

THE PICKET LINE

SEPTEMBER 2007



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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, September 6 @ 7pm

Dan Porter’s office, 1745 So. 19th

General Meeting - Thursday, September 20 @ 7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church, Cameron & Hoffman Sts

2007 Tevis Cup 100-Mile-One-Day-Endurance Race

Speakers: Drs. Gary and Jacy Cook, VMDs

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SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sunday, 2nd - Virginia City Poker Ride, benefit the fire department - no further information

Thursday, 6th - Board Meeting 7p Dan Porter's office, Bozeman Brokers Group, 1745 So. 19th

Saturday, 8th - Trail Ride - 10a Rams Horn Lake, Wally Becker, trail boss 587-9607 - Wally needs a ride for both him and his horse **or ride is canceled.**

Saturday, 15th - Trail Work Ride, 10a TBA Wally Becker, trail boss 587-9607

***Thursday, 20th** - General Meeting and Program 7p. Belgrade Alliance Church. Drs. Gary and Jacy Cook of All West Veterinary Hospital will speak on the 2007 Tevis Cup 100-Mile-One-Day-Endurance Ride. Information below.

***Saturday, 22nd** - Belgrade Fall Festival Parade, contact SammyLu Parsons 586-9030

***Saturday, 29th** - Wilsall Ranch Ride - Play Day, contact Janice Cartwright 579-3445

***September 20th** - Gary and Jacy Cook, DVM's of All West Veterinarian will speak on vetting horses before, during, and after this 2007-100-mile-one-day-endurance ride, an annual event in which they both have participated in the past - Gary for 25 years, Jacy for 6 years. Hear how some of these horses finish this hot rough ride and the obstacles both rider and horse endure on a date that always gets scheduled during the full moon in July.

***September 22nd** - The Belgrade Fall Festival parade begins at 10a . Participants must be at the parking area of the Peace Lutheran Church, Jackrabbit Lane at **8:30a** wearing white hat, white shirt, jeans, and the club's maroon vest (someone will be there with these vests-which you must return after the parade). The church parking lot is located on your left past the light after going straight across the intersection of Main & Jackrabbit. Contact SammyLu Parsons 586-9030

***Saturday, 29th** - Janice and Ron are inviting members to their Wilsall Ranch - an email will be sent later this month for more information and directions.

Pasture Management Class for Small Acreages

September 10- October 22 (no class Oct 8) Monday Nights 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Class fee: \$80 for 1 notebook & 2 seats! Class will meet at the Bozeman Public Library

Each class is limited to 15 people. Spots will fill quickly so enroll now!

To enroll contact: BCH member - Jennifer Mohler 388-5668 or jenmohler@hughes.net

(an email will be sent to members with all the information)

Ron and Sherrie White's new address: 16125 Brackett Creek Rd, Bozeman, MT 59715 406-686-9169

Jim Hamilton's email address change to bjhkatz@gmail.com

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President's Report for September 2007, by Dan Marsh, GVBCH

Where has the summer gone? Here it is hunting season already and I still have at least a half dozen summer projects that still need to be done.

Thanks to Dan Porter and his side kick Wally for organizing another terrific Steak Ride. The weather cooperated for a change and aside from a few horses that lost some shoes it went off without a hitch. I want to thank Bill Sowa and the Gallatin Saddle and Harness Club for joining us this year and bringing our head count at the Steak Ride to around 45 riders. Thanks to our earlier efforts on trail clearing, the trail was dry and clear all the way to Spanish Lakes. I will try to get some pictures of the ride posted on the web site before I head for the hills in search of upland birds.

The Bridger trail crew has done an excellent job of clearing all of their designated trails and is winding down for the year. I want to thank Kay Tate again for her articles she sent to the paper and Forest Service on the progress of the trail clearing. The Larry Thomas wilderness group had a tough go of it to get the wilderness trails cleared having to use crosscut saws (misery whips) instead of chain saws. Brian McNeil of the Forest Service has told me the higher ups are really clamping down on the safety regulations which now require the person running the chain saw to also have their CPR and First Aid certification. I had heard a rumor earlier about the new regulation, but I couldn't believe that the Forest Service would require the most likely person to get injured to be the one with the First Aid training! Brian is once again going to push for us to go from volunteer status to co-op contract instead. We would lose our ability to file a claim on their Workman's Compensation program and we would have to do our own safety training.

