GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN POB 3232, BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59772-3232

http://gvbch.bchmt.org

Officers (1 year)

<u>President</u>	
Dan Marsh	587.7578
Vice President	
Jim Allbright	995.4441
Secretary	
Amy Hathaway	282.6089
Treasurer	
Brenda Kessler	763 4241

Directors

<u>z years</u>	
Marianne Meyer	388.2676
Sandy Kypfer	600.4737
Rich Inman	388.1564
<u>1 year</u>	
Stacy Bragg	222.0077
Dan Porter	388.0290
Larry Thomas	586.6878

State Board Directors

Rich Inman	2 years
Jim Allbright	1 year
Alt: Stacy Bragg	1 year

Membership

Marianne Meyer 388.2676

Newsletter Editor Margaret Burns Vap 587.2390

Margaret Burns Vap 587.239

BCH Webmaster

Dan Marsh 587.7578 dmarsh@montana.edu

The Picket Line

September 2009

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 roadless 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 3 @ 7 pm**Dan Porter's Office, 1745 S. 19th

General Meeting – **Thursday, Sept 17 @ 7 pm**Belgrade Alliance Church
Program: Conditioning your Horse for Hunting

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September 2009 Schedule of Events

The Monday Crew is done for the summer unless something comes up.

The Wednesday trail crew has not defined a schedule for September so call Larry Thomas 586-6878 to find out what trail you will be working on.

- Virginia City Poker Ride Saturday, September 5th
- **Board Meeting** Thursday, September 3 @ 7 pm Special guest Steve Johnson of Big Sky with a new trail proposal.
- **Sage Creek Corral Project** Friday September 11th 7:00 am & Saturday September 12th call Larry Thomas if you can help 586-6878
- **General Meeting** Thursday, September 17 @ 7 pm Belgrade Alliance Church Program: "Conditioning your Horse for Hunting"
- Belgrade Fall Festival Saturday, September 19 contact Bettye White 586-2301



President's Report September 2009

Our Ice Cream Social was a great success on a hot August night and Janice would like to make it an annual event. We started the evening with another post Poker Ride wrap-up to go over comments and the notes from the other post wrap-up meeting before our board meeting. Then Joe Turner put on a horse training session where he went over doing a pre-ride check to make sure the horse doesn't have a bad hair day. Joe then covered how to keep the horse supple by bending his head to rein and bit pressure and giving him a reward by timing the pressure release. Joe then grabbed a foam pool toy and did a little de-spooking getting the horse used to the toy by being calm and rewarding the horse when he didn't avoid the contact. The general meeting followed around a roaring camp fire built by Janice.

I had put out a request for a board member to replace Bob and Susan who had to resign from their duties. Marianne kindly agreed to fill one of the positions and at our last board meeting both Rich Inman and Bob Steinman had said they were willing to fill the other board position. The board voted to elect Rich Inman as our board member which Rich accepted to take the open board member position. Thank your Marianne and Rich for filling in on the board and thank you Bob for throwing your hat in the ring.



The Steak Ride put on by Dan Porter at Battle Ridge was another successful event. We had worried about a low turnout as Dan didn't have a lot of folks signed up by the board meeting. By the time the general meeting rolled around we were up to about 50 people including the Gallatin Saddle and Harness Club. The steaks were fantastic and cooked to perfection by Chef Jim Albright. The steak, corn, and potato covered the entire plate which had a lot of people double plating to get at all of the wonderful salads and desserts. We couldn't have asked for better weather as it was just cloudy enough to keep the heat at bay but we managed to avoid the rain showers that surrounded the area.

I said I would let people know where they could view videos and a blog of the Gallatin interconnect challenge we participated in on July 23rd. Here is the link

http://www.interconnectchallenge.blogspot.com.

