

# THE PICKET LINE

JULY 2007



## Officers

### President

Dan Marsh 587-7578

### Vice President

Bob Steinman 282-7166

### Secretary

Nanci Winget 582-5795

### Treasurer

Brenda Kessler 763-4241

## Directors

2 yr

Jim Albright 995-4441

Janice Cartwright 579-3445

Rich Winget 582-5795

1 yr

Wally Becker 587-9607

Dan Porter 388-0290

Larry Thomas 586-6878

## State Board Members

Rich Inman 2 yr

Dan Marsh 1 yr

Alternate: Jan Elpel 1yr

## Newsletter Editor

Jiffie Hale 763-4105

Mobile 580-0774

[jhale@littleappletech.com](mailto:jhale@littleappletech.com)

## BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh 587-7578

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

## 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 — CANCELED

### General Meeting — Thursday, July 19 @ 7pm

**Belgrade Alliance Church, Cameron & Hoffman Sts**

**Program: Professor Bret Olson from MSU's**

**Animal and Range Sciences School**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

July schedule of events.....	2
New members/Roster changes .....	2
President's July report .....	3
<i>"Head for the Hills," by Pat Green.....</i>	3
<i>"Story behind the story," by Sherrie White.....</i>	4
<i>"Here is my story," by Ron Laden.....</i>	4
Trail maintenance write-ups.....	5-7
Board Minutes 6.7.07 .....	8
General Mtg Minutes 6.21.07.....	9
Equine Law and Liability report, <i>by Janice</i> .....	9
Poker Ride Mtg minutes.....	10-11
Bridger Crew July schedule .....	11

JULY 2007

### July schedule of events

**Thursday, July 5 @ 7pm** Board Meeting **IS CANCELED**

**Friday, July 6 @ 10am** flag the Poker Ride - Bridger Bowl parking lot - Kay Tate 587-2758

**Saturday, July 7th GVBCH 20th annual Poker Ride**  
**Bridger Bowl—Registration 9am Riding out 9-11am**

**Sunday, July 8 @ 10am** de-flag and clean-up ride - Bridger Bowl parking lot - Sherrie White 582-8797

**Thursday, July 19 @ 7pm** General Meeting and Program, Belgrade Alliance Church  
 Brett Olson, Professor of Range Science, and Interim Department Head, will speak to us on MSU's Animal and Range Sciences School and their programs.

**Saturday, July 21 @ 10am** Trail work day @ Spanish Peaks Wally Becker 587-9607 - Work is planned on the upper Spanish Peaks trail beginning 4 1/2 miles in from the trail head.

**Friday-Saturday, July 27-29 pack trip is canceled** as listed in our schedule of events. It will **NOT** be held on this date. You will be notified later if and when we have a new date with the FS. We are shooting for the Labor Day weekend and this has to be finalized.

### New members - roster changes

**New members to be added to 6/7/07 roster -**

Cindy deBethizy (renewal) [CdeBethizy@msn.com](mailto:CdeBethizy@msn.com)

Tuli & Danielle Fisher [tuliestlin@hotmail.com](mailto:tuliestlin@hotmail.com)

Lloyd Mandeville [Lloyd@LloydMandeville.com](mailto:Lloyd@LloydMandeville.com)

Catherine Nelson [CNHOBBIT@aol.com](mailto:CNHOBBIT@aol.com)

**Corrections -**

Coleen Carnine - correct email address to [bnccarnine@3riversdbs.net](mailto:bnccarnine@3riversdbs.net)

Sabrina Hanan - change email address to [info@allaboutwork.net](mailto:info@allaboutwork.net)

Dan Porter - change email address to [dan@bozemanbrokers.com](mailto:dan@bozemanbrokers.com)

Bob Vrooman - change email address to [rsvlgv@earthlink.net](mailto:rsvlgv@earthlink.net) and address to Bozeman 59719

Sonja Berg - change address to **5670** Thorpe Rd.

If any member desires a recent roster you may receive one via email - just contact me. There are **82 entries** presently. The latest roster inserted in your June issue is not up to date due to additions and corrections since that time. I plan to have extra rosters at meetings. *Jiffie*

#### NOTICE

Our club highly suggests that any persons under 18 yrs wear a helmet when riding.

Remember - safety first!

## President's report for July 2007

The twentieth annual Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen Poker Ride will be held on 7/7/7. With that kind of date we can't help but have a successful fund raiser. I want to especially thank Bob Steinman and Sherrie White for all of their hard work on this project. If you are going to be around on July 7th and have not signed up to help on the ride yet I encourage you to get a hold of Bob and let him know you would be available to help. Once again we have had a generous outpouring of support from businesses and club members for the prizes. We have a reputation of putting on the best Poker Ride in the area and this year we should continue to live up to that billing.