Sabrina has asked to be replaced as the program chair, but fortunately we only need to find someone for our November meeting. If you have a suggestion for a November program please contact me or Jiffie Hale with your idea.

I have been participating 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 have received a few comments from you on what you would be willing to compromise on to allow all of the groups to share the trails. Some have suggested alternating even and odd days where you would be able to ride on both days, but you may encounter bicycle and motorcycles on the trail if you chose to go when it is the other group's turn. There are two main issues that have surfaced so far including safety issues with bicycles coming down a trail too fast and silent, and the people that want to get away from noise. The first few meetings were spent just establishing the ground rules for the meetings. We have decided on a consensus decision which means all of the groups have to agree on the proposal before it is forwarded to the Forest Service. The meetings consist of six different groups that are represented consisting of hikers, stock users, bicyclists, land owners, motorcycle users, and the Forest Service. We have to work out a plan for all the users by Thanksgiving or the Forest Service will create their own plan. I have been joined at the meetings by Stacey Bragg and Rich Inman. If you have an interest in participating please let me know. So far the meetings have been on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00PM. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how to share the trails please let me know. For information on what trails are affected by this "Time Share" please visit our web page at <http://www.bchmt.org/GallatinForest/GallatinTravelPlanSummary.pdf> for a summary of the travel plan.

Another month has gone by and 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.

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Monday July 16, Clearing the new trail to Fairy Lake from Battleridge Campground. The new trail access, due to land exchange in the Bridgers, adds an hour each way to the Fairy Lake trail. The lopper crew is working itself out of a job for next year. Bonnie Hammer, Colleen Carnine, Wayne Frederickson, and Kay Tate worked their loppers all the way up and back clearing head room from horseback. We had three chain saws and pack horses and needed them all. Even Dick Grover's 20" chain was brought out of the pack and couldn't cut through one tree over the trail. He had to cut from both sides to get through. Ron Rassley and Dick Haines also brought chain saws. Horse holders and log throwers were Ruth Hall and Ron and Sherrie White. The crew worked as a team and had a late lunch at beautiful Fairy Lake. Watermelon was the highlight on our return to the trailers. 6 miles cleared, 10 people, total miles 12 on a hot (99) day.

(some of you readers have asked, "just what are loppers?" answer—people who trim branches along the trail.

Thursday Aug.2, Larry's crew of 8 left the Hell Roaring trail head at 8:30 with little to do until passing the 5 mile Y to Thompson Lake (due to having been working on that trail twice before). From there all the way to the lake was heavy going and LARGE trees to be sure. The picture I chose for illustration has the whole crew busily at work on a multiple fall, of which there were many. One crew of 4 was able to move a giant boulder 2 feet further to make room for horses and packs while the other crew of 4 was busy moving a huge tree from a hazard at a switchback. Of course the "loppers" did their usual yeoman job clearing the trail above and to the sides. Arriving at the lake at 3:45 Larry allowed us 1/2 hour to fish and the three that dove in had good luck; a fitting reward for such hard work. Dick Grover and Wayne Frederickson came back after seeing the lake and got caught in a hail/rain storm, getting soaked, but arriving safely back at the trailers after a slippery ride. The storm cloud followed them all the way out. The fishermen, Rich Inman, Kay Tate, Bonnie Hammer, Ron Rassley, Wally Becker & Larry Thomas lucked out and missed the storm entirely, arriving back at the TH at 7:00. 11 miles cleared--22 miles ridden



Sunday, August 5, Bridger trail 525 Sixteen Mile. Before sunny skies turned to a drippy day, the crew of Dick and Ron R, with pack horses, gate opener Wayne, with loppers Colleen, Jeff, Jane, Ron W and Sherrie worked on trail 525 (sixteen mile). Dick arrived early and set out on his own, clearing everything along the trail before the rest of the group met up with him for lunch. That left just a few lopping chores and one measly crumpled can for the rest of the crew to clean up. At the end of the day the group slurped up some watermelon, chips, beer, and soft drinks just before rain drops began to fall.

