

THE PICKET LINE

JULY 2005



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Rich Inman 388-1564

Vice President

Janet Castro 388-0966

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Trina Fredrickson 522-9315

Treasurer

Cinda Eichenfels 227-6508

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2 yr

Lori Brockway 587-7198

Joellyn Howell 388-4493

John McIlhattan 586-9094

1 yr

Wally Becker 587-9607

Donna McGeein 587-5645

Beth Merrick 388-4047

State Board Members

Brown Parsons 2 yr

Dan Marsh 1 yr

Alternate: Linda Kelly 1yr

Newsletter Editor

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Backcountry Horsemen Mission Statement

"The purpose of this organization shall be (1) to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in Montana's road less back country and (2) to assist the various government agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource and (3) to educate and solicit active participation by various members of the general public in the wise and sustaining use of horses and people, commensurate with our heritage and the back country's resource."

Board Meeting and final meeting for Poker Ride

Wednesday, July 6th

7pm

@ Janet Castro's

388-0966

*Gallatin Valley BCH
18th annual Poker Ride
Saturday, July 9th
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July events-page 2

General Meeting

Thursday, July 21st 7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church

Cameron and Hofman Sts

Program

Tellington Touch

(T Touch)

By

Linda Holdenstein

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Saturday, July 9th --18th annual Poker Ride

The ride is at the Bridger Bowl Ski Hill, 11.2 miles long and will be well marked.

Riders depart at 9:30 but no later than 11:00

Registration from 8:30 to 11:00. Entry (includes lunch) \$15 adult and \$8 child under 12 yrs. You pick first two cards for your poker hand at registration. Extra hand is \$5

Breakfast \$5 served from 7:30 till 9:00 consisting of biscuits and sausage gravy and coffee.

Lunch \$8 (for those not riding) and served from 1:30 till 4:00 consisting of Buffalo Beef Sloppy Joes, Frog Eye Salad, Snake Eye Beans

3 pop stops along way serving water/soda/watermelon

and you pick a card at each stop

Ride at your own speed, with whom you choose, but be sure to time yourself to be back for lunch—it goes fast!

Prizes awarded at lunch to the poker hand winners and there are lots of prizes donated.

This is Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen's annual fund raiser and last year we had 182 entries.

Come and join the fun.

Support your club.

Maybe you will win one of the many donated prizes.

July schedule of events

Saturday, July 9th annual GVBCH Poker Ride

Saturday, July 16th Trail Ride @ Fan Creek in Yellowstone Park **You need a Coggins for ride**

Trail boss: Bob Steinman 282-7166

July 21 –24 Gallatin County Fair @ Fairgrounds

Saturday, July 30th Trail Work Day at Spanish Peaks in preparation for the 9-mile mule team (see Rich's letter pg 3), Trail Boss: Chick Hale 763-4105

Tellington t-touch will be here July 21st

Linda Holdenstein, our scheduled speaker for the July 21st general meeting is a certified Tellington Touch practitioner, an equine studies graduate and an internationally trained canine-development dog handler. Linda has contributed countless hours to the Gallatin Valley's animal shelter and Eagle Mount's therapeutic recreation center for animals. Currently she instructs advanced orthopedic/relaxation massage at the HealthWorks Institute and practices private massage for horses, humans and companion animals. Before settling down to work in Montana, Linda served as a wilderness ranger in the Eagle Mount Wilderness in Oregon.

Submitted by Donna McGeein, program chrm.

The reason congressmen try so hard to get re-elected is that they would hate to have to make a living under the laws they've passed!

Hello Backcountry Horsemen,

Summer is finally upon us. If you are like me, I am trying to get all the chores out of the road so I can spend time in the great backcountry. I was out yesterday and had a great ride with my colts but found some of the streams too high to ford. Be careful out there. Some of these creeks are running a lot of water right now.

