

# THE PICKET LINE

SEPTEMBER 2008



**Officers (1 yr)**

**President**

Dan Marsh 587.7578

**Vice President**

Jim Allbright 995.4441

**Secretary**

Amy Hathaway 282.6089

**Treasurer**

Brenda Kessler 763.4241

**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

**State Board Delegates**

Jim Allbright 2 yr

Rich Inman - 388.1564 1yr

Alternate: Stacy Bragg 1yr

**Membership**

Marianne Meyer 388-2676

[mistymdwz@aol.com](mailto:mistymdwz@aol.com)

**Newsletter Editor**

Jiffie Hale 763.4105

Mobile 580.0774

[jiffy@bridgeband.com](mailto:jiffy@bridgeband.com)

**BCH Web Master**

Dan Marsh 587.7578

[dmarsh@montana.edu](mailto:dmarsh@montana.edu)

**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.”

**Board Meeting - Thursday, September 4 - 7p**

Dan Porter’s office 1745 So. 19th

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**General Meeting - Thursday, September 18 - 7p**

Belgrade Alliance Church, Hoffman & Cameron Sts

Program Speaker

Dennis Hengel

coordinator of the Gallatin County Weed District

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### September Events

**Thursday, Sept. 4, 7p** - Board Meeting, Dan Porter's office, 1745 So. 19th

**Wednesday, Sept, 10, 10a** - Trail Ride. Trail Boss, Rich Inman - 388-1564

**Saturday, Sept. 13,** - State Board Meeting

**Sunday, Sept. 14,** - Trail Ride at Mt Ellis, Trail Boss, Sandy Kypfer, 600-4737

**Thursday, Sept. 18, 7p** - General Meeting and Program, Belgrade Alliance Church - Dennis Hengel from The Gallatin County Weed Control - info below

**Saturday, Sept. 20,** - Trail Work Day was TBA in schedule of events - has been canceled .

**Saturday, Sept. 20,** Belgrade Fall Festival Parade. Info below -

#### **Program info, by Janice, program chair**

Dennis Hengel is the coordinator of the Gallatin County Weed District. He has been with them for 10 years. His program will include Weed Identification and Management of Noxious Weeds in the area. There will be displays and materials will be available to take home for future reference. Members are also invited to bring in samples of their own weeds for ID. During the Poker Ride, Dennis had his display available and there were many comments about how helpful, useful and interesting it was. We welcome him back for a more in-depth look into this growing problem for all land and horse owners. His phone is 582-3265 at the Gallatin Weed District 901 N. Black Bozeman, MT 59715

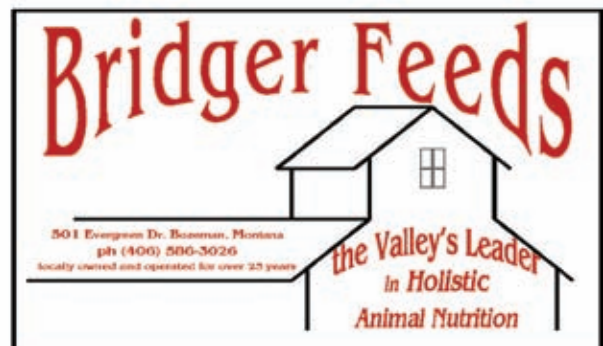
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#### **Belgrade Fall Festival Parade info**

Janice plans to participate in the Belgrade Parade on Sat., 20<sup>th</sup> under the banner of Montana Horse Sense and the GVBCH. The theme is "Honoring our Seniors- Citizens. It would be great if we could get a lot of seniors on horses. Her Mom will be participating on a float sitting on a rocking horse, if we can find one comfortable for her. Janice plans to have her Dad pulling the float driving an older tractor (Ron's idea). Chick, Bettye and SammyLu are on board to ride their horses. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact Janice 579-3445.

\*\*\*\*\***Please note editor's new email address** [jiffy@bridgeband.com](mailto:jiffy@bridgeband.com)

Welcome to our newest member  
**Julie Gavin, 175 Belle Cr. Rd.,  
 Belgrade, MT 59714 (581.2193)**  
[juliemayfly@earthlink.net](mailto:juliemayfly@earthlink.net)



## Presidents Report for September 2008

My men's 3.0 league tennis team won the regional championship in Missoula so I had to travel down to Salt Lake City to represent Montana in the sectional championship. The tournament started on Friday so I missed the general meeting and the steak ride which by all accounts seemed to be well attended and enjoyed by all. Nadal and Federer don't have to worry about losing there standings any time soon due to my level of play! I want to thank Jim Albright for taking over for me at the general meeting.

I want to thank Dan Porter for taking on the steak ride again this year. Dan had to put in overtime to try and find us a place to hold the steak ride due to the outbreak of anthrax on the Flying D ranch. The OK was given to open the road on the 18<sup>th</sup> but Dan decided to err on the side of caution and move the ride to another location. We were going to hold it at Bridger Bowl but they would require us to get insurance and we would have to rent portable toilets which would have cost the club a pretty penny. Dan decided to move the steak ride to Battle Ridge which eliminated both the insurance and toilet problem.

