

The picket line

AUGUST 2008



Officers (1 yr)

<u>President</u>	
Dan Marsh	587.7578
<u>Vice President</u>	
Jim Allbright	995.4441
<u>Secretary</u>	
Amy Hathaway	282.6089
<u>Treasurer</u>	
Brenda Kessler	763.4241

Back Country 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.”

Directors

2 yr	
Stacy Bragg	222.0077
Dan Porter	388.0290
Larry Thomas	586.6878
1 yr	
Janice Cartwright	579.3445
Duane Wiltse	586.3597
Rich Winget	579.9866

Board Meeting - **Thursday, August 7 - 7p**

Dan Porter’s office 1745 So. 19th

General Meeting - **Thursday, August 21 - 7p**

Belgrade Alliance Church, Hoffman & Cameron Sts

Program

Larry Feight of High Country

will speak about electric fencing and more. See page 2

State Board Delegates

Jim Allbright	2 yr
Rich Inman - 388.1564	1 yr
Alternate: Stacy Bragg	1 yr

Newsletter Editor

Membership

Jiffie Hale	763.4105
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BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh	587.7578
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AUGUST 2008

August Events

August - 1st or 2nd weekend trail maintenance for overnighter into Big Brother/Jerome Rocks. Contact Trail Boss - Dan Porter 388-0290 dan@bozemanbrokers.com

Thursday, August 7, 7p - Board Meeting, Dan Porter's office, 1745 So. 19th

Saturday, August 16, 10a - Paradise Valley Ride. Trail Boss, Stacy Bragg 222-0077

Thursday, August 21, 7p - General Meeting and Program, Belgrade Alliance Church - Larry Feight on fencing. see info below

Saturday, August 23, 3p - Annual Steak Ride, Spanish Peaks Campground. **RSVP deadline Aug 7** to Dan Porter 388-0290 dan@bozemanbrokers.com Bring your potluck (salad or dessert), utensils, chairs, and your horse to ride before your eat. \$10 for your steak and potatoes.

Sunday, August 31, Virginia City Poker Ride (no info available)

Memberships, 1 new and 2 renewals - welcome all

Sandy Smith, 17850 Drycreek Road, Belgrade, Belgrade. MT 59714 (497-1443)
sandra.smith@Yahoo.com

Dan & Amy Alderman, 4187 East Gallatin, Belgrade, MT 59714 (388-9080)
Amy@AldermanRiverRanch.com

Joelle Beardsley, Box 160605, Big Sky. MT 59716 (995-4028) anceney@earthlink.net

Tom & Amanda Steele email change to ara_bird@yahoo.com **underscore between a_b

Trail Maintenance Schedule

Larry's Brigade

Larry does not have a scheduled schedule for August except for Thursdays and you must call him the night before or earlier at **586-6878**. He leaves the trailhead on **Thursdays @ 9am or before** as his crew works in the Wilderness areas and goes far. He plans on a "surprise" trail this month which may comprise 20 miles or maybe 8 miles one way. It is an unknown trail, known to him only, and he will not divulge any further information. You must plan to call him the day before if you intend to work.

Program information

Larry Feight of High Country has been designing fences for over 20 years and works as a consultant with the Fish and Game and the USFS for wildlife fencing. Got questions on your fencing? Come and get your answers.

Bridger Crew

Monday Clearing Schedule

Call Ron at 388-4415 for schedule corrections.

- 4 South Cottonwood - Tr 422
- 11 Fox Creek/History Rock -Tr 424
- 18 Mt. Blackmore - Tr 423
- 25 Porcupine

President's Report for August 2008

I missed the beginning of the presentation by Tim Bennett the bear specialist with the Forest Service in the Madison District. Going by the number of good questions from the audience it looked like everyone enjoyed the topic and may be better prepared if they encounter a bear in the back country. One good tip he brought up is that being on horseback is safer than being on the ground when meeting a bear which is good news to us stock users.

