



Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

The Picket Line

July, 2006

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Website www.bchmt.org

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Bettye White 586-2301
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Dan Porter 388-0290
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Riding Opportunities

July

- 15 Trail Work Ride: Garnet Mountain, contact Wally Becker @ 587-9607 for information.
- 20 General Meeting: Belgrade Alliance Church at 7 pm. The presenters for our July meeting are Sam and Cathy Cole, of Cole's Custom Saddles.

August

- 2 Board Meeting, 7 pm, Bettye's
- 5 Sweet Pea Parade: Osco Parking Lot, watch the newsletter for costumes and times.
- 11 - 14- Pack Trip: Slough Creek, Yellowstone, contact Bob Steinman for information @ 282-7166. This trip is limited to the first 12 riders to register. Coggins test and fee required.
- 12 Trail Work Ride: Spanish Creek, contact Wally Becker @ 587-9607 for information.
- 13 Trail Ride: Porcupine, contact Ray Madsen @ 995-4173 for information.
- 17 General Meeting: check the newsletter for program.
- 19 Trail Work Ride: Spanish Creek, contact Wally Becker @ 587-9607 for information.
- 19 Manhattan Potato Festival.
- 20 Trail Ride for Beginners: Ramshorn, contact RJ Conti @ 586-5047 for information.
- 26 Steak Ride: Spanish Creek, bring your own steak to grill and a dish to share. Free riding and dinner at 3 pm.

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen Mission

The purpose of this organization shall be (1) to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in Montana's roadless 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.

Successful 2006 Poker Ride

A huge thanks goes to everyone who contributed toward creating an incredibly successful event.

Perfect riding weather, a great trail and a record number of prizes made the ride truly memorable. The new menu and efforts to streamline the fundraiser really paid off.

A good turn-out, with 173 registrations, approaches our all time record ride of 182 registrations. The winning poker hand was a straight flush. 85 prizes were collected, a new record that meant that every participant stood nearly a 50/50 chance of winning a prize.

Now it is time to support all those enterprises that supported us with contributions. The new list of contributors appears on the back page of the newsletter. Please check to make sure that we have included all of these generous people and give these folks your business, and say thanks for their support of our event.

A new menu from Lee & Dad's featured fried chicken and three salads and was a huge success. Riders enjoyed the lunch and the club made a larger profit as a result of the great value we received in pricing from Lee & Dad's. A special thanks goes to Lee & Dad's for producing the feast en masse, and to John Howell for delivering it to the Poker Ride in a timely and still hot condition.

Lots of comments praised the extremely well-marked trail. Kudos go to Kay Tate, Ron Rassely, Larry Thomas and Janice Cartwright for flagging the trail.

A special thanks goes to Dan Marsh for stepping up to the plate and getting all of the signing and registration materials printed.

And, of course, the ride could not happen without all of the coordination directed by the Trail Ride Chairperson, Joellyn Howell. Thanks Joellyn for a great ride!

President's Report

Hello All You Backcountry Riders,

I want to thank all those who participated in last Saturday's work day on the Spanish Creek trail. I know that some other members are writing an article with great pictures so I will not go into details. Not sure how many members were actually there as I was busy hauling gravel. I do know that it was a good turnout and we got a lot done. I hear that Dan Porter and his crew got all the way to Spanish Lake and a little beyond.

As I worked the lower end of the trail hauling gravel, I was privileged to talk with a lot of folks who were just up for a day hike. We received many compliments for our work and the GVBCH were clearly seen doing work on trails. Our next work day is July 15 so plan to come join in the great fun and fellowship. I want to wish Bonnie Hammer a speedy recovery. Her horse spooked at something on the trail and in the rapid change of direction Bonnie dislocated her shoulder. Also want to thank Ernie Rajala and Alice Marsh for their assistance in getting Bonnie to the hospital. Our next big activity is the poker ride on July 8th at Bridger Bowl. Many of you have donated either money, prizes or food and I thank you. Others are giving of their time to the various tasks that must be completed for this to be a success. I thank you too. Joellyn Howell has done a tremendous job as chief push for this event. Thank you Joellyn. I hope to see you all at the poker ride or on a work project. In the meantime, take care out there and be safe.

