

The picket line

JUNE 2008



Officers (1 yr)

<u>President</u>	
Dan Marsh	587.7578
<u>Vice President</u>	
Jim Allbright	995.4441
<u>Secretary</u>	
Amy Hathaway	282.6089
<u>Treasurer</u>	
Brenda Kessler	763.4241

Back Country Horsemen Mission Statement

“The purpose of this organization shall be (1) to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in Montana’s 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.”

Directors

2 yr	
Stacy Bragg	222.0077
Dan Porter	388.0290
Larry Thomas	586.6878
1 yr	
Janice Cartwright	579.3445
Duane Wiltse	586.3597
Rich Winget	579.9866

Board Meeting Thursday, June 5 - 7p

Dan Porter’s office 1745 So. 19th

General Meeting - **Thursday, June 26** - 7p

Belgrade Alliance Church, Hoffman & Cameron Sts

Program

Dale Moore on saddle education

Information on page 2

DATE CHANGE

State Board Delegates

Jim Allbright	2 yr
Rich Inman - 388.1564	1yr
Alternate: Stacy Bragg	1yr

Newsletter Editor

Membership

Jiffie Hale	763.4105
Mobile	580.0774
jhale@litttleappletech.com	

BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh	587.7578
dmarsh@montana.edu	

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JUNE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, June 5, 7pm - Board Meeting, Dan Porter's office @ 1745 So. 19th

Saturday, June 7, 10am - National Trails Day - Spanish Creek Campground, Larry Thomas is trail boss 586-6878

Saturday, June 14 - Pony Poker Ride. Come ride in the beautiful Tobacco Root Mountains
Contact 570-4729

Date
change →

Saturday, June 21, - 10am - Pat Green's Poker Ride 285-6949

Thursday, June 26, 7pm - General Meeting and program with Dale Moore - see info below

Saturday - Sunday, June 28 - 29, 9a - 4p - High Country Packing and Stock Handling Clinic
Contact Larry Van Dyke 586-2440 Flyer sent via email. 10 participants only. See pg 11minutes

Program information for June 26

******The date has been changed. Church is not available for our regular date.**

Our speaker is Dale Moore, Belgrade resident, former Manhattan School superintendent and owner of Montana Horseman Saddle Building School. He combines his love of education with the art of making saddles (45 years of it).

His school is only one of 5 in the country. Dale, 76, is one of only two saddle makers that build "balance-stride" saddles. Students practice on "school saddles" selling from around \$1700 and then graduate to making their own saddle. Saddles crafted by Dale run about \$3000. Leather working is only part of his passion. He owns a museum of 60+/- antique saddles and provides history lessons

A huge welcome to our new members

Lisa Borick

Jorge and Cookie Gonzalez

Julie Martin (returning member)

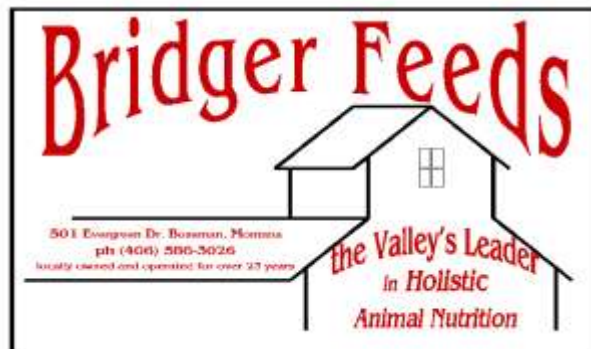
Jennifer "JR" Royston

Scot Shuler

New members may pick up their new member packets at the general meeting. Due to many new members recently and many address and email changes, a recent roster has been enclosed.