A few things I want to call your attention to:

** Our response to the Gallatin National Forest Travel Plan is done. I will hand deliver it to the Forest Supervisor and Jiffie will print it in the August NL. I want to thank Lori Brockway, Wally Becker, Chick Hale and Joellyn Howell for their help with putting this response together. Their help was invaluable. A special thanks to Lori Brockway for the typing and editing.*

**We are now gearing up for the July 9th Poker Ride. It will be our 18th year. Janet Castro is the chief push for the ride and she is on crutches following knee surgery. She needs our assistance so let's all pitch in. There are a*

few tasks that still need helpers. Please call Janet at 388-0966 and offer your help. Remember that we will set up the tent on Friday night at the Bridger parking lot. We usually show up there between 4-5p.m., raise the tent and have a great potluck. You are all invited. Just bring something to add to the potluck goodies.

**Also, we need help getting ready for the Nine Mile pack string to transport gravel on a section of our adopted trail in Spanish Creek. We have some preparation work to do in advance of the gravel hauling. Contact Chick or Wally as to times and dates for the advanced work and plan to come help. The Nine Mile string will be here on August 8-12 to haul gravel. We will need members to help load gravel into the bags on the mules so mark your calendars and plan to be there. This is a club project on our adopted trail. I hope you will plan ahead and give of your time.*

Be safe out there and enjoy the great backcountry God has given us.

Rich Inman, President

Did you receive the State Newsletter for June? It was an especially informative one.

If not, please contact Jiffie @ 763-4105 and I will make sure you are on their mailing list.

Correction on email address of
Nancy Eaton to
neaton2526@Wmconnect.com

Get well corner....

Last month you read about our treasurer, Cinda, who had a very bad fall off, and under, her horse. She is doing splendid, as can be expected under the circumstances, but is mending slowly while faithfully doing her breathing exercises to overcome her pneumonia caused by the punctured lung from her fractured ribs. She anticipates attending the July board meeting. Now, on Wed., June 8th our vice president had a knee operation. This was expected to be just an orthoscopic piece of surgery, an in and out job, then home. Instead it was a two hour piece of surgery with all kinds of findings. She has suffered severe pain with pain medication not agreeing with her (similar to Cinda). Then adding to her woes she gets a blood clot in the lower leg causing her to keep that leg elevated. She is not to put any weight on her foot, therefore she is on crutches. Janet is expected to be back to normal in 90 days, yes, just when she is ready to go back to work! I believe she, too, is getting 'cabin fever' or 'stir crazy.' This is not her knee that she injured on the ride last year, but that knee hurts too. **However, there is a good note here---she and José are ecstatic as their son, Joe, has been accepted in the U.S. Air Force Academy! Congratulations to you, Joe, and your family!**

Trail reports by Kay Tate for the Bridger group:

June 6th the group got rained out, but on...

June 10th Dick Grover cleared the designated 538 trail from Bridger Bowl south to the trail end by cutting out 19 trees across the trail.

June 12th Kay and Ron spent a long day (10-6) on the Poker Ride trail using a pack horse and shovels as they tried to make it passable after such a wet spring.

June 13th rained out again and changed date to...

June 15th Cleared the New World Gulch with 9 riders and enough chain saws to get job done. They plan to return to work on a bridge and check the last 2 miles to the Bear Lakes divide for downfall.



June 20th 10 riders consisting of 5 sawyers, 5 pack horses and 5 horse holders/brush throwers cleared the 538 trail north from the ski hill boundary to Ross Pass. They cleared logging trash from drain thrown by bikers so they, the bikers, could pass more easily. Much of this trail will be used for the Poker Ride.

Trail reports by Chick Hale for the Tuesday/Thursday gang:

June 14th Wally, Larry and Chick along with Ernie Rajala, our hiker friend, and 8 members of the Adolescent Resource Center reworked the tread and cleaned all the water bars on one mile of the 401 trail. The work included the trail starting at the Spanish Creek trailhead to the high point of land referred to as the "Becker-Hale" trail.

June 16th Larry, Wally and Chick constructed new tread and straightened the trail for a distance of 261 feet on the Garnet Mountain trail

June 19th Wally and Chick drove up Moser Creek Rd from Hyalite and surveyed work starting at the junction of Moser and Leverick trail.

June 20th Wally and Larry packed supplies and tools, about 200lbs each on two horses, up Indian Ridge. The FS crew is going to spend 4 days working on the trail--which needs major repair.