The trail clearing season is coming to a close and hunting season is right around the corner. I have to add the last few trail clearing rides to the web page but it has been a very productive trail clearing year. In past years the crews would run into maybe 20 or 30 trees down on a trail where this year the average was closer to 60 or 70. I want to thank Kay Tate for sending in the trail reports again this year from both of the crews. If you hauled pack stock to the trail clearing projects and want to be reimbursed for gas please get a form from the district office and submit it to Brian McNeil at the current rate of 50.5 cents per mile. I want to thank Larry Thomas and Ron Rassley for leading the weekday clearing crews and Dan Porter and Wally Becker for helping out on the weekend trail clearing trips. I also want to thank all of the people that helped with the crews this year and I would encourage anyone that would like to help

to contact any of these fine gentlemen and let them know you would like to help next year. It is hard work but you will have a lot of fun and a great feeling of accomplishment.

Janice Cartwright has been doing a great job of rounding up weekday rides so you can learn to be one with your horse. Janice has also been busy rounding up interesting programs for our general meetings. If you hear about an interesting speaker or presentation give Janice a call so she can set them up to present their information to the group.

Stacy Bragg led a few of us on a great ride into the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness on Charlie White Ridge on August 16<sup>th</sup>. For all of you that didn't show up you missed an awe inspiring view of every mountain range in the area. The sky was cloudless and the smoke from the fires had not shown up yet which lead to the spectacular views. It was a long trip to Jardine but well worth the trip. A more detailed account of the trip by Stacy will be in the newsletter. If you ever get a chance to go on a trail ride with Stacy in his backyard take it because it is like going on a tour bus with someone that knows every feature for miles around. JR that also attended the ride was also heading to the Salt Lake tennis tournament representing the Montana 2.5 Women's team. We were on top of the world looking at all of the mountain ranges when we found out we were both headed for Salt Lake.

The Beartooth chapter of the Back Country Horsemen has decided to be part of an appeal to the Forest Service's record of decision for the Custer national forest's Beartooth Travel management. The basis of the appeal is NEPA violations, not allowing enough non motorized access opportunities particularly in the Pryor's, failure to provide enforceable guidelines, and failure to minimize impacts on the resources. The full appeal can be found on the web at

[http://www.pryormountains.org/Custer\\_Beartooth\\_Appeal%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.pryormountains.org/Custer_Beartooth_Appeal%20FINAL.pdf).

Respectfully submitted, Dan Marsh



**Some July trail maintenance articles were omitted in last month's issue due to space limitations. Here they are -**

**Mon. July 28 North Cottonwood-Tom Reese Creek, by Kay**

Jim Nelson, Ron Rassley (sawyers) and Kay Tate, Wally Becker and Wayne Frederickson clearers left the North Cottonwood TH at 9a. We cleared trail all the way to Tom Reese Cr cutting 17 trees in 6 1/2 miles. Some of the trees were in difficult side hill locations. We had lunch at the head of Tom Reese Creek. Jim had the combination and permission to use locked gates (due to helping Warwood with cows) so we rode out Tom Reese Creek--a forest service trail lost to lack of access--sawing only when impassable (14 trees.) It was a special treat for all of us followed by refreshment at Jim's house while Karma took the guys back for the horse trailers.

**Thurs. July 31, Lick Creek/Wild Horse in the Hyalites, by Kay**



Larry had 9 on his crew today: Larry, Wally, Kay, Betty, Jim, Brenda, Wayne, Rich & Ron Rohletter. We left the Lick Creek TH at 9 using Rich's mule to pack equipment. The 3 miles to the turn onto Wild Horse was a four wheeler track with only minimal lopping being done. Boy then did we hit it. The first stop contained 12 trees of significant diameter and some real heft was used to remove them from the trail after sawing. The trail had seen little traffic due to the trees down on the switchbacks that made it really difficult to bypass. On hitting the road at the bottom of the switchbacks we turned south (right) and more

clearing ensued with Rich and Larry and Jim walking with the saw. There were so many trees there was no sense remounting. The road dead-ended at a creek and we lunched at an old hunting camp. It was a beautiful day and Larry's surprise was that we had just cleared 108 trees to get to his hunting area. The secret is out now, Larry. Maybe we'll get a steak out of it. Ha. After lunch Kay and Wayne headed back and lopped the trail safely clear and the advancing group cleared 100 more trees for a grand total of 200 trees up Wild Horse. The rest went up the ridge to the east for more beautiful views. All arrived safely back at the trailers within 15 minutes of each other where refreshments were served. 15 miles

**Mon., Aug. 4, Swan Cr. trail 186, by Kay**

This was new territory for most of the party that included Bonnie, Jane Huffine, Dick Grover, Jim Nelson, Kay, Ron, Ron and Sherrie White. Kay told tales of being on this trail 20 years ago and clamoring over a huge boulder with her horse. We were not excited about the prospect. But Happy Days—the boulder must have rolled off the mountain because we never encountered it. We did meet 50 trees that had thrown themselves across the trail and refused to leave on their own. They are gone now, as well as a number of other large specimens that had been removed by another crew prior to us



(we're suspecting CBU as many of the cut outs bore that monogram.) Kay and Sherrie lopped



their way in and out, a total of 20 miles; the lopping shears were still steaming when the group came off the trail at 5:45. Another day was done!

