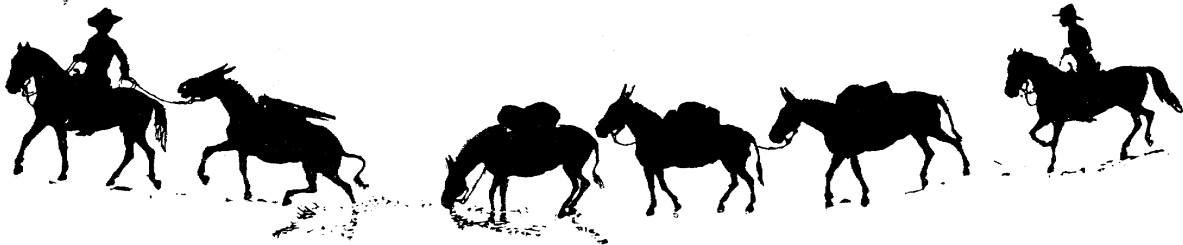


The Picket Line

Post Office Box 3232, Bozeman, Montana 59772-3232



Officers

President:

Brown Parsons 586-9030

Vice President:

Margot Doohan 586-4262

Treasurer:

Sammylu Parsons
586-9030

Secretary:

Joan Holborn 586-3306

Directors

Aaron Linton 585-3493
Bonnie Hammer 284-6822
Rich Inman 388-1564
Bettye White 586-2301
Jacki Conti 586-5047
Ron Rassley 388-4415

State Board Members

Harry Boughton
Linda Roffe
Alternate: Ron Rassley

Newsletter Editor

Sharon Lowry
587-4013
lowry@180com.net

State Web Site

www.bchmt.org



On The Calendar This Month

Club Meetings in July

July 2nd - Board of Directors Meeting - To be held at the Parson's home. 516 North Willson - 586-9030 - 7:00 PM - also Poker Ride meeting.

July 18th - General Membership Meeting - Belgrade Alliance Church at 7:00 PM. - Pat Hess will talk on Animal Control.

Club Events in June

July 4th - 6th Bear Creek Trail Ride - Overnight camping in the campground. Brown and Sammylu will be the trail bosses. Call them at 586-9030 if you are going on this ride. It is one of the nicer rides to attend.

July 13th - This is it folks - The one and only 15th annual POKER RIDE! More information on the inside pages.

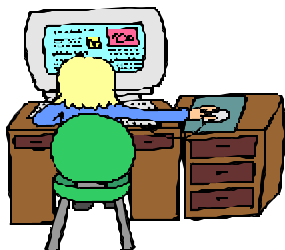
July 20-21st Spanish Creek upper trail clearing - Tom Griffith will head up this fun, event filled trail clearing and overnight trip. Just let them know you are coming and arrangements will be made for your gear and tools you will need. 388-4677

July 28th - Fawn Pass trail ride. Richard Haines will trail boss this ride. More information on this on the inside pages.

ALLERT!!!!

This year we have had a reluctance on the part of some of the members to take over the duties of trail bosses. **PLEASE step up and volunteer.**

Membership



We have no new members to report this month.

Fawn Pass Ride

This ride actually is in Yellowstone Park. Richard Haines will be the trail boss and you need to contact him if you are going. His email is barbwirem@the-global.net Phone is 586-3335.

Actor's Guild of GVBCH

For those of you, who missed a fun day and a day to shine as an actor/actress and receive top billing, we just want you to know that we had a really great day. As to who had the top billing for this movie is anyone's guess. You will have to wait to read the marquee at your local

theater. We spent the day fighting for this top billing and had so many laughs that Todd, our cameraman threatened to duct tape a few mouths. Todd was our cameraman, producer, and director along with his wife, the gofer and especially Beth our coordinator and self appointed "gif and gaffer". Beth also did the final script rewrite. Todd and his wife drove from their home in Canada, at their expense, to put on this movie. We are truly indebted to them, but will reserve our opinion on the ratings when we receive this movie in early August, in time for the Expo.