The trail crews have been real busy so far and we have just started to get after the list of trails the Forest Service has given to us for clearing. The Bridger crew has been busy getting our Poker Ride trails cleared along with their long list of trails that need clearing in the Bridger Range. We have worked on our adopted trail to the Spanish Lakes three times already and have had to cut out blow-down on every trip. In addition to our adopted trail the Forest Service has given us a list of 26 trails to clear of which we have already cleared three and cleared another seven that weren't on the list. I want to extend a big thank you to the trail bosses Larry, Chick, Wally, and Ron and all of their volunteers for their hard work on keeping the trails open. I also want to thank Kay Tate for writing up the trail clearing information and posting it in the newspaper so people can see the good work being done by our club. I have a feeling this year will be one of the largest tallies of volunteer hours ever done by our chapter. I also want to thank Sabrina Hanan for arranging the First Aid/CPR training and working on getting us Bear Aware education.

I want to thank Janice Cartwright for attending the Equine Law clinic where she represented our club and gave us a great report on the highlights. Hopefully we will be able to use some of the advice she learned at the clinic to prevent an accident at one of our functions. We will also take a look at our Liability Release forms and change them to Assumption of Risk forms instead. She said we need to emphasize that being around horses is inherently dangerous and people need to be sure they understand the risks.

If you are able to help out at the Steak Ride please contact Dan Porter or Wally Becker and offer them your support.

I am still looking for a chairman for the Convention to be held in Bozeman in 2009. If you have any ideas of a location or know someone that could get a good deal on a convention center please let me know. If you don't want to be the chairman but have an interest in helping out on the convention committee please let me know.

Dan Marsh, President

### Head for the hills poker ride June 9, by Pat Green

We had a gorgeous day for the Poker Ride on June 9<sup>th</sup>. With 2 inches of rain just three days before and more in the forecast it was looking doubtful whether or not the ride would take place. The footing can get pretty treacherous in the Horseshoes when it gets wet. After two days of drying we just couldn't have had a better day.

Coffee and crumb cake were available while everyone registered beginning at 8:30 am. There were 142 riders who headed out on one of two loops between 9:00 and 10:00. They had their choice between an eight and 12 mile ride. From what I heard everyone had a fun day and appreciated the well marked trails. The barbeque afterwards included grilled ribs and chicken with barbequed beans, potato salad, a drink, and desert.

The prizes were a bale bag hand sewn by Anna Duderstadt, collapsible trash can, Scott Simpson's latest book

*"Horseshoeing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"*, which includes a ton of useful information for the everyday rider, an equine massage therapy session donated by Heidi Chretien, and a halter and lead rope. The first place winner had their choice of the prizes. The second place winner had their choice of the remaining four and so on. The winning hand was a full house with aces and nines, then another full house, a flush, and two hands with three of a kind.

The ride t-shirts were designed by Anna Duderstadt which turned out great. Some were sold and the rest given as door prizes. Sponsors for the poker ride were Lee & Dads, Salon 33, Rocking DC Studio, Bridger Feeds, Equine Solutions, Scott Simpson and Ali Wierda.

Thanks to everyone who came and rode and to all who helped make it happen. A donation of \$1500.00 was made to Eagle Mount from the proceeds. Eagle Mount is a wonderful organization that provides recreational opportunities for people of all ages with all kinds of disabilities.

## Story behind the story, *by Sherrie White*

If you saw the recent story in the Bozeman Chronicle about the Backcountry Horsemen, you may have wondered how it got there.

When submitting a news release for the Backcountry Horsemen's safety clinic this spring, I included a note to the editor offering a few story ideas on the organization and its members. Knowing that newspapers are always looking for leads, I suggested that the newspaper consider two separate stories. "*On the Trail with the Backcountry Horsemen*," I explained to the editor was one possibility that would put a reporter and photographer on horseback with one of the trail crews. That would give the media an opportunity to report and photograph the club's efforts as well as their personal experience on the trail. Second story recommended was on members of the Backcountry Horsemen with coverage of some of the long-time members in the club as more or less for personality features.

In April I called the editor, Karin Ronnow, to verify that she received the safety clinic news release and the story ideas. She confirmed that they would be publishing the news release and that the Chronicle had assigned both of the story ideas to the news staff.



First up, was the "Members" feature. Arranging for interviews and photos required numerous calls and emails in order to work out the logistics with so many individuals involved. It looked like heavy rains might

keep the crew off of the trail on Thursday, May 31. So we initially arranged to have the reporter, Camden Easterling, meet with members at 4 Corners Cafe with photos to follow at Ron Laden's place on Harper Puckett using Janice's horses. That changed when the work crew decided it would be dry enough for trail work. The reporter and photographer were notified of the change and the interviews were rescheduled to be held prior to the work crew's departure from the trailhead. The photographer, Sean Sperry, chuckled (I think he secretly shuttered) when told that the new meeting place was the New World Gulch trailhead. He explained that he had covered a story about four years ago on the Backcountry Horsemen at that very site. Unfamiliar with the area for that assignment, Sean brought his bike and planned to pedal ahead of the group to take some photos. Sean hadn't expected the trail to be so steep and was a little out of condition so he had a heck of a time staying ahead of the group. Not only

that, but Sean admitted that he was a bit intimidated by the hooved beasts hot on his tail. This time he vowed he'd be more prepared.