Monday, August 6 - Flathead, Trail 522 (Elkhorn and Grouse Mtn) A crew of 4 riders, 2 pack horses equipped with 2 GPS systems and 2 Forest Service maps had a tough time locating this seldom used and vaguely marked trail. Even with all the latest electronic gizmos and maps we had a tough time. The "trail" was difficult to find and the trail markings were few and far between. One rusty sign, estimated to be 70 years old, indicated that this was a "new" trail. Dick Grover and Ron Rassley with pack horses, and Sherrie (designated lopper for the day) and Ron White had zero trees to clear and minimal lopping. The group rode along a ridge, through meadows and had lunch near Grouse Mountain. After the ride, Joyce Grover and Kay Tate joined the crew for sweet and juicy watermelon, crab cocktail dip with crackers and Mike's Hard Lemonade and beer. Hmmm, hmmm, good. (16 miles--0 trees cut) (SW)

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Thursday, August 9, Blackmore trail 423: Larry Thomas, Wayne Frederickson, Wally Becker, Bonnie Hammer, Rich Inman and Jim Rohletter headed up South Cottonwood Trail about 9am. The trail was cool and only one tree was cut between the trail head and the cabin. BUT THEN, for the next three miles and about every 20 to 30 feet, there seemed to be a blow-down of 3 or more trees. We cut 51 more trees in three miles for three hours and by then it was 1pm and we had to quit using the chain saws. We ate lunch and turned around. We got out at 6pm and we were very tired people. The trail was almost overgrown with grass and there were so many blow-downs that the trail was not being used at all. (BH)



Thursday, August 16, Upper Bear Canyon: Larry's crew consisted of Rich, his friend Bob who worked on water bars, sawyers Larry, Ron, Dick H and Dick G, loppers, 7 horse holders, tossers Wayne, Bonnie, Kay and Colleen. Wally with teens showed up just after "the big mess" got cleared out.

We left the trailhead at 8 because we can only chain saw until 1pm with hoot owl in effect. With 4 sawyers leap frogging and keeping their heads down we completed the trail clearing at noon. There were at least 75 trees cut

and likely more than that. We lost count.

One group ate lunch at a pleasant lake and fished a little, the other went on to the ridge still looking for the ice cave for MSU. Even with Wally's expertise we could not find it. One of Wally's horses lost a shoe and was led out. Rich's horse used an easy boot for the day. Kay and Ron saw a black bear and one elk. (kt)

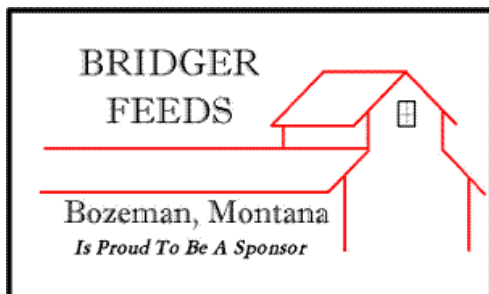


From Larry Thomas

"A note to some very dedicated Backcountry people who put in some very labor intensive days, not to mention marathon rides, I would like to express my admiration and appreciation to those of you who were there on 98% (and some 100%) of the Thursday trail days. I can't express my thanks enough."

Our August speaker was Don Funke. He gave a very informative and interesting presentation on how a rider can improve his "presence" on a horse. This "presence" encompasses 4 areas: strength, coordination, flexibility and balance. Through demonstrations on barrels (yes, the 55 gallon kind that he hauled into the meeting) and large balance balls, he showed the members how to improve all 4 areas. If the rider can improve core

strength, flexibility, coordination, and balance, it transfers to the horse for better communication and comfort for both. The horse is very aware of just how good the rider is in these 4 areas and appreciates any improvement on our part. Some problem areas were discussed specifically such as sore knees and hip flexor areas. Don is available to discuss specific problem areas with members. He is listed in the BCH roster.