The trail crews have been really working hard to clear the blow down this summer. It took about three more trips than usual to get the trees cleared from the Spanish Lakes trail this year due to the number and size of the blow downs they encountered. The Bridger crew has had a tough go of it this year also with the Bridger trail for the poker ride alone having more than 83 trees to clear. We had a Bozeman Chronicle writer and photographer join us on one trail clearing project on the Spanish Lakes trail and they wrote up a fine article about the dedication of the Back Country Horsemen to clearing the trails. You can see a copy of the article on our web site at

<http://gvbch.bchmt.org/documents/spanishtrail.pdf>

and while you are looking take a gander at the trail reports and pictures from KayTate with help from Sherrie White and Janice Cartwright at

<http://gvbch.bchmt.org/Trails.htm>

Our parent organization the Back Country Horsemen of America as of June 30, 2008 is now a 501C-3 organization so any donations made to them are now tax deductible. Our chapter is also working on the paperwork to become a 501C-3 organization so donations to our chapter will also be tax deductible.

I want to especially thank Rich Inman and Sherrie White for the terrific job they did on the Poker Ride this year. I will let them thank all the other folks that helped make this year's Poker Ride the best one yet. We don't have all the bills in yet but we stand to make a tidy profit and everyone I talked to said they had a great time. The trails were well marked thanks to Janice and her

crew and we didn't have anyone getting lost this year. We had about 248 riders and a dozen or so more folks that hung around headquarters and just had the barbeque and spoke with our vendors. We will be discussing what we can do better and perhaps some new things to try at our board meeting on August 7th. If you have any suggestions please get them to me or one of the board members and we will bring it up at the meeting. We put a cut-off trail in this year and we believe at least a quarter of the people opted to take the shorter route. We couldn't have asked for better weather and the horse flies barely made an appearance. Once again we had over \$3,000 dollars in prizes to hand out so please stop by and thank all of the businesses that donated items and tell them how much you appreciate their support.

Be sure you let Dan Porter know if you are going to the Steak Ride this year. The price will be the same as last year - \$10 including a steak and potato. Dan always does a great job of finding mouth watering steaks that fill your plate. The Gallatin Saddle & Harness club will join us again this year so spend some time and mingle around and introduce yourself. I also want to thank Dan for agreeing to be the trail boss for the July 26th trail clearing at the Spanish Lakes trail. They will be concentrating on clearing water bars, doing some weed pulling and perhaps painting some feed bunks. This letter won't get to you in time to volunteer to help out but emails have been sent to members to get a crew together. Dan is also interested in finding out if you want to pack in overnight to Big Brother Lake on the first or second weekend of August. If you think that may be something you are interested in let Dan know so he can get a head count. With all of the things Dan has been volunteering for lately I'm starting to wonder if he didn't break his arm and they cast it in the raised position!

I also owe a special debt of gratitude to Jif-fie Hale for the terrific job she has been doing on the newsletter and keeping the club up-to-date by email on all of the rides and special events. Any help you can give her is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Marsh

AUGUST 2008

Board Meeting minutes 7/3/08

President Dan Marsh called the meeting to order a bit past 7p as the office door had been locked. In attendance were Jim, Brenda, Stacy, Wally, Dan P., Larry, Jiffie, Chick as proxy for Janice, Amy, and guest, Sonja Berg.

Minutes of the past board meeting were in the newsletter. Jim motioned; Larry 2nd; approved.

New Bills: Chronicle advertising was \$76.80; Staples for cartridge and labels \$44.98; and Insty Prints \$49.68. Dan P. motion to accept; Jim seconded; approved. The CD at Security Bank comes mature on July 5. After discussion, Dan P. motioned to roll the CD into a six month term, Jim seconded; approved.

Correspondence: The Appaloosa Horse Club Show scheduled for July 12th has been cancelled. The Forest Service Sponsored Volunteer Agreement for the year was received. Gas reimbursement is .505/mile if you are hauling stock. An email had been received in regards to chapter certification for chainsaw/crosscut trainers seeking information.

Issues: Gallatin proposals for connector trails is accepting public comment until July 18th. Information may be found on the Forest Service website.

Publicity: Stacy sent out invitations to have camera man at the Poker Ride. The Chronicle had photos from a recent Trail Clearing.

Trail Crews: There are lots of fallen trees this year. Will Shoutis, USFS, has asked for assistance if anyone is available to work on the Hell Roaring 9 mile bridge. Two trees have fallen creating holes. Cherry Creek has possible access problems and the over night trail maintenance may be cancelled if they are not worked out.