President's Message

I want to thank Margot for taking over and running the meetings in my absence. Sharon and Beth have been very busy putting the annual poker ride together and I want to thank them and all the crew that has volunteered to help. If you haven't been assigned a job and you want to participate, please ask either one of them for something to do. We are all looking forward to the poker ride and hope for a lot of riders in our annual fund raiser.

We filmed the club video two weeks ago at Spanish Peaks campground area and it was a lot of fun. You will all be seeing the final video sometime in August. We had bikers, 4-wheelers, hikers, backpackers, along with our horses as the main actors in the film demonstrating good trail manners and what is expected of all users of the trails.

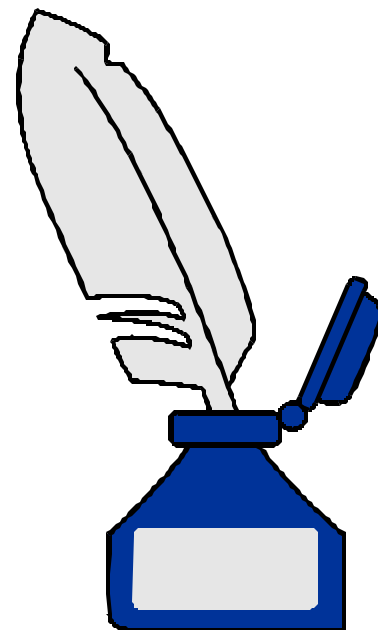
We had a good turnout for the lower Spanish Creek trail clearing even though a heavy rain shower passed through.

There is still a lot to do, so if you missed this weekend, watch for the upper Spanish Creek trail clearing which will include an overnight pack trip. Pack animals will be provided to carry gear, so don't let that stop you from participating.

Our next big club activity will be the Backcountry Horse Expo to be held in August. Linda has been working hard on it and needs all the help she can get. Please volunteer your time. More details later.

My wife and I are looking forward to being trail bosses at the Bear Creek campground overnighter and Sphinx Mountains ride this weekend. This is a fun ride in beautiful country. We hope we have a good turnout. The summer is going by fast - hope everyone is doing a lot of riding!

Brown



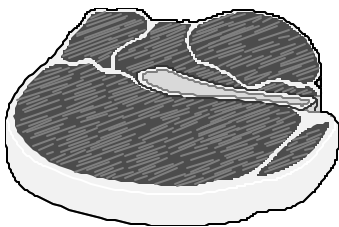
June 14th Trail Clearing

Due to rain the Monday June 10 trail clearing was postponed to Friday June 14. The Bridger Trail Crew cleared Trail 538 south from Bridger Bowl leaving the parking lot at 9:30. There were lots of downed trees this year and the 10 riders divided into 3 parts, each with horse holder, chain saw w/sawyer, &

debris tossers. We leap frogged along and completed the upper trail by 1:00. We lunched at the boundary fence and came back the lower trail clearing the probable poker ride portion and returned to the trailers at 5:00.

Steak Ride

The annual steak ride is scheduled for August 18. It will be held at the Spanish Creek Campgrounds. This ride and feed is for members and their guests. Family members and out of town friends all are welcome, and riding is



not required. Come up and have a great steak dinner with us even if you don't have a horse. What we ask of you is that you make reservations for the dinner no later than August 12. Please make your reservations by calling myself (Harry Boughton at 388-6700) or Margot Doohan at 586-4262. We will start serving at 4PM sharp and will shut down by 5:30PM. The menu is steak (8 oz choice New

York strips) corn on the cob, dutch oven baked beans, and sheet cakes for desert. Pop and punch will be provided. Please bring your own plates and tableware.

The charge is \$10.00 for this meal. For the big eaters extra steaks will be available (while they last) for an additional \$3.00 each. Additional cooks are always welcome. Remember that this is a fundraiser for our chapter. Hope to see you all at the ride.

