

THE PICKET LINE

AUGUST 2007



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Dan Marsh 587-7578

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Bob Steinman 282-7166

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Nanci Winget 582-5795

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Brenda Kessler 763-4241

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2 yr

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Janice Cartwright 579-3445

Rich Winget 582-5795

1 yr

Wally Becker 587-9607

Dan Porter 388-0290

Larry Thomas 586-6878

State Board Members

Rich Inman 2 yr

Dan Marsh 1 yr

Alternate: Jan Elpel 1yr

Newsletter Editor

Jiffie Hale 763-4105

Mobile 580-0774

jhale@littleappletech.com

BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh 587-7578

dmarsh@montana.edu

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 — Thursday, August 2

Dan Porter’s office - see page 2

General Meeting — Thursday, August 16 @ 7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church, Cameron & Hoffman Sts

Program: Dr. Don Funk, horse & human chiropractor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

August schedule of events & new members.....	2
President’s July report	3
Trail maintenance write-ups.....	4-5
Bridger schedule/ sale items	5
Poker Ride and photos, <i>by Sherrie White</i>	6
Flag the Ride and photos, <i>by Janice Cartwright</i>	7
7.19.07 Minutes and lecture info	8-9
Poker Ride photos—pop stop	9

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AUGUST EVENTS

****Thursday, 2nd Board Meeting, 7 P.M. New location at Dan Porter's new office at 1745 South 19th.**

****Saturday, 11th Big Sky Trail Ride, Jim Jones - trail boss 690.9354**

****Thursday, 16th General Meeting, 7 P.M. Belgrade Alliance Church. Program: Dr. Don Funk is our speaker. Meeting to follow.**

****Saturday, 18th Trail Work or Trail Ride Wally Becker @587-9607**

****Saturday, 25th Steak Ride: Spanish Creek trail head. 3p - \$10 pays for your steak, Bring a potluck, utensils, chair. We have invited the Saddle and Harness club to join us.**

****Board meeting's new location is in Dan Porter's office 1745 S. 19th, which is the new building on the west side of 19th just north of Stockman bank at the light at intersection of 19th & Kagy. It is 1.1 miles south of main Street.**

****Trail ride info from Jim Jones on Sat., 11th. "Sody and I will be happy to lead this Big Sky trail ride to Monument Meadows. Riders should meet at the Sage Creek Trailhead, on Highway 191, 15 miles South of Big Sky and be ready to leave the Trailhead at 10 AM. The Trailhead is a few hundred yards South of the Taylor Fork road and has lots of parking and turnaround room for trailers. We will ride about 1 1/2 miles west up Sage Creek and then turn south on the Big Springs Creek trail. About 1/2 mile up Big Spring Creek, we will leave the creek and climb Snowflake Ridge to the Meadows. The ride is about 10 miles roundtrip with an elevation gain of approximately 2,500 feet. The trail is in excellent shape with a very comfortable grade. We will have lunch at the top of the Meadows where you have fantastic panoramic views of the major peaks of the Madison and Gallatin Ranges. The majority of the ride is in tall timber with good shade for hot days. We should be back at the Trailhead around 3pm. This is one of the best (and least known) day rides in the Gallatin Canyon. Anyone wanting to go on the ride or wanting more information should call me at 690-9354."**

****Dr. Don Funk, human and equine chiropractor and club member will speak on rider fitness and will address issues of balance, coordination, core strength and flexibility, and emphasis on the rider as an athlete.**

****Saturday, 18th is up in the air. Members are tired of working at Sp. Pk. and depending on the heat, the fires, or gas prices Wally - 587.9607 - is open for suggestions. Call and give him your thoughts. He has some options he may use and will discuss them at the board meeting.**

****Saturday, 25th Our annual steak ride at the Spanish Creek trail head. Participants can ride anytime on any of the three trails. Be back for eats at 3p. The club buys and grills the steaks. You bring a potluck, utensils, and your chair. We need a headcount to reserve steaks which we will buy and the participants will pay \$10. The rest is potluck. We will plan to have steaks ready by 3pm. This is really a fun time and to make it more fun the Saddle and harness club is invited to join us. I will email a reminder.**