"Never approach a bull
from the front,
a horse from the rear,
or a fool from any direction."

by Danny Saradon



President's Report for June 2008

The May general meeting was well attended with lots of new members in the audience. The scheduled presenter was unable to make the meeting but Jim Allbright came through with a talk on his Leave No Trace training which he recently attended in Missoula. Jim is now a certified Master Leave No Trace instructor that is able to certify other LNT trainers in our area. I want to thank Jim for taking time out of his busy schedule to take this training and pass on LNT concepts to back country users in our neck of the woods. Thanks also to Amy Hathaway who agreed to help Jiffie with the new membership packets. New members need to attend our general meeting to receive their packets.

Rich Inman informed me that the Belgrade Alliance church will be in use for youth church camp during our regularly scheduled general meeting Thursday June 19. **Please note that our general meeting has been moved up one week to Thursday June 26** and Janice has arranged for our presenter on saddle fitting to present on this date.

Brian McNeil and Jim Hansen of the Forest Service provided a number of our members with chain saw and crosscut certification in May. Brian is scheduling First Aid and CPR training later for those that took the chainsaw certification but don't already have current certification. It is a requirement of the Forest Service for those people that are working under their volunteer agreement for trail work to have a number of people certified in the work which they will be performing. Besides, the people that will be operating chainsaws are also required to have First Aid and CPR certifications. People that will be carrying Bear Spray must also be certified in its use. In addition, anyone working around stock is required to have attended a Defensive Horse Safety Course within three years or a refresher course if the training was done more than three years ago. All of these certifications may seem like a lot of extra work just to be able to volunteer your time clearing a trail, but the end result is hopefully a safer and more educated work force. By working under the Forest Service volunteer program we are

essentially employees of the Forest Service when working on the trails and are entitled to Workers Compensation if one of us is injured. We are also protected by the Forest Service's insurance against any liability claims brought against us. If you are interested in helping on a trail crew, but have not received any of the preceding certifications, don't despair. We still need folks that can be swampers to remove branches and logs after they are bucked, folks to prune limbs, work on water bars, and take care of the stock.

Brain has got the list of trails lined out for both the Bridger crew and Larry's Brigade. Both crews plan to start in June with the Bridger crew working on Mondays and Larry's Brigade working on Thursdays. If you can spare a day off during the week please contact Ron Rassley for the Monday work crew and Larry Thomas for the Thursday work crew. We also have a number of weekends set aside for trail maintenance on our annual calendar.

The Red Tree Symposium is a one-day public forum for anyone who wants to learn more about the causes and potential impacts of the bark beetle outbreak on Montana's forests. Presentations will feature entomologists, wildlife biologists, timber industry representatives and others. It will be on Thursday, June 5, 9am – 4:30pm in the University Center Ballroom, University of Montana, Missoula. The event is free, but you must register by calling (406) 542-4300 or go online to <http://www.DNRC.MT.gov/redtree> This is the same night as the board meeting. If someone is able to attend from the club and report any interesting information it would be greatly appreciated. Board member - please remember to get your proxy.

Our annual Poker Ride is right around the corner on July 12th. If you haven't contacted Rich or Sherrie to offer some help there are still a few jobs that need to be filled. Rich and Sherrie have done a great job organizing the event and we are way ahead of last year in having everything lined out. If you have any prizes for the Poker Ride make sure you let Sherrie know who the donor is so she can add it to her list and bring the prizes to Rich before June 15th.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Marsh

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Program May 15, 2008, by Amy Hathaway

Jim Allbright stepped up to present the program as the schedule for the existing program was cancelled.

Jim just completed a “Leave No Trace” training through the USFS National Training program at 9 Mile Training Camp in Lolo. Jim acquired the status of “Master Educator” in which he will then teach three others who will do more presentations.

The Seven Principles to backcountry packing, riding, camping are-

1. Plan Ahead; Be Prepared: plan your food, go light—skip the cans and use dehydrated.
2. Plan your travel, take everything into consideration.
3. Pack it in/Pack it out.
4. Leave everything as you found it. Flowers, artifacts, rocks, etc. Jim offered up the visual of a bowl of M&Ms. If we all took one, there wouldn't be any left for those behind us.
5. Minimize campfire impact. The USFS has 3-4 million fire bags that are no longer being used. They are free to public. The fire bags can be cut, and used in place of a fire ring—they leave no mark or fire scars.
6. Don't harass the wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other users.