MURPHY'S OTHER LAW

It is said that if you line up all the cars
in the world end to end,
Someone would be stupid enough
to try to pass them.

On Saturday, August 11th, Jim Jones led a spectacular ride - this is his report:—



"Twenty-two GVBCH members and guests enjoyed a beautiful ride to Monument Meadows in the Madison Range south of Big Sky. My wife, Sody, and I of Big Sky, led the ride which started at the Sage Creek Trailhead at 10 AM and we all returned there at 3 PM. The Trailhead easily handled the eleven trucks and trailers that showed up. The ride went up Sage Creek to the end of the Elkhorn Ranch property and then turned south up Big Springs Creek. We then left the creek and gradually climbed Snowflake Ridge to the large open meadows where the views of the high peaks of the



Madison and Gallatin Ranges provided nearly 360 degrees of fantastic views for the lunch break. From the meadows we had great views of Monument Mountain, Sage Peak, the Taylor Peaks, the Sphinx, Lone Mountain, Ramshorn and Fortress Mountain. ***Janice Cartwright was the official photographer*** and took advantage



of the beautiful day to take nearly 100 pictures. The weather was absolutely perfect and a nice breeze at lunch allowed everyone to eat and visit in the sunshine while the horses enjoyed the

shade and the absence of any flies or mosquitoes. Jim Albright and Brenda Kessler were the sweepers and had no problems as all 22 horses handled the ride and each other without problem. The ride must have been a success as the common statement at the end of the ride was "I made so many new horse friends today!"



See these beautiful pictures in color on our web site: www.bchmt.org



Our yearly steak ride was a huge success with 46 reservations and only 5 no-shows. Thanks go to Dan Porter and Wally Becker, who hauled our club trailer there to the spot, set up tables and chairs, bought and brought the steaks from Lee and Dad's, and cooked them to perfection using propane grills this year. Boy, those steaks were so huge it overflowed your plate. I could have made two meals from one steak, but then I'm considered stingy. Members rode all over the mountain from Spanish Lakes, DuBois Lake, Mirror Lake, Thompson Lake, 401 Trail, Little Hell Roaring, and a few like us who just

wandered up four miles to the second new bridge and back. The eight members of the Saddle and Harness Club



seemed to enjoy the event and we hope they will join us again. The day was gorgeous with a nice breeze which kept the bugs at bay for horse and rider. We began the feast at 3p - steak with a deli-

cious variety of pot lucks members donated - to a day that ended about 5p. Dan Porter says, "Thanks go to Wally for also hauling the trailer back home, Jim A for saving the camp spot and helping to unload and setup, all of the grill volunteers, Janice, Dan M, and George Z for helping to load up the trailer at end of the day and especially everyone who attended and had a nice time. Be sure to buy your steaks at Lee and Dad's IGA, Belgrade - they are D-licious." It was a long day for those who rode far, but found it worth their while. I believe the club gets better every year. (editor)

The DuBois Lake Trail Group of 13 riders made a successful loop on one of the Saturday's Steak Ride. The weather was great and the company was even better. DuBois Lake is pretty far up there, far enough to be considered "Nosebleed" country. This was evident with Janice's nosebleed that started when she began to lead the group down the steepest, rockiest part. You really have to trust your horse when ...continue next page...