Bright and early on that scheduled day, everyone

arrived as planned. Camden chatted with members, jotting down notes during her interviews. Sean once again headed up the New World Gulch in order to get some shots of members on the trail. This time he left his bike at home.

"*Riding Strong*" appeared in the Sunday, June 10 edition of the Bozeman Chronicle; "*On the Trail*" is slated to be done later this summer.

## OK- Here is my latest story...*by Ron Laden*

Janice and I moved cows on a Thursday. RC, my horse, is at horse school for a couple of weeks. I borrowed one of Janice's horses named Cody who I had ridden a couple of times, but is not particularly comfortable around cattle. As we were gathering, a cow and calf broke back between Janice and me. My dog, Mike, decided to chase her, which was a wrong choice on his part because it was away from where we needed her to go. So, I thought, I'd better turn her back. I started galloping after her, yelling at Mike to stop chasing her, knowing I needed to be going faster to get in front of her. I asked for more speed and got it. Very shortly thereafter, I spot this ditch that seems to be fast approaching. I decided it would be most appropriate to slow down before reaching this obstacle. The way to do that is to pull back on the reins. I did, but the horse seemed to be thinking this racing was fun and was not slowing much, if at all. I increased the tension which seemed to pull myself forward about the same time the ditch arrived and needed jumping. It was necessary for the ditch to be jumped since it was the only option by this time. However, with my body out of position and leaning forward, Cody jumped. It seemed that the heel of my boot hit him in the flank area which instituted what I would call a lifting of his posterior in such a way that I was projected forth onto the terra firma, which seemed to be somewhat a relief, since I knew what was coming - except that it was not particularly soft. That bad decision on my part, being out of control, created a sore feeling in my posterior, but luckily nothing more. Quote from Janice, "Ron has not gone off a horse for over 40 years plus. He only began riding these past 2 years after a 40 year hiatus. Not bad."

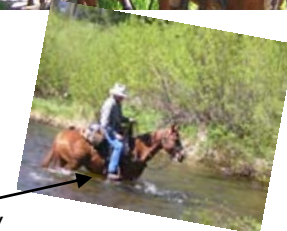
JULY 2007

National Trails Day, **Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>** on our Spanish Peaks adopted trail had six men, 6 horses and 2 pack horses - Wally, Chick, Larry, Dan (M), Kent Knatterud (new member), and his father-law, Lowell Lawson, began trail work right off. A tree had fallen blocking the trail between the foot-bridge and the horse trail out of the creek. It was easily removed before any one mounted up. The day had started better than expected - the gravel road to the trail head had been graded. On the Madison side, just prior to the turn onto the paved road, Madison county had re-graded and stone filled the deep dip where there had been those muddy ruts. This was a big welcome surprise. The crew left the trail head at 10a and



arrived at the Y at 1p after having cut out 10 trees. Dan and Larry went on to remove the tree out of the creek. Lowell lost his disposal camera in the creek (he was going to get pictures for the NL) and hung it up to dry, but it was now a throw-away. They cleaned water bars on their way home and got back to the trail head at 5:30p after a good day's work. Creek was high going in, yet Larry was the only brave one to cross as the others took the winter trail. Larry's horse is big, but he got his boots splashed -

notice he's lifting his leg?



### First time's a charm, by Sherrie White

Rain, mud, dental appointments and various maladies kept us from participating in any of the scheduled BCH work rides until **Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**. So there we were on that day at the Bridger Bowl parking lot ready to hit the trail, but not without some trepidation and questions:

1. Would we, and our older leased horses, be able to keep up with everyone?
  2. Could we be helpful or would we get in the way?
  3. What if we did something stupid?
  4. What lessons would we learn from this first experience with the work crew?
3. Would we do it again? *(These answers appear later)*

The crew consisted of Ron R (with pack horse), Kay, Wayne, Colleen, Bonnie, my husband Ron, and myself. We departed the parking lot at 9:30am. When the trail split, Kay and Wayne went north to check that section of the trail. Kay caught up with the rest of us just before lunch, but Wayne had to leave early for an appointment. Little work was encountered in the morning and we took a lunch break where we found good "sitting" logs and shade, an amazing spot for an afternoon picnic. How lucky to be in the mountains on such a beautiful sun-shiny day with good company. Soon it was time to move on.

Our work load increased dramatically when we came upon a blow down shortly after lunch. Here's where we began to understand the importance and extent of the Backcountry Horsemen's role in trail maintenance. A swarm of trees was down in a tangled mess across the trail making it impossible for horses or bikes to get through and not real easy for hikers either. Everyone seemed to know just what to do, from holding horses, using the chainsaw and tools, to removing brush and logs. After clearing this clogged area, the group moved on. The afternoon continued to be busy with downed trees and everyone pitched in to help. I counted over 30 trees that were cut and removed from the trail. In addition, the clipper queen duo of Bonnie and Colleen, snipped off countless branches from horse-top along the trail from start to finish.

