

THE PICKET LINE

JUNE 2007



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Dan Marsh 587-7578

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Secretary

Nanci Winget 582-5795

Treasurer

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Directors

2 yr

Jim Albright 995-4441

Janice Cartwright 579-3445

Rich Winget 582-5795

1 yr

Wally Becker 587-9607

Dan Porter 388-0290

Larry Thomas 586-6878

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Rich Inman 2 yr

Dan Marsh 1 yr

Alternate: Jan Elpel 1yr

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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 — Thursday, June 7th @ 7p

Belgrade Alliance Church ← **LOCATION CHANGE**

General Meeting — Thursday, June 21st @ 7p

Belgrade Alliance Church, Cameron & Hoffman

FINAL POKER RIDE MEETING

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JUNE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 2nd National Trails Day—Spanish Peaks Workday -10 am, Wally Becker, trail boss 587-9607 or Chick Hale 763-4105 for information about this annual event.

Thursday, June 7th - 7pm Board Meeting @ Belgrade Alliance Church ← Location change

Saturday, June 9th Head for the hills Poker Ride, contact Pat Green 285-6949

Saturday & Sunday, June 9-10 Horse Packing Clinic and Camping for dummies. Bob Steinman 282-7166

Saturday, June 16th Trail Ride—Hell Roaring - Larry Thomas, trail boss 586-6878

Thursday, June 21st - 7pm General Meeting-Belgrade Alliance Church No program-see below.

Saturday, June 23, 10a Trail Work Ride, Spanish Creek - 10am, Chick Hale, trail boss 763-4105

We will be finalizing our July 7th Poker Ride at our **General Meeting June 7th**. Chairpersons Bob Steinman/Sherrie & Ron White request that members please attend. Everyone needs to be involved to make this a success. This is our yearly fund raiser - plus it is a great ride. Our club is known for this event. The ride is beautiful, loads of prizes, good food, and good camaraderie. Kids love this ride and riders come from far and wide. **Needless to say, members are needed to help. Contact Bob Steinman 282-7166 and volunteer.**

Head for the Hills Poker Ride on June 9th. A beautiful ride and all proceeds go to the Eagle Mount aquatic facility. You should have received a flyer by email, but I'll send again.

Safety First, by Dave Moore of the Flathead BCH

The BCH of the Flathead adopted these guidelines in April '97 to follow during club events:

1. Project Leader should be aware of what communications are available and their location (radio, cell phone, etc.)
2. Project Leader should be aware of what first aid supplies are on hand and their location. They should also be aware of any first aid training or experience their crew members may have.
3. Project Leader should have a plan of action on how to get an injured person(s) to medical help.
4. For safety, at least two persons should be on a work project. This will also help to prevent body strain. Use of a chain saw will require two persons at all times.
5. Trail Work - Practice safety with axes, saws, shovels, etc. Always be alert of your surroundings, including behind you and overhead.
6. Vehicle and Trailer Safety on the road, in camp, and in work areas - When backing or parking, use lights or a guide when needed. Consider other vehicles, camps, and stock access when you park.
7. USING COMMON SENSE, COURTESY, SAFETY AND A SMILE WILL MAKE FOR A GOOD TIME FOR ALL!

Thanks to Rich Inman for suggesting that this article be included in our newsletter.

Presidents Report June 2007

As you know Dan Alderman had to step down as a director and I am pleased to announce that I asked Janice Cartwright if she would be willing to step in to the position and she graciously accepted.

We have started the trail clearing season early with our first Spanish Peaks clearing where we cleared the trail up to the Mirror Lake turn off. We were also asked by Brian McNeil if we could clear the New World Gulch trail because he had been getting a number of complaints from folks that there was a lot of blow down. A group of five got special permission to go in from Sourdough and another three of us went in from the New World Gulch side. We wore out three chainsaws and eight people, but we got the trail cleared.

Brian McNeil is hopefully going to work with us to provide some training for certifications to work on the trails. I sent an email out earlier asking for information on how many of you out there have any current certifications. So far I have heard from a few dozen and everybody is pretty much in the category of lapsed certifications. If you have not replied to me yet please contact me by phone or email and let me know if you have any certifications for First

Aid/CPR, Chainsaw, Crosscut, or Bear Spray. Thanks to Janice a majority of our members have taken the Horse Safety course.

The Poker Ride is starting to come together. If you know of any donors or if you can lend a hand with the Poker Ride in any way please contact Bob Steinman. We will be sending out an email shortly with job descriptions that have yet to be filled and a donor list of past contributors and the folks that had collected from them in the past.