Harry Boughton

History Rock Ride

On Sun. 6/16, the day after we met with Tom Griffith for weed identification, members wanted to ride the next day. So, we planned a trip up History Rock trail. Well, the trail, impassable at times, meant we had clearing to do. We had about 12 members, including Ron and his packhorse with tools and for added fun, Ed's mare and yearling mule. The mule traveled loose and tagged near its Mama. My young, green horse, Jazz, a MO, Fox Trotter, who knew diddly squat when I bought him, got an introduction to a mule's voice and various other experiences. By the end of this summer, with all this exposure, Jazz will be near perfect! Well, sure! Damn near! By the way, that mule was near perfect in manners. We rode up to the divide, ate lunch, enjoyed the views and sent(?) Ron with his packhorse and tools, Kay, who hates to return by the same route, and Bonnie down into South Cottonwood. We made plans to move their truck and trailer to that trailhead to meet them. They had quite a bit of blow-down, cleared their way through, and did not arrive at that trailhead till 5PM. It was a fun and successful day for all.

Jiffie Hale

Now here is Kay's version of that same trip!!

Sunday June 16 Kay, Ron & Bonnie cleared 27 trees from the History Rock/Fox Creek Divide to Fox Creek Cabin and out South Cottonwood until we met the portion cleared by the Forest Service. Only 6 trees were cut on the South Cottonwood trail, the rest were on the Divide trail. Jiffie & Chick moved our truck around from the History Rock Trailhead to the South Cottonwood trailhead so we could make a nice loop. Great ride and a super way to complete this project. We left the Divide @ 1:30 and reached the trailhead @ 5:30. We met numerous bikers and hikers and all but one hiker were appreciative and complimentary of the work and showed proper trail manners around horses.

Here is my version! The editor is speaking out!

The next weekend Jack, and Neal Kelley and I rode from History Rock, over the top of the pass and down into South Cottonwood. We ate lunch at the Ranger Station and returned the way we came. The BIG topic of conversation was the amount of blow down that Ron, Kay and Bonnie cleared off that trail. Some of the logs were huge. That was some feat they performed. I am really

proud of the work that our group does out there. Without them having done that I am convinced we would not have made it all the way. Good Job Guys and Gals!

June 14th Trail Clearing

Bridger Trail Crew:
Due to rain the Monday June 10 trail clearing was postponed to Friday June 14. The Bridger Trail Crew cleared Trail 538 south from Bridger Bowl leaving the parking lot @ 9:30. There were lots of downed trees this year and the 10 riders divided into 3 parts, each with horse holder, chain saw w/sawyer, & debris tossers. We leap frogged along and completed the upper trail by 1:00. We lunched at the boundary fence and came back the lower trail we cleared the probable poker ride portion and returned to the trailers @ 5:00.

June 17th Trail Clearing

On Monday, June 17, seven members of the Bridger trail crew cleared trail #401 from Spanish Creek trailhead to Willow Swamp. It took about 5 hours

round trip, using three chain saw crews and the leapfrog method for moving up the trail. We noted a major fence project for bison at numerous locations adjacent to the trail, which detracts from the views. At Willow Swamp, in two places, the fencing actually crosses the existing trail. We are advised that the Forest Service intends to relocate a mile or two of this trail in the Placer Creek/Cherry Lake trail junction.

Bill Shields



Bits

“Breaking” the Young Horse

I bought a half-Arab (but mostly Arab genes, I think) a few months ago, about 3 years old. And I have a six-year-old grandson with red hair and a constitution to go with it.

I have been mildly worried for many weeks now about how I was going to "start" that horse. I have no training in horse training, in fact I'm a bit on the lenient side when it comes to riding, let alone training.

Lance the grandson has recently taken a personal, unprompted interest in the young colt, named Colstrip, because of his charcoal gray overall with black stripe down his back. And Lance goes out and pats him and sometimes feeds him apple-flavored treats, but mostly, he just schmoozes him and the colt likes him back.