Our work day came to an end when we arrived back at the parking lot at 5:30, eight hours after we had departed. The cold drinks waiting for us in a cooler sure were a welcome treat. It had been a great day; we enjoyed the work, the riding, the people and scenery. Our work day came to an end we arrived back at the parking lot at 5:30, eight hours after we had departed. The cold drinks waiting for us in a cooler sure were a welcome treat. It had been a great day; we enjoyed the work, the riding, the people and scenery.

And the answers to those burning questions are:

1. We kept up, more or less, but our lease horses definitely needed prodding.
2. I don't think we got in the way and I hope that we were helpful
3. We probably did a number of stupid things, but everyone was patient. For example, I forgot my hat from home and Kay provided a visor for me to use.
4. We learned much from this first experience, simple stuff, as "don't tie your horse to a dead tree." But most of all, we realized that there are many lessons to be learned from everyone on the work

Continued next page...

JULY 2007

rides. As newcomers, we are so grateful that they are willing to share their knowledge and stories. Not only did we learn about trail maintenance on our first day, but we learned about trail blazes, animal markings on the trees and how to recycle old boots (ask Bonnie Hammer).

5. Definitely, we'll be out there again. We loved it!

**Monday, June 11th** seven riders with 3 pack horses and chain saws worked their way past the green gate and split up. Larry, Wayne and Kay cleared the poker ride trail to Bridger Bowl's boundary and then turned north to meet with Dick, Ron R, Sherrie and Ron White who were working the upper trails. They came across Dick and Ron W. doing some irrigating to get water off the trail while Sherrie and Ron went up to Ross Pass to make sure it was passable. Riding the 3rd loop of the poker ride trail added mileage to our 15 mile day. After last weeks marathon of downed trees it was a relief to cut only 6. ( submitted by Kay)



**Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>** Well, the Wednesday Trail Crew finally made it to Garnett Mountain, only we went on Tuesday instead (had to



fool the weather Gods to accomplish our assignment). Chick, Wally, Janice and Jim made the trek. Rocky graciously packed the equipment by returning to his roots on a pack string in a former life. The trail was in good shape with some minor trimming needed with handsaws and lopping shears (since the chain saw refused to cooperate). Wildflowers were blooming, the sky was blue, and the sun was shining. What more could you ask, especially after 3 rained out, make that drenched out Wednesdays in a row? Wally shared some of his horse whispering experiences with misunderstood horses during our lunch break. His stories are worth doing the work! Stay tuned to see what trail Chick steers us to next week..." (submitted by Janice )

**Thursday, June 14th** there was Larry Thomas and his crew of Ed Long, Wally, Mike ?, Dick Haines, Colleen, and Bonnie who all met at Spanish Creek. They rode up to the Y and proceeded up to Falls Creek nipping branches left and right. Then they ran into the 'big stuff.' They cut 3 logs 18-20" across with numerous branches plus 15 other logs which were often in sets of twos or threes. They began at 10a and returned to the trailhead at 6p very tired, but feeling that they had done a great job of covering 12 miles (6 in, 6 out). The crew started out in the rain, but as they reached Pioneer Falls the weather cleared and the sky had big puffy clouds. Ed's horse saw a moose and turned inside out and his pack mule ran a few yards towards home. Other than that the only delay was driving behind the paint truck as they painted the stripes on the highway. They saw lots of elk and deer on Turner's land. (submitted by Bonnie)

**Trail ride on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>** - Hell Roaring - Larry Thomas, trail boss, led the group consisting of Dan Porter, Jim Albright, Dennis Doran, Brenda Kessler, Wally Becker, Danielle Fisher, Bob Vrooman, Sandy Archer, and Chick Hale for a BCH trail ride. They left promptly at 10am and rode for 7 miles up the trail and ended up clearing new blow downs which had fallen since the last crew of 5 had cleared the trail on May 17. The final blow down looked too big and quote, "they had had enough," and arrived back at the trail head about 4:30 +/- . A successful day of riding spiced in with new blow downs. Were they prepared for these blow downs? Yes. Larry and Wally just happened to have a saw and an ax handy! (submitted by Chick)

**Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup>** on the Bangtail 504 trail and sandwiched between a series of switchbacks (including 30 on the Stone Creek side) are 23 miles of the Bangtail Trail 504. A trail crew of 11 riders and 3 pack horse split into two groups to tackle this trail. One group of 6 riders and 2 pack horses left from the Stone Creek trailhead at 9:30a and cleared from the south to the north. The second group of 5 riders and 1 pack horse departed from Brackett Creek and cleared the trail heading south as far as the old Bangtail R.S.