New members -

Joelle Beardsley

Susan DesJardinis

Sandy and Doug (and son Zackery) Kypfer

Lloyd Mandeville

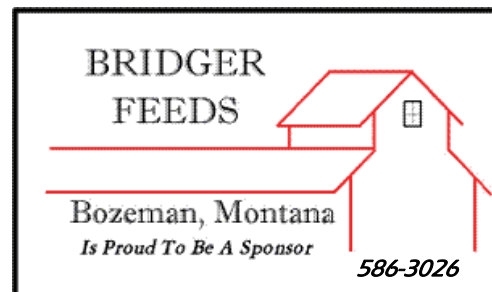
Jennifer Mohler

Steve Saunders

Duane and Jan Wiltse

GVBCH roster is now at 88 entries.

Extras of the most recent roster (7.25.07) will be at meetings.



Presidents Report August 2007

The twentieth annual Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen Poker Ride was a great success. There are way too many people that helped to thank in this letter, but I want to give a big thank you to Bob Steinman for accepting the role of chairman and a special thanks to Sherrie White his co-chair that went above and beyond the call of duty. I also want to thank Cathy Coleman, guest speaker at our regular meeting and the owner of Books off Broadway, who offered to run the Barbeque for us, donated a prize, got us a break on the John McIlhattan books, and she wasn't even a member! I also want to thank our flagging crew and Pop stop folks for doing a great job to make the ride a success. I'm sure Bob will have a proper thank you listing all of the people that helped and the wonderful sponsors in a future article. The final figures haven't come in yet but it was a good fund raiser with around 177 riders participating.

The trail crews continue to have a busy summer even with the triple digit temperatures we have been having lately. The Forest Fire danger continues to get worse so we need to get as many trails cleared as we can before the restrictions begin to affect our ability to work in the Forest. If you want to see what the trail crews have been up to, Kay Tate has not only been busy clearing trails, but she has been doing a great job of writing up the work the trail crews have been doing and sending it in to the newspaper. If you want to see Kay's write ups and color photographs of the work parties head to our web page at <http://gvbch.bchmt.org/Trails.htm>.

Jiffie Hale has been getting all of the materials together that Rich Inman got organized to send out to all of our new members. These packets contain a lot of useful information that back country horse users should all find very informative.

If you are able to help out at the Steak Ride please contact Dan Porter or Wally Becker and offer them your support. We will be having the steak ride at the Spanish Creek trail head on August 25th and we have invited the Gallatin Saddle and Harness club to join us. Please RSVP to Dan Porter so he can get a head count for the steaks.

I was contacted by the Gallatin Forest District to participate in meetings to work out the "Time Share" plan that was part of the compromise Becky Heath worked out instead of just closing trails to certain groups. I will have more information to present to you later after the groups have a few meetings. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how to share the trails please let me know.

I am still looking for a chairman for the Convention to be held in Bozeman in 2009. If you have any ideas of a location or know someone that could get a good deal on a convention center please let me know. If you don't want to be the chairman, but have an interest in helping out on the convention committee please let me know. You may remember this request from my last letter and you will probably keep seeing it until someone steps forward. This is a great spotlight for our chapter and community and if done right can be a terrific fund raiser for the club.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Marsh
President GVBCH



Tues, June 26 - Sage Creek work crew consisting of six intrepid fellow workers of Dick Haines, Colleen Carnine, Jane Huffine, Bonnie Hammer, Kay Tate & Ron Rassley who trailered to Taylor Fork and camped at the corrals with the lessee's permission and at the request of the Hebgen Lake District of the FS to use as a base camp to clear four trails. Rich Inman and Larry Thomas arrived and worked two days (Wed/Thurs) and Kari Swensen and her husband, Mark Albrecht, came from their cabin near Cinnamon and worked two days (Thurs/Fri). We had a great time! While we were away Bozeman and Belgrade hit 100 degrees. Needless to say it was much nicer up in

the mountains. We started with the Big Spring Trail on Tues afternoon and Colleen spotted a bear just 2 miles from camp to enliven our afternoon. A large tree had fallen and taken out the trail where we turned around and we didn't have a shovel to repair the hazard. A bear walked past camp in the evening. We rode 10 miles and cut 3 trees.