Old Business: Paperwork for change from Public to Mutual Benefit is still in progress. Dan and Jim are working on the 501C3 transition as well. Other clubs have gone through this procedure and are to provide assistance in the complicated paperwork.

The Steak Ride is August 23rd. The cost is \$10/person. Please let Dan Porter know if you are planning to attend. Deadline is August 7. The dinner will be at 3p following your ride. Steak and potatoes will be provided. Please bring a potluck of a salad or desert and provide your own beverage. Water and pop left from Poker Ride will be available.

The Summer 08 issue of Outside Bozeman has an article, "*Horsing Around*," has an interview with Rich Inman.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Hathaway, sec.

General Meeting Minutes, July 17, 2008

Following Tim Bennett's bear presentation, President Dan called the meeting to order. Board members in attendance were Pres. Dan, VP Jim, Treas. Brenda, Dan P, Rich I, Larry and Janice.

Minutes: Jim moved to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter; Chick seconded, approved.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda reported a checking account balance of \$5,431.68 with a \$4,771 profit from the Poker Ride. The CD has \$6,044.85 and the Franklin Templeton account remains at \$2,208.69. Bills paid included \$140.00 to Big John's; \$76.80 Chronicle advertising; \$143.25 for posters; \$94.67 for trailer supplies; \$69.00 Costco food supplies. Jim moved to ac-

cept; Chick seconded; approved.

Correspondence: There are many changes and reports rolling in on the trail information on the new travel plans for many areas including Johnson Canyon, Upper Shields River, Custer Forest, Rock Creek and Tom Miner area Section 16, and Bear Lakes. It was decided to respond to the Forest Service with a letter maintaining that the club supports horses remain allowed on all trails. See Dan for more information on any of these changes or areas.

Publicity: no report

Trail Crew: Larry is still making good progress and always welcomes more help.

Program: Janice reported that she has confirmed a program on backcountry fencing for horses for overnight stays as well as having Dennis from the Weed Control District come to speak about weed management.

Old Business: The Poker Ride was a big success and a recap including noting what went right and what might be improved on for next year. Sherrie welcomes input and encourages us all to give feedback and ideas.

New Business: Call ahead to Dan and confirm attendance for the steak ride on August 23. Cost is \$10/person and please bring a potluck dessert or salad to share. Deadline is August 7 to RSVP.

BCH's non-profit status is confirmed and donations are tax-deductible.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Steele, proxy for Amy Hathaway, sec

July Program, by Amanda Steele

USDA Wildlife Technician and bear expert Tim Bennett provided a very educational program on black and grizzly bears for the July 19th program. The Yellowstone and other Montana bear populations in the Yaak and Bob Marshall Wilderness areas are all doing well on population recovery which, along with increased human occupation and traffic in mountainous areas, has led to increased bear and human encounters. This situation puts bears at a high risk for problems and mortality since they can lose their fear of people and become habituated or worse, food conditioned to view humans as a food source. Bears entire lives are devoted to searching for food and that focus is what often leads to their conflicts with people. Bears, like people, are active in the mountains during the summer months. In the winter months, they are in a torpor hibernation which isn't fully understood by

scientists. All their body functions cease but they don't fully sleep. In January, the sows give birth to one or several cubs while she sleeps and for the rest of the winter the cubs nurse and grow next to their sleeping mother. In April the cubs will have grown from their less-than-a-pound birth weight to ten to fifteen pounds and the family will emerge from the den to feed on nearby food for the month until the cubs can travel. In June or July, the sow will mate and enter another mysterious part of the bear life cycle that isn't fully understood. At fertilization the zygote only barely starts and then stops development until the sow goes into hibernation, at which point it continues on to be a cub. Grizzly dens are usually high in the mountains, around 8000 feet. As soon as they wake they begin to seek green grass or winter kill at lower elevations. As the summer progressed they work their way up the mountain to the White Bark Pine tree habitat to eat the nuts of the cones, a