President's Report September 2009

After some minor bumps in the road such as finding some artifacts where we wanted to put the corrals the Sage Creek Project is on the move again. We have got price quotes on the materials and Rich and Larry are going to go out and re-stake where the corrals will be. As of this time it looks like the date has moved from August 17th to September 11th - 13th for needing volunteers to help with tamping posts and hauling the trees to be used for rails. The Forest Service will drill the holes and cuts the lodge pole for the rails and wants the club to help them on the 11th to tamp in the posts and haul the rails to the Sage Creek site. Please contact Rich or Larry if you are able to help on any of those days.

Catherine Nelson has done a great job filling in for Amy Hathaway as she has been tied up at work and can't make the meetings. We hope to have Amy back with us soon as her busy schedule should subside this Fall. Hunting season is right around the corner and the trail clearing season is drawing to a close. I want to thank all the trail crew volunteers for their countless hours in keeping our trails open for everyone to enjoy. While I am on the topic of volunteer hours, please be sure to let me know if you have spent time clearing trails or other volunteer work outside of the Monday and Wednesday crews so I can send it in at the end of the year to be added to the rest of the volunteer time for the Back Country Horsemen of Montana organization.



Respectfully submitted, Dan Marsh President GVBCH

Steak Ride Skv

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen Board Meeting August 5, 2009

In attendance were Dan Marsh, Dan Porter, Larry Thomas, Wally Becker, Rich Inman, Brenda Kessler, Marianne Meyer, Sandy Kypher, Jim Allbright, Catherine Nelson, Stacy Bragg, and Sonya Berg.

Minutes for the July 2nd meeting were accepted as posted in the newsletter by a motion from Jim Albright seconded by Stacy Bragg motion carried.

New bills were presented to Brenda from several members. Insty Prints did not send Dan a bill for the June newsletter. He will call them. The Board agreed to buy the two tents used for the Poker Ride from Rich Inman a motion was made from Larry Thomas and seconded by Jim Albright and approved. Stacy will give us an estimate for a set of poles for the cook shack. New bills consisted of \$46.84 Insty Prints, \$19.10 postage, \$57.75 Mini Nickel add, \$50.40 Enterprise, \$1030.99 Lee & Dad's, \$100 Big John's, \$109.51 Sherrie White, and \$250 Rich Inman for his tent and cook shack. A motion was made to accept the bills as presented by Jim Albright and seconded by Stacy Bragg motion carried.

Membership: Marianne reported a total of 70 members.

Issues:

- One case of West Nile Virus has been reported July 20 in a north west county of MT.
- Federal Bill H.R.1018 rescinded an earlier bill which had allowed the use of "slaughter" as a means of controlling mustangs. This bill has been approved in the House of Rep. and will go to the Senate next for approval.
- Jon Tester's S.1470 Forest Jobs and Recreation Act Bill is being reviewed by the Senate Finance Committee.

Trail Crews: Both Larry and Rich reported on their recent trail crew activities. Larry received a new list of trails but it is the same list as Kay Tate's. The building of four corrals in Sage Creek has been approved by the Forest Service. Larry said we are to buy the posts, bolts, and gates and the Forest service will dig the holes for the posts. Help is needed on this project to load the 40 posts and to do other tasks. Rich and Larry asked Marianne for estimates of certain items needed for the corrals which will each be 24 feet by 24 feet size units. Work will not begin until around August 17th and possibly later depending on the schedule of the Forest Service. The one problem will be a lack of water at the site this year. The forest service plans to dig a well for next year. Bonnie Hammer has a detailed list of all the supplies that will be needed. All of the rails will need to be "peeled."

Program: For the August general meeting, Janice has invited everyone to her place to see the new white coverall arena. Members are invited to come at 6:30 pm for a root beer float and the general meeting will begin at 7. Joe Turner will be demonstrating how to work with several different horse problems. Janice does not yet have a program for September.

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen Board Meeting August 5, 2009

Old Business: No update on the 501C-3 paperwork. Rich has been trying to contact John Chepulis to get their chapters paperwork. The Post-Poker Ride Meeting was held at 6 pm same location prior to the board meeting. Sherrie White's notes were reviewed and recommendations were made by the board.