**Thurs., Aug 7, South Cottonwood Tr 422, by Kay**

The crew of Larry, Betty McCoy, Wally, Rich I, Wayne, Kay, Ron, Jim and Brenda left the TH at 9 to work their way as far as they could toward Mt. Blackmore. The forest service had cleared to the Fox Creek cabin so we marched right along, cutting only one tree and that was not far from the TH. From the cabin turnoff onward we kept our eyes open for the abominable snowman as he had been along there with an axe cutting even large trees to clear the trail. None wanted to meet him in a dark alley with his axe. It was a beautiful job. We lunched in the meadow where the trail forks to go into the basin below Alex Lowe Peak. That trail is faintly on the ground but still on the maps. We visited with two hikers camped at the upper meadow who were returning from the Blackmore Peak. We logged and Wayne and Kay lopped until 2:30 when all but Kay and Ron headed home (37 trees, some large ones that took a mighty effort). Larry's group had to cut one big one on the way out that had come down while we were up there. They got to the trailers just as the rain started. Kay and Ron went on to the top, hand sawing one more tree and counting 4 more that needed the chain saw. The trail to Hyalite Lake looked clear of snow from there. They headed off the pass to the music of thunder that turned into lightning, rain and hail. They luckily missed the hail, but saw the evidence on the way out. It was a pretty good gully washer as the numerous stream crossings were swift. no pictures as Kay forgot her camera -again.

**Hell Roaring Aug 8-9-10, by Kay**

Russ Westlake and Dick Grover cleared the Hell Roaring trail above the Y and about a mile up the Bear Basin trail before they ran out of energy Friday. A youth group had cleared all the small, low stuff so we just had the high stuff you could walk under, but not get a horse under to do plus two big trees we cleared around. The youth group said they had cleared the trail past Hell Roaring Lakes over to Deer Lake, but I would expect it to be for foot travel only. There are some big messes of blow downs on the Bear Basin trail above where we stopped. We spent Friday night at the Y and then took camp to Thompson Lake. Dan Porter, Wally Becker, and Don Drake joined us there Saturday afternoon. Dan & Don worked on the trail to Summit Lake Sunday improving the grade and installing rock water bars. Russ and I rode over to the junction with the trails to Bear Basin and Mirror Lake. Lots of snow on the Bear Basin trail that we could see. We survived the rain every day (3/4' in the pan Sunday morning), Saturday night's hail that was stacked around the tent in the morning, and we saw moose, bear, sheep, goats, and a fisher. A great trip in beautiful country.



**August 9-10, Hell Roaring overnigher, by Dan Porter**

The hell roaring overnight trail ride/campout was awesome! Five men rode in to Thompson lake..Dick Grover, Russell Westlake, Don Drake, Walt Becker, and myself with 5 saddle horses and 5 pack horses and a mule. Dick and Russell went in on Friday and did some clearing on the

main trail towards hell Roaring Lake, then camped at the fork to Thompson for the night and left trail signs the next morning to go to Thompson lake. Don, Wally, and I rode in on Saturday, surviving mud bogs and a hail storm. It rained on and off (mostly on) all day. We reached the lake around 3pm and got rained on again before nightfall. Stories were told around the campfire about outfitting and guided hunters and past sheep hunts in the area. Dick had brought a large tent which four of us took shelter in for the night.

A severe thunder storm crashed thru the peaks overnight for what seemed like hours, dumping rain and hail, and pulling up the tent stake on my corner. The tent didn't leak, but somehow rain ran under and we were a bit damp by morning. Sunday morning we awoke to pink skies and cool, crisp morning air. Dick caught and released several trout in the lake. While we ate breakfast, we watched bighorn rams sky lined on the ridge above us and later counted over 20 mountain goats. Don and I did some rock work on the pass to Summit Lake to make the flat rock spot a little safer.

Four of us rode out in the afternoon, but Don liked it so much and he decided to stay one more night with his horses, mule, goats, sheep and a curious mule deer doe for company. Cant wait to do it again! Shoulda bin thar!



#### **Mon Aug 11: Mt Blackmore/History Rock, by Kay**

A gorgeous day, not a cloud in the sky, saw Rich , Dick , Kay , Ron , Larry and Billie and Bonnie set forth on the Mt Blackmore trail from Hyalite Reservoir at 9:00. Kay and Ron were delayed with friends and heard Dick's saw merrily making chips as they climbed toward Blackmore Lake. After lunch at tree line all headed back (but Ron & Kay) and cut an additional 8 knee knockers on the way down. Ron & Kay headed over the pass and down South Cottonwood cutting the 4 trees left over from last week and then decided to circle out History Rock. There were only 2 big trees to remove on the way out thanks to the forest service crew, and last week's efforts of BCH. They reached the TH and rode cross country back to the lake parking lot where they enjoyed refreshments at a picnic table overlooking the lake. 16 miles - 25 trees total.