primary food source for them. During years that the White Bark Pine is not doing well bear encounters with people increase since they occupy the same areas as the bears search for other food at lower elevations. Signs that a bear is in the area include torn up logs and rocks, scratched trees, and of course tracks. The difference in the tracks between a grizzly and black bear is best learned by seeing pictures but in general, the grizzly track is a more horizontal track with claw points placed far from the point of the toe due to longer claws. A black bear track is more rounded with shorter claws in evidence. A grizzly bear's ears are small and rounded while a black bear's ears are large and triangular. Grizzlies have noticeably dished profiles while a black bear's profile is flat. Grizzlies have a pronounced hump whereas a black bear has a larger rump than front end, a difference noted as "humps and rumps". Color is not a reliable determination of species. It's important to learn to tell the difference between the bears because if you encounter one you should treat them differently. A black bear is likely to run away if you see and startle one; if it does not it is acting aggressively and confronting you. In that case you should make noises, appear as large as possible, and have bear spray ready as you scare it away. A grizzly in the same situation is not likely to leave and will expect you to act submissive, calm, avoid eye contact and move away at a respectful walk again with bear spray. If you're unlucky enough to be attacked, Tim recommends laying on your belly,

covering your neck with your hands, and playing dead unless the attack lasts longer than a minute or two at which point it is time to fight back, aiming for the eyes of the bear if possible. The best way to avoid an encounter is to be aware and educated. Pay attention to your surroundings and make some degree of noise to make bears aware. Riders on horseback are reasonably safe from bear encounters since the size and abnormality of the horse/rider combination make them intimidating to bears but it always pays to be cautious. It is imperative to be diligent with food or other bear temptations such as toiletries, animal feed, drinks, and game or carcasses. Each forest has specific regulations for their area but generally food must be hung ten feet high and four feet from surrounding trees on a game pole or secured in bear resistant panniers which are highly recommended and encouraged. Game carcasses must be half a mile from sleeping quarters and 200 yards from any part of a trail. Campers, horse trailers and vehicles are considered acceptable storage areas but a tent is not at all! Keeping encounters between humans and bears peaceful and non-food related will protect these unique animals as well as the people who share the mountains with them. Tim has a set of bear resistant panniers that he will loan out on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge or nearby areas as well as some hard packs for hikers to use. He encouraged us to call him with any questions or for advice. His office is in Ennis and he can be reached at 406-682-4253 or email timbennett@fs.fed.us.

June 30: Bridger Trails 538, 525, 551 and partial Bangtail Divide Trail 504, by Sherrie

Ron , Kay, Dick , Ron and Sherrie , Colleen , Lorraine , Dick , Jim and Tatum left from the Brackett Creek Y at 9 a.m. with 4 pack horses to ride the 538 trail. On the way in, Colleen and Lorraine had some difficulty in a boggy area and Colleen's horse suffered a minor injury, forcing them to abort the ride. The rest of the group rode in 4 miles south to Bridger Bowl, removing 2 trees before backtracking. The group then rode the 525 and 551 trails toward Ross Pass. A portion of the tribe stopped for lunch in a shady spot in a lower area. Dick Grover, Ron and Sherrie continued up and over the pass and had their lunch in the shadow of Ross Peak. On the way up they removed one tree and skirted around a couple of snowbanks.



July 3: Spanish Creek trail, by Kay

Due to some confusion over whether the job was a go Dan Marsh took the reins and 7 people arrived to work which started in the parking lot re-nailing a shoe on Dan's



pack horse. We got away from the parking lot and into trees just past the 2nd crossing. Jim, Brenda, Dan, Kay, Ron, Bonnie & Reggie cut 53 trees before pooping out at 3:00. Two hikers stopped to cut one tree giving the workers a welcome respite, a big thank you and besides they were cute. We got to the Mirror Lake Y by noon for lunch and afterward Reggie & Bonnie scouted the Mirror trail. There were 25 trees down and they could only go a mile before hitting snow drifts. Kay,



Ron & Dan worked on the approach at the 2nd crossing past Mirror and it is usable now. On the way out Dan had some load problems and Kay & Ron found two saws along the trail receiving a big thank you and a beer for their effort carrying them back to the TH. Reggie had trouble loading her horse, then we discovered a flat on Bonnie's trailer and changed to the spare. All in all it was quite a day.