Rich Inman
Your President

Rich will be away for the rest of the summer's meetings on July 20, August 17 and September 6.

June 15, 2006 General Meeting Minutes

Attending: Officers & Directors in attendance:

Trina Frederickson, Rich Inman, Bettye White, Wally Becker, Dan Porter, Joellyn Howell, Janice Cartwright, Larry Thomas

Guests & New Members: Rich welcomed new members and guests.

Minutes: Motion to accept Minutes of May 18, 2006 by Chick; second by Kay.

Treasurer's Report: Bettye White reported that Beth Merrick has submitted a bill for \$20.00 for printing of the posters for the Poker Ride. Motion by Chick to pay the bill; second by Kay.

Correspondence: No correspondence

Trails Report: Chick reported that our first scheduled work day brought out six attendees on May 13th. On June 3rd, there were seven attendees who cleared blow-downs and cleaned water bars. The crew is hoping to have more people show up for the next scheduled work day on June 24th (Chick's birthday!) so that they can move some of the remaining gravel. The Bridger Crew rode

State Report: Dad advised that the Right to Ride Bill has passed in the House and now has been sent to the Senate for their vote. The Forest Service's Environmental Impact Statement will be ready for distribution in mid-August, 2006, and we'll request a hard copy once they're available.

Poker Ride: Joellyn brought posters in for everyone to take and distribute around town. Lee and Dad's will be catering the lunch, which will be brought out by Joellyn and her husband. We need to take inventory on our supply of paper plates, napkins and utensils prior to the ride. There will be another trail-clearing ride on July 1st. Ice chests for the pop-stops, etc. are to be dropped off at Big Sky RV by 5:00 pm on Friday, July 7th. Larry and Wayne will get ice from Lee & Dad's early on July 8th, and have it out to Bridger to go to the pop-stops.

Program: Our guest speaker for the evening was Joel Boniek of Livingston, who has been an outfitter for approximately 20 years. Joel's company leases a 900 sq. mile piece of land from the Indians in Alaska. He guides hunters in search of sheep, moose and bears from mid-July to September. Joel gave a very informative discussion regarding traveling to Alaska with his horses including the requirements to cross

the borders with horses and firearms.

Travel: Joel transports his 10-12 horses in a six-horse trailer for 2,400 miles, pulled by a one ton truck. He typically travels for 10-14 hours; picketing/e-fencing his horses each night along the way. He carries water for the horses with him, in case there isn't any available where he camps for the night. Once he's traveled as far as he can by vehicle, it's another eight-nine hours of riding in order to reach the base camp.

Horses/Mules: Joel primarily uses quarter horses and mules, but has occasionally had drafts & crosses as well as an Arabian horse. The minimum age for the equines is five years with the average age being between 8 & 12 years. The horses and mules are alternated as much as possible, with the mules usually packing out most of the game. The area where Joel hunts can be quite boggy, so his animals need to be able to negotiate the bogs and muskeg as well as cross rivers, etc. Fortunately, there isn't much quick-sand where Joel guides. Veterinarians aren't easy to come by out in the bush, so Joel carries some veterinary supplies with him as well as self-help books on the subject. They haven't lost a horse yet, but he's had some close calls. They don't have too much problem with predators attacking the equines, particularly since the mules will chase off any wolves. Any farrier work is also done in camp. Although none of the mules wear shoes, the horses all do.

Guests and supplies fly into the base camp via a 45 minute ride in a Super Cub. Depending on the time of year, there can be anywhere from 6-20 people in camp including the guides, cooks, guests, etc. Guests usually plan to stay for 6-8 days, but most are successful in filling their tags with three days. As most of the guests are unable to take the meat home with them (due to the cost of shipping, etc), 75% of the meat is taken to the tribe that leases the land to the outfitters. The rest is eaten at camp or given away. There is no weight limit for guests, but the hunters should be in good shape, particularly if they have a sheep tag as there can be quite a bit of climbing up and down hills. Moose hunting is a little easier as they tend to be on flat ground.