This is a very condensed version of what Jim had to present to us. We look forward to the actual presentation to be offered at a future date. Thanks Jim, and congratulations on completion of such a high level.

Trail Clearing Schedules**Bridger Crew**

June 2 - Shafthouse

June 9 - Bridger No from ski hill
Bridger So from ski hill (split)

June 16 - Fairy Lake from Battle Ridge

June 23 - New World / Mystic

June 30 - Corbley

Call Ron Rassley 388-4415

Weather dependent

Larry's Brigade

June 5 - 401 Spanish Creek

June 12 - Hell Roaring

June 19 - Jerome Rock

June 26 - Mirror Lake

Due to unforeseen conditions you must call Larry Thomas 585-6878 the night before.

We will leave the trailhead at 9am sharp

“Love, Language, and Leadership with Horses”

by Catherine Nelson, a Parelli student

Most of us have horses because we love horses. We love to watch them move fluidly over difficult and varied terrain. We are drawn to their innate power, their sensitivity, their smartness, and their beauty. Many of us have learned “traditional ways” of “breaking” horses, and training them; some of these ways are friendly and some are not. There are many kinds of gadgets, bits, and bridles on the market designed to mechanically control horses; some are friendly and many are not. Whatever our particular equine focus--e.g. Western riding, English riding, endurance riding, dressage—they all have particular ways of working with horses. However, what is common to all of these is the basic foundation of good horsemanship skills.

For example, can we read a horse’s behavior? Do we understand the characteristics of prey animals and their innate reactions to humans who are predators? Can we adapt to the unique needs of each horse? Can we communicate effectively without harshness? All of these questions and more are part of the Parelli program. Pat Parelli was a cowboy for many years of his life. He learned the traditional ways of training horses and he also studied with great horsemen such as Tom Dorrance and Ray Hunt. He grew up working on ranches, herded cattle, had fifteen years of bronco riding, and began offering clinics on horsemanship over twenty years ago. Pat knows horses, saddles, bits, bridles, etc. His love of horses gradually brought him to a life decision of wanting to teach people who love horses how to meet their equine goals with effective communication skills, and a quality of leadership that creates trust and loyalty with the horse. He calls his approach “natural horsemanship.” With his approach we can learn how to “start” a horse and how to help it develop.

On May 17-18 Pat and Linda Parelli presented a Savvy Tour in Billings. The first day was about the “Wow!” of horsemanship and the second day was about the “how” of horsemanship. Pat even included a section on how to tie a Stockman’s bowline, and a picket line knot. His wife Linda demonstrated her ground skills and her riding skills with two horses with complex personalities. Part of the tour included five Montanans who are instructors in the program. They demonstrated their skills with their horses and the crowd applauded with enthusiasm and pride at the success of the “locals.”

I have been part of the Parelli program for about five years, moving from Level 1 to 2 and now the beginning of Level 3. I love riding in the mountains and I wanted to do it safely. I know that things can happen unexpectedly and quickly and it seems every ride is an adventure in some way. I wanted to be able to prepare my horse for various situations such as crossing creeks, following other horses, stepping over logs, hearing sudden noises, seeing things like a plastic bag or a hat flying in the air. In many ways the Parelli program has helped me to achieve my goal. I have learned what is my responsibility and what is my horse’s responsibility. I have learned how to read my horse so I know when I want to stay on her and when and how to get off in an emergency.

All of the groundwork skills have helped me to be able to assess my horse’s emotional frame of mind on any given day and to know how to work with her. Many of the riding skills in the program have helped me to develop a more balanced seat and much less dependency of the reins. I enjoy the connection and rapport with my horse both on the ground and in the saddle. Most of all I have fun being with my horse. I am appreciative of the breadth and depth of the Parelli program and plan to keep on learning as much as I can.