July 7: Clearing Indian Ridge to the Wilderness Boundary Dick Haines, Mike Gard, Bonnie Hammer, Ron Rassley & Kay Tate had spectacular views and lots of work. It is a long hard pull with occasional trees down along the way until past Shepherder Spring when the forest decided to lay down in front of us. Again the guys walked ahead and Bonnie & I brought along the horses. By lunchtime we had cut 45 trees. Kay hiked down the cliff on Little Hell Roaring and found one tree making the trail impassable. Mike and Dick hiked down to it after lunch and after two cuts a thunderous crash signified the trail was now open. Ron headed for the trailer while we cut the last tree and as we came along we saw a moose following him. Again watermelon and beer wet our whistle after a hot dry day. (9 miles - 45 trees)

Thurs. July 10 Larry's crew consisted of Larry, Wally, Ron, Rich, Wayne, and Dick G. Mark left the TH with them but arthritis slowed his horse down and they never saw him again. Tim McWilliams bumped into them at one point as well and helped out. The guys cut up to deep snow within 1/2 mile of the lake, then came back down and went up Mirror cutting nearly to the lake there as well. What a day. No counter along so no numbers to offer. Not too bad they said. They saw a big buck with a doe on the way out and a big brown bear.

July 18, Shafthouse Trail 540 and Fairy Lake to Battleridge Trail 500, by Sherrie



This was 2-for-1 day (13 miles). Both trails had been scheduled for clearing in early to mid-June but were delayed due to heavy snow on the trail. With a bit of pre-planning, the group was able to cover both trails in one day. The crew started with the Shafthouse trail where a portion of the trail still had a big snow drift that we were able to get around, made a pitstop at Fairy Lake for lunch, and then continued on to Battle Ridge where they shuttled people back to pick up horse trailers. On the excursion were Ron Rassley with packhorse, Kay Tate, Dick Haines with packhorse, Bonnie Hammer, Ruth Hall, Larry Thomas, Ron White and Sherrie White. The first leg of the journey provided 5 trees down and a quick tour of the "shafthouse" for which the trail was named. The views from this high knob were well worth the price of admission. After a delightful lakeside lunch break, a total of 8 trees volunteered for removal on the second trail of the day. One cluster of 4 mid to large trees was a particularly nasty web of tangled trunks and branches. Sawyers approached it from both directions and met in the middle while busy "bees" swarmed about to toss debris from the mess. This challenge met, the trail was "treeless" the rest of the way back to Battle Ridge where

the group gathered in the shade and shared cool drinks, green grapes and warm conversation. And, Larry found a shovel along the trail. That turned out to be really handy, because Ruth and Sherrie used it to dig a grave for him when he suggested that the "ladies ought to hand feed him grapes" ala Nero of Rome. May he rest in peace.

Fro,m Janice Cartwright—During one of our recent “despooking/field rides” rides @ Horsecamp, we had quite a few agendas going on. Jim Hamilton brought Smoke and Pat Fritsche did some Parelli work with them. Chick and Pete worked on gaiting and gate work. Others used the various odds and ends scattered around the arena to desensitize their horses.



The ride ended with a nice trip out into the fields and some stream crossings. Well done, both horses and riders. Other sessions were held in the evening. JR (on her very large Percheron/Quarter Cross) joined Monica, Deeanne and myself in the arena and we played games on our horses. This is a fun way to desensitize, use all of your equine communication skills to complete the tasks/games and try to WIN! Once again, we finished in the fields for a relaxing end of our day. You are all invited to come and join us with these play days.

Well... On Thursday, July 3rd, all of our creek crossing practice at Horsecamp paid off. We hit the Spanish Creek Trail and were chest deep in water when crossing the creek right at the trailhead. Ken Yankelevitz, Catherine Nelson and Janice, with 2 of Dan Porter’s guests, braved the icy depths and survived. (I should mention that the entire trail crew had crossed this for a work day right before us and they probably didn’t even blink.) We had a pleasant lunch on the first bridge about 3 miles out and then came back home.



July 6th Poker Ride Trail Clearing Crew of Ron Rassley, Kay Tate, Wally Becker, Dan Porter, Dan Marsh, Jim Allbright, Brenda Kessler, Janice Cartwright, Catherine Nelson, Wally Becker, and Ron and Sherrie White had a dual purpose: to clear the poker ride trail and familiarize the flaggers with the route so they could easily flag the trail on Friday before the event.