I was away on business and missed the State delegate meeting in May. I want to thank Rich Inman for attending and letting those folks know where we stand on the issues.

The steak ride is coming up in August and I want to thank Dan Porter and Wally Becker for stepping forward to chair that event. If you can offer them any assistance I'm sure it would be appreciated.

I still need a chairman for the Convention to be held in Bozeman in 2009. Believe me it isn't too early to start planning. If you have an interest in helping out on the convention committee please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Marsh ,President GVBCH

MID-WEEK TRAIL CLEARING *by Chick Hale*

We have put together a summer program for clearing blow downs and cleaning water bars on our trails under the direction of the Forest Service.

With four leaders we would like to undertake four days of work per week as follows:

Monday - Rich Inman 388-1564

Tuesday - Wally Becker 587-9607

Wednesday - Chick Hale 763-4105

Thursday - Larry Thomas 586-6878

Call the leader for the day that suits you. Please call 2 to 3 days or more in advance of the work day. We have a list of 26 trails that the Forest Service would like us to open up for summer travel. The particular trail will be determined by its importance and ability of you folks. However, please note that Larry Thomas has agreed to work on wilderness trails and his work will require a hand saw.

Those interested in experiencing our trails in the Gallatin will find this an exciting opportunity to learn your mountains.

Saturday work on our adopted Spanish Creek Trail will occur as per our club schedule.

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Gallatin Valley BCH began Saturday, May 12th on their first day of trail work. We had our Spanish Creek work day and a very successful one at that. Members included Wally our trail boss, Chick Hale, Kay Tate, Brenda Kessler, Jim Albright, Larry Thomas, Dan Porter, Dave Andreassi, Mary Kay Flanagan, Dan Marsh, Jiffie Hale, and Rich Inman and 2 pack horses.

Rich started out on foot to do

water bars. A number of blow downs were cleared and water bars cleaned. Chick and I headed back to the trail head after lunch while the rest worked their way up to the junction and a bit beyond towards Mirror Lake. There were about 30 trees of various sizes removed and that crew stayed out till the job was done. They were tired; they worked their butts off!

On Tuesday, May 15th Larry started up Hell Roaring - North Fork - taking just a small saw and cleared blow downs to approximately 2 miles from Thompson Lake and stopped because of snow.

Then on Thursday, May 17th Larry and his crew of Wally, Kay, Ron Rassley and Ed Long (both past members) cleared many blow downs to nine mile bridge. They took one pack horse.

Big time again on Saturday May 19th when two crews, each with a pack horse, and from opposite ends, met in the middle. At one end Larry and his great-grand-daughter, Lexis Ward, Wally, Ron and Kay drove into the Sourdough trail to the cut-off trail to Mystic Lake and met the other crew of Dan Marsh, Brenda and Jim who left from New World Gulch end. Brenda counted 60 various sized trees they had cut. They met the other crew and worked about a mile on and then a bad thunderstorm struck. Each crew had to ride back to their respective trailheads and were they tired! It was a long day and a successful one. They did not quit till the whole trail was accomplished. They were tired, but felt good on their job well done.

Since then the weather has been uncooperative and everyone needed the rest. They were glad to have worked when the ground was not dried up.



Bridger Trail Crew June schedule - Mondays Meet 9:30 (rain Monday? plan for Tuesday)

Call 388-4415 with questions

June 4 #538 - South - Bridger Bowl parking lot;

June 11 #538 - Poker Ride trail - Brackett Creek Y

June 18 #504 - Bangtail - Stone Creek

June 25 #540 - Shafthouse to Fairy Lake - at Sedan turn left on Seitz Rd to Flathead Ranger Station TH

Red Bluff trail ride, by *Rich Inman, trail boss*

On Saturday, April 30th, 21 hardy souls braved the wind to go on the year's first trail ride at Red Bluff Sheep Experimental Station 31 miles west of Bozeman.

It was a beautiful day except for the wind which blew all day at 20+ mph.

After a very short briefing at the trailhead we headed up the lane between all the sheep and into the open country. Some of the horses got their first encounter with range maggots (sheep). I am sure that they thought the sheep were going to get them. But all made it safely passed.

About half way through the ride we stopped for lunch in the big aspen draw. It was a great time of getting to know each other and swapping stories.

After lunch we circled around the a big knob then headed down another draw to the water tank where all the horses could gas up. It was here at the water tank that we learned to appreciate the wind. There was almost no wind at the tank and the little face flies were busy.

All in all it was a good trip for conditioning soft horses and riders. My thanks to Larry Thomas for riding drag.