*Catherine has been a GVBCH member for 2 years and is listed in your roster.
Do give her a call or email for any questions. She would be glad to answer them.*

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2008 Poker Ride on Saturday, July 12 at Bridger Bowl, by *Sherrie White, co-chair*

Everything is falling into place for our 21st annual poker ride. Here are a few brief notes.

- Volunteers: Job slots have been filled thanks to strong member response. However, if you'd like to volunteer, we'll find a place to plug you in.
- Riders: If you are not working at the event, please show your support by coming to ride and tell your friends! Members qualify to win prizes, too!
- Still need a few more tables for food service or displaying prizes. If you have one that we can use, please let us know.
- Prize donors: Each year we have a wide variety of prizes that bring riders from far and wide and these prizes are donated by businesses and club members. If you have something you would like to donate, please call or email Sherrie White @ 686-9169 or email sherrie@mexico-villas.com or Rich Inman @ 388-1564 or rmules04@yahoo.com

Some time line reminders -

Sunday, July 6 -

* Backcountry Horsemen trail ride, departing at 10 a.m. from Bridger Bowl parking area. This is basically a fun ride. However, we'll also be checking that the trail is clear. Trail clearing crew is scheduled to clear the trail in early June, so major obstacles will have been removed. We'll be checking for any new downed trees or branches. Bring a lunch and water, weed free hay for your horses. Ride is approximately 11 miles (4 hours). Contact Kay Tate, 587-2758, if you can join the ride.

Friday, July 11 -

- * Flaggers should be ready to ride by 10am. Bring water and lunch
- Set up and potluck at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited - the more the merrier. Bring a dish to share.

Saturday, July 12 -

- Registration: Set up begins at 7am. Registration beginning at 8:30
- Pop stand crew: Be at Bridger by 8am.; this year knives and cutting boards will be provided
- Advance riders: Be ready to depart at 8:30am.
- Sweep riders: You should be ready to leave by 10:30am.

Sunday, July 13 -

- ◆ De-flagging crew - Be ready to ride at 10 a.m. Bring water and lunch

Any questions, comments or suggestions please contact a co-chair -

Rich Inman 388-1564 rmules04@yahoo.com

Sherrie White 686-9169 sherrie@mexico-villas.com

Not his fault, *by Janice Cartwright*

During a ride to Rams Horn Lake last year, there was an incident that I wanted to share with all of you. I was riding RC, Ron's colt that day. We had tied the horses in the corral while we ate. There was another group of horses and riders a few hundred feet below where we were tied up. They were moving out on their horses at the same time we were heading back to our horses. Their horses were hidden by the trees and foliage so we could hear the noise but not see them. I had taken off RC's saddle and was in the process of re-saddling him. I had put the blanket on and turned around to get the saddle, a few feet away. I was talking and my attention was off of my horse. It seems that his attention was directed at the heard, but not seen, noises below us. He pivoted towards the noise which placed his rear end towards me. As I turned towards him with the saddle in front of me I ran right into the back of his leg above his hock (right where a predator would try to at-

tack and sever the tendons and ligaments). RC reacted lightning fast with a double barrel at me as he turned his head to see what he was kicking at. Lucky for me the saddle was at my chest AND that he saw what he was aiming at. He hit the saddle with both feet and bumped me back BUT he "pulled his punch," so to speak, when he saw it was me. If he had not pulled back the kick I'd have been thrown back hard and fast. If the saddle had not been there, I'd have been sporting some interesting, and possibly very serious swellings, bruising or breakings in my chest area.

Later on the way home, I made the statement that quite a few of the riders on that trail may have enjoyed riding RC. One rider said, "No way. Not after he tried to kick you!" RC was only reacting to save himself. When he saw it was me (any person would have been the same) he came up short on the punch. It was not his fault. It was my fault for not being aware of where I was in relation to where my horse was. The difference is an important one.

