

THE PICKET LINE

JUNE 2005



Officers

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Rich Inman 388-1564

Vice President

Janet Castro 388-0966

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2 yr

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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

Jiffie Hale 763-4105

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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

Wednesday, June 1st

7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church

**Note address
change**

Events on page 2

Coming up...

*Gallatin Valley BCH
18th annual Poker Ride
Saturday, July 9th
At Bridger Bowl*

General Meeting

Thursday, June 16th

6pm

**Potluck at
Jehnet Carlson's**

And

Steve Edwards

Packing Demo and more

Page 2 for details

And directions

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR JUNE

Saturday, June 4th 10 am National Trails Day @ Spanish Peaks

Trail Boss, Chick Hale 763-4105

Saturday, June 11th, 10 am Trail Ride up Garnet Mountain

Trail Boss, Chick Hale 763-4105

Saturday, June 18th, 10am Poker Ride at Pat's Green's Ranch

call Pat 285-6949 (no further info available)

Saturday, June 25th, 10am, Elk Calf Ride at Sage Creek

Trail Boss, Rich Inman 388-1564

*****You must call trail boss on rides.**

***** For work days— please give trail boss plenty of time as a count of people is needed for tools to be provided.**

National Trails Day, Saturday, June 4th,

We will meet and be ready to leave the Spanish Peak trailhead by 10am. We hope to have a group of hikers plus our members so that we can cover more of the trail. Some of the labor will be used at our trail rebuilding project in preparation for gravel, etc., with the FS Nine Mile Mule Team starting August 8th.

Thursday, June 16th, 6pm General Meeting and Potluck. at Jehnet Carlson's. Bring your favorite casserole, your utensils and a chair. Steve Edwards will be our speaker. Check for information on Jehnet's web site for Steve's clinic: <http://www.djbarranch.com/clinic.htm>

Directions: **From 4 Corners**, go north on Jackrabbit La to Belgrade. Follow across RR tracks to stop sign and go right. Follow to next stop sign and go left. *This will eventually end up as Dry Creek Rd. Follow past Dry Creek Church on left and Northwest Equestrian on right and turn right onto Spaulding Bridge Rd. Follow to Round Mountain Road and turn right. Jehnet's house is first house on left on corner. **From interstate** at Belgrade exit go north on Jackrabbit La and follow across RR tracks to stop sign and go right and go to next stop sign and turn left.* **From Bozeman (7th Ave) onto Frontage Rd.** Follow to stop sign in Belgrade and turn right.*

Park on road. Call if you need help 388-7463

NEW members — we welcome you

Nancy Eaton, 2526 G Road, Grand Junction, CO 81505 (970) 248-5453 (spends summers in Bozeman)

neaton@Wmconnect.com

Bryce & Colleen Carnine, 1662 Moose Point Rd., Bozeman, MT 59715

bnccarnine@3riversdbs.net

Sabrina Hanan, POB 194, Emigrant, MT 59027 (223-3663) wildwolfwoman3@msn.com

Sabrina seeks riding buddy. Unlimited trails in her area. Excellent views of entire valley, access to Yellowstone River, easy load/unload and turn around, 2 mi off 89.

Also has space for boarder w/3acres, open range grazing, 60x60 enclosure w/attached barn, easy year round access, 2 mi off 89, parking for truck/trailer, \$150 mo. includes hay & graze.

We mourn the passing of Orville Bridgewater on Thursday, May 12th. Orville was a charter member and one of the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen founders. He was an honorary member. We realize most of you newer members had never met him. You could always find him at the Korner Café each morning and after lunch sharing a table with his many old and faithful friends. He leaves behind his wife, Ray, who shared his passion for their horses and riding. We will miss you Orville.

For Sale

Ladies Packers size 6M Black leather. Like new, barely worn. \$60 Jan Elpel 587-5844

Found: Blue folding chair left at Clinic Sat.
Call Wally @587-9607

For Sale

CircleY leather saddle, 15 1/2" used 2x \$1000

Leather chaps 3'2" long, waist belt with leather-work. New \$250 Anna 994-0074

Found: Glasses w/red on rims in brown case with pen attached. Will bring to board meeting or general meeting. See Jiffie

*Bridger Feeds will have 20% off Vita Flex Equine Supplement
for the entire month of June (586-3026)*

Trail report *by Chick Hale*

April 27th— Chick spent just three hours cleaning water bars on #401 trail. Did not take much work to be tired.

May 1st— Again cleaned more water bars and opened ditches to get rid of puddles.

May 15th— Today was a club scheduled workday. Nine members consisting of Larry, Wally, Chick, Dan and Alice, Dan Porter, Brown, SammyLu and Jan were present. We worked from Spanish Peaks trailhead up to the falls junction and a short distance up to the falls. We removed blow downs, a leaner, pruned, cleaned and/or replaced water bars and removed the usual rocks. Members did a very responsible job and got quite a lot of work done.