Wilsall Ranch Ride, by *Janice Cartwright, trail boss*



On Saturday, May 5th, we had a great turn out for our beginner/conditioning trail ride at Ron Laden's ranch at the base of the Crazy Mountains. 23 riders attended, even though the weather started out looking cold, wet and windy. Our luck held, the rain moved out and so did we. This was open riding with large vistas of the Bridger, Absorka (or is that Bear-tooths?) and the Crazy Mountain Ranges. We had a few water/boggy areas to cross, (Susan Waddel provided the entertainment at these spots.), some

hills to climb up and down, badger holes to avoid, stops for photo shoots and ranch gates to be opened and a resident yearling moose to watch.

Open ranch riding is different from trail riding because you do not have to stay in a single file line. This gave everyone a chance to ride beside different partners and socialize a bit. The horses socialized too, giving some a good opportunity to inform their horses that they were to remember their manners. Those on gaited horses or horses that just wanted to move out were able to do so in appropriate places. There were some good discussions on horse behavior and tack during the ride.



Afterwards, many of the riders stayed for a potluck cook out in the barnyard. Sitting around the campfire, eating s'mores and enjoying the aroma of Chick's pipe completed a good day.

Gallatin River Ranch ride, by *Nancy Winget*

On Sunday, May 27th Janice lead a group of 24 members on a "ranch ride" on Gallatin River Ranch. The ride was delayed as Janice and others helped rescue horses from a trailer that had partially overturned in a ditch. A reminder to all of

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us that driving horse trailers, regardless of size, takes skill and awareness. I am sure that the horses and owners are appreciative of those who volunteered to rescue the horses.



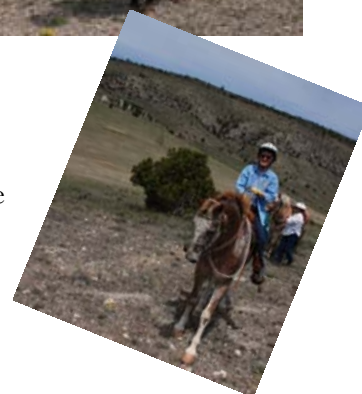
The ride was an easy, early season conditioning ride. Even the weather accommodated the group - the threatened rain storms held off until the ride was over and all were safely on their way home. Riders varied in skill from those that have ridden trails for years to some of us that are fairly inexperienced riders. Horses ranged from Wayne's new little three year old on her first ride outside the round pen, Chick's new 3 ½ yo, Pistol Pete, on his first trail ride, to Jiffie's been there done that 30 year old Appy. This ride was a great experience for all, and no, we didn't see any rattlesnakes!



We took a short break on top of one hill to enjoy views of the mountains and valley, adjust cinches and take pictures. Janice snapped one of everyone who was interested with the beautiful background.



Many of the riders had been on the Virginia City Poker Ride the day before, and I couldn't help but make comparisons to our ride when hearing their stories. Janice did a good job setting expectations before and after the ride. Members were considerate of others, and many offered suggestions and asked questions to make sure everyone was safe. Despite the variety and both horse and rider



skills, the group was cohesive and respectful of each other. After the ride, Rich and I learned from staff members at GRR that each rider must sign a waiver to ride on GRR property. Also as we discussed, if members want to use the arenas or other GRR facilities they must have a vaccination record for each horse. Live and learn - next time we will be better prepared.

Thank you, Janice, for being our trail boss, and thanks to all 24 members who put up with the bumpy ride through Manhattan to get to GRR and making the day a great one!

Photos by Sherrie White/Janice Cartwright

WE NEED HELP ... PLEASE

Chairpersons Bob Steinman and Ron and Sherrie White are in need of two people who would be willing to handle the luncheon for the Poker Ride. This job is not difficult — what is needed is a phone call to begin the order. Pick up the food, already prepared, and dish it out to participants. You don't have to set the table, cook, wash the dishes—we will throw them away. If interested in helping call Bob 282-7166 or the White's 582-8797

Thanks, we appreciate your help

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BCH Board Meeting, May 3, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President, Dan Marsh. In attendance were Dan Marsh, Jim Albright, Brenda Kessler, Chick and Jiffie Hale, Wally Becker, Dan Porter, Larry Thomas, Rich Inman, Janice Cartwright, Rich and Nancy Winget.

Minutes of the general meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

New Bills: Brenda reported the following bills that were approved for payment: \$62.24 to reimburse Jiffie - newsletter printing; \$39.00 - stamps; \$266.00 - Fairgrounds expense for clinic.

Correspondence:

Agri-Risk sent a bill due in June for annual insurance for amount of \$445.00. Board approved for payment. Dan will discuss the addition of parade insurance at the next General Meeting, specifically the Sweet Pea, Manhattan Potato Festival and the Belgrade Fall Festival parades.