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you are leaning forward, pinching the bridge of your nose for 15 minutes, and your face is covered with a rather bloody bandana so that you can not see. RC was up to the task and never hurried or missed a step. Susie and her horse, Daisy, successfully completed her first known series of water crossings. Bettye White brought along her fishing rod and was casting away when we departed from the lake. Bettye, did you catch anything? She arrived back at the trailhead at 5p and a bit late for food, but if

she got her fish she went home to cook it. Andrea and Michael Soheilly from Monaco added a European flare. Doc tolerated his BOA boot. To top it all off, we returned to some honking, delicious steaks and a visit with everyone at the end of the trail. Thanks to the chefs for some great grilling. (Janice C & pictures)



8.24.07 - Our Thursday ride at Brackett Creek, North Fork, was a success.

We took a nice, easy ride for 2 1/2 hours. Even though it was not a difficult ride we were able to practice some trail skills. This was the first time Jiffie had ridden her new horse, Sunny Nugget, with a larger group. Sandy Kypfer's horse was on his first trail ride. Amy Waring's horse did well with strange horses and a bigger crowd than she is used to. Diane Fuhrman's worked on convincing her horse that spacing was a good thing while on a trail. Of course, Chick and Pistol Pete had a perfect ride with Chick being our lone male rider tending to us gals. We all had the opportunity to practice going through rather large mud puddles, taking some boggy detours (since the road was being worked on with major water diversions), stepping across water instead of huge leaps, walking through a rather deep and large "muddy-puddle-pond," and lots of time to just talk with one another at a leisurely pace. A good day, a good ride...what more could a trail boss ask for?



By Janice & pictures

BCH Board Meeting August 3, 2007

In Attendance: Dan Marsh, Jiffie and Chick Hale, Dan Porter, Sheri and Ron White, Brenda Kessler, Jim Albright, Rich and Nancy Winget. Absent: Bob Steinman, Janice Cartwright, Wally Becker, Larry Thomas.

No board meeting was held in July.

New Bills: Dan Marsh: \$80 for McIlhatten books. Jiffie: \$41 postage for next month's newsletter, \$124.87 for this month's newsletter printing and mailing of new member packets. Nancy: \$19.95 for postage to mail thank you notes to Poker Ride Sponsors. Sherri: \$9.50 for poster printing to Speedy Prints, \$94.68 to Staples. Bills were approved for payment. Brenda will contact Lee & Dad's to discuss billing as no bill has been received. Sheri had receipts for \$181 for watermelon (and other?) and \$115.20 for soda. Rich Inman had set up an account with Lee & Dad's. We may have a bill from Cathy Coleman for supplies from Costco,, but has not been received.

Correspondence:

Dan Marsh received letter regarding the Gallatin National Forest proposed project listing for summer 2007. The listing may be found at www.FS.Fed.us.sopa.com Dan Marsh will attend a meeting this month regarding special trials on which the FS is working to implement Time Share. Members are invited to provide input/suggestions to Dan.

Standing Committee Reports:

Membership: Jiffie presented a new roster with updated information. She suggested two changes to the membership application. The first was the addition of "new" or "renewal" to the application (members who did not pay dues for 12 months or more would be considered a renewal). The second is to add the name of their sponsor. All agreed to the suggestions and Dan Marsh will revise the existing application on line.

Issues, Publicity: no report

The Belgrade parade is Sept. 22. Jiffie will contact Sammy Lou to see if she wants to chair a committee to ride.

Newsletter: Jiffie sent out 25 new member packets, for a total of 39 sent this year. She is getting good feedback from new members. She is out of trailer decals.

Trail Crews: Chick advised that creating four separate trail work groups has worked well. He suggested that the club consider trail improvement work in addition to maintenance work. He will submit a list of areas that need improvement and submit it to Dan Marsh. Dan will discuss with Forest Service.

Program: Jiffie reported for Sabrina. The speaker scheduled for September is unable to present. Jiffie has an alternate in mind and will contact him. She discussed this with Sabrina and she approved.

Old Business:

Poker Ride: Sherri prepared thank you letters to be mailed to all the sponsors. The board voted to sign Bob's name to the letters, and Nancy will mail on Friday. Sherri has updated the book with all the 2007 information. She gave the box of supplies to Dan Porter who will store in the trailer. Sherri and Rich Inman are working on a list of "things to do better" next year. We had 177 riders, making the ride the second largest!