Proud of them all.

May 18th— Wally and Chick traveled with Ranger Will Shoutis and two of his crew. We surveyed our gravel/trail repair job. Cut blow downs, etc., and cleared up to the falls. The Forest Service crew cleared from Spanish Creek trail head to the third new bridge.

May 21st— Completed our Defensive Horsemanship course. See report.

May 22nd— Wally with two riders surveyed our adopted trail again up to the third new bridge to judge work and crew placement for National Trails Day on June 4th.

Our first Defensive Horsemanship Clinic a huge success *by Jiffie Hale (photos by Dan and Jiffie)*

Saturday, May 21st turned out to be one our best days. I am sure most of you thought you would be having this clinic on a cold and rainy Saturday. It was a beautiful day. John McIlhattan, our savior, parked trucks and trailers safely in the field. A thorough job it was! of handling the registration. She Forest Service. Our club, having with four astute, knowledgeable experienced teachers, gave us much



Thirty-nine members signed in with Lori doing a great job had made forms for all to sign which will be given to the been blessed and experienced information on



Safety— in, around and on horses. Each participant learned a little something new and rekindled something old. The clinic began with introductions of each “advisor” and proceeded with a brief 20 minute overview and a 30 minute session of an assembled first aid kit which is used for both horse and human, a kit that the Beartooth BCH



uses. Members then divided into four groups and classes began each lasting approximately 45 minutes.



Dan Aadland spoke on carrying gear on your saddle horse, rough terrain riding up hill and down while he answered many questions from members. We then mounted our horses for the low-stress approach to obstacles of poles, a bridge replica of sorts and very large ground tarp. No mishaps occurred.



Tom Highberger showed members his horse gear that he uses in the backcountry and his reasons for each piece, speaking eloquently of his items. He spoke, by demonstration, their use on the fit and function of each. He then went on to the haltering, saddling, mounting and dismounting. A very worthwhile class.



Mike Lorash showed members his approach to safe loading into a horse trailer. His approach was to first use ground work, i.e., training, then proceeded to trailer loading. Mike used member's horses that had not been given proper ground work and were problem loaders. Lots of time and patience was given to these horses. It was successful and no mishaps occurred.



Dave Schilz spoke about understanding the horse as our partner, the nature of the beast, how to be safe on the ground around horses, the horse as a social animal around other horses and safe handling of feet. Lee Hart had some safe and interesting things to mention with Dave. All in all it was a very learned experience.



A wonderful lunch was served by Rich at noon and, "boy, was that sloppy joe ever so good". Rich's wife, Judy, prepared the "sloppies" and also made the big pan of dessert. We then returned to our classes finishing the completion of all four sessions.

After classes we mounted up and proceeded up the road to the Garnet Mountain trail, riding up to a high point to a meadow for a view and camaraderie and critique. We forgot the critique. The ride up the trail showed how our members had completely redone this trail— it had been a bad and unsafe trail. Beartooth BCH were much impressed with our fine work.



The day was successful. The club is proud of you members who participated. You looked like you enjoyed the day, in fact you said so. We have great members and a great club. Thank you all.

If you completed this course and all classes you are entitled to work on trail maintenance with the Forest Service's compliments.

We hope you learned a little more than when you arrived. I know I did.

Some tips on trail ride etiquette that was mentioned as a result of the trail ride portion of the course by the advisors...

Don't leave until all horses are mounted. The unmounted horse gets upset when others leave.

Riding on ahead of other horses upsets those who are left behind. When with a group — stay with the group. Keep same speed.

Keep your horse a safe distance from the horse in front of you. Too close and you teach that front horse to kick. Some horses get upset when crowded.

No email? Get your friend, another member, relative or such to keep you in touch when our club sends out notices and reminders. If you do not, you'll miss it!

First Ride of The Year Was Successful.

Sat. May 7th brought out 12 riders. The ride was in the Horseshoe Hills on a day that was quite threatening. Tricia, Art, Jan, Ellie, Wally, Dan (Porter) Rich, Amy, Fernando, Sarah, Pam were all led by trail boss, Joellyn. They rode to Round Mountain through canyons and back to the trailers having stopped for lunch midway. Everyone had a good time, horses behaved well, no injuries. They rode about eight miles.