#### **Thurs Aug 14, Hell Roaring twd Bear Basin, by Kay**

The crew of Larry, Wally, Kay, Ron, Brenda and Jim hustled from the trailhead to get out before the string of Hart's dudes cluttered up the trail making passing difficult. The crossing of Hell Roaring Creek left of the first Y is difficult and will need waders, crowbars and horses to clear it up another time. All our horses struggled through the holes. Ron's Codi lost a shoe. The next obstacle was bees that sent Pancho and Harriet plunging forward in an awkward dance while Larry tried to gather up his reins. Kay got stung on the cheek and Jim's horse welted up pretty good from an aggressive bee. The bees were sleeping on our way back, thank good-



ness. We feel a bridge should be built at the end of the "9 mile bridge" over the mud and rocks caused by the two trees uprooted during the winter. We dismantled a bridge that was a hazard to horses and hikers alike from washout. Finally we arrived at the tree where Dick Grover and Russ Westlake had pooped out and with good reason - the trees up there are LARGE. The logistical planning that goes into hand removal of wilderness trees is extensive and a real waste of resources. At one point Larry with Pancho ( see picture bottom page 6) were called into assistance and did yeoman work. We stopped after cutting two big ones and around the bend were 3 more. We are finished with this trail (3 hours in to work site). It is too far to go and get something accomplished without camping out. (20 miles - 7 trees)

### **Mon Aug 11: Mt Blackmore/History Rock, by Kay**

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### **Thursday, August 21 - Jerome Rock Trail, by Bonnie**

Larry's Crew consisting of Larry, Brenda, Jim, Dick, Ron and Sherrie, Wally, Betty McCoy, Rich, and myself headed up the trail to Jerome Rock Lakes from Spanish Creek. At the Falls Creek Y, Rich, Wally, Brenda and Jim went up Falls Creek, the rest of the crew went on to Hermit Creek. Larry's group cut 9 trees and met Rich's group about a mile below the Jerome Lake Junction. Rich's group ran into the rest of the windfall that Larry has been working on for two previous

trips. They cut about 15 trees and were really pooped. Me, Sherrie and Ron stopped to pick a few huckleberries and branched off at the Lake to fish while they ate lunch... no luck. We rode out in intermittent, rain and hail and sleet storms that were not bad, but wet. The Jerome Rock Lake trail is FINALLY clear after three trips. It was 24 miles and 24 trees!

### **Annual August 2008 Steak Ride, by Janice and Dan P**

After two changes in our location, the 2008 steak ride took place at Battle Ridge Campground. This turned out to be an excellent choice because many riders in our club had not ridden on these trails.

Janice led 20 +/- riders across the road and out on forest service roads, logging roads, cow and deer trails, some mountain meadows with great views of the Bridger Range and the



Shields Valley and a little bit of "trust me off-trailing" where Jim A. had some trouble with my "trust me thing." We had lunch in one those moun-



tain meadows. When we returned to the trail head there were many members from the Saddle and Harness Club and some from the Appy Club and they all joined us for some of

Dan Porter's famous Steak and Potato dinner. Everyone sought out some shade and enjoyed the meal and the company. Good ride. Good day. Good company.





### Aug 16<sup>th</sup> Charley White Ridge Ride, by Stacy Bragg

The day began as one of the ultra clear days with no smoke - unlike years past. We had our 8 am leave time from Albertson's parking lot planned. Dan Marsh and I were sitting in the lot wondering who's coming this morning? That is when JR called and asked if it was too late to come and that JR and Becky were still on the other side of Bozeman and about 45 minutes away. So we waited for them. Dan and I rode up together on a scenic drive up Paradise Valley to Gardiner then up and past the reclaimed Mineral Hill mine at Jardine, up past the tailings pile in the distance and all the way up to Bear Cr trailhead. We looked at the variety of horses we had - Friesian x Percheron, Belgian x Quarter, Tennessee Walker, Tennessee x Paso, and a Morgan. Change it to the Heinz 57 ride. From there we headed up the trail over a stepped bridge. A couple of long walkways over bogs, a pond full of biting bugs, and one big washout beside the trail that had not changed in 10 years and past the fork to Knox Lake. From the junction it starts to climb a little faster leaving the lodge pole pines and into the high elevation pine trees that are sometimes twisted from the extreme winters and or deadfall from either drought or the Pine Bark beetle. We looked for goats on the cliffs beside us (none seen). We came out of the trees with cliffs in front of us and proceeded up to the Charley White pass to 9500' with a view of Ash Mt in front and Knox Pk behind us. We stopped and had lunch on the pass. Brandy (my horse) did her normal 50-yard circle of eating grass. I asked if everybody was ready for a little off trail riding. So everyone thought that sounded like fun so we headed north up the ridge through the tree line and up on the grass covered ridge from 50 to 150 yards wide scattered with a tree or two with either cliffs, snow banks, or grass covered hillsides off both sides - depending where you were. Once on top at nearly 9900' it offered views south to Yellowstone Park sightings such as Mammoth Terraces, Swan Lake Flats, and Mount Holmes. The very north end of the



Teton foothills can be sighted also. Swinging counter clockwise we could see the mountains just south of the east entrance alongside the Thorofare trail. Still swinging counter clockwise you see Republic Pass, Amphitheater Mt, south of Cooke City, and for famous landmarks Pilot and Index Pks. Then, Cutoff Mt just to the east of the Silvertip Ranch up Slough Creek with views of the Beartooth Mts, including the 12,799' Granite Pk, then Monument Pk at the end of Independence up Main Boulder. The highest peak in the Absaroka, Mt Cowen, was in full view with Elbow Lake sitting in its shadows. Note of interest is that a climber had to be airlifted out of there the next day due to an accident. From there we could see the Wineglass just sitting over Livingston and the Castle mountains in the far distance. Views of the Bridger's, back side of Emigrant Pike, the Gallatin range, and Sage ridge rounded out the 360 degree view. We headed off the side of the ridge back down into the sparse trees back down to the trail about 600 yards below the pass completing a 2.5 mile loop. The ride back down was uneventful. Once back at the truck we did all have to help JR with a little coaxing of her horse back into the trailer. I believe everybody had a great time. A quote from JR was that, "I did not know places like this existed." So I would say it was a successful trip.