Wed, June 27 - Larry and Rich met us at the TH and we headed up Main Sage. The Lopper Ladies worked overtime and tree cutting started right at the Little Sage Jct. We were two groups of four and leap frogged to tremendous advantage cutting 65 trees & turning around at Sage Basin to complete an exhausting 26 mile day.

Thurs June 28 - Ron & Kay stayed in camp to rest his sore neck. The crew headed up Little Sage. They ate lunch in the shade prior to the big meadow at the end. Dick worried all morning about the cookies he had left in Colleen's saddle bags. 10 trees in 24 miles.

Fri June 29 - The crew had our usual 9am start meeting Kari and Mark at the TH. Dick's saw packed it in on the first tree near camp and 3 of us rode back to camp to get Ron's saw following the others up Slide Creek. LOTS of lopper work and when we caught up with them Bonnie & Colleen were busy cleaning pine needles out of their clothes. Someone had already been up Slide Creek, thank goodness, or we'd still be up there sawing away. Two separate blow downs, one of nine trees, and one ten. What a mess!! Kari and Mark brought us a Mud Pie from the Corral Bar that evening and what a fitting treat that was to end our week. 41 trees in 12 miles.



Sat June 30 - After a leisurely breakfast and camp patrol we helped Bonnie change the flat on her Blazer and headed home feeling great accomplishment and the added pounds from such good food.

Monday, 7.2.07 Indian Ridge. Twelve riders started the day with 3 pack horses and saws. Two miles into the day Dick Grover felt dizzy so he and Mike Gard headed back to the trailers. Ron Rassley, Ron White, Sherrie White, Bonnie Hammer, Dick Haines, Colleen Carnine., Jan Elpel, Larry Thomas, Wayne Fredericksen, and Kay Tate continued to the trail jct with Little Hell Roaring cutting 8 trees in the 10 mile day. Loppers Bonnie, Colleen and Wayne did a heck of a job clearing for heads and pannier.



Thursday, 7.5.07 Corbly Cr. Jim Nelson and Dick Grover rode about 12 miles up Corbly, across the top, and down Tom Reese Creek clearing 62 logs. Some big'uns and some widow makers. We left at 9:30 and got back at 5:00. Amazing what a couple old farts and two good dogs can get done! The B52 squadrons of horse flies were well protected by the fighter squadrons of black flies. Interestingly, the lead horse was pestered far more than the other horses so we changed leaders fairly often.

Monday, July 9—Little Hell Roaring out of Spanish Creek Trail Head - Ron, Rich, Sherrie, Ron W, Jane, Ruth, Wayne, Jim, and Bonnie cleared 5 miles of trail sawing 6 trees for total 10 miles. We got a little (ten minutes) late start as Bonnie and Wayne had a time mix up. It was beautiful vistas and not super hot. Almost to the top we found our last tree, Rich tied his riding horse to a tree and his mule was tied to his saddle. Well his horse pulled a little and the tree moved a little and panic hit, bridle snapped

and horse and mule headed home. Wayne followed a while and tried to get around in a meadow, but that panicked them so Wayne held back and then got off and walked awhile. Soon he came to a meadow and there they were grazing so he walked around them, caught them and lead them back to Rich who was walking down the trail. They both continued down to the parking lot nipping branches and digging water bars. About 2:00 they came out and then headed home. Meanwhile the Nipper Queen position was being usurped by Wayne and Sherrie. The rest of the group had lunch at the same spot (on top of the divide) as last Monday. They got back to the trail head about 2:30 and were treated to watermelon, Georgia Boiled peanuts and pretzels furnished by Bonnie Hammer, Colleen Carnine, and Sherrie White respectfully.