There are only two bear sprays that meet specifications for use, according to Kevin Frey, Grizzly Bear Mgmt specialist for MT FWP:

“ADAP” and “Counter Assault”

Our treasurer, Cinda, took a very bad fall earlier this month. She was riding on her property, yes, alone, but right near her house on one of those days where it had rained earlier and the ground was somewhat muddy. She was not going fast, an easy lope. But the horse either slipped or tripped, it happened so fast, and began to fall. Cinda fell and the horse landed on top of her. She ended up with a hairline fracture of the tibia, a broken scapula, 6 broken ribs, a punctured lung and on top of all this she then received an infection on her arm at the iv site. She had a temperature of 102 before it was brought down. She spent 4 days in the hospital and is now on the mend. She was very fortunate that her husband, Bill, was home at the time and heard her call out. Also, her neighbor, a paramedic with the local ambulance was there immediately when the 911 call came in (which he heard on his radio at home) and cared for her before the ambulance arrived 20 minutes later. Other neighbors arrived on the scene. She had a lot of care and attention. Cinda, you are so lucky. We all wish you a speedy recovery.

The Beartooth BCH will be conducting a Defensive Horsemanship class for the Beartooth Chapter and any other BDC or Forest Service folks that still need it on Sunday, June 12th, 9am at Meyers Creek Ranger Station (Southwest of Columbus)

This course is in addition to the course for Judith Basin BCH on June 25th. For those interested in attending contact Dave Schilz 445-9808

GVBCH Board meeting minutes of May 4, 2005

Attendance: Rich Inman, Janet Castro, Beth Merrick, Wally Becker, Trina Frederickson, John McIlhattan, Lori Brockway, Donna McGeein, Cinda Eichenfels, Joellyn Howell, Chick and Jiffie Hale

Motion to accept minutes of April 6, 2005 by Beth and seconded by Wally.

Treasurer's Report:

Assets Outstanding Bills

Bank balance: \$3,754.60 Kinko's \$ 47.40

Petty Cash: 55.96 Sammylu Parsons 44.00*

Money Market: 1,951.42 Brown Parsons 82.40*

3-Month CD: 3,121.49 Dan Marsh 169.53*

Other Assets: 5,129.87 Insurance 400.00

Porto-Potty 60.00**

* Partial reimbursement of expenses for attendance at State Board Meeting

** Required on site for Defensive Horsemanship training

Motion by Beth to pay outstanding bills; seconded by Wally.

Newsletter received from Mission Valley BCH as well as a request from Outside Bozeman for a listing of the BCH upcoming events.

Current membership is approximately 65.

Rich has drafted a letter to Senator Conrad Burns regarding "Right to Ride" bill. The letter has been approved by the Board for mailing on behalf of GVBCH. Motion by Lori; second by Joellyn.

The Defensive Horsemanship committee will be meeting on Wednesday, May 11th to finalize details prior to the clinic.

The menu for the Poker ride has now been decided: Biscuits & gravy, fruit salad, coffee and orange juice for breakfast; buffalo joe's (sloppy joe's), snake-eye beans, frog-eye salad and cake for lunch. There will be watermelon/pop/water stops along the trail.

Our club is aiming to have a response to the Forest Service's Alternative 7 Travel Plan prepared for presentation to the club's general membership at the meeting on June 16, 2005.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm

Respectfully submitted Trina Frederickson, sec.

May 19, 2005 General Meeting Minutes

Officers & Directors in attendance: Rich Inman, Janet Castro, Trina Frederickson, Wally Becker, John McIlhattan, Lori Brockway. Absent: Cinda Eichenfels, Donna McGeein, Beth Merrick, Joellyn Howell. Total Attendance: 30 members.

Motion by Chick Hale to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2005 general meeting and seconded by Janet Castro.

Treasurer's report from Cinda was not available due to her severe horse accident. Motion by Sonja Berg to reimburse Dan Marsh \$64.40 for expenses attending State Convention and seconded by Jiffie Hale.

One piece of correspondence was received: A thank you note from one of the BCH chapters who received and presented our Trail Etiquette video to their members.

Trail Report: Chick reported that trail crews have begun their work with nine people showing up for the first year's work day on our adopted trail in the Spanish Peaks. Chick advised that Moonlight Basin Ski Resort has contacted him and would like to volunteer some of their employees to assist on National Trails Day. Chick further advised that a total of 37 people have registered for the Defensive Horsemanship Clinic.

Wally, Lori, Rich and Chick are putting together a letter of response to the proposed Gallatin Travel Plan. A final draft will be presented to the membership at the June meeting, for approval.

Dan provided a report from the State Director's meeting

Kevin Frey, Grizzly Bear Management Specialist for FWP, was the guest speaker and showed a brief video of a grizzly trying to break into a horse trailer. Kevin provided some information about the characteristics and tenacity of the grizzlies. They have incredible scenting ability and are quick to learn, especially where food "rewards" are concerned. If you're taking bear spray along when traveling in the backcountry, make sure it is EPA approved (UDAP & Counter Assault). There are other knock-offs available, but they don't have the same potency as the EPA approved products.

The next general meeting will be Thursday, June 16th at 6pm at Jehnet Carlson's for a potluck followed by Steve Edward's program.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm

Respectfully submitted by Trina Frederickson, sec

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

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