### Montana Horse Sense Headline News, by Janice Cartwright

Chick Hale and Pistol Pete have joined the elite equestrian staff at Montana Horse Sense. Chick & Pete “interviewed” with Janice a few weeks ago by helping with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters event at Horsecamp. They returned, in their official capacity last Tuesday for a Kid Camp (anyone can come – we’re all kids at heart). Chick instructed Deeanne and Monica about Rocky Mounted Gaited Horses in the round pen while Janice taught some beginners in the arena. Then, Chick had his trail boss debut WITH KIDS when he took out 3 of the better riders into the fields around Horsecamp. My instructions were for Chick to bring the kids back safely and for the kids to bring Chick back safely also. It worked!

In all seriousness, I want to thank Chick for coming over and sharing his expertise, time and humor with us. The kids loved it and they loved Pete. Chick had a good time also. Chick’s comment, “I never even thought of seeing how Pete would react with others riding him, let alone the girls.” Pete gave a stellar performance and now Chick will be insufferable when talking about his horse. (He may be that already!)

Today, Tues. 8.26, is another camp day and Pat Fristche is coming with Sugar to join Chick and Pete. Pat has helped with quite a few MHS events this summer. Hopefully, Jim Hamilton and Smoke will make their appearance also. Janice supplies apples for bobbing and popsicles on hot days and hot dogs and marshmallows on cool ones. How can you resist joining us?

**Friday, Aug. 15th, we took a ride at Battle Ridge** Sammylu and I, along with 5 other guests/riders enjoyed the cooler day with blue skies and fluffy, white clouds. This ride was a request from some of the riders to be able to canter - so we did! Sammylu’s comment, “I haven’t cantered so much in YEARS!” as she held onto her hat in one hand and the reins in the other. We had lunch in a beautiful mountain meadow with striking views. We plan to take this ride a few more times before the season ends. It’s nice to start the ride AT THE TOP of the mountains instead of riding up and then down for most of the ride.

### Friday, Aug. 22, a group of riders and bees hit the South Cottonwood Trail.

Chick, Ken, Vi, Sammylu, Rebecca-new member-Taylor, Janice and 3 guests were present. One of the guests was on a “first-time-trail-ride” with her young horse. When we got to the narrow ledge section of the trail, Janet and Rebecca dismounted to lead their horses across. Rebecca was not sure how Cricket would carry herself across and did not wish to have an 1800 or so pound equine misstep with her aboard. Well, it seems that the place that Janice decided to stop enabled one of these riders to dismount and disturb a yellow jacket nest. Unbeknownst to the first section of riders that started across, the tail end had a bit of difficulty. When they did meet us at



the other side, it was reported that Janet and mount had some trouble with a pesky horsefly. Chick said, "Horsefly, my XXXXX! It was ground bees that we hit!" \*\*\*Chick's version at end of story. We then discussed how to handle this occurrence and how we would return through this particular section of trail. We continued onward and had lunch a few more miles in. Ken shared his Pack Trip experience with us. When we did return, we chose to go quietly and in small groups so as not to stir up that nest. Janice led and Sammylu generously offered to be right behind me (the first few usually escape unharmed, but the next batch of riders get hit hard when these nests are disturbed). We kept a close watch, but could not locate the buzzing creatures. Janice offered to be last and just race through if the nest was actively hunting revenge, but we did not have to resort to that method. It was a very pleasant, if not a bit chilly, ride. What a beautiful day in Big Sky Country!

\*\*\*Chick's version: I was following 2 of the gals who had stopped and gotten off their horses and that placed me and my horse, Pete, being attacked by a swarm of yellow jackets or ground bees. He took off so fast that I noticed his feet were not touching the ground and he had jerked the reins out of my hands. I was being rather certain he could not climb any of the trees on either side of us, but I knew he had the alternative to jump 2 people and 2 horses or come to a screeching halt. Not being a jumper, Pete stopped, pawed at his belly and fidgeted.

### **Beware of Bees, by jiffie and chick**

You and your group of riders are out riding in late summer and enjoying your ride and your surrounding scenery when all of a sudden your horse gets antsy – really antsy- and jumps, bucks, takes off, or all of these antics plus more. We have been there many times while out foxhunting in our day with a large field of riders. What you need to do—

\*\*Signal your group that bees are close by and holler loud and clear, "BEES, BEES,

MOVE ON QUICK, NOW!!! KEEP MOVING AND FAST! BE LOUD AND CLEAR AND EACH RIDER MUST LET THEIR FOLLOWER KNOW WHAT IS UP AHEAD. \*\*WHY? You may be in a group and on a trail where you are unable to turn around. Only those that are in the far-far rear can turn around – if that is possible and there is room to do so.

\*\*It is imperative that you get away from the bees immediately and fast—the bees are mad! The first of the group has disturbed them and are likely to not realize they disturbed the nest, BUT the followers are victims and will get caught. They are in the middle with their only escape being a fast forward letting their LEADERS know to move on quickly.

