP Donna McGeein 587-5645

New members

James and Sody Jones, 1800 62nd St. West, Billings, MT 59102

Connie Wallace, 11256 Bridger Canyon Rd., Bozeman MT 59715 (586-2511/580-1723)

Sundance4connie@yahoo.com

August program, by *Donna McGeein, chrm*

Dr. Don Funke, our speaker on August 18th at the general meeting is an equine chiropractor. He is certified through the American Veterinarian Chiropractor Assoc. He is a biology graduate and a trained chiropractor for humans. He practiced human chiropractic successfully for 14 years before devoting himself to equines. He is a lifetime horseman who describes his current work as “passionately engrossing.” His business is Divine Equine Chiropractic for Horses. He can be reached at his web site: www.divineequine.net

Trail Ride Report *by Trish Baker*

The July 16th Fan Creek trail ride lead by Bob Steinman was another great ride for everyone. Only one little glitch kept 17 riders from hitting the trail at 10:00 A.M. YES, folks, the National Park Service IS checking for Coggins Papers in Yellowstone Park. We were greeted at the trailhead by park officials and three club guests were unfortunately asked to leave because they had no current Coggins papers for their horses. But, of the 14 remaining riders, we all cleared the paper exam and headed out in two groups.

Our first group was lead by the Haines' and their Tennessee Walkers, followed a half hour later by Bob and his mule with the remaining riders who showed up later. The trail has been rerouted to the north of the trailhead for stock.. The old trail to the east is now for foot traffic only. The two sections join about mile in toward the creek..

We meandered along the edge of the open floor that hugs Fan Creek, which winds gradually up to the Sportsman's Lake Trail. What a beautiful view of the creek that constantly twists and turns through the backcountry. Before reaching the trail junction we stopped for lunch and Art and I turned back toward the trailers and the rest of the first group continued up the North Fork Trail turning back at the junction.

The second group eventually showed up, as we ran into them just after we turned back. A few water crossings gave them problems with some of the younger inexperienced horses. Otherwise, it's an easy trail with no steep climbs or hazards, and an excellent trail for all levels of riders from beginners to advanced horsemen, as well as all levels of horses. We had great weather. The predicted thunderstorms passed by with only a nice breeze that kept the flies away.

Head for the Hills Poker Ride *By Pat Green*

The third "Head for the Hills" Poker Ride was held on June 18. June was a rainy month and Friday evening before the ride we had some showers with more in the forecast for Sat. I was praying for a nice day since I had 70 lbs of pork and gallons of potato salad and beans and hundreds of cookies and brownies all ready for lunch the next day. As it turned out the moisture was a plus, keeping the dust down on the roads and trails. The temperature was cool which provided a pleasant ride for both horses and riders. The "Hills" are greener than they've been for many years with wild flowers and tall grass in abundance.

90 riders and horses headed out in the morning to follow either the 7 or 10 mile loop. The ride went up and down grassy hills and along dirt roads and game trails which made for good footing. Most of the track was in the open with views of five surrounding mountain ranges as well as the meandering Missouri River. One mile and a half section was up a narrow canyon with big Douglas fir trees riming the top as well as cedar and juniper trees all along the bottom. It

took a crew of friends (husband included) several days to clear the way through there.

Eagle Mount received the proceeds from the Poker Ride this year. This local organization provides recreational opportunities for people of all ages with all kinds of disabilities. Thank you to those who donated money or prizes: Bob Green, Lee & Dad's IGA, Rocking DC Ceramic Arts Studio (Anna Duderstadt), Salon 33(Leslie King), Epona Equine (Connie Sparks), Middle Creek Dentists (Dr. Amy Kinney) and Sharif's Closet (Heidi Chretien) The prizes were an airplane ride around the valley, a gift certificate from Lee & Dads, a Bridle bag, a Hay bag and a gift certificate to the Bistro. Many door prizes were also given including "Head for the Hills" t-shirts, jewelry, hand painted ceramic trivets, spoon holders, cups, candle holders, and collapsable buckets.