Thurs, July 19 - Hermit Creek Trail - Larry's trail crew of Larry, Wally, Kay , Ron, Wayne, Colleen, and Bonnie left the TH early and cleared the Hermit Creek Trail in the Spanish Peaks to Jerome Rock Lake and down Jerome Rock trail. (20 miles) Yea, the loop is finally completed!! The 3 loppers cleared the trail high and low, dismounting to widen the trail in places. Thanks. We cut 20 trees and worked an hour fixing a dangerous place full of roots, water, and rocks. We put in two water bars. Who'd think there was still water up there after these hot days! Thank you guys for making the trail safer. Colleen's horse, Bugs, threw a shoe so Colleen walked out 8 miles while Bonnie and others led Bugs. She'll be feeling THAT in two days!



Sat, July 21, Spanish Peaks Trail work day. The crew of 8 headed to the lakes - Wally, Larry, Chick, Dan P., Jim A., Brenda, and two friends of Kent Knatterud, whose names are unknown. They left TH at 10 and headed to the lakes – one tree down. Stopped for lunch. Chick and Larry walked their horses a couple of miles down trail – cleaned water bars, removed rocks, reset 2 water bars that were missing which they found and reset, and kicked stones. The others visited the lakes and rode around and cleared 2 dead fall trees, did some rock work and then caught up with Chick and Larry working their way back and all headed back to trail head arriving at 6p for a total of 18-19. They had pleasant weather.

Mon, July 23, North Cottonwood The hot weather and smoke continues and makes trail clearing tough. A crew of five - Bonnie, Wayne, Dick, Kay, and Ron cleared 4 miles of trail (8 mile ride) with two pack horses and chain saws. Someone had been through and cut the big trees so the saws only got fired up two times. Wayne and Kay cut lots of trees under 4" thick by hand saw however, and the nipper crew cleared the overhead pathway. Kay pitched rocks to improve the footing as this is a very rocky trail. Dick, Wayne and Bonnie worked on a portion of trail that needed support with trees and rocks for a side wall. Ron's horse lost a shoe so he walked out (a common occurrence on this trail.) The ice cold beer and Bonnie's cookies sure hit the spot after a hot day.

August Schedule for Bridger Crew - call 388-4415 for questions

Aug 6 - trail 522 - Elkhorn and Grouse Mt. call Ron for directions

Aug 13 - trail 523 - Horsethief MT call Ron for directions

Aug 19/20 - Brian's BBQ location to be determined

Aug 27 Make up day/special requests from FS

Sept 10 Trail 521 Hatfield MT - if Brian gets it OK'd - call Ron for directions

For sale —

Decker pack saddle and leather sided canvas panniers. Good condition \$400 **282-7166**

Pack mule – good looking and good mover – easy to be around \$1,500 **282-7166**

Looking —

for Western riding saddle **282-7166**

From Bob Steinman—

A sincere thank you for every club member who helped or participated in the 2007 Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen's 20th annual Poker Ride.

BCH 20th Annual Poker Ride at Bridger Bowl July 7th, *by Sherrie White, co-chair*

What is a Poker Ride? That was my question to poker chair Bob Steinman after volunteering to help earlier this spring. Certainly my inexperience didn't inspire much confidence, but he and other club members were willing to invest in my education and patiently explained the ins and outs of the event.

Across the nation and throughout the world, scores of people scheduled special events for the "luckiest day of the century - 07-07-07". Most folks who rode in the 20th annual poker ride felt lucky just to participate in the event. Everyone went home with fond memories and 90 lucky ducks went home with prizes donated by generous sponsors.

Sizzling record temperatures of 106 degrees the day before the poker ride may have scared some riders away. However, those who attended were rewarded with picture-perfect weather on Saturday. Most out of 177 participants (up from last year's 173 entries) chose the 8-mile route, though some opted for the 12-mile loop. Both routes were well marked, but that's a whole 'nother story (see Janice's story).

Thanks to the pop stop crews, plenty of water, watermelon and pop were ready for thirsty souls in need of refreshment. And, a hearty meal was waiting when riders returned from the trail. Cathy Coleman, food chair, and Jan Elpel's efforts were much appreciated by the hungry masses.