Early in the day, the crew ran into snow and ice across a creek that blocked the poker trail. Working with a shovel and axe, some of the guys were able to clear a path while Janice threw snowballs and took photos. Above us in the south bowl were several skiers enjoying a mid-summer's day ski.

By noon, eight trees had been cleared and the troop stopped for a lunch break at the site of pop stop 2, taking a minute before eating to fashion a hitching rail out of a fallen tree. About this time, new members, Lori and Jim Einhaus (I have to confirm these names), happened upon us. They told us the trail they rode in on was hardly passable by horse due to a washout. So after lunch, Kay, Dan Marsh, Jim and Brenda Kessler headed toward the washout. The rest of the group continued on the poker trail and slightly beyond.

The crew of Ron Rassley, Wally Becker, Ron and Sherrie White, Janice Cartwright and Catherine Nelson, encountered 18 fallen trees and one cavernous pit and clump of tree root on the trail. The huge pit was positioned in such a way that riding through it was absolutely impossible and riding around it was out of the question. Since Dan Marsh had the other pack horse (and most of the tools), the group scratched their heads and tried to figure out how to fix this big hole and huge clump of tree root without tools. Individuals regressed to their caveman roots and fashioned primitive tools out of sharp sticks, rocks and tree stumps. They scratched in the dirt, rolled rocks down the steep hillside and eventually filled in the deep hole. McGiver would have been proud.

Meanwhile, Kay, Dan, Jim and Brenda successfully completed their quest to repair the washout and removed 5 more fallen trees. They returned to the parking lot to await the rest of their team.

About this time the "apeman" group was feeling pretty smug about their accomplishments as they neared pop stop 3 and got closer to the end of the trail. However, their visions of cold and frosty refreshments anytime soon were dashed when they happened upon a fallen tree, then another, and another; then piles of downed trees and more piles. With only one chainsaw, and running on fumes toward the end, the tired and weary cut through 48 more trees before completing their trek. Arriving at the trailhead at 7 p.m., it was Miller time, with cold juicy watermelon provided by Kay and Ron.

Today's scoreboard: 79 trees; 1 bottomless pit; 1 washout; 1 snow/ice passage. (Photos by Janice Cartwright, Kay Tate, Sherrie White)

2008 Poker Rode, a smashing success, by Sherrie White



The stars were perfectly aligned to create ideal conditions and the best turnout ever for our 2008 poker ride. Take a look at the numbers-



1 sunny blue-sky Montana day, **75** pleasant degrees, **0** flies - well, a few anyway, **84** trees cut on Monday, July 6, **249** people registered, **2** special trips into town for additional food supplies, **96** prizes awarded, **3000+** Dollars worth of prizes, **980** Dollars in the **50/50** drawing, **13+** dinner-only tickets sold so a total of at least **262** meals served.

Thurs., July 10 - Ya Gotta Bone To Pick?

Thursday's crew got creative while flagging. Kay, Janice, Pat Fritsche, Sherrie and Ron flagged a skeleton and added some fun signs along the route. During a rest break, cupcakes and candles were pulled out of saddlebags to celebrate July birthdays of crew members, Janice and Kay.



Fri., July 11: TGIF (thank goodness it's Friday). Friday's flagging crew of Janice, Anne Hainsworth, Monica Dorran, and Ron and Sherrie, completed the mission. DeAnne and Monica were our "slaves" for the day, effortlessly up and down off of their steeds and ably holding horses while the "older" folks constructed tripods and other gizmos. In one area a July snowman was built and flagged, but by the end of the day Saturday, "Frosty" was toasty. As the troops came off of the trail on Friday afternoon, volunteers were arriving and there was a flurry of activity as the tent was raised, the food wagon was prepared and the checklist was completed.

All we needed was a bright sunny day and poker riders.



Sat., July 12: THE POKER RIDE DAY

We got all that we wished for and more. We were blessed with a bright, sunny day. Horses a plenty, beaming smiles and laughter filled the parking lot. Trailer rigs ranged from “the rich and the famous” to “kicked apart cowboy.” A record number of riders excitedly prepared for their 2008 poker ride adventure.