Thanks to all who attended the Poker Ride this year. It's a lot of fun and a lot of work too but it's always for a good cause which makes it all worth while. I had lots of help getting ready so thanks to all who pitched in.

Trail report by Chick Hale for the Tuesday - Thursday gang



June 27th Surveyed Bozeman Summer trail, picked up key to road leading to trail to make sure conditions are suitable for our Adolescent Resource Center people. Installed a new handle on a 16# hammer for expected rock work.

June 28th Started Bozeman Summer trail with Larry, Wally and Chick along with 8 young people and 2 supervisors. Completed 708' of new tread.

June 30th Completed 310' of new tread on Garnet Mountain trail with Larry, Wally, Chick and Wayne Frederickson. Wayne is a new participant and puts out a lot of work. We completed 310' of new tread.

July 2nd Cleared blow-downs and debris from our adopted trail (Spanish Creek trail) with the intent to reach the lakes, but a big snowdrift stopped us about 1/8 of a mile from lakes (*see picture*). Dan Porter, Wally, Larry, Wayne and Chick completed the work by chalking up 9 hours on the job.



July 5th Completed 528' of new tread on the Bozeman Summer trail with 8 ARC people and assisted by Ernie Rajale, Wally and Chick. About 6 bike riders thought our work was wonderful and one biker thought it was so "easy" that he wrote a letter of complaint to Brian at the Forest Service and then thought the letter was good enough to put in the Chronicle under letters to the editor. Takes all kinds.

July 12th 10 ARC members along with Ernie, Wally and Chick completed 675' of new tread on the Bozeman Summer trail. We choose this trail for work because, with the ARC, we hike to the work site. When we complete this half of the trail we will then drive to the Mystic Lake end and work back.

July 15th Donna McGeein, son Roan, Larry and Wally packed up 5 horses with materials to construct a new porch at the Fox Creek Cabin. The cabin is in about 5 miles on the South Cottonwood trail. Minor happenings and narrow turns were difficult, but were overcome

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July 18th Wally and Larry with 2 packhorses journeyed again into Fox Creek Cabin, loaded debris, leftovers, tools and chain saw and proceeded back to the trailhead stopping to clear trail of blow-downs and other obstacles that impeded their progress when packing in on July 15th. Progress was slow and over 8 hours were required to reach the trailhead.

July 19th Our ARC crew of 8 with only Wally worked the Bozeman Summer trail. Wally (*see picture*) used his little red wagon with new handles and controls to haul all the tools including our 16# hammer. The kids all helped haul and enjoyed a day cut short by the heat. Wally was too tired to pace off the footage, so another time.

July 20th Larry, Wally and Chick met with Brian McNeal at the FS Warehouse to survey all the materials to be packed into the new 'HORSE' bridge to be constructed at the Hell Roaring Creek on trail #81. We also discussed reimbursement for expenses for packing projects— more information will follow.



WALLY PULLING HIS WAGON OF TOOLS

July 21st Wally, Larry and Chick packed and hauled FS materials to Hell Roaring Creek. We used 6 packhorses to carry 2 x 4's, 6' long al-thread, 8' rebar, concrete mix and plywood. (see pictures).



FOREST SERVICE CREW

July 22nd Wally, Larry and Chick with 5 packhorses made 4 round trips to the creek with a large wire gampeon and over 50-80# bags of concrete mix. This was a 10 hour day with lots of loading and unloading. The FS trail crew removed the old foot bridge (see picture), built plywood forms and poured the concrete foundation required for new bridge to be both wider and longer than the present.



TO BE PACKED IN ON HORSE



WEIGHING TOOLS



BEFORE BRIDGE



TOOLS PACKED READY TO GO

Please note that all pictures in this newsletter can be enlarged when you view (and click on them) on our web site—
<http://www.bchmt.org>

Trail report for the Bridger Crew by Kay Tate

Monday, 7-11: A Bridger crew of 5 (Bill, Ron, Wayne, Jim & Kay) made a lot of sawdust on the North Cottonwood trail. With the winter, winds & beetle kill lots of old growth had come down over and along the trail. Three chain saws and sawyers worked well on a HOT day. The trail is now cleared to the upper meadows--about 3 miles in, just below the Bridger crest.