PLWA sent notification that Senate Bill 78 was defeated.

Notification was received of trail rides in Pony and Rapelje.

Standing Committee Reports:

Membership: Jiffie distributed a new roster to include the 11 new members we gained this week! The Board determined that if a member is non-dues paying for over 1 year, when he/she rejoins is considered a new member for the sake of the contest. Rich Inman gave Jiffie additional New Member packets, she will distribute as needed.

Issues: Rich Inman will be attending the State convention this Saturday in Lincoln.

Publicity: Rich Inman reported for Maggie that her husband has been injured and she is unable to attend. She continues to refine the brochure. Trail Crews: Chick reported on his meeting with Brian at the Forest service. The following items were outcomes of the meeting:

*Chick will send Brian the updated roster

*Wally, Rich, Larry and Chick will serve as trail crew bosses. Each will lead a crew on a specific weekday of his choosing. Members will be asked to sign up for a crew at the next General Meeting. Each trail boss will choose a trail to "own". Brian will send the club a list of trails that he wants cleared.

Old Business:

Forest Service Trails: Dan and Rich I noted that each member who wishes to take part in trail maintenance must sign a Forest Service Volunteer Form. Forms will be provided at the next General Meeting.

Horse Safety Course: Janice reported that we received \$268 in donations to the club, which will cover the \$266 bill for using the Fairgrounds. We had 80 people in attendance, and all agreed that the clinic was a huge success. Janice moved and the board approved to add the clinic to our agenda as an annual membership drive event. Janice has 23 members signed up for the next trail ride.

Director position: President Dan Marsh appointed Janice Cartwright as a director to complete Dan Alderman's 2 year term. Janice accepted the appointment.

New Business:

June Equine Law Clinic: On June 2-3 a Equine Law Clinic will be conducted at the Fairgrounds, cost is \$150 per person. The Board approved a motion to sponsor Janice Cartwright to the Clinic. Janice is asked to report to the club on the clinic.

Poker Ride: Bob Steinman was not in attendance and Dan will follow up with him regarding status of the Ride committee. Dan gave Bob the book outlining times and issues to be addressed. Jiffie will contact Sherrie White to see if Bridger Bowl has been contacted and the

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date for the ride reserved.

Steak Ride: Dan and Wally reported as chairpersons. Jim and Brenda will go the evening of the Aug. 24th with a trailer to secure the spot.

Convention 2009: Robert is checking with hotels for rooms and meeting facilities.

IRS n-file: Dan Marsh received notification that beginning in 2009 non-profits must file with the IRS. Information was provided to Brenda.

Goodies for next meeting will be provided by the Wingets.

Meeting location: Rich I. Will check to see if the June board meeting can be held at the Belgrade Alliance Church

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted Nancy Winget, secretary

GVBCH General Meeting minutes 5/17/07

Prior to the meeting our club had their monthly program speaker, Cathy Coleman, owner of *Books Off Broadway* in Manhattan. She had brought and set up a nice selection of books, jewelry and other interesting selections of samples she sells in her store. There were approximately 26+ attendees for our program and meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Marsh at 7:45p

The April minutes were approved and accepted.

Treasurer's report by Brenda Kessler:

Opening balance as of 4.17.07		\$ 1,616.43
Cash receipts—dues	\$ 440.00	
Sabrina Hanan clinic proceeds	\$ 120.00	
Phil Aumann ad in May NL	\$ 10.00	
DHclinic donations	\$ 268.00	+\$ 838.00
Cash disbursements- May Newsletter	\$ 62.24	
Stamps—Postmaster	\$ 39.00	-\$ 101.24
<u>Ending balance as of 5.17.07</u>		<u>\$ 2,353.19</u>

Other assets:

CD current balance \$5,724.00

Franklin Templeton Investment \$2,117.43

Standing committee reports:

Membership, Issues, Publicity, Newsletter: no reports

Trail Crews: Chick reported on meeting with Rich, Larry and Wally to form the weekly work crews. Days are Mon (Rich); Tues (Wally); Wed (Chick; Thurs (Larry – Wilderness Area). Areas to be worked will be different each day. Sign up sheets were put out. An email will be sent to members. Kay Tate reported she is sending write-ups to the Chronicle of trails being worked and opened from blow-downs and she also mentioned that members are welcome to come join the Bridger crew as they work at the far north end of the Bridgers opening trails, and she

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states if they are not opened the FS will shut them down.