Riding from Stone Creek were Dick Grover, Jim Nelson, Bonnie Hammer, Wayne Frederickson and Ron and Sherrie White. The group trekked in 11 ½ miles with two pack horses and removed 9 trees before returning to the trailhead after 7 hours on the trail. After a couple of beers and a little BS, the group was home-ward bound.

The Brackett Creek troop consisted of Jane Huffine, Colleen Carnine, Jeff Banta, Kay Tate, Dick Haines and 1 pack horse, Joe. Leaving the trailhead at 9:30a they cleared 11 ½ miles and encountered 7 trees across the trail. There had been a lot more but someone had already been through with a saw. A sign at the trailhead was posted to make trail users aware of trail work underway. Brian McNeil

JULY 2007

came by while the group was out and wrote a thank you "for all you do" on the sign. The BWAG's hiked ahead of the group, 2 motorcyclists, and 2 bicyclists were encountered with no problem. The bikers helped to saw and pitch one log and thanked the crew profusely. Saddle time was 8 hours, ½ hour for lunch, with a return to trailers at 6 p.m. A little wine and peanuts fortified the crew for the drive home. (submitted by Sherrie )

Last **Wednesday, June 20**, Chick's trail crew headed towards Emerald Lake on Hyalite Trail #434. It was a very easy ride for the 8 person crew, since it seemed that some unknown persons had preceded us with a chainsaw.

We encountered some snow which presented an interesting situation for Chick. He managed to high center Pistol Pete in one of these snow banks. Janice, while directly behind him, with camera IN HAND, was so concerned about Chick getting out of the way, she DID NOT get the photo! Sorry guys. When we finally decided not to plow through any more snow banks with Ken Yankelevitz (it was his first trail clearing day) and Ernie Rajala (a MANY years ago retired calvary colonel), we all stopped for lunch. Rich Inman and friend, Ron rode through to Emerald Lake and their opinion on that part of the trail? They thought skis would be appropriate for a few more days if anyone wanted to reach the lake! Great day, great company. (submitted by Janice)



**Thursday June 21<sup>st</sup>** Larry's crew of 8 riders headed for Jerome Rock - again. Last week on the 14th they sawed until exhaustion and time set in and they got 6 miles in. This week Larry, Ed Long, Mark Deopsomer, Wally Becker,



Rich Inman, Jim Albright, Brenda Kessler and Kay Tate worked another 2 miles into the wilderness cutting 20 trees until stopped by snowdrifts 1 mile from the lake. They worked and got water off the trail in the upper regions. (submitted by Kay)

**On Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>** on our adopted Spanish Creek trail work day a crew of 6: Larry, Kay, Rich, Wally, Dick Haines, and Kent Knatterud left the TH at 8:30a to beat the heat and try to make it all the way to the lakes. Kay lopped all the way up and the guys leap frogged cutting 10 trees to the Mirror Lake Y and another 19 upward to where a snow drift stopped us. We met Ed Long, Mary Ann, and Mark Deopsomer coming down from beyond the snow and they told us it was impassable. At that point we turned around and headed for Dubois Lake for lunch. Fish were very active and no one had a rod with them. From there we went up Mirror Lake and cut another 34 trees for a total of 63 and made it to the lake. Rich cleaned water bars for 2 miles on the Mirror Lake trail and we all rode a total of 21 miles.



We were all pooped! The refreshments at TH revived us enough to drive home. What a crew!! (submitted by Kay) On the same day on the adopted trail, but without any packhorse, Chick led his crew of Sandy Archer, Jim Albrecht, and Brenda Kessler. Hampered without a packhorse they carried what they could: a pair of pruners and a saw. They did the necessary work needed and proceeded up to the falls for lunch. They had a nice leisurely day and headed back – only so much could be done. They wished they had the tools to take care of the water-bars, but those tools could not be carried easily by hand on a horse. Another day. (submitted by the crew)

**Monday June 25<sup>th</sup>** Shafthouse to Fairy Lake. The day can be summed up in two words: gorgeous and windy. Six Back Country Men and Women left the Flathead Ranger Station TH @ 9:30. Ruth Hall, Bonnie Hammer, Kay Tate, Mike Gard, Jim Nelson and Dick Haines with two chain saws and two pack horses met their first downed tree of a soon to be 13 only 20 minutes up the trail. Kay and Bonnie lopped their way up and down clearing pannier and head room. We saw several deer and two elk cows. One deer hung around our lunch spot so we figured her fawn was nearby. Watch your dogs in the mountains at this season as the calves and fawns are very vulnerable at this stage of their young lives. On our way back we rode up the ridge to the Shafthouse and tossed a rock down to see if we could hear it hit the bottom–NO. It was good to see old friends again. (submitted by Kay)



JULY 2007

GVBCH Board Meeting June 7, 2007

In Attendance: Dan Marsh, Rich Inman, Wally Becker, Brenda Kessler, Jim Albright, Larry Thomas, Dan Porter, Jiffie Hale, Chick Hale, Janice Cartwright, Bob Steinman, Rich & Nancy Winget.