Monday, 7-18: The Bridger Group of 8 workers cleared the trail from the 320 Ranch along the Buffalo Horn to the Tom Miner saddle. They had been asked to survey for bridge damage in the area also using photos. You definitely want to ride around a few of the bridges on the trail.



Examples of bridge damage



President Rich's letter

I want to begin this message with a hearty "thank you" to all members who helped out with the 18th annual poker ride. In my estimation it was a huge success. We had 144 registered riders. I talked with many of them while I was both in camp and on the trail and without exception was told how great the trail was marked. They also added comments as to the scenic a ride. Great job gang. I tip my hat to all of you. The whole event started with pitching the tent and setting up the trailer Friday night. Wally and Rich painted the trailer the club colors so it had a new look. About 15 people showed up to help raise the tent and enjoy a great potluck supper. Thanks to all who brought something to share for supper. Everyone disappeared back to town after supper and I stayed the night to guard the fort. Early next morn, Joellyn and John Howell showed up with homemade biscuits and gravy and a delicious mixed fruit bowl for breakfast. What a great way to begin the day on a \$5 breakfast. Beth Merrick, Cinda Echenfels and crew arrived soon after breakfast to begin registration. You guys did a great job of handling the chaos of registration. Advanced riders left camp at 0900 and the ride was underway shortly there after. Riders began to return to base camp around 1200 and found a great lunch waiting for them. Joellyn, Janet and Trina had prepared a great meal of buffalo sloppy joes with snake eyed beans and frog eye salad plus cake and drinks. Lee Hart donated the buffalo burger for the joes. Thanks Lee. As participants returned to base camp, they checked their registration number against the prize drawing list to see if and what they had won and claim their prize. The winning poker hands were displayed around 3:30pm so everyone who stayed got to see who won the big prizes. The top hand was 5 aces. The 50/50 drawing netted Ruth Hall \$35. We folded the tent, packed the trailer and left Bridger Bowl around 5:00pm with another year of great memories to add to our list of good times. Whether you participated in the ride or helped with one of the many tasks of putting this event on, I sincerely want to thank each of you for your contribution. Many club members donated either time or prizes and I thank you. I especially want to thank Janet Castro for taking on the chief push task to lead and organize the whole "scheebang." Crutches and all, Janet, you did great.

My final note in this message is an invitation to all of you to come help with the Spanish Creek trail project we have going on August 8-12. We have a work day on Aug 28 and 30 to do the prep work for this project. Then on Aug 8-12 we need people to help load gravel on the Nine Mile mule string and spread it as it is unloaded at the turnpike site about 2 miles up the trail. This is our adopted trail project for this year so come lend a hand. Hope to see you there. Until then, be safe and enjoy the outdoor blessings God has given to us.

GVBCH Board Meeting July 6, 2005

Meeting was brought to order at 7:07 out on the deck of the Castro's, a beautiful evening.

Present were Rich, Janet on her crutch from knee operation, Jiffie (proxy for Trina, sec.), Cinda welcomed back from her traumatic fall from her horse, Lori (late due to car troubles) but making her present with the letter to the FS, Joellyn, Chick (proxy for John), Wally, Donna, Beth, Dan and Brown. Guests: Bettye and Sonja.

Treasurer's July 7th report by Cinda was accepted. Motion Beth/Joellyn 2nd

Bills: \$65.40 supplies to paint club trailer (done by Rich); \$34.40 July NL; \$41.25 advertisement for Poker Ride; \$8+? printing posters for Poker Ride. Accepted to pay these bills. Motion Dan/2nd Brown.

State Board: Dan reported that their meeting for September 19th will be held at Bennington's (Oak & 19th).

GVBCH club letter to FS: Rich's letter has been finalized. He will hand deliver to the Forest Service, email to other clubs, will be placed on our web site and in our NL for August.

Discussion on preparation for the August 8-12 Nine Mile Mule Pack Team for gravel to be packed in on our adopted Spanish Peaks trail is near finalization. Brown has contracted for gravel to be donated for this job. We are ready.