\*\*Bees will not go far from their nest. Therefore, going forward fast and getting away will end their attack. ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THOSE BEHIND YOU GET THE WORST. SO KEEP MOVING till the end riders are free from attack.

\*\*If you stop your horse you will cause any rider/horse behind you to be assaulted and it can be a disaster!!! But it can be avoided.

\*\*Never, under any circumstance, should you stop and/or dismount until you and your group are rid, or far from, the bees. The horse will let you know, even if he has been stung. You, too, will know.

\*\*This time of year, close to Fall, is the usual time for bees, which are usually ground bees.

### **My 5 days on a guided trip in YNP, by Ken Yankelevitz**

We were supposed to ride into the LAMAR valley, but the fire closed the backcountry camps. We were relocated to the northwest corner of the park. We started at the Speciman Creek trailhead about 22 miles before West Yellowstone on 191. The ride went up and down mountain peaks and thru valleys of meadows with lakes. There were 6 pack mules and 10 horses. It takes about 3 hours in the mornings to "break" camp, load the pack mules then catch and saddle the horses. Our

BCH rides are a lot more fun since you bring the horses to the trailheads already saddled and ready to go. After riding each day for about 5 hours we had to take off the packs and spend another 2-3 hours setting up camp.

The cook area was well organized. Shane, the outfitter, spends a lot of time before the trip getting everything together and it's very organized. I can appreciate what is involved in putting a trip like this together now that I've done it. It was worth the \$\$.

We had two retired Yellowstone Park rangers with us who told stories about their park experiences and history of the Park starting in 1870. John Loundsbury was a District Supervisor for 25 years and Dick Clark was a backcountry Ranger for 30 years. We had 4 ladies from different parts of the US and 6 men, counting Shane and Steven, our outfitters. We all had enough riding experience that no one held us up. There was one lady from Omaha, Nebraska who paid for the trip and showed up at the trailhead then backed out claiming she had diarrhea and thought it was not a good idea to go into the backcountry on a horse for 5 days and be sick with no easy rescue available. I think she made the right decision even though she was not going to get her \$\$ refunded and had planned this trip for 6 months.

Later at the Steak Ride, Janice got more info from Ken, "That extra horse, because the lady backed out, had to be ponied the entire trip, but the two rangers offered their services for this duty. I thought that Hell Roaring was good practice for the steep inclines and the rocky narrow descents." He also said he was glad he went, but he really likes it, "when I can ride my motorcycle to the trailhead and Janice just shows up with my horse ready to go. That 2-3 hours to break camp in the mornings and the same in the evenings was a bit too much like work!"

### **Da Bears, by Sherrie White**

Yellowstone was on our agenda for early August. We loaded Snickers and Willie and

stayed in Gardiner at a motel near the rodeo grounds. Horses can be kept at the rodeo grounds at no charge, but bring your own weed seed free hay, sign one of the waivers, clean up your horse poop and close the gates when you leave. We had hoped to see bears while we were in the park and we were not disappointed. We saw a black bear the first day and it was a good sighting. The bear was across the river on a hillside above us and we could watch it from a nice healthy distance. On the second day we were on a very steep and narrow trail that curved around the mountainside. I was leading on Snickers when all of a sudden I looked up and said, "Oh, my God!" There was a grizzly bear directly on the trail in front of us and he was coming toward us! We talked loudly and made noise, thinking it would go away. It didn't. Instead it continued toward us. We decided we had to turn around and get to a more level area and wait and see if it moved out of the way. It lingered alongside the trail and after about 10 minutes it was no longer visible. However, there were bushes and a curve in the trail so we couldn't be certain if it was there or not. Finally, Ron decided he'd ride Willie ahead and check it out. I watched as they rode along the trail until they got to where the trail curved around the hillside. I could see Willie was a little excited as they made the bend where Willie got even more excited. I don't blame him. He came face to face with a grizzly bear (well, within 100 feet anyway) and when Willie saw it - he made a leap (more of a pirouette) to turn on the narrow trail and came flying back to where I was waiting. We HAD to go on that trail to get back to our truck. The alternative was to turn around and catch another trail which would have added several hours. It was getting late. And, we wanted to warn the outfitter who we knew was coming this way with a string of inexperienced riders. We knew there could be a bad wreck if they met up with the bear on the steep mountain trail. So we waited to alert them. Finally, we saw the bear move up the hill and away from



where we were and from the outfitter's path. We were hoping that the bear we saw move away was the same bear we saw on the trail. We decided to forge on. The horses were understandably nervous as we passed the area where the bear had been and they could still smell it. As we passed that area, the trail went through a lot of huge boulders, big very scary berry bushes and finally came out on a very, very steep narrow area (think Hell Roaring switchbacks, but much higher and absolutely straight down). At least at Hell Roaring, if you took a tumble off of switchbacks, you have the peace of mind of knowing that you'll bounce a few times before hitting the bottom. On this trail, you'd just make a bit splat when you hit the bottom. We were literally walking along a cliff. Okay, that wasn't so bad, but we could see the road below us with teensy tiny little people, lots of parked cars and guys with big cameras. It was very distracting, because everyone was looking straight up and pointing. We knew they weren't pointing at us because they were already there when we emerged from the rocks/trees to that open area. So we knew that there was a major animal sighting and it was either directly ahead of us, directly below us or right above us. We just kept moving forward. Who wants to loiter on a cliff?