New Business:

- Bob Steinman and Rich Inman both volunteered to fill in as the vacant board member. Rich Inman was voted on by the Board to be the new board member. He will complete the remaining term of one year and three months.
- Sage Creek Project: See above under "Trail Crews."
- Sweet Pea Parade August 8th. Our chapter will not be in the parade. It is too late to apply and no one was interested. Gallep will participate with one of our members Sandy Kypfer who has agreed to ride with one of our vests.
- Manhatten Potato Festival Aug. 15th. Again no one was interested in participating.
- Steak Ride Aug. 22 at Battle Ridge. Thus far eleven people have signed up. The deadline for reservations is August 16. The Gallatin Saddle and Harness club is planning to come as a group and they will contact Dan Porter by August 17th with the number of attendees.
- Big Brother Lake Ride on August 29th will be led by Dan Porter and it is a one day ride.

2010 Convention at the Holiday Inn, March 19-21:

- Amy Hathaway submitted notes to Dan who presented them to the board members.
- A theme is needed for the convention.
- A list of food will need to be selected and given to the Holiday Inn.
- An auctioneer is needed and Bill Metzger has already agreed to do the work.
- Possible names of men to lead the Sunday Church Service are: Clark Mueller, Orville Riley, or Don Funk.
- A group will be selected to do the flag presentation, e.g. boy scouts, veterans group, ROTC.
- A photo judging coordinator will be needed for the audio visual contest. Donations will be needed. Mt. Equine has already agreed to make a donation.

2010 Convention continued:

- Donations will be needed. Mt. Equine has already agreed to make a donation.
- The raffle prizes and raffle tickets should be ready by December for the state meeting.
- Recommendations for workshop speakers are: Dr. Al Flint on management, Kevin Fry on Grizzley bears. Other speakers are needed too.

By previous agreement, Amy Hathaway will take over from Catherine Nelson as secretary beginning in September. Catherine will serve as a "back-up" to Amy.

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen General Meeting Minutes August 20, 2009

Held at Janice Cartwright's horsecamp on Harper Puckett Road

Ice Cream Social: The meeting began with an ice cream social to celebrate the completion of a large white fabric covered riding arena for the horses and riders.

Program: Joe Turner club member and local horse trainer did a horse training demonstration on doing a pre-ride safety check, getting a horse to be supple and bend an eye to the rider, and de-spooking with a foam pool toy for the first hour.

General Meeting: Dan began the general meeting at 8 pm with everyone gathered around a roaring campfire.

Welcome and Guests: New members and guests were welcomed to the evening's activities. Mark Blomstrom was a guest for the early part of the evening and may join the chapter. New members attending were Brenda & Swep Davis, Andrea Soheily, and Margaret Burns Vap, who is responsible for the monthly newsletters. Margaret spoke to the group about getting articles and information to her as early as possible for each newsletter and she received a lot of positive feedback on the quality of her work.

July Minutes: A motion was made by Jim Albright and seconded by Janice Cartwright to accept the minutes of the July meeting as posted in the July newsletter were accepted.

Treasurer: Brenda Kessler reported that a total of \$10,082.92 was in the GVBCH checking account. Two new advertising bills in the newspapers for the Poker Ride had arrived: one for \$43 from the Belgrade News, and \$185.28 from the Chronicle. A motion was made by Jim Albright and seconded by Dan Porter to accept the treasurer's report was passed. A motion to pay the new bills was made by Janice and seconded by Jim and was passed. Thus far bills from the Poker Ride have totaled \$2,078.75.

New legislative bills: Rich Inman reported that the Montana BCH have written a letter of support for any new wilderness proposal such as Jon Tester's bill S.1470, Forest Jobs and Recreation Act. The first case of West Nile virus has been reported in Mt in July this year. The Wild free-Roaming Horse bill, H.R. 1018, has passed the House of Representatives in Congress. This bill would prohibit the BLM from killing wild horses and would instead, find more land for them.