Colstrip is halter-broke, and he'll tolerate a saddle and pigeons flying out of the barn over him without blinking. But he's never had a soul on his back.

This morning I was standing out on my back porch while Lance was waiting for his summer school van to pick him up, and I looked out to the barn gait, and there was Lance climbing up to say something to Colstrip. Then he just kind of eased over to the horse, keeping both hands on the gate still, and slid onto the horse's back, let go with one hand, and then, after a few seconds, let go with the other hand and sat there, with a nice easy natural seat and a mild smile on his face—totally at ease with a horse who just kind of stood there, too, turned his head a little one way, checking out this being on his back, then a little the other way, and stood there with his ears forward. The little five-minute scene was quietly thrilling to see, a totally natural relationship between a very young man and a young horse—neither one of them too concerned. So much for "breaking" a horse.

Jim Gould, Horse Trainer

June 24th Trail Clearing

Bridger Trail Crew:

Monday June 24: The Brackett Creek Y had the Filmlites crew parked there but there was room for us. The nails in the parking lot are awful due to the burning of pallets for partying, be careful. Riding up the South Fork we ran into the film crew and a trailer of wolves--making a Norwegian movie about wolves. A prop of a full sized, stuffed buck made for a little excitement. We gave them a wide berth on the way back. Very few trees were down on the trail south to Bridger Bowl this year so we moved right along, taking the Y to Ross Pass on the way back and being pleasantly surprised by the wall to wall carpet of wildflowers there. KT

June 24th Trail Clearing

Tuesday June 25, Ron Rassley job foreman. Kay, Ron, Chick, Wally and Dick Haines worked from 10-5 at the Spanish Creek Campground repairing 3 mangers and one hitchrail. Ron's horse "Sport" did yeoman work hauling in the downed and dead trees for the repairs. All the men brought tools, chain saws, ratchets, pry bars, chisels, brace & bit & battery drill, etc. and the work progressed steadily on a very hot day. We will all enjoy the repaired facility.

July 1 Trail Clearing

Six riders with only one chain saw tackled the New World Gulch trail to Mystic Lake. We finished clearing about two thirds of the trail before the lone chain saw stopped working. Will return on 7/8 to finish this job, plus will try to repair two bridges that need rotten log decking replaced. - - Nice day, nice trail, no animals...To be continued...

Now a Report From Weed Control

I was pleased to see the turnout for our first club work on Spanish Creek trail for this year. My main contribution was to pack water bars up to our new trail above the "rock". On the way up I had the GPS on and mapped the trail and noxious weeds. I marked a waypoint for Houndstongue just below the junction to Pioneer Falls trail. Also in that same area there was a moderate cover of Stickseed (*Hackelia patens*) with their innocent looking blue flowers that will soon turn into Stickseed burs. Stickseed isn't on the noxious weed list. It's obvious that hikers or horsemen have spread this pesky weed along the trail as they did Houndstongue.

The previous day Jean and I were camped at the Spanish Cr Trail Head campground. Early in the evening I mapped noxious weeds. Houndstongue, Whitetop, and Musk Thistle were mapped. Between curious people and the thunder storm, the mapping didn't get finished. My curious visitor was more interested in my camper and mules than noxious weeds.

There are three obvious characteristics that distinguish Sulfur Cinquefoil from our native cinquefoils. Can you name all three? For the answer see p. 27 of the handout, *Montana Noxious Weeds*. I had to use all three characteristics to decide that the cinquefoil at the trail head was a native species. Well, that's all, and let me know if you spot some noxious weeds along one of our trails.

Tom

Griffith

The USDA, in conjunction with the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Celebration is publishing a set of four place mats. Don Greytak, a Havre artist, is doing the drawings. The first set is out and can be found at Taco Johns, the second set featuring Rainbow Falls has been published, look for it in restaurants. The third one is of Trapper Roost. The fourth one is a mystery. Let us know. Noxious weeds along with native plants are depicted on the placemats.