June 21st Nine of the ARC group joined Larry, Wally and Chick to prune about a mile of the Leverick Trail. We started at the upper end of the trail where it joins Moser Rd and worked back toward the trailhead.

June 23rd Larry, Wally and Chick went back up Indian Ridge trail and met with Will and his 3-man crew. We loaded all his tools, saws, garbage, daypacks on two horses and packed out to the trailhead. The crew did a lot of work and I guess age helped!

Trail ride reports:

Due to rain, mud and low snow levels the ride scheduled for Garnet Mountain on June 11th was canceled as was the work day scheduled for June 4th at the Spanish Peaks on our adopted trail. Does anyone know if Pat Green's Poker Ride for June 18th was held?



However, the scheduled Elk Calf ride at Sage Creek went on as scheduled. Wally led in place of Rich who was unable to be the planned boss. It was a man's day as five men rode for the 12 mile ride... Wally, Larry, Dan Porter, Bill Shields and Chick. There was not a threat of rain, the day was perfect!



Photos by Chick

GVBCH Board Meeting minutes, June 1, 2005

Meeting called to order by pres. Rich at 7:10p

Members in attendance were Rich, Joellyn, Chick (proxy for Janet), Jiffie (proxy for Linda), Wally, Brown, Dan and Lori. Absent were Donna, Beth and John

May minutes approved. Motion/ Joellyn, second/Chick

No treasurer's report available.

Bill to reimburse Rich \$75.93--meal for Defensive Horsemanship clinic. Motion/ Brown, second/Chick.

Letter from Senator Baucus responding to the 'Right to Ride' bill our club had sent to him. His response was neither a yes or no in supporting the bill.

State Board: Dan is still finding a spot for their meeting Sept 10th.

Issues: Chick reported on the complete success of our first Defensive Horsemanship Safety clinic and thanked all for their support.

Poker Ride: Janet has to call Lee Hart in regards to his offer of donation of buffalo meat.

The next meeting for the Poker Ride will be July 6th for finalization.

Rich distributed each member a copy of his first draft on the Travel Plan. It was read and approved with each member editing and making amends with their various ideas. Rich will complete the draft with Lori helping with editing. Everyone was satisfied with the additions and we mutually agreed on all editing. It was an excellent draft. It will go back to Rich and Lori for more finalization before bringing it to the board in July for complete finalization.

Meeting adjourned 9:15p

Respectfully submitted by Jiffie Hale, proxy for Trina, sec.

General Meeting, June 16th, 2005 at Jehnet Carlson's great fun. Too bad you missed it.

If you thought you would not go to this meeting because it was the same as last year, you were wrong! If you thought we would be having a packing demo, you were wrong. If you thought we would be having a general meeting, you were wrong. And if you thought the weather would be thunderstorms, you were really wrong. However, that did arrive at the end of our fun when we were ready to leave. But, considering the fact that your editor forgot to send out email reminders of this meeting, we had a pretty good turnout of members bringing their best dishes for our potluck. The food was wonderful and we had a feast along with the camaraderie and the entertainment. This show was given to us by an outstanding person of great talent by the name of Val Geissler from Cody WY playing his guitar, singing and telling stories. Jehnet noted that we were fortunate that this happened to be the night he was there. You would have paid a pretty price of admission to hear him elsewhere. Luck was with us. He does have a CD available with 20 songs on it and if you are interested contact me (Jiffie) for his address and phone #.

Lori brought the final draft of the Travel Plan that Rich had written. Both Rich and Lori finalized this letter the night before and everyone was pleased and impressed with how it was worded by these two talented people. The letter spoke for us all. It will be published for members to read and know how our club feels regarding this Forest Service Travel Plan. The directors at our last meeting had a lot of input in what the club needs to say to the FS.

The next time you do not feel like attending our general meeting might be another missed night for you. It would be wrong if you do not attend.

*Bridger Feeds will again have 20% off Vita Flex Equine Supplement
for the entire month of July (586-3026)*

**We thank these sponsors for their generous contributions to our 2004
Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen 17th annual Poker Ride**

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