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen General Meeting Minutes (continued) August 20, 2009

Correspondence: Letters have been received about the Poker Ride.

Membership: Marianne Meyer reported a total of 73 members currently in our chapter.

Trail Crews: Larry Thomas described the Wednesday crew's activities in Swan Creek. In the next few weeks, plans are to work on Squaw creek, trails in the Elkhorn's, and Twin Cabins trails. Members were invited to help out and if someone is interested in coming, be sure to call on Tuesday to check in with Larry. Kay Tate is the crew leader for the Monday trail crew and people can call her on Sunday to sign up and get more information. The members were cautioned not to bring a horse that was out of shape from a lack of exercise.

Program: Janice has spoken with Lance at Murdock's to develop a program for the September General Meeting on "Conditioning Your Horse for Hunting."

Poker Ride Wrap-Up: The Board met an hour early on August 6 prior to the regular board meeting to discuss comments, suggestions, and possible revisions for next year's Poker Ride. Sherrie White's Post Poker Ride E-mail comments were discussed and reviewed by the board members. Dan met with Sherrie White, Marianne Meyer, and Sandy McManus prior to the General Meeting to review the Board's comments with her. Sherrie could not stay for the general meeting.

Gallatin County Interconnect Challenge: Dan Porter, Wally Becker, and Dan Marsh rode on the this ride on July 23rd. They found that not all trails to be used were actually open. The Wednesday crew led by Rich Inman had to clear Wheeler Gulch before the event in order for the riders to get to their rendezvous point. The original trail defined in the plan had to be rerouted to accommodate the motorized portion of the leg. Dan Marsh will include the link to the Internconnect Challenge in the August newsletter for all the members to look at for more information on the event.

Steak Ride at Battle Ridge Campground August 22: Dan Porter has been contacted by 15 individuals who are planning to come and he has bought five extra steaks for people who might yet contact him. The steak dinner will begin at 4 pm.

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen General Meeting Minutes (continued) August 20, 2009

Sage Creek Corrals: Rich Inman talked about the most recent communication he has had with the Forest Service and their plans to bring in a bobcat to dig the post holes and a flat bed trailor to carry in the tools and posts on a Friday. Work has been delayed because they found an archeological site at Sage Creek. Hence several of the plans need to be modified and part of the site will be relocated. Rich told the Forest service that a loop road is needed. A team of volunteers from the club is needed to go to Sage Creek on September 11, 12, and 13. If 8-10 volunteers sign up then two crews can be formed. Volunteers can also sign up for a day's work too. Some of the work will be tamping down posts, putting up rails and gates for the corrals. Rich has suggested a sign-up sheet to better spread the work of the volunteers over this period of time. The weekend in September may be the one and only time this year to get into Sage Creek especially with hunting season opening up early in September.

State Board Meeting In Sept. in Helena: Rich Inman and Jim Allbright plan to attend the state meeting on September 12. Dan Marsh announced that the BCH of America would like all the local chapters to check their lists of external businesses and organizations that are now sent newsletters. Many of the newsletter mailings have been returned because of changes in residency. New members should be getting a chapter newsletter, a Montana BCH newsletter, and a national BCH newsletter and if they are not they need to let Marianne or Dan know so they can be added to the list.

2010 Convention: Dan Marsh asked members to help think about a theme for the convention. Amy Hathaway sent Dan an E-mail describing a number of items that will be needed for the convention. The Board reviewed Amy's E-mail.

Christmas Party: The 2010 Christmas party will be held on Dec. 5th and the band will be the "Open Range." The Saddle and Harness Club will be making the arrangements for the activities.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Nelson.