Fortunately, we encountered nothing more. When we got out on the flats, I could tell that Snickers, who had been quite calm, had some pent-up nerves. She was jumping and doing a double-take at every rock and sage brush all the way back to the truck. I thought it was pretty funny and I had to laugh at her (I hope she didn't feel bad about that).

We did survive the killer rocks and scary sage brush and loaded the horses. On our way out, there was still a huge pile up of cars and people with big cameras taking photos and looking up at the cliffs. We couldn't see anything because the area they were looking at was straight up and too high for us to see without getting out of the truck. We rolled the window down and asked what they were seeing. Big horn sheep. They were on the cliffs directly below us as we passed on horseback. I'm really happy they didn't hop up on the trail as we rode by because I think even Snickers and Willie would have freaked at that point. I know they smelled them and probably heard them as well when we rode by. No wonder Snickers was frazzled: a grizzly, the smell of big horn sheep and cliff top riding. It was a great ride; you should have been there!

### **Board Meeting 8/7/08**

Pres. Dan called the meeting to order. In attendance were Jim, Brenda, Stacy, Duane, Dan P., Larry, Rich I, Rich W, Janice, Amy and guests, Sonja Berg, Marianne Mayer, and Sherrie White, Jiffie and Chick.

Minutes of the past board meeting were in the newsletter. Jim motioned to accept and Rich I. 2<sup>nd</sup>; approved.

**New Bills:** Receipts are still being compiled for the Poker Ride bills. The deposit from the proceeds totaled \$4,371. Final figures will be given.

**Membership:** Jiffie is retiring from membership. Marianne Mayer has stepped up to help fill this position. Thank you, Marianne.

**Correspondence:** An email has been sent out requesting feedback on the layout of the new BCHA Newsletter. Please make comments as it has new editors.

**Issues:** Dan Marsh had sent letters for the Gallatin trail proposals; Anthrax is spreading on Turner's land, this has resulted in closure of the Spanish Creek Trail head; The Steak Ride may be rescheduled to a different location and trail maintenance will be announced as time goes; West Nile season is upon us.

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**Trail Crews:** Members have been receiving “Thank You”s from the public. Trail crew efforts are being recognized. As the Spanish Creek Trail head is currently inaccessible, please contact your crew leaders, as always, to find out trail destinations.

The money in our current CD account is ear marked for trail projects. Dan P. made a motion to get a project committee organized for creating specific projects, Amy seconded; approved. Rich Inman will chair the new committee and work off the existing list of maintenance issues that Kay Tate had provided, plus prioritize in other trails and projects. We look forward to watching this committee evolve.

**Programs:** The upcoming programs are on fencing issues. Future programs are yet to be scheduled. Janice has s many ideas and is open to suggestions.

**Old Business:** Paperwork for change from Public to Mutual Benefit has been sent. Dan and Jim are working on the 501C3 transition.

**New Business:** The Steak Ride is August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The cost is \$10/person, the current count is roughly 50 people. The dinner will be at 3p following the ride. Steak and potatoes will be provided, please bring a salad or desert and provide your own beverage. As the trailhead is currently closed, stay tuned to possible trail changes--perhaps, Bridger Bowl.

Big Brother overnight trail crews will be leaving from the Hell Roaring trailhead, August 9th. Dan Porter is trail boss for any interested parties.

The 50/50 prize was donated back to GVBCH to give to an organization of its choice. The prize amount was \$490.00. We have chosen Eagle Mount to be the recipient. Rich Inman made a motion to match the dollar amount from club funds, Larry seconded, after much discussion, Brenda made a motion to amend the dollar amount to adding \$10 to make an even \$500 donation; passed.

Janice rode with 12 people in the Sweet Pea Parade representing GVBCH and GalleP. If anybody would like to join in the upcoming Potato Festival or Belgrade Parades, please let Janice know.

**Poker Ride Recap:** Sherrie White has composed Thank You letters for donors. The letters were unanimously approved. Sherrie had notes for future suggestions on the next ride, including staggering registration times to alleviate congestion, major prizes may be offered under ticket sales, advertise the Poker Ride at the Safety Clinic, letters to riders that could be sent in May announcing Safety Clinic and Poker Ride events, internet site for Poker ride. Sherrie is getting this down to an art and her work is definitely appreciated.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Hathaway, sec.

### **General Meeting Minutes August 21, 2008**

Following Larry Feight’s electric fence program, Vice President, Jim Allbright, called the meeting to order. Board members in attendance were Jim Allbright, Brenda Kessler, Dan Porter, Rich Inman., Larry Thomas, Amy Hathaway.

**Minutes:** Dan Porter made a motion to accept minutes as printed in the newsletter; Brenda seconded; approved.

**Treasurer’s report:** Brenda Kessler reported a balance of \$5,282.03 in the checking; \$6,044.85 in CD; and \$2,215.94 in a Franklin Templeton money market account. Total account balances are \$13,542.82. No new bills presented.

**Correspondence:** One new membership for the month.

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**Membership:** Welcome to Julie Gavin our newest member. \*Marianne Mayer has taken over the membership workload from Jiffie. All members with a desire to be more active please step forward. It is a great way to get more knowledge of our organization and it truly is very satisfying.