Discussion for our July 9th Poker Ride and all was finalized. We are ready.

Meeting adjourned 8:45

Respectively submitted by Jiffie, proxy for Trina, sec.

GV BCH general meeting minutes July 21, 2005

Officers & Directors in Attendance: Trina Frederickson, Joellyn Howell, Janet Castro, Donna McGeein

Linda Hodenstein gave an informative presentation on Tellington Touch and the various ways it can be used. T-Touch is a neurological therapy and not muscular. As such, it is important to note that when doing therapy, your touch should be feather-light, such as the amount of pressure you would use with your finger tips, to just move the skin of your eyelid.

Linda focused on how to use the T-Touch in a colic situation if no immediate veterinary care were available. There are over 400 acupressure points in the ears and doing work with this area, in general, is good for all animals (ie. Dogs, horses, even people!). By lightly stimulating (not pinching) the tips of the horse's ears (the shock-point) one at a time, you can alleviate some of the discomfort the animal is feeling. A couple of other areas to stimulate are, the point where the ear joins the horse's head (triple heater meridian), and the front of the nose/upper lip area (pain point). These are just a couple of the many pressure points and areas that can be stimulated on the horse. Linda stressed that this therapy is not meant to be used in place of veterinary care, but gives a couple of ideas of what you can do while you're waiting for the vet or are in transit to the vet. She also noted that the T-Touch should be discontinued just prior to the veterinarian having access to the horse so that vital signs can have time to adjust and the vet can provide accurate diagnosis and treatment of the animal.

Correspondence received: Conrad Burns' office sent a letter confirming his support for the "Right to Ride" bill. We received a "Thank You" card from the Houey's, for a wonderful time at the Poker Ride. One of our members sent a suggestion regarding gnat control. If your horse is bothered by gnats in its ears, try a little liquid Parkay squeeze margarine in his ears.

Chick gave a Trail Report.

Respectfully submitted by Trina Frederickson, sec.

Treasurer's report July 21, 2005 by Bettye White (proxy for Cinda Eichenfels)

Checking a/c balance May 4, 2005 **\$3,754.60**

Deposits

Add'l member fee	10.00	
New member dues	100.00	
Donation horse safety inch	31.00	
Poker Ride & new member	2,259.00	
Extra hands (PR)	<u>130.00</u>	<u>\$2,530.00</u>
Checking a/c balance		\$6,284.60

Bills paid

May total	\$699.77	
Jiffie Hale/Kinkos/stamps	204.16	
Dan Marsh reimburse/convention	64.40	
Judy Inman food/horse safety	75.93	
Dave Schilz mileage HS lunch	<u>200.00</u>	<u>\$1,244.26</u>

Add'l debits/checks

Jiffie Hale (reimb)	\$34.40	
Rich Inman (reimb)	65.40	
Postmaster (stamps)	<u>37.00</u>	<u>\$136.80</u>

Checking account balance July 21, 2005 **\$4,903.54**

Other Assets

Petty Cash	\$55.96	
Money Mrkt	1,962.09	
Three mo CD (VS fund)	<u>3,121.49</u>	<u>\$5,139.54</u>

THE GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES
AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2005 POKER RIDE.

WE THANK YOU ALL.

AG DEPOT

ALL WEST VETERINARY

ARDESSON BOOTS AND SHOES

BIG SKY RV

BITTERROOT TRAILER SALES

BOB WARD & SONS

BOZEMAN SADDLE OUTLET

BRIDGER FEEDS

CASHMAN NURSERY

CENTURY 21- DAN PORTER

CHALET MARKET

CHALET SPORTS

CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

COSTCO

DJ BAR RANCH-JEHNET CARLSON

DOUBLE DIAMOND HALTERS

FREEWAY ENTERPRISES

GORMET GAS STATION

DICK HAINES

LAURA HANKS

LEE HART

JOELLYN AND JOHN HOWELL

RICH INMAN

KOUNTRY KORNER CAFÉ

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SHEAR WEST-DAINA SWAN



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