Trail Clearing



Fairy Lake, July 29 Sherrie White

Rained out Monday and Tuesday, a crew of 3 saw a break in the weather on Wednesday and tackled the trail into Fairy Lake. Sherrie and Ron had ridden the "official" trail from Battle Ridge a few days prior and knew that trees to be cleared were closer to the lake, so they chose to take the more scenic trail from Brackett Creek. Ron and Sherrie White, along with new member, Henry Glenn and his packhorse, cleared 6 trees. The trio met up with Janice and a group of her riders who helped hold horses before stopping at the lake for lunch. After lunch, the trail crew decided to continue past the lake, spotted a herd of mountain goats, and came out at the shafthouse trailhead.



The group continued down Seitz Road to Henry's place and then shuttled to retrieve horse trailers. It was great to have a new member on the trail crew! The day after clearing the Fairy Lake trail, someone reported that the trail around Fairy Lake was blocked by trees. That part of the trail isn't normally cleared by BCH, but Sherrie and Ron White and Henry Glenn drove to the Lake and walked in with chainsaws and cleared 7 trees.

Trail #522 (Grouse Mountain), August 5
Sherrie White

Henry Glenn (with packhorse) and Sherrie and Ron White, along with a local rancher (Robert), drove to the trailhead at the end of Petterson Rd. and cleared 10 trees from the trail. This isn't the easiest trail to find as there are no markings where the trail begins, but Robert and Henry know this area well because they run cows in the area. Once we were on the trail we found blazes to follow.

Trail Clearing continued

Mt Blackmore, August 10
Kay Tate

Seven souls made the journey up Hyalite (a stop light regulates traffic flow due to installation of new guard rails) to within 1/4 mile of the dam to the new Mt. Blackmore TH with a nice parking lot, toilet and junction to both Blackmore and History Rock TH's. We wandered around on old logging roads, unable to find the junction with the old trail, came back down and went to the paved parking lot and up from there, finding the junction quite a ways up (we had been so very close before we turned back). Dick Haines led Joe with the chain saw and he cut 10 trees with Wayne Frederickson and Larry Thomas tossing the debris. We lunched in the nice grove of tie trees before the final push to the pass. Blackmore Lake was beautiful and the view from the upper trail spectacular. Jane Huffine, Liz Lewis, Trina Frederickson and Kay Tate completed the contingent.





Porcupine Creek, August 12 Brenda Kessler

Be at the Porcupine trailhead at 9 am on August 12 were the directions from Larry for the Wednesday crew. Eight people arrived at the correct trailhead despite the fact that the highway trail sign was missing (probably removed by the highway construction workers). Those present included Sherrie and Ron White, Wayne Fredrickson, Larry, Wally, Jim, Brenda and a guest (Liz).

Trail Clearing continued

Porcupine Creek con't It was a nice trail at the start, but as we started up towards Ramshorn Lake, the trail became rocky and steep. It was here that Wally had noted several down falls and trees over the trail. Jim claimed the chainsaws from the packhorse (Larry had brought Harriet, his big horse) and attacked the downed trees. Wayne and Wally dispersed the pieces and parts effectively to the side. Wayne did a wonderful impersonation of Paul Bunyan (the mythical giant lumberjack). It was estimated that around 12 such places claimed our attention. We ate lunch about 2 o'clock, waiting until we could eat at the lake and tie our horses in the corrals. The lake was beautiful and peaceful until some motorcyclists decided to ride around the lake making new trails through the bogs. Fortunately they tired quickly of this and disappeared up a trail. On the ride back we cleaned up a stump and some small "leaners" with the hand saw. Also lots of clipping was accomplished by the trusty clippers Wayne, Sherrie and Ron.

Blackie, Jim's horse was in a real hurry to get back to the trailer and managed to Jig almost all the way out. You would think he would be tired as the total distance (when measured on the map by the string method) was 20 miles. A long day, as it was close to 6 when exiting the trailhead parking lot to encounter the highway traffic.

P.S. Thanks to Wayne for the cold watermelon treat in the parking lot before we took off (or should we thank his Mrs.)!