The Ride at Horseshoe Hills, *by Rich Winget*



his better half. The others arrived soon thereafter, **Wayne & Trina Frederickson with a guest, Janice Cartwright with two young lady guests and Ken Yankelevitz, and Rich Winget.**

We headed West through the equestrian center and turned North to the crest of the first hill. We stopped to adjust cinches, and **Janice** took pictures with the beautiful Bridger and Gallatin Mountain Ranges in the background. **Ken** was a bit of a ham, sliding into multiple pictures with his California smile and shiny helmet.

It was Tuesday, May 13, a beautiful day book-ended between two series of not-so-beautiful days. It was 60 degrees, the ground was relatively dry and a dozen riders were anxious to enjoy their first trail ride of the season. **Sammylu Parsons and Bettie White** were the first to arrive. As they were over an hour early, I think they were more excited than a new-born colt. **Chick Hale** pulled up next with his young Rocky Mountain Horse and without



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The trail was designed as a season-opener, a short ride to begin the conditioning process for the upcoming more strenuous adventures. It served that purpose while still offering eye-catching scenery and some exposure to a couple of steep inclines and declines. **Janice's** two guests screamed in delight with the declines and the opportunities to trot down the stretches of dirt road.

Sammylu entertained us all with her stories of riding the Horseshoe Hills as a young girl, and **Chick** demonstrated his patience and horsemanship skills as he worked with his young horse.

After the ride, we met in the outdoor arena and worked on our basic skills under **Janice's** ever-helpful eye. **Wayne** demonstrated his ability to stay on top of a bucking horse, and **Ken** showed us how to boldly jump from a horse that kneeled and began to roll. **Ken** thus earned his new nickname of **Cowboy Ken**. When you see him next, address him loudly by this new name and watch for the reaction.



If you missed this ride, watch for future opportunities to join us here at the Gallatin River Ranch. You will enjoy it.

Board Meeting Minutes, May 1, 2008

Vice President Jim Allbright called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Jim Allbright, Brenda Kessler, Dan Porter, Rich Inman, Rich Winget, Larry Thomas, Amy Hathaway, Stacy Bragg, Chick Hale as proxy for Janice Cartwright, and Jiffie Hale. Sonja Berg was present as guest.

Minutes of April Board Meeting were in the newsletter. Rich I. motioned to accept; Larry seconded; approved.

New Bills: New bills from Jiffie were Newsletter printing for \$43.20 and \$5.33 reimbursement for stamps.

Correspondence: Nothing to report.

Membership: 80 memberships. Items for new member packets will now be kept by Rich Inman. Stacy Bragg had been researching the best prices for Decals, but it was decided that Jim could get them from the State at the next board meeting for the best price.

Issues: *NAIS, National Animal Identification System*, is to be implemented by the Federal government in 2009. Stacy has contacted the Stockgrowers to get their stance on the subject. Their response was that a system is needed and that *states* should have the control over the system. Brenda Kessler attended the MSU Equine Affair and this was one of the topics discussed. Three companies make the identification chips, and all three require different equipment. More to follow in the future on this subject.

Stacy also brought out information on the Water Restoration Act. Information may be found on opednews.com. This Act is essentially allowing the federal government to take over water quality issues and water control from the state governments.

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Trail Crews: May 12 & 13 will be the Chainsaw/crosscut training. Approximately 20 people have signed up. The persons who run the chainsaw are also required to complete the First Aid/CPR training.

Larry is not getting response from Brian, USFS, as to which trails to work on. Since Larry is not on email, he will contact Jiffie to notify others of trail changes and Chick and Jiffie will keep him informed of email notifications they receive. There will probably be no trail maintenance in May due to the wet spring. The May 10 trail day is cancelled. Larry will have a schedule by June.

Gallatin Land Trust has contacted the club in regards to National Trails Day, June 7. The GLT puts out a poster stating the trails that different organizations will be working on. They require notification by May 8th if we wish to be on the poster. At this time, it is difficult to choose a trail not knowing the conditions, but Larry will follow up.

Program: Program for General Meeting in May is with Tuli Fischer on hoof care and shoeing. Jehnet Carlson's clinic with Steve Edwards is May 29, Thursday evening, unless otherwise notified.