Meeting called to order by President Dan Marsh at 7:10 PM

Minutes of the April 5<sup>th</sup> board meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. Minutes of the General Meeting were approved as corrected: The correct balance of the treasury is \$1,577.30.

New Bills: Jiffie presented bills totaling \$44.44 for postage. Janice presented a bill from the Fairgrounds for \$150 for the clinic. Rich Inman presented a bill for \$90 for mileage to the state convention. All bills had previously been approved for payment by the Board. Brenda reported that she has deposited dues for 5 new members, and George Zanck made a \$50 donation toward the Poker Ride Expenses.

Correspondence:

The Missoula chapter of BCH will have a Steak Ride in the Blackfoot Clearwater Range June 17<sup>th</sup>.

DJ Bar Ranch will present a People & Mule Demo on Friday June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Standing Committee Reports

Membership: Jiffie has sent out 10 new member packets, is requesting 14 additional packets. Rich Inman needs to get more material printed and has to secure additional Trailer Decals.

Issues: Rich Inman reported that if members find closures on the Gallatin Forest, the members should contact the local Ranger to open gates, etc. Becky Heath, the current head of the Forest Service here has accepted another post in Washington.

Dan Marsh has received verbiage from the BCHA modifying the constitution.

Dan reported that the Horse Slaughter Act was passed.

Publicity: Maggie was not present. Members noted that ads will appear in the Mini Nickel, Rocky Mountain Rider and Outside Bozeman for the Poker Ride. There will be an article in the Bozeman Chronicle regarding the opening of new trails and BCH's work with the Forest Service.

Newsletter: No report

Trail Crews: Chick has received a list of 26 trails that need our work from Brian McNeil at the Forest Service.

Program: Sabrina was not present. There will be no June program due to Poker Ride discussion. The July program is a presentation from MSU.

Old Business

State Delegate Meeting in Lincoln: Rich Inman reported that 2 lawsuits have been filed against the Gallatin Valley Travel Plan. The next convention will be held March 28-30 in Great Falls.

Equine Law Clinic: Janice reported that the clinic was excellent. She has a book and notes which she will make available to any club member. There is an excellent website [Horsesafety.com](http://Horsesafety.com) that provides information on equine law.

New Business

FS Certification: Dan Marsh advised that the Forest Service will provide Bear Spray Training at 8:30 AM on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Forest Service has agreed to pay for two BCH members to receive First Aid/CPR training. Brian will work with the club to re-certify members with existing Sawyer Certificates. Class for new chain saw users will be held June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at the FS Headquarters.

Convention: still need a chairperson for the 2009 convention

Poker Ride: chairman Bob Steinman lead the meeting for the Poker Ride. discussion:

Businesses that provide services as gifts should provide their own certificates.

Club should print up 8 ½ x 11 posters for the day of the ride. Kathy Coleman and Jan Elpel volunteer as chairpersons for the food committee

Larry Thomas agreed to be in charge of the pop-stands. He will pick up the ice at Lee and Dads. Two coolers are needed at each stop and 3 at the base camp.

Dan Marsh will print the maps and tickets for the ride.

Goodies for next meeting will be provided by Rich Winget. Meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Winget, sec



JULY 2007

**June 21, 2007 General Meeting minutes**

Bob Steinman, 2007 Poker Ride chairmen held a Poker Ride meeting first.

Minutes of the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasure: Brenda reported expenses since the 1st meeting of \$1,060.81, income of \$320.00. Current balances:

Checking \$1,612.38

CD \$5,724.04 Franklin Templeton \$2,125.23

New Bills: Jiffie Hale \$55.30 for June newsletter; Bob Steinman \$19.00 for Insty-prints; Dan Marsh \$94.60 for decals  
All bills were approved for payment.

Membership: 82 memberships. Jiffie will take 25 applications, newsletters and event schedules to the Poker Ride.

Publicity: Maggie was not present, Bob reported on the ads that will appear for the Poker Ride.

Trail Crews: Chick reported that of the 26 trails identified by Brian of the Forest Service work has been completed on 12. There are 4 trail crew leaders: Larry Thomas, Chick Hale, Wally Becker and Rich Inman.

Steak Ride: Dan and Wally will determine whether we will offer chicken and steak and report at next meeting.

Board Meeting - new location needed for board meeting starting in September.

CPR/1<sup>st</sup> Aid: 7 members and 2 non-members attended on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sawyer Training: Rich Winget received Sawyer training. No date set for Sawyer re-certification.

Janice reported on the Equine Law Clinic. She has book available for all club members. She suggested that two good websites for information: [horsemanshipssafety.com](http://horsemanshipssafety.com) and [equinelaw.ttu.edu](http://equinelaw.ttu.edu). The main issue discussed at the clinic is that you need to take appropriate steps for a lawyer to defend you in a suit. Think Ahead! Suggestion was made that the club have the verbiage for our waiver reviewed by an appropriate lawyer. No motion was made.