New Business

Steak Ride: Dan Porter reported that he had received only 12 reservations for the ride from our club, and is waiting for a count from the Saddle and Harness. Jiffie volunteered to send out an e-mail on Friday reminding members of the ride, and setting a deadline of Aug. 18th to make reservations. After much discussion the board decided that if the location for the steak ride is closed due to fire, the ride will be postponed until Sept. or Oct. Dan will contact the FS to see if they foresee closure.

Convention 2009: We still need a chairperson. Robert Waddel has been out of town, so we have not had a report on his efforts to locate a host hotel. Brenda volunteered to make a list of possible locations.

Goodies next meeting: Brenda volunteered

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Winget, sec

General Meeting minutes - August 16, 2007

After a wonderful presentation by Dr. Don Funke, human and equine chiropractor, on balance and core strength for riders our meeting was brought to order at 7:50p by VP Bob Steinman, standing in for absent Pres. Dan Marsh.

Treasurer's report by Brenda Kessler:

The following bills were approved August 16, 2007:

Belgrade Newspaper (poker ride ad).....	\$41.00
Bozeman Newspaper (poker ride ad).....	73.85
Janice Cartwright (flags/ribbons for poker ride	31.86
Lee & Dad's. (food for Poker ride)	624.52
Ending bank balance August 16 3007 (before paying the above bills)	total \$771.23
	\$3,779.44

Summary Report for Poker Ride (subject to change if more bills come in)

Money deposited from Ride	\$3,197.00
Total Expenses for poker ride as of August 16	\$1,515.09
Profit from poker ride as of August 16	\$1,681.91

Correspondence, Membership, Publicity, Newsletter: No reports

Issues: Chick spoke on the county/Ted Turner short notice that the Spanish Peak road into the trailhead was not going to be blacktopped as planned. Chick noticed no outcry from the public from this stoppage, especially no mention from our club. VP Bob took a straw vote to pursue or not to pursue information on this subject. It was unanimously approved to pursue this and Bob requested that Chick investigate information and compose a letter to be brought to the board. Chick will follow up.

Bob mentioned mountain bikes and their groups and issues regarding the comparison of other states and their problems. Larry mentioned that many bikers have thanked the club for our trail maintenance and how polite bikers have been. Rich spoke on hikers/bikers and the "shared trails." The FS is sponsoring meetings on this subject. There was a long discussion on this issue.

Rich mentioned that out of 35 trails listed by the FS there are 3 trails left and that the Bridger Crew is almost finished for the year.

Dan Porter reported on the steak ride. He has 40 reservations which include the Saddle and Harness Club. Due to fire danger we will be using propane grills, which are allowed.

Janice is preparing weekly rides for August and will be announced via email.

Bettye announced information on the Belgrade Fall Festival and the parade. Information will be in the September issue. SammyLu is the coordinator.

Rich will not be available to lead his ride in September; Janice will fill it.

Janice will bring goodies for next month's meeting. Meeting adjourned 8:30.

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

GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES 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
Creekside Vet Hospital
DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service
Don Funke Divine Equine
Double Diamond Halters
Freeway Enterprises
Gourmet Gas Station
Greater Yellowstone Flyfisher
Hardaway Vet Clinic*

*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
Owenhouse Ace Hardware
Precision Fence Systems
Rocky Mountain Hat Compny
Rocky Mountain Supply
Second Self
Sportland Trailer
Steer In Trailer Sales
The Optimal Athletic
Three Forks Saddlery
Valley Trailer Sales*

Way Out West

*Members -
Andreassi Custom Homes
Care For You, Denise Aumann
Janice Cartwright
RJ Conti
Cindy deBethizy
Jan Elpel
Bonnie Hammer
Anna Holstrom
Laura Hanks
Rich Inman
Linda Kelly
Sandy McManus
Alice Pilgeron
Dan Porter
Tom Reed
Kay Tate
Ken Yankelevitz
George Zanck*

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