Old Business: The Horse Safety Clinic final bill is still being settled. Donations totaled \$212.00.

New Business: Poker Ride is coming along nicely, still have not received response from USFS. Prizes to be obligated should be collected as soon as possible. The poster is being designed and will be available mid-May. Discussion was made on cost changes due to gas prices. Larry made a motion to leave prices the same, Stacy seconded. After much discussion, it was decided to leave the price at \$8 and \$15. Notes from last year, suggested moving registration time to 8:00 a.m., this would affect some volunteers. Also, there will be no 50/50 hand this year to alleviate confusion. More to be decided at the general meeting. Rich has done inventory on the trailer.

The paperwork to change from Public to Mutual Benefit has been initiated by Dan Marsh. As he was not in attendance, no further discussion was made.

Jim Allbright will be attending the Leave No Trace master class this month. After completion he will be required to present two talks per year educating the public on low impact trail and camping uses. He plans to share his training with BCH, schools, and even the Boy Scouts can earn a Merit badge on Leave No Trace. We are looking forward to hearing your experience, Jim.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Hathaway, sec

General Meeting Minutes, May 15, 2008

Following the *Leave No Trace presentation*, President, Dan Marsh, called the meeting to order. Board members in attendance were Dan Marsh, Jim Allbright, Brenda Kessler, Dan Porter, Rich Inman., Duane Wiltse, Larry Thomas, Janice Cartwright, Rich Winget, Amy Hathaway.

Many guests were in attendance (please excuse the spelling): Lisa Borg and Scott Shuller from Livingston, JR from Georgia, George and Cookie Gonzalas from Tennessee.

Minutes: Rich I. made a motion to accept minutes as printed in the newsletter; Larry seconded; approved.

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Treasurer's report: Brenda Kessler reported a balance of \$1,745.61 in the checking; \$5,893.52 in CD; and \$2,205.05 in a Franklin Templeton money market account. Total account balances are \$9,844.18. No new bills were presented except the Fairgrounds bill which still is in question. Rich Inman requested permission to spend about \$100 for trailer inventory. Sonja motioned to allow this; Chick seconded, approved.

Correspondence: Mailings included the Eagle Mount Newsletter. A letter from Bill Hopkins from Yellowstone National Park requesting endorsement to support funds request for repair of Bliss Pass Trail. Rich I. will draft the letter in response.

Membership: There are now 80 individual and family memberships on the roster, but with the new members from tonight's meeting the entries will be approximately 84.

Issues: The BCHA of America sent a letter to define "A Strategy to Engage the Support of Mainstream Wilderness Advocacy Groups in our Efforts to Obtain Legislated Protection for Recreational Stock Use." This outlined the strategy to defend Wilderness (existing and future) for stock availability, basically the Right to Ride in Wilderness areas.

S.1870 & H.R. 2421: Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007. Concern has been expressed about the removal of the wording "navigable streams" to be changes to "water". Too much Federal Regulation is the concern. It appears that farms, ranches, and mines are excluded in the current wording.

Mike McVeigh meeting to discuss BCH training of sawyers rather than the USFS will be held on June 18th.

Lewis & Clark Celebrity Race will be crossing the Lewis and Clark historical travel path this summer. They have requested assistance from BCH in these areas for a coordinator. If anybody is interest, please contact Chuck Miller. (Dan may have this number)

There is to be a Bark Beetle symposium, The Red Storm, June 5, 9am-4:30pm at the Central Ballroom at the U of M. This is free, but please register by calling 406-542-4300 or online at www.DNRC.MT.GOV/redstorm .

Shawnee National Forest proposed fees for eight national forest sites. These fees include a bridle tag fee of \$50/yearly or \$5/day for equestrian use. These fees are being directed at equestrians and no other users. Other proposed fees were increases in the current camping fees. The comment period for this proposal has been extended to June 30, 2008. Email your comment using the *contact link* at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/>.