Our Adopted Trail

Sat, June 29 proved to be a very successful weekend for the Spanish Creek lower trail clearing. This is our adopted trail and we as members of the BCH support and participate in its maintenance. 19 members arrived along with 7 packhorses. We divided into 3 groups. The 1st group loaded and packed 10 water bars up towards the Spanish Lakes. The 2nd group dug and shoveled gravel into buckets and loaded them onto packhorses to re-grade the "turnpike." The 3rd group cleaned water bars, installed new, pruned and cut back old timber from trail. Lunch was served in the rain under dripping trees added with a spice of hail. Earlier in the week, the trailhead received new tie rails, feed bunk repairs and plans were to paint them this day. Bettye and Bonnie arrived ready to paint, but had to wait for wood to dry from the rain the night before. While waiting, they pulled noxious weeds, filling a large leaf bag, then proceeded to paint.

On Sun., next day, Wally, Ed and Beth braved another day, a long one, and finished what the 3rd group was unable to complete on water bars, pruning and cutting back timber. On Mon. Betty finished the painting at the trailhead, working for 5 hours.

What a bunch of hearty and willing workers we have in this club.

Jiffie Hale

POKER RIDE JULY 13th, 2002



Schedule for the Rest of the Year

- July 13** **GVBCH Poker Ride**
- July 18** **General meeting** - Pat Hess will talk on Animal Control - 7:00
Alliance Church - Belgrade
- July 17-20** Gallatin County Fair
- July 20-21** Spanish Creek upper trail clearing - pack in overnight - Tom Griffith 388-4677
- July 28** Fawn Pass trail ride -Ready to ride by 10:00
- Aug 3** Sweet Pea Parade - begins at 10 AM
- Aug 6** Board meeting - Parson's home 7:00
- Aug 10** APH Club Judged Trail Ride Chick Hale 763-4105
- Aug. 10 or 11** Squaw Creek to Hylite from Butte Meadow. Ready to ride by 10 AM
- Aug 15** **General Meeting** - Picnic barbecue at Joyce Haner's - Springhill.
Be prepared to swap Trail Tales! 6:30
- Aug 17** Manhattan Potato Days parade - begins at 9 AM
- Aug 18** Spanish Creek Steak Ride
- Aug 24** Back Country Horsemen and Sportsmen Expo - Linda Roffe - 586-2142
- Aug 31** Virginia City Poker Ride
- Aug 31, Sept 1-2** Beaver Creek trail ride - overnight in campground
- Sept. 8** Windy Pass ride. Ready to ride by 10AM
- Sept 9** Board meeting - Parson's home - 7:00
- Sept 19** **General meeting** - Jacy Cook - Head demonstration on equine dentistry.
- Sept 21** Belgrade Fall Festival Parade - begins at 10AM
- Sept 22** Elk Calf ride at Bacon Rind- -Ready to ride 10AM
- Sept 28** Pony Express trail ride
- Oct 1** Board meeting - Parson's home - 7:00
- Oct 17** **General meeting** - Dr. Caitlin will speak on winter horse feeding. - Alliance Church 7:00
- Nov 5** Board meeting - Parson's home 7:00
- Nov 21** **General meeting** - "Taking Horses to Southern Utah" - Linda Roffe & Kay Tate - Elections - 7:00
- Dec 3** Board meeting - Parson's home - 7:00
- Dec 14** **General meeting - Christmas party**
- Jan 7** Board meeting - Parson's home - transition meeting - old officers and directors and all the new electees
- Jan 16** General meeting - Planning committees for next year's activities - Alliance Church



GVBCH June 3,02 Board mtg minutes

Attendance: Brown & Sammylu Parson, Margo Doohan, Bonnie Hammer, Sharon Lowry, Beth Merrick, Harry Boughton, Aaron Linton, Chick & Jiffe Hale, Dan Porter, Joyce Haner, Bettye White, & Joan Holborn

Treasurer Report from Sammylu accepted as follows:

Checking Acct Balance	\$ 868.40
Money Market acct	<u>1,905.15</u>
Total Cash	\$2,773.55

No new bills paid since last general mtg report, but we do have a check coming in for trailer license renewal that has not yet been deducted. We have five new members who recently paid their dues.