All in all it was a successful event with positive comments about the trail, the food, and the fun. The riders rode, the poop was scooped, and before the end of the day future plans were formulating for next year's event. It was a lucky day after all - in this part of the world.

As co-chair, I was impressed and relieved that so many people were willing to chip in to help where needed. The seasoned members offered guidance and weren't shy about jumping in to assist. Newer members stepped up to the plate as well. I think the club really shined that day and I felt lucky and proud to be a member of the group.

A hearty thank you to all who helped make this year's event a success. I very much appreciate your patience for one who definitely wasn't "in the know." I'm still a little dazed, but I know I have a better idea now of just what a poker ride is all about.



Alice marking the prize list



Top winner of the generator



Food being served



Registration

Flag the Poker Ride Trail or How to Get Lost, *by Janet Cartwright*

Flagging Day arrived this year amid temps in the 100s. Kay opted to ride out very early to pre-flag the trail and beat the heat. The rest of us could have joined her IF Janice (me) had an accurate list of all that were coming. Not happening. So...Janice and others (Jim Hamilton, Sherrie White, Ron White, Diane Fuhrman, Ron Laden, Deanne Hainsworth, Cameron Stoudt, Jan Elpel, Catherine Nelson, and one of Catherine and Jan's friends on a big white appy took off a few hours later to follow up and use up the miles of ribbon and flags that Janice deemed necessary to not lose any one along the way. (Catherine did ask if we REALLY needed to mark EVERY OTHER tree along the ENTIRE route.) Great idea but little did we know that WE would be the lost ones further on!

With so many helping, the flagging went quick and smoothly. We followed Kay's markers and broke for lunch and a cool down, so far so good. Diane and (white appy owner), feeling the heat of 103 degrees, took the SHORT 8 mile ride back to await our return at the parking lot. The rest of us continued on the 12 mile loop. After pop stop #3 the trouble began. Unbeknownst to us, our 8 mile duo missed the turn and continued marking down to Bohart's back gate. They went back & forth, unable to locate a turnoff so - they rode out through Bohart and down the highway to the trailers.

We were following them and their ribbons, thinking they were Kay's and also missing the turn off. We ended up going back & forth over the same 1/4 mile or so for awhile. Janice, having a dim recollection of the trail, in reverse from 2 years ago, chose to go "cross country" and try to reach the trailers. We did make it back (it wasn't necessarily pretty) and found Diane and appy owner watering their horses. When we told them how hot we were and that we wished we would have returned with them, they informed us that they had JUST GOTTEN BACK ALSO. Their short loop was longer than ours! All's well that ends well. Kay bailed Janice out by going back up early the next morning and remarking the turn and the last section of trail so that Janice and entourage could ride the early pre-ride and the guest riders could enjoy the scenery instead of the way we managed to get back. Thank you, Kay!

PS IF anyone saw some very white, seemingly topless, bodies running around in the Bridgers on said Friday, that would be Diane and appy owner. Seems that when they encountered the first creek in many miles of such heat, they stripped off their shirts and hit the stream. See what you miss by not volunteering?

On our pre-ride, we surprised 2 sleeping owls in a tree branch only a few feet over our heads. The one owl dropped down 5 or 6 feet and then flew up and away right next to us. The second owl actually hit the ground right at our feet and then managed to get airborne. Not sure who was more surprised, the owls or us BUT none of the horses even flinched!



Pre ride photos by Janice



GV BCH general meeting minutes 7.19.07

President Dan Marsh presiding

The meeting was called to order by Dan at 7:10p. The speaker, Professor Bret Olson, was introduced. Bret is with the MSU Animal and Range Science Dept and spoke on feeding horses, different grasses from different parts of the country, and the experimentation of different feeds and grasses on animals in this area.

The secretary was absent and no minutes of the June 21st meeting. The treasurer's report was given by Brenda Kessler.

The Poker Ride was successful with 177 riders attending. A 'thank you' was expressed to all those that helped out. Discussion was held on things we could do differently, as buying some knives, platters, and cutting boards for the pop stops. Also, have first aid box, along with communication radios from the FS. There were 91 prizes awarded. Thank you's will go out to prize givers. Bob recommended having 2 co-chairmen for the coming year.