From the base camp, there are a few spike camps set up within a four hour ride of the main camp. There are no trails, so the guides use compasses and follow drainages. The moose in Alaska are about twice the size of moose in Montana. Alaska's minimum size requirement is 50" for moose, but the guides Joel works with usually try for 60". It takes four guys one hour to cut up and pack a moose and three horses to pack it out. The skull and horns usually weigh about 75lbs with the cape weighing double that amount. They usually pack the legs out whole and the ribs, brisket, and remaining meat is boned out. Hides and horns are tended to in camp and then shipped to a taxidermist.

Next Meeting: July 20th.

Adjourned: 9:10 pm.

Attendance: 29

Upcoming Meeting

The presenters for our July meeting are Sam and Cathy Cole, of Cole's Custom Saddles. The Coles have a custom saddle making shop in one of the new buildings on Gallatin Road, right next to Hufts, the Montana Hat store, and several other businesses. They are our most recent members to the club, and have donated a gift certificate for the Poker ride. Sam and Cathy will bring an example of their work, and talk about saddle fit and other saddle related topics .

July 5, 2006 Board Minutes

GVBCH Board Meeting minutes July 5, 2006
Meeting called to order at 7:15 by Pres. Rich. Those in attendance were Rich, Janice, Bettye, Larry, Dan P and Dan M, Joellyn, Wally, Chick and Jiffie (proxy).

Minutes of June 7th board meeting approved and motion passed.

No treasurer's report. No outstanding bills. A check payable to Lee and Dad's, signed, but with an unspecified amount, was given to Joellyn for payment for our Poker Ride food which she will pick up and pay at that time. Discussion regarding the treasurer giving a report once a month at the general meeting, rather than twice as presently done, was approved and passed unanimously.

Membership now stands at 61 individuals or families.

Chick gave the trail report and spoke of the dedication of the many members participating in the June 24th work on our adopted trail. It was an extremely successful day. He also presented an option that he, Larry and Wally proposed: rather than proceed with the monthly work at Spanish Creek, due to its completion, the club work differently by choosing a section on another trail where work is needed and work for 2 hours. Then ride the remaining time or your option to go home. Unanimously approved and emails will be sent to members prior to those work days.

The remaining evening was given to Poker Ride coordinator, Joellyn, who has everything in order to proceed. All was finalized. Items were brought by Dan from Beth who had prepared and had printed the registration information and all the prizes with their contributor's names. This was a superb time-consuming job by Beth. The club received many prizes donated from businesses/sponsors, members and friends and we are grateful to these generous contributors.

Respectfully submitted by Jiffie Hale

The Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen are indebted to the following businesses and members who contributed to the success of our 2006 Poker Ride. Please give them your business.

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

Ag Depot
All West Veterinary
Ardesson Boots & Shoes
Barrett Enterprises
Big Sky RV
Bozeman Saddle Outlet
Bridger Feeds
Century 21- Dan Porter
Chalet Market
Cindy DeBethizney
Concrete Construction
DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service
Don Funke Divine Equine
Double Diamond Halters

Freeway Enterprises
Gourmet Gas Station
Hardaway Veterinary Clinic
Huft Custom Leather
Jan Elpel
Kountry Korner Cafe
Lee & Dad's
MacKenzie River
Madison House
Montana Canvas
Murdoch's Ranch and Home
Owenhouse Ace Hardware
Precision Fence Systems
Quilting in the Country
R.O. Brooks and Carter's Boots

Rocky Mountain Hat Company
Rocky Mountain Supply
Shear West
Steele Halters
True Value Hardware- Belgrade

CLUB CONTRIBUTORS

Anonymous
Beth Merrick
Bob Steinmann
John and Joellyn Howell
Jane Shields
Jiffie Hale
Jan Elpel
Cindy deBethizy

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen
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