Steak ride chairman, Harry Boughton, requested that the Board set a price for the meal. A motion by Beth for \$10.00 was made after discussion, Bonnie 2nd & passed by unanimous vote. Please reserve by 8/10/02.

Director Rich Romano has stepped down. Aaron Linton was appointed by the board with a unanimous approval, Thank-you Aaron for accepting this position.

A motion was made by Chick to renew membership with Public Lands & Water Access, Bettye 2nd, motion passed.

A motion by Brown was made to buy 4 new tires for the club trailer based on estimate given by Joyce, Aaron 2nd, passed by voice call.

A motion was made by Aaron to have saws sharpened/ Wally, Joan 2nd, passed by voice vote.

A concern has been brought to the board regarding a few members who engage in chatting while a guest or member is speaking to the club. If you have ever been a speaker you know how distracting it can be when someone in the audience is whispering to someone else. It is also down right annoying to those trying to listen to the speaker. Our guests volunteer their time to impart their knowledge & deserve our full attention. Please show your respect for the speaker, actions of a few reflect on the club both positively or negatively. Thanks for the reminder Aaron.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Holborn, Secretary

GVBCH 6/20/02 General mtg minutes

Attendance: Margo Doohan, Sharon Lowry, Sammylu Brown, Beth Merrick, Ron Rassley, Kay Tate, Bonnie Hammer, Chick & Jiffe Hale, Aaron Linton, Harry Boughton, Rich Inman, Tom & Jean Griffith, Linda Roffe, Wally Becker, Bettye White, Joyce Haner, Sonja Berg, new member Linda McMullen & son of Big Timber, Joan Holborn, & guest Reggie Clark of USFS.

Treasurer report from Sammylu accepted as follows:

Checking acct balance	\$ 825.03
Money Market acct as of 5/31/02	<u>1,907.68</u>
Total Cash	\$2,732.71

Bills paid since last report:

Gallatin County Treas. (Trailer License renewal)	\$ 19.25
Kinko-Monthly bill/newsletter & agenda	72.12
PLAAI dues	10.00
Beth Merrick-Poker Ride ad	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$151.37

Also, we have 3 new members (1 single & 2 family) who paid their dues

Expo- Linda needs volunteers to collect admissions, to help with bear demo, to set-up Friday night & tear down Sat. or Sun. and we need a speaker for hunter safety with stock. Please call her @ 586-2142.

Trail Clearing- Chick reports members have put in 6 days of trail clearing. Bonnie and Kay counted 27 blow downs they cleared up Cottonwood. Trail clearing continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Bill Shields runs trail clearing on Mondays in Bridgers.

Aaron reports new tires for club trailer have been taken care of. Thanks Aaron.

FYI-Aaron offers free, sturdy pallets available from his workplace, call him at 585-3493

Bear Creek Trail Ride July 5-6, if interested call Sammylu.

Where is our club banner? & vest?

Speaker, Brian Phillips & Mern James of Phillips Environmental Products

Brian related the inventive actions of his 95 yr. old grandfather to meet a need that gave birth to the PETT, a portable environmental toilet. It is packable, 18#, private unit that assembles in less than a minute. It retails at \$259.00 and has been offered to BCH members for \$200.00 for a complete package: Tent with screened windows/vent, toilet seat, pack, 15 biodegradable bags, & sanitizer/absorbent powder. The end products can be legally disposed of in any waste receptacle. Call Toll free 1-877-520-0999 or locally 388-5999 or visit web site- www.thepett.com, Thanks Linda for bringing this speaker.

Thanks to Sonja for providing refreshments to our meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Holborn, Secretary