Discussion was held on Charles Russel Ride. FS needs packers and pack animals for the Bob Marshall Wilderness. This may be on hold due to fires.

Membership: 87 entries. Jiffie has new member packets ready to go, but waiting for brochures on pepper spray and the Be Bear Aware.

Insty Print grant will be filled out and submitted.

Issues: changes in FS personal were noted. Nothing on the 'Right to Ride' bill.

The Belgrade Fall Festival Parade is Sept. 22. This will be placed in the newsletter and if you want to put together a member's group to ride, contact an officer.

Trail Crews: Larry Thomas reported that today a group of about 7 were at High Lakes, Jerome and Solitude – they cut 15-20 trees. Also the Spanish Creek Road will be oiled for 2 weeks starting July 23rd. If you are interested in what trails have been cleared go to the web site for the list.

The program for August will be Don Funk, member, who is a horse and people chiropractor.

The steak ride will be August 25. Contact Dan Porter for reservations. This event will be held in conjunction with the Gallatin Saddle and Harness Club. The charge is \$10 per person for your steak. Bring a potluck dish. Meal will be at 3pm at the Spanish Peaks Campground.

The State Convention will be in Bozeman for 2009. We are the host and we need a chairman or co-chairs and workers. If interested in helping, please contact Dan Marsh.

The next board meeting will be at our new location: Dan Porter's office located at 1745 South 19th next to Stockman Bank – which is at the light at Kagy and 19th.

Wally Becker announced there was a lot of bear sign on trails with many old logs overturned. There also was a sighting of a mountain lion in the area.

Larry Thomas will bring goodies for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Billie Thomas, proxy for Nancy Winget, sec.

Lecture on Horse Health, Care, and Nutrition - August 25th at Eagle Mount Equestrian Center

You are invited to attend and learn more about horse health, care, and nutrition. Mark your calendar for August 25th. Gabriele Sutton, world renowned Equine Naturopath, who is returning to Bozeman, will be lecturing from 9a -12 noon at Eagle Mount's Equestrian Center. There is a \$5 fee for this lecture with proceeds donated to Eagle Mount. Gabriele has designed programs for horses all over the U S, Canada, and Europe, working with the US Equestrian Team, World Equestrian Games competitors, Oldenburg Society. Her web site is

<http://www.kanimalservices.com/Equine-Health/bio.php>

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Lecture topics will include: Digestive Health - the cornerstone of Health & Performance; Understanding What, When, and How much to Feed; Understanding Feeds, Forage, Water, and Environmental Toxicity; Equine Supplements - What, When, How Much & Why; Understanding & Preventing Dysbiosis, Colic, Ulcers, & Malabsorption in your horse through nutrition; Identifying Metabolic Disorder in your horse and prevent Founder and Cushings Disease with Natural Botanical Therapy; Chronic Soundness Problems & Leg, Joint and Tendon Issues; Pain and Anti-inflammatory relief without use of NSAID's or Steroids.

There will be a consultation and horse analysis at 1pm. To reserve your consultation contact Duane or Jan Wiltse 586-3597 or duanewiltse@yahoo.com.

2007 Poker Ride at Pop Stop - photos by Bonnie



**GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSI-
NESSES AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2007 POKER RIDE.**

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

*Ag Depot
All West Veterinary
Ardesson Boots and Shoes
Dr. Phil Aumann
Big Sky RV
Books Off Broadway
Broadway Flying J Restaurant
Bozeman Saddle Outlet
Bridger Feeds
Chalet Market
Chalet Sports
Concrete Construction
Creskide Vet Hospital
DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service
Don Funke Divine Equine
Double Diamond Halters
Freeway Enterprises
Gourmet Gas Station
Greater Yellowstone Flyfisher
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*Health Works Institute
Kountry Korner Café
Lee & Dad's
Madison House
Main Street Over Easy
Montana Canvas
Montana Harvest
Montana Horse Sense
Montana Side Saddle
Murdoch's Ranch & Home
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Way Out West

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Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

P.O. Box 3232

Bozeman MT 59772-3232