Programs: Sabrina reported on the upcoming programs for the year. July - MSU; Aug – Don Funke; Sept. - Kurt Alt

BCHMT State Delegate meeting at Lincoln: Rich reported no important issues. They did talk of drilling for oil in the North Bridger's; the BCH will be teaching *light on the land* to the boy scouts on their 100th BS Jamboree on July 15th and 16th; The delegates were asked if they wanted to join the Montana Trails Alliance and they voted not to join at this time.

Insurance: Our cost for our insurance will be about the same as last year - \$445

Equine Law and Liability: Janice Cartwright with Sabrina Hanan will attend the workshop on June 2-3 at the fairgrounds with the registration expense for one person to be paid by GV BCH.

2009 BCHMT convention: Our club will be sponsoring this convention. **WE NEED A CHAIRMAN.** It has been many years since our club last took on a convention and we need members to attend the 2008 convention in Great Falls. The Charlie Russell chapter is sponsoring. Try to plan to attend, learn, listen, and watch. It is a fun event, a learning experience. You will enjoy it and learn how we must put on our sponsoring for 2009.

John McIlhattan: John passed away peacefully in his sleep this month of Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS). He had been a director of our club. This disease prompted him to write his book, *"MONTANA – BORN LUCK, The story of a Montana Veterinarian, Buffalo Rancher, Backcountry Horseman, and Equine Teamster"* a beautiful story and pictorial display of his life. The club, in commemoration of John, made a motion and approved to purchase four of his books (\$100). It is planned to use these books as prizes in our Poker Ride. Cathy Coleman, *Books Off Broadway*, will also buy them for her shop. His books are on sale at Valley View Veterinarian Hospital, McIlhattan Rd.

The rest of the meeting was spent discussing our Poker Ride committee report.

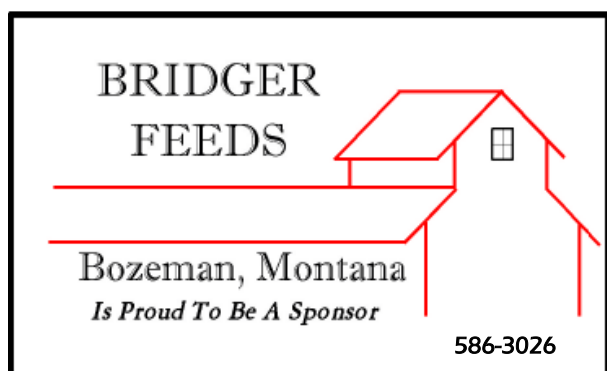
Next meeting goodies offered to be brought by Brenda. Meeting adjourned at 9:30p

Respectfully submitted by Jiffie Hale, proxy for Nancy Winget, sec.

ODDS and ENDS

Don Funke is looking for a 2-4 horse trailer 209-3585 (not too expensive)

Kay Tate has for sale 4 new 4'x14' cow panels @ \$10 each 587-2758



Your newest roster is inserted. Please check your name, address, phone number and especially your email address. Sometimes your handwriting is hard to decipher on your application. If you are sponsoring a new member, please advise them of this and please ask them to check their interests on the bottom and volunteer their expertise in whatever skill they may have. All members have something to contribute to our club in many aspects of their knowledge. We welcome new ideas and programs.

**GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEDED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2006 POKER RIDE. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL**

Ag Depot
All West Veterinary
Ardesson Boots and Shoes
Barrett Enterprises
Big Sky RV
Bozeman Saddle Outlet
Bridger Feeds
Century 21 – Dan Porter
Chalet Market
Cindy deBethizy Art
Coles’s Custom Saddles
Concrete Construction
DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service
Don Funke Divine Equine
Double Diamond Halters
Freeway Enterprises
Gourmet Gas Station
Huft Custom Leather
It Sew Happens

Kountry Korner Café
Lee & Dad’s
MacKenzie River
Madison House
Montana Canvas
Montana Harvest
Montana Mandolin Society
Murdoch’s Ranch & Home
Outfitters’s Pack Station
Owenhouse Ace Hardware
Precision Fence Systems
Quilting in the Country
R.O. Brooks and Carter’s Boots
Rocky Mountain Hat Compcny
Rocky Mountain Supply
Schnee’s Boots & Shoes
Shear West
Steele Halters
True Value Hardware – Belgrade

Your Friend’s Happiness – S. Hanan
Members::
Anonymous
Janice Cartwright
Reggie Clark
RJ Conti
Cindy deBethizy
Jan Elpel
Dick & Barbara Haines
Jiffie Hale
Bonnie Hammer
Laura Hanks
John & Joyelln Howell
Rich Inman
Beth Merrick
Jane Shields
Bob Steinman
Connie Wallace
George Zanck

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

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