Registration crew of Marianne Meyer, Bob and Sherry Coffin, Amanda Steele, Sandy McManus—headed by Bob Steinman—were set to



boogie by 8 a.m. Advance riders (Janice Cartwright, DeAnne Hainsworth, Monica Dorran, Amy Hathaway and Kathy Whitehouse) were off and running by 8:15.

Several displayers set up and dispensed information or sold merchandise: Gallatin County Weed District,



Performance Equine Transport and Montana Horse Sanctuary. Then “Montana Sweep Riders consisting of Rich Winget and Stacy Bragg followed the last entrants. Lisa Jacobson of



Montana Horse Sanctuary generously volunteered to act as the event vet and treated one horse for colic; she fielded questions from several other riders. And, she helped deflag on Sunday! Three pop stop crews:

Larry “Crash-Bang” Thomas, Ken Yankelevitz, Dan Porter, Pete Naclerio and Brown and



Sammylu Parsons had departed to their designated spots by 8:30. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Alice Pilgeram, Marianne Meyer and Jim Hamilton organized and



charted the prize winners. Dan Marsh, darted back and forth between town, restocking food supplies due to the huge crowd. And, he enjoyed a "Miller Moment."



Rich Inman, co-chair, pitched in wherever needed and made frenzied notes for next year. Food was ready when the first tired and hungry riders started trickling in and by 4 p.m. all riders had been fed and watered. The crowd waited eagerly to find out who had won the top prizes and who would split the 50/50 pot which had grown to nearly \$1,000.

POOP SCOOPERS (Chick Hale, Jim Hamilton, Rich Winget and Jim Allbright) completed cleanup tasks.



Rich Winget and Stacy Bragg swept the last entrants

Sun., July 13: BREW CREW (AKA: The Busch-Whackers)

Some of the de-flaggers enjoyed a cold one or two as flags were removed along the trail. The team of Amy and Allen Hathaway and Dan Porter, started at the end of the trail at 8a.m. and de-flagged to Pop Stop #2.

So, where do we got from here? Plans and ideas for next year are already being discussed. If you have any suggestions, please contact Sherrie White, 686-9169, sherrie@mexico-villas.com or Rich Inman, 388-1564 rmules04@yahoo.com.



And there is trash compacting!

Pictures by Sherrie, Stacy, Janice and Jiffie

GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2008 POKER RIDE - THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

Ag Depot
 All West Veterinary
 Ardesson Boots and Shoes
 Biggerstaff Construction
 Big Sky RV
 Bozeman Fence
 Bozeman Saddle Outlet
 Bridger Feeds
 Bumblebean Coffee Shop
 Bunkhouse Originals
 CBU
 C'est la Vie Salon
 Chalet Market
 Chalet Sports
 Concrete Construction
 DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service
 Dr. Phil Aumann
 Don Funke Divine Equine
 Double Diamond Halters
 Equine Solutions
 Four Corners Saddlery
 Freeway Enterprises
 Gallatin Valley Horse Resource

Gourmet Gas Station
 Greater Yellowstone Flyfisher
 Hardaway Vet Clinic
 Harrington's Pepsi Cola
 Insty Prints
 Kountry Korner Café
 Lee & Dad's
 Madison House
 Mail 'n More
 Mountain Magic Ranch
 Momma Mac's
 Montana Canvas
 MT Equine Medical and Surgical Center
 Montana Harvest
 Montana Horse Sense
 Murdoch's Ranch & Home
 Owenhouse Ace Hardware
 Paula's Pepper Jellies
 Rapid Tech
 Rocky Mountain Hat Compny
 Rocky Mountain Supply
 R O Brooks Custom Leather

Root 66 Salon
 Sandy McManus Jewelry Designs
 Second Self
 Steer In Trailer Sales
 This and That
 Three Forks Saddlery
 Tire World
 Way Out West
 Western Pines
Members
 Sonja Berg
 Janice Cartwright
 Jan Elpel
 Bob Furu
 Laura Hanks
 Bonnie Hammer
 Rich Inman
 Marianne Meyer
 Brown & SammyLu Parsons
 Alice Pilgeram
 Dan Porter
 Tom & Amanda Steele
 Ton & Sherrie White

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

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