**Issues:** The Beartooth chapter has appealed the Custer National Forest Records of Decision, due to the connection of trails to 4-wheeler trails. Gallatin National forest is revising its proposals to the Custer connecting trails.

**Trail Crews:** The crew today did 22 miles. (Aren't they amazing people?) Larry reported receiving appreciative statements from many trail users of late. \*Dan Porter's group had a successful overnight trip into Hell Roaring given varying degrees of weather. \*Trail maintenance is on for some Saturdays. Saturdays offer a great time for those unable to make the weekday maintenance a chance to learn and assist. It has been spoken, that it would be great to get more people working trails and that perhaps by adding more weekend crews next year, we can enlist new helpers.

**Program:** Weed Identification and management is on the program for next month.

**Old Business:** Brenda prepared a report for the Poker Ride Profits. Profits for 2008 were \$3034, as compared to 2007 being \$1742. Expenses for 2008 are \$1736, as compared to \$1554 for 2007. **Clearly a well managed profitable ride this year.**

\*Joe Phelps was the winner of the 50/50 drawing. He had asked the club to donate the money to a worthy cause. Eagle Mount will be receiving the \$490, plus an additional \$10 to round out the amount.

**New Business:** The Steak Ride is August 23<sup>rd</sup> at Battle Ridge. It was suggested by Dan P that we could move the ride back to the Peaks, but to avoid confusion the ride will remain in the Bridgers. Steaks will be at 3:00 pm. There are numerous choices of routes to ride. Janice will be leading a ride if anyone wishes to join up with her.

\*Belgrade Fall Festival Parade is September 20<sup>th</sup>. Betty and Chick are definitely interested in riding. The theme of the parade is *Salute to Seniors*. As Betty White has the application and Janice seems to have plans as well, Betty will contact Janice. If anyone is interested in riding in the parade, please let one of these ladies know.

\*The board members had voted on forming a new committee during the August board meeting. This committee is to designate specific projects of interest to take on and utilize some of the funds set aside by Volney Steele's donation. These are the funds currently being held in the Franklin Templeton Money Market account. Rich Inman and Jim Allbright have expressed interest in being part of this committee.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Hathaway, sec

### **Thunder Rolls...What to Do When You're Caught Out, by Reid Folsom**

Every horseman dreads the sound of thunder when out riding. Spring, summer and fall, storms can bring dangerous lightning, hail and flash floods. Most often there is little or no warning, except for the weatherman's "chance of afternoon storms."



There are many things you can do to lessen the risk to yourself and the horses when caught out in a storm. The first is to be aware of the building storm and take cover. If you are within 10 miles of the storm, you are at risk from lightning strikes, which can reach out that far from the storm's center.

If you are caught in the open and there is lightning, get off the high points quickly, but do not go into stream beds or low-lying areas. The lower one-third of sloping land or hills is best. Get off the horse. Tie the horse to a bush, not a tree, and move at least 50 feet away. Do not lie down, but squat, balancing on your feet. Curl into a ball and clasp your arms around your knees. After the storm has passed for 15 minutes, you can ride again.

If high winds are part of the storm, get off the high points and away from timber. Again, the lower one-third of sloping land or hills is safest. Get behind rocks or boulders, but not trees. Get inside a sturdy building, if possible.

If hail is a danger, get off the high point and seek overhead shelter. If there is no shelter, dismount and hold your horse. Worm your way into tall bushes and pull the horse with you, but do not get under trees. Leave the saddle on and, if something else is available, protect the horse's head. If nothing else, encourage your horse to lower his head to the ground. Keep your hat on and turn your back to the storm, just as horses do.

If there is heavy rain, rising water may be the risk, even if the storm is distant. Again, the lower one-third to one-half of slopes and hills are safest. Do not get

into streams, dry waterways, ditches or low ground. Stop, dismount and wait out the storm. Many accidents happen when people keep moving when it is wet and visibility is low.

If you are at an event and a storm comes up--and you cannot get into a building--put your horses in the trailer and put the ramp up. Be sure the safety chains are not touching the ground. Get in the tow vehicle. The important thing is to be sure no part of the tow vehicle or trailer is close to or touching the ground, including, chairs, lead ropes and buckets.

More riders are lost in local thunderstorms than in hurricanes or tornadoes. Plan ahead. Stay alert to the weather and take prompt action when a storm is coming.

One strike, you're out Death by lightning doesn't attract the nationwide attention of hurricanes, tornadoes and floods, and statistics for livestock deaths due to lightning are uncertain. Estimates vary, but it is certain that lightning kills.

Ground current is one reason horses and cattle are especially susceptible. Because they are four-footed, livestock are killed by "step voltage," which occurs when lightning's ground current radiates out from a struck object. While ground current only affects the feet and legs of a standing person, it is a common cause of death among horses and cattle whose vital organs are in the current path.

Lightning kills most horses in barns, often due to fire. The good news is that lightning rods can help prevent livestock deaths, not only in the barn, but also if they are installed near trees and troughs.

One of the hardest things in life to learn is  
which bridge to cross  
and which bridge to burn

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

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***Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen***

***P.O. Box 3232***

***Bozeman MT 59772-3232***