Trail boss should: ask if anyone on ride has a medical problem and if so, insure that the appropriate medication is on the person's body, no the horse; if the boss is uncomfortable with the ride - don't go! carry and pencil and paper for riders to record events in case of an accident; at the half way point ask riders if they are OK or have any questions/issues; if you can't manage it don't do it; boss should suggest that any rider under 18 wear a helmet - cannot demand; post that no alcoholic beverages will be served - although cannot stop others from bringing theirs.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 by Dan Marsh

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Winget - secretary

.....  
**Janice Cartwright attends workshop and her report**

.....  
 "I represented our club at the recent Equine Law and Liability For The Horse Industry Clinic held at the fairgrounds. Sherry Meador, a MT attorney specializing in equine law, and Jan Dawson, a lawyer with oodles of equine experiences from Austin, TX area, offered this clinic. The summation of the 2 day period was to "THINK AHEAD". Preventing any accident from happening is the best scenario.

.....  
 In any equine setting, we were advised to Be Reasonable - Make Sense -Think It Through- Take Charge - Set Ground Rules - Be Prepared To Say NO WAY.

.....  
 While I am lamenting my plight of having to spend 2 beautiful week-end days inside, after the first hour, I was hooked (even though after the first day I was ready to sell all of my horses!). The amount of material covered was huge. Please feel free to con-

.....  
 tact me with questions. There is a workbook available for members to review with some of my notes added. Also, Jan Dawson has written a good resource book: Teaching Safe Horsemanship, A Guide to English and Western Instruction. I would recommend this clinic to anyone associated with horses." Some important contacts

.....  
[www.horsemanshipssafety.com](http://www.horsemanshipssafety.com)

.....  
[www.equinelaw.ttu.edu](http://www.equinelaw.ttu.edu)

.....  
 Sherry K. Meador  
 Attorney at Law, MT  
 406 431 7638

.....  
[meador@3riversdbs.net](mailto:meador@3riversdbs.net)

.....  
 Bob Young  
 Northwest Equine Insurance  
 800 828 0279

.....  
[www.northwestequineinsurance.com](http://www.northwestequineinsurance.com)  
 .....

The best kind of friend

Is the kind you can sit on a porch and swing with,

Never say a word, and then walk away

Feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had.

## JULY 2007

Poker Ride meeting June 7, 2007: chairman Bob Steinman lead the following discussion

- Businesses that provide services as gifts should provide their own certificates. Club should print up 8 ½ x 11 posters for the day of the ride.
- Kathy Coleman and Jan Elpel volunteer as chairpersons for the food committee
- Larry Thomas agreed to be in charge of the pop-stands. He will pick up the ice at Lee and Dads. Two coolers are needed at each stop and 3 at the base camp.
- Dan Marsh will print the maps and tickets for the ride.
- We will be taking the 2003 route North clockwise.
- Friday night crew should report at 5 PM and bring food for a pot luck after setup.
- Flagging crew will meet Friday at 10 AM, Janice will head.
- Take down crew will meet Sunday at 10 AM, Bob will head.
- Road signs will be placed by Rich Inman and Wally.
- Pre-ride crew will meet Saturday at 8:30 AM, Janice will head.
- Sweep riders will leave as appropriate, Chick will head.
- Master of ceremonies will be Dan Marsh.
- Ice Chests should be delivered to Big Sky RV. Bob will provide 2, Rich Inman 1, Dan Marsh 1, Larry Thomas 1, 1 in the trailer.
- Lunch service will be discussed at the General Meeting
- Registration: 2 lines will be formed, Brenda will provide 2 money boxes, with a total of \$300. Registration starts at 8 AM.
- No raffle tickets are needed
- 50/50 tickets are in the trailer
- 10 tables are needed: Bob will provide 2, Larry 1, Dan M 2, Jiffie 1, Rich Inman 2, 4 are in the trailer.
- Wally will deliver the trailer on Friday night.
- Larry will provide a sledge hammer for tent stakes
- Dan Marsh will send the insurance requirements.
- Chick is the designated "pooper scooper".
- Port-a-potties will be arranged by Bob from Big Johns, 2 will be needed.
- A separate table will be set up for the 50/50 \$5 tickets.
- Children under 15 will pay \$15 if they want to be involved in the raffle, otherwise the cost is \$8.
- Top Prizes for the Poker Hand:
  - Montana Canvas
  - Generator
  - Cowboy Hat
  - Summit Chiropractic
  - Cowboy Boots
  - Precision Fence
  - Balance of the prizes will be given as raffle prizes.

Poker Ride meeting 6-21-07 chairman Bob Steinman lead the following discussion

A 2007 Work Roster and 2007 Sponsor list was presented to each member present.