Trail Riding

South Cottonwood, August 21

Janice Cartwright

BCH members Vi Huffman, Ken Yankelevitz, Andrea Soheily, Janice Cartwright, Sandy Kypfer and a guest hit the trail on a fine summer morning. After trying out some of Joe Turner's pre-ride checks, we proceeded down the shady lane. With the temps forecast to be in the 90s that day, we were pleasantly surprised at

how cool we were with the shade, the breeze and the mountain air; it turned out to be a good decision to get out of Bozeman for the day. After riding for 2 hours or so, we stopped for lunch near the creek. Following lively conversation and fun food, we mounted up and headed back. We only passed a few polite hikers with dogs and bikers on this very popular trail, so we used these opportunities for some training time. A successful ride for all!



Garnet Mountain, August 28

Margaret Burns Vap

On a gorgeous late summer day, BCH members Vi Huffman, Ken Yankelevitz, Andrea Soheily, Janice Cartwright, Melanie Dyba and guest, and Margaret Burns Vap all managed to find the right bridge over the Gallatin River (despite lack of signage) that was our designated meeting place for a ride up to Garnet Mountain. Margaret got to hit the trail with her new horse, Dude Boy, who is half MT Traveler and half Quarter horse. Being a little out of shape, Dude Boy huffed and puffed his way up the fairly steep ascent, but seemed happy to be exactly where he was. We enjoyed a picnic lunch and some yoga on high before we began our descent, when Dude Boy proved himself to be extremely surefooted. As we say at Cowgirl Yoga, Yeehaw and Namaste! Check out our warrior II yoga pose below, which helped open our hips before we got back in the saddle after lunch.



A Sizzlin' Steak Ride!



The annual steak ride at Battle Ridge was held on Saturday, August 22nd. Huge sirloin tip steaks, baked potatoes and delicious corn on the cob were purchased at Lee & Dads IGA in Belgrade for 55 reservations for members and guests of GVBCH and the Saddle and Harness Club. Pot luck salads and desserts were incredible and everyone had a nice ride and a full belly. Thanks go to Jim Albrecht and Rich Inman for doing the cooking and serving. Thanks also to everyone who helped with setup and takedown.

Dan Porter







A Sizzlin' Steak Ride!

Earlier in the week the weather forecast for the Steak Ride was a hot one with possible showers. Well...that didn't happen. It was in the 80s and sunny and a darn nice day. Various groups took off on trails all over Bridger Canyon to converge at Battle Ridge Campground for our group gathering at 4pm. Our group (Joe Turner, Andrea Soheily, Sandy Kypfer, Vi Huffman, Sandy Smith, Margaret and David Vap, Ann Snowberger and myself) took off across the road from the campground and headed out for a few hours. It was nice to have our own traffic light to cross the road, thanks to the paving construction going on that day. Joe and Ann were working her horses with some trail training. (Later on we found Joe and Ann had switched horses and Joe ended up in a dressage saddle for the ride back. Interesting...) We passed riders returning from Fairy Lake and similar trails. Our group took a left and headed up to some mountain meadows for the views. Upon our return to the campground, it was time for dinner. With members from Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen, Gallatin Saddle and Harness Club and the Appaloosa Club present, it was an impressive group. Also impressive is how Dan Porter manages to procure and prepare those humongous steaks every year. His cooking sidekick was Rich Inman since Wally went off on a ride this time. All of those side dishes were pretty good also, and not much remained after we were done. Our appreciation goes out to all that helped with this year's Steak Ride. It was a sizzlin' success.

Janice Cartwright







GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2009 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 Bunkhouse Originals CBU** C'est la Vie Salon **Chalet Market Chalet Sports Cole's Custom Saddlery Concrete Construction** Divine Equine & **Three Forks Chiropractic 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

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Sandy McManus
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Dan Porter
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Other Sponsors

We'd like to acknowledge several anonymous donors for providing prize and cash donations for this year's event.

Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen