



# Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

# The Picket Line

## August, 2006

Post Office Box 3232,  
Bozeman MT 59772-3232  
Website [www.bchmt.org](http://www.bchmt.org)

### Officers

- President**  
Rich Inman 388-1564
- Vice President**  
Janice Cartwright 579-3445
- Secretary**  
Trina Frederickson 522-9315
- Treasurer**  
Bettye White 586-2301
- Directors**  
Wally Becker (2) 587-9607  
Dan Porter (2) 388-0290  
Larry Thomas (2) 586-6878  
Lori Brockway (1) 587-7198  
Joellyn Howell (1) 388-4493  
Jennifer Tuthill (1) 587-2289
- State Board**  
Brown Parsons (1) 586-9030  
Dan Marsh (2) 587-7578
- Alternate**  
Janet Castro 388-0966
- Newsletter Editor**  
Beth Merrick 388-4047  
[bmerrick1@aol.com](mailto:bmerrick1@aol.com)
- Membership & E-Mails**  
Jiffie Hale 763-4105  
[jhale@littleappletech.com](mailto:jhale@littleappletech.com)
- Webmaster**  
Dan Marsh 587-7578  
[dmarsh@montana.edu](mailto:dmarsh@montana.edu)

## Riding Opportunities

### August

- 11 - 14-** Pack Trip: Slough Creek, Yellowstone, contact Bob Steinman for information @ 282-7166. This trip is limited to the first 12 riders to register. Coggins test and fee required.
- 12** Trail Work Ride: Spanish Creek, contact Wally Becker @ 587-9607 for information.
- 13** Trail Ride: Porcupine, contact Ray Madsen @ 995-4173 for information.
- 17** General Meeting: Pasture and Small Acreage Management. Jen Mohler.
- 19** Trail Work Ride: Spanish Creek, contact Wally Becker @ 587-9607 for information.
- 19** *Manhattan Potato Festival.*
- 20** Trail Ride for Beginners: Ramshorn, contact RJ Conti @ 586-5047 for information.
- 26** Steak Ride: Spanish Creek, bring your own steak to grill and a dish to share. Free riding and dinner at 3 pm.

### September

- 2** *Virginia City Poker Ride, benefit for the fire department.*
- 6** Board Meeting, 7 pm, Bettye's.
- 9** Trail Ride: Bacon Rind/Elk Bugle, contact Wally Becker @ 587-9607 or RJ Conti @ 586-5047 for information.
- 17** Trail Ride: Fawn Pass to Fan Creek, contact Jenny Tuthill @ 587-2289 for information. Coggins test required.
- 21** General Meeting: check the newsletter for program.
- 23** Trail Work Ride: Spanish Creek, contact Wally Becker @ 587-9607 for information.

## August 26 Steak Ride

Dinner is **FREE** to club members who contact Dan Porter at 388-0290 or [c21danporter@aol.com](mailto:c21danporter@aol.com) before August 19.  
See page 2 for details.

### Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen Mission

*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.*

## Steak Ride: Free if You RSVP before August 19

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Dan Porter and Wally Becker are your hosts for the annual steak feed that honors club members' support of BCH. The event will be held at the Spanish Creek campground on August 26. A beef or chicken dinner is free to club members if they register their food preference with Dan Porter before August 19. He can be reached at 388-0290 or c21danporter@aol.com. Guests are welcome, but they, too, need to register their meat preference. There is a \$10 charge per guest due on the day of the ride. Family memberships include all of the family living under the same roof and all are included in the free dinner.

Bring a plate, utensils, beverage, and chair. Plan a ride with friends and return to the trailhead at 3 pm for a barbeque dinner cooked up by Dan and Wally. Bring a salad, vegetable dish or dessert to share. Cowboy Coffee will be made in the club's new 2.5 gallon coffee pot. The old one, with a see-through bottom, will be returned to its owner, Wally Becker, only slightly worse for the wear.

### August 17 General Meeting

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Jen Mohler will speak on *Pasture and Small Acreage Management* at the August 17 General Meeting to be held at Belgrade Alliance Church at 7 pm. Janice Cartwright will be chairing the meeting since Rich Inman is in Alaska on that date. He reports that there is no computer service available in the wilds, so there will be no president's report for the September newsletter as well.

### Christmas Party

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We are invited to join the Saddle & Harness Club for a Steak dinner with live music from Open Range on December 16 at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds. Estimated cost is about \$20 per person.

#### Missing a Green Feed Tub?

Sonya Berg found a green feed tub in the South East quadrant of the Bridger Parking Lot at the end of the Poker Ride. Contact Sonya at 388-6087.

## President's Report

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Hello Backcountry Horsemen,

Thank you to all who contributed to the 19th annual Poker Ride. Many gave of their time and many others gave donations of various kinds. It all came off very smoothly thanks to Joellyn's organizational skills and it was done safely. In my opinion this event was a huge success. Our business supporters really came through this year. Quite a few new ones came on board. I hope you will thank these people when you patronize their businesses. One of our long time supporters, Montana Canvas, is having a grand opening on August 12th. I encourage you to stop by, say thanks and look at their fine facility.

Most of us live in Montana because of its natural beauty and its change of seasons. We do have four distinct seasons and the summer season is upon us. I hear a lot of talk about the heat. In most years we have 2-3 weeks of temperatures above 90 and then it tapers off rather quickly. However long it lasts you need to make adjustments for the heat for both humans and animals. Slow down, drink lots of water and don't schedule labor intensive activities during the heat of the day. Check your club calendars for events and rides in August. There is something for everyone so come join in.

For those of you wondering about the Gallatin Forest Travel Plan, the final decision has not been published but is due out in August. I am hoping that common sense will prevail and they incorporated our recommended changes.

Remember that one of our purposes is to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses (and mules) in Montana's roadless backcountry. We have a wonderful public land resource right at our back door. Give thanks for it and use it with respect.

Rich Inman  
Your President

# Trail Report

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Chick Hale reports the following trail clearing activity for the month of July:

Larry Thomas and Wally Becker packed equipment into Cottonwood for the Forest Service.

Dan Porter and Wally Becker did work on Deer Creek mid-month.

The Forest Service patched road ruts in the Spanish Creek road.

Larry Thomas, Billie Thomas, Brenda Kessler, Jim Allbright, Wally Becker and Chick Hale manicured 141 feet of Garnet Mountain trail in two hours and nearly melted.

With the fire season arriving and temperatures soaring, it is imperative that trail workers contact trail bosses in the event that rides have to be cancelled. Wally recommends cancelling work parties when temperatures reach 85 degrees or more.

## August 2, 2006 Board Minutes

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Officers and Directors in Attendance:

Rich Inman, Janice Cartwright, Beth Merrick, Wally Becker, Trina Frederickson, Joellyn Howell, Bettye White, Dan Porter, Brown Parsons

Motion to accept minutes of July 5, 2006 by Trina; second by Beth. Minutes passed as written.

Bettye reported the following bills needing to be paid: Tire repair \$12.00, Cake for Poker Ride \$30.98, Utensils/Plates/Coffee for Poker Ride \$45.36, Water/Pop for Poker Ride \$110.84, Muffins for Poker Ride \$43.92, Newsletter Printing \$27.95. Motion by Trina to pay these bills; second by Jiffie.

Joellyn gave a summary report on the Poker Ride and has composed a binder for use in coordinating future Poker Rides, which includes suggestions for improvements, supplies needed, etc. Joellyn will also coordinate the thank you notes to be sent out to those individuals and businesses that donated prizes. The club netted approximately \$2,100 from this event.

Rich advised that we are in need of a new "campfire"

coffee pot for the club as the old one is worn out. The Board approved this purchase.

The Spanish Creek Trail Crew has not been able to do too much trail clearing due to the high temperatures we've been experiencing. They've decided to cancel work days where the temperature is expected to be 85 degrees or higher. The club's next scheduled work day is August 12th.

The GVBCB will not be participating in this year's Sweet Pea Parade due to some concerns with crowd control and placement in the parade.

The Steak Ride is scheduled for August 26th with Dan Porter, Wally Becker and Janice Cartwright doing the coordinating for this event. Attendees will have the option of dining on steak or chicken (provided by the club), this year and are requested to bring a dessert or salad to share with the group. If you plan to attend, you'll also need to bring your eating/serving utensils as well as plates, chairs and your beverage of choice. Cost for non-members is \$10.00. If you'd like to attend this event, please RSVP to Dan Porter by August 19th... no exceptions.

Meeting Adjourned.

Trina Frederickson  
Secretary



## Successful 2006 Poker Ride

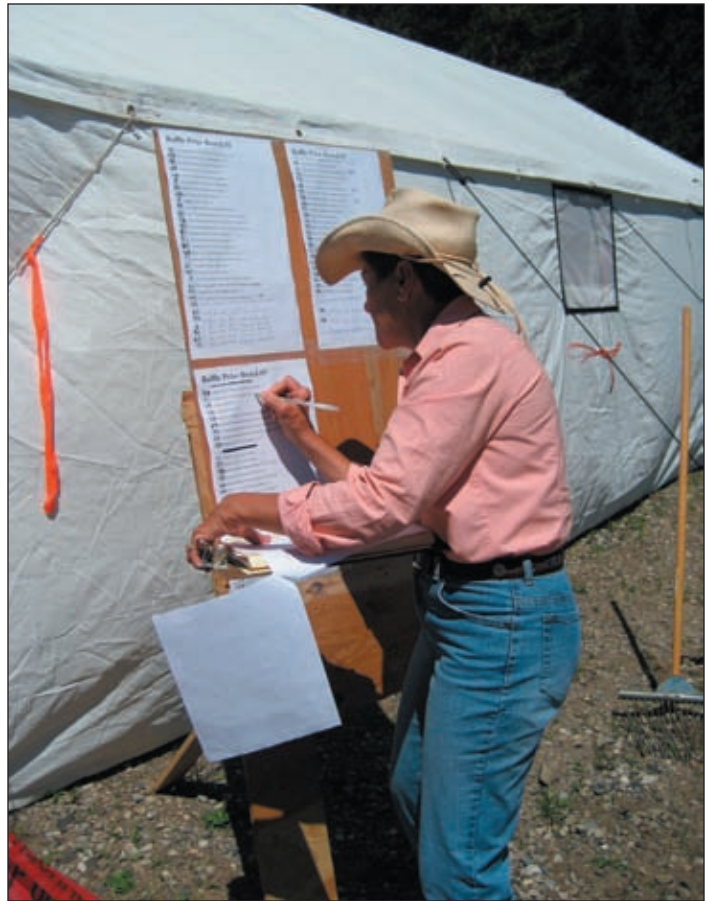
- 173 Registrations
- 350 Chicken Breasts from IGA
- 312 Bottles of water (13 cases of 24)
- 180 Pops (15 twelve packs)



Betty White estimates that \$3,100 was received, and about \$1,000 expended, netting the club \$2,100.

Janice and her corps of trail crew members are basking in the glow of praise for a terrific trail. The flagging materials are already in hand for next year's event.

Joellyn Howell has penned a record of the planning, assignments, donations, advertisements, expenses, food quantities, print, permissions, forms, signs, insurance and scheduling that proceed a successful Poker Ride. That tome will be kept in the BCH trailer for future Poker Ride chair persons. She adds her thanks, again, to all who helped in this fundraiser. She reports that there were no accidents reported, mega-donations were received from new sources, and that the bugs and flies will be ordered to stand down for the 2007 event. She has placed an order for excellent weather as well.



Poker Ride photos are from Janice Cartwright



Suggestions for the 2007 Poker Ride include:

## Trail

**2007 Poker Ride** The route will be the northern loop that will be traveled in a counter-clockwise direction.

**Two Color Flagging** A combination of two colors, used together, will denote the BCH trail and prevent riders from becoming confused when encountering tape or markers from other trails or projects.

## Registration

**Price Panel** Meal only, Adult and Child ride registration fees, 50/50 Pot price and Membership costs should be visible on a sign before paying so that one check can cover all expenses selected.

**50/50 Pot** Riders will purchase a ticket for each 50/50 Pot hand that they will hand to the 50/50 Pot handler.

**Meal Tickets** Add a separate ticket for purchase of lunch only (no raffle or poker hands).

**Trail Flagging Information** Add flagging color descriptions to the Registration handout and have a sign demonstrating flagging materials at the trail departure point.

**Speed Up Registration** Double up on the number of registration tables/workers/pens/raffle cans.

## Signing

**Whoa and Giddyup Signs** Mark the trail entrance with a sign showing where the trail starts, and add a “do not enter” sign to prevent riders from taking the trail in the wrong direction.

## Children

**Trail Cookies** Add a bag of cookies for each kid would keep kids going through a 2-3 hour ride.

**Kid Prize** An age appropriate raffle prize for children riding the trail.

## Donations

**Blanks** Add more blanks to the prize board for late

donations and have extra blank certificates available.

## Food

**Diet Drinks** Riders prefer diet drinks to regular pop by a ration of 2:1 and our stock on hand should reflect this preference.

**Alternatives** Foods should be available as an alternative for riders who don't eat chicken or are vegetarians.

**Desserts** Serve finger foods like brownies or cookies that do not require paper plates or service.

**Ice Chest** Only one king-sized cooler is needed at Headquarters, since it can be refilled as needed.

**Breakfast** Delete breakfast service and provide two dozen muffins and coffee for workers only.

**Watermellons** Only eight watermellons are needed.

**Salads** More Pasta Salad!



The Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen are indebted to the following businesses and members who contributed to the success of our 2006 Poker Ride. Please give them your business.

**BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS**

Ag Depot  
All West Veterinary  
Ardeson Boots & Shoes  
Barrett Enterprises  
Big Sky RV  
Bozeman Saddle Outlet  
Bridger Feeds  
Century 21- Dan Porter  
Chalet Market  
Cindy Debethizney Art  
Cole's Custom Saddles  
Concrete Construction  
DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service  
Don Funke Divine Equine  
Double Diamond Halters  
Freeway Enterprises  
Gourmet Gas Station  
Huft Custom Leather  
It Sew Happens

Kountry Korner Cafe  
Lee & Dad's  
MacKenzie River  
Madison House  
Montana Canvas  
Montana Harvest  
Montana Mandolin Society  
Murdoch's Ranch and Home  
Outfitter's Pack Station  
Owenhouse Ace Hardware  
Precision Fence Systems  
Quilting in the Country  
R.O. Brooks and Carter's Boots  
Rocky Mountain Hat Company  
Rocky Mountain Supply  
Schnee's Boots & Shoes  
Shear West  
Steele Halters  
True Value Hardware- Belgrade  
Your Friend's Happiness- S Hanan

**CLUB CONTRIBUTORS**

Anonymous  
Janice Cartwright  
Reggie Clark  
RJ Conti  
Cindy deBethizy  
Jan Elpel  
Dick & Barbara Haines  
Jiffie Hale  
Bonnie Hammer  
Laura Hanks  
John and Joellyn Howell  
Rich Inman  
Beth Merrick  
Jane Shields  
Bob Steinmann  
Connie Wallace  
George Zanck

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