The food committee, chaired by Cathy Coleman met prior to the general meeting. Several issues were clarified:

- coffee, coffee maker and condiments for coffee are in the trailer
- Rich Inman will provide the propane tank
- Lunch will be chicken, two salads (two of either pasta, potato or slaw), rolls, cookies, pop, water, coffee and watermelon
- Persons manning the pop stations such provide their own knife and cutting board for the watermelons.  
Rich Inman will call Lee & Dads to verify that we need 9 watermelons.
- Larry will pick up the water, ice and watermelons at Lee & Dads. Cathy will be responsible for picking up the balance of the lunch.
- Pop stand volunteers must be at the start at 8:30 AM, will ride to the stands via truck.

Friday night set up crew is as listed on the roster with the addition of Jiffie and Chick. Bob and Rich Inman will spend the night at the site for security purposes.

Pop stand crews are as listed on the roster.

Flagging crews, take down crews, road sign, advance riders and sweep riders are as listed on the roster.

is as listed on the roster. Janice has the materials for flagging. Friday crew is to meet at Level J lot of Bridger Bowl, mounted and ready to ride at 10 AM.

**JULY 2007**

Advance riders day of Ride to start at 8:30 AM, sweep riders to start at 11 AM .

Ice Chests: Ice chests are to be dropped off at Big Sky RV Friday night rather than Saturday morning. Chests should be delivered to Wayne or Bruce. Larry will pick up chests early Saturday AM.

Rich Inman and trailer - 2 large chests

Bob - 4 small chests

Larry - 1 chest

Dan Marsh - 1 chest

Posters and Signage: Sherri has arranged for ads in local papers, will run a display ad in the Bozeman Chronicle and the Belgrade News.

Sherri will get two sets of tickets printed

\$15 ticket which includes Poker Hand, Raffle, and Lunch

\$8 ticket which includes raffle and lunch only - for children under 12 who choose not to participate in the poker hand. Note: Poster also includes Lunch only cost of \$8 - will Sherri need another set of tickets?

Lunch Servers:

Cathy Coleman

Jan Elpel

Rich Inman

Bob Steinman

Sherrie White

Registration: Be prepared to start at 7:30 AM

Betty White

Jiffie Hale

Sandy McManus

Bob Steinman

Billie Thomas

Money Box: Brenda Kessler will obtain \$300 cash and one money for Bettye. Bob will provide second money box.

Raffle Tickets" Sherri will obtain two sets of tickets: \$15 and \$8.

Cards are in the trailer - Bob will check to insure that each deck is full

Pens, pencils, and clipboards are in the trailer. Bob will check to insure that pens still work

Easel for prize posting is in the trailer

Garbage cans (4) and liners are in the trailer

Sign Up Sheets:

Tables

Bob 2, Sonja 1, Rich 2, Jiffie 1, Larry 2, Trailer 4

Per Sherrie waivers are done and Dan Marsh has sent in the appropriate insurance work. Dan Marsh has given the CDs with prize information to Sherrie. Sherrie will print out the information for each prize to be posted at the ride.

Water will not be provided for horses, there may be some water on the trail.

### **Bridger work days...**

July 2 - Trail 444 Indian Ridge Hwy 191 S. 1/2 m. past R.S.

July 9 - Trail 400 - Little Hell Roaring - Spanish Cr T.H.

July 16 - Trail 535 - Truman Gulch - W. Bridgers off Walker Rd.

July 23 - Trail 545 - N. Cottonwood - 14 m. north on Springhill

July 30 - Trail 524 - Sixteen Mile - call Ron for directions - 388-4415



**GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS  
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2006 POKER RIDE. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL**

*Ag Depot*  
*All West Veterinary*  
*Ardesson Boots and Shoes*  
*Barrett Enterprises*  
*Big Sky RV*  
*Bozeman Saddle Outlet*  
*Bridger Feeds*  
*Century 21 – Dan Porter*  
*Chalet Market*  
*Cindy deBethizy Art*  
*Coles'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 Café*  
*Lee & Dad's*  
*MacKenzie River*  
*Madison House*  
*Montana Canvas*  
*Montana Harvest*  
*Montana Mandolin Society*  
*Murdoch's Ranch & Home*  
*Outfitters's Pack Station*  
*Owenhouse Ace Hardware*  
*Precision Fence Systems*  
*Quilting in the Country*  
*R.O. Brooks and Carter's Boots*  
*Rocky Mountain Hat Compcny*  
*Rocky Mountain Supply*  
*Schnee's Boots & Shoes*  
*Shear West*  
*Steele Halters*  
*True Value Hardware – Belgrade*

*Your Friend's Happiness – S. Hanan*  
Members::  
*Anonymous*  
*Janice Cartwright*  
*Reggie Clark*  
*RJ Conti*  
*Cindy deBethizy*  
*Jan Elpel*  
*Dick & Barbara Haines*  
*Jiffie Hale*  
*Bonnie Hammer*  
*Laura Hanks*  
*John & Joyelln Howell*  
*Rich Inman*  
*Beth Merrick*  
*Jane Shields*  
*Bob Steinman*  
*Connie Wallace*  
*George Zanck*

***Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen***

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

***Bozeman MT 59772-3232***