Newsletter: Jiffie would like to encourage and invite all members to submit their stories, photos, thoughts to her for the newsletter. We like to hear from everybody.

Trail Crews: Larry has a list of trails for maintenance starting on the first Thursday of June through the end of the month. Weather is still in control—"If you are in a big hurry, cool your heels". In July, Rich Inman will lead when Larry isn't available. Please call the night before to confirm and notify the trail leaders.

Program: Jehnet Carlson potluck and clinic is Thursday evening, May 29th. Friday is the free seminar.

Old Business: Chainsaw/crosscut/bear spray certification has begun. It will complete next week.

New Business: National Trails Day, June 7th, the club will work on clearing of Spanish Creek. Reminder that the road in is currently not clear. Confirm with trail leaders prior to hauling.

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Sherrie White divvied up the Posters for the Poker Ride. Another poster will be made showing the current sponsors. Please collect at donations by June 15th.

Prize collection will be handled by Rich Inman. Prizes may be turned in to him at anytime before the ride. If anybody needs assistance getting a prize to the ride, let him know. Rich has completed the inventory of the Trailer, and the USFS has responded.

Dan Porter offered to be the chair of the Steak Ride this year. Thanks Dan!

The Gallatin River Ranch ride was successful, and perhaps another will be underway.

*Don Funke is having a clinic on Thursday the 22nd.

*Rich Inman will have some BCH coverage in the Outside Bozeman publication.

*Duane Wiltse and Larry Van Dyke are hosting a High Country Packing and Stock Handling Clinic on June 28-29 from 9 am to 4 pm each day. Cost is \$150 per person/day, plus an addition \$50 for an additional person. Limited to ten participants. Reserve by June 21st by calling Larry at 406-586-2440.

*Don't forget the Gabrielle Sutton Nutrition Seminar at Copper Springs Ranch.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Hathaway, sec

Horse owners - look at your horse, by Rod Warren, DVM

Does your horse have a fat, thick, cresty neck?

If your horse is older than ten, and has a thick cresty neck all year, it's possible, or even probable that he has a version of Cushing's disease or Equine Metabolic Syndrome.

You can reduce the chances of an acute laminitic episode by—

- 1. More exercise
- 2. Less toe and more heel support
- 3. Less green grass in the spring

My opinion is that most horses would benefit by a weight loss episode in the winter time. I believe the weight loss in the winter would be a more "natural" physiologic event.

Rod Warren, DVM
Hardaway Veterinarian Hospital
Jackrabbit Lane, Belgrade

GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2007 POKER RIDE - THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

Ag Depot
 All West Veterinary
 Ardesson Boots and Shoes
 Dr. Phil Aumann
 Big Sky RV
 Books Off Broadway
 Broadway Flying J Restaurant
 Bozeman Saddle Outlet
 Bridger Feeds
 Chalet Market
 Chalet Sports
 Concrete Construction
 Creekside Vet Hospital
 DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service
 Don Funke Divine Equine
 Double Diamond Halters
 Freeway Enterprises
 Gourmet Gas Station
 Greater Yellowstone Flyfisher
 Hardaway Vet Clinic

Health Works Institute
 Kountry Korner Café
 Lee & Dad's
 Madison House
 Main Street Over Easy
 Montana Canvas
 Montana Harvest
 Montana Horse Sense
 Montana Side Saddle
 Murdoch's Ranch & Home
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 Rocky Mountain Hat Compny
 Rocky Mountain Supply
 Second Self
 Sportland Trailer
 Steer In Trailer Sales
 The Optimal Athletic
 Three Forks Saddlery
 Valley Trailer Sales

Way Out West

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 Care For You, Denise Aumann
 Janice Cartwright
 RJ Conti
 Cindy deBethizy
 Jan Elpel
 Bonnie Hammer
 Anna Holstrom
 Laura Hanks
 Rich Inman
 Linda Kelly
 Sandy McManus
 Alice Pilgeron
 Dan Porter
 Tom Reed
 Kay Tate
 Ken Yankelevitz
 George Zanck

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

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