

The Picket Line

August 2009

Officers (1 year)

President

Dan Marsh 587.7578

Vice President

Jim Allbright 995.4441

Secretary

Catherine Nelson 585.8025

Treasurer

Brenda Kessler 763.4241

Directors

2 years

Marianne Meyer 388.2676

Sandy Kypfer 600.4737

Not Filled

1 year

Stacy Bragg 222.0077

Dan Porter 388.0290

Larry Thomas 586.6878

State Board Directors

Rich Inman 2 years
388.1564

Jim Allbright 1 year

Alt: Stacy Bragg 1 year

Membership

Marianne Meyer 388.2676

Newsletter Editor

Margaret Burns Vap 587.2390

BCH Webmaster

Dan Marsh 587.7578

dmarsh@montana.edu

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 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.

Board Meeting – **Thursday, August 6 @ 7 pm**

Dan Porter's Office, 1745 S. 19th

General Meeting – **Thursday, August 20 @ 7 pm**

Horsecamp/Ron and Janice's place, 1655 Harper Puckett Rd., in Ken's new Clearspan Riding Arena
(see details on page ____)

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August 2009 Schedule of Events

TENTATIVE August schedule for Monday Trail Clearing:

- Aug 3 – South Cottonwood
- Aug 10 – Indian Ridge
- Aug 17 - Open
- Aug 24 – Blackmore/Fox Creek
- Aug 30-31 - North Bridger's 16 Mile and Hatfield Mtn.

Let us know if you have any suggestions to the contrary. You must call Ron at 388.4415 by the Sunday before if you ARE coming.

The Wednesday trail crew has not defined a schedule for August so call Larry Thomas 586-6878 to find out what trail you will be working on.

- **Post Poker Ride Meeting** – Thursday, August 6th @ 6 pm
- **Board Meeting** – Thursday, August 6 @ 7 pm
- **Sweet Pea Parade** – Saturday August 8
- **Manhattan Potato Festival Parade** – Saturday August 15
- **General Meeting** – Thursday, August 20 @ 7 pm
(Note: At Janice Cartwright's Arena on 1655 Harper Puckett Rd)
- **Steak Ride** – Saturday, August 22
- **Big Brother** – Saturday August 30 Dan Porter trail boss



Tales from the Trail

Bridger Bowl South, July 6

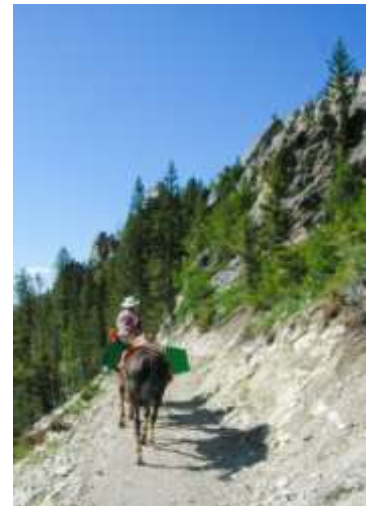
Kay Tate

We were met by the Chronicle crew for an interview and photo op for the Poker Ride at Bridger Bowl parking lot at 9:00. The photographer followed us to a spot to put in some water bars, we did the job and continued on. He took pictures of Dick Haines cutting a tree across the trail and Bonnie Hammer lopping overhead branches from her horse York. The article the next day in the Chronicle was fairly accurate and informative. The group of 9 (Kay, Ron, Trina, Wayne, Dick H, Dick G, Jim, Bonnie, & Ruth) split into 3, one going via the water tank, one through the trees to pop stop 2 and one reversed. We had 4 pack horses and 4 chain saws and all got some use. Two groups met for lunch and joined with Kay and Ron later for some much needed help rolling big logs off the trail. In all 12 trees were cut and we made it back to the trucks at 3:00 for refreshments before the threat of rain became a reality.

New World Gulch, July 20

Sherrie White

Rained out of New World Gulch twice, the crew was finally able to hit the trail on this warm sunny day with Ron Rassley (with packhorse), Kay Tate, Wayne Frederickson, Dick Grover (with pack horse) and Ron and Sherrie White. The crew of 6 tackled 62 trees along the trail with most of the deadfall past the Mystic Lake cabin on Bear Lakes trail. Wayne and Dick circled the lake clearing while the rest of the crew went up the cut off past the toilet on the north end of the lake. Wayne wore two hats as one of two loppers (Sherrie White was the other) and as the group bulldozer, scooping massive logs and brush off the trail with ease. Sawyer duties were shared by Dick Grover, Ron Rassley and Ron White. For our viewing pleasure, Kay Tate entertained on her new dancing horse, Jerry, on his first trail clearing ever (Kay was not entertained). We split at the top of the big hill as Dick and Wayne returned the way we came to look for a tool kit left along the way. Luckily found same. Refreshments awaited back at the trailhead when we all arrived at 5:30.



President's Report

August 2009

We didn't have a program in July but we had a small but lively general meeting. We decided to have a post poker ride meeting to discuss what we did right and what went wrong. We will have this meeting at 6:00pm before the board meeting at Bozeman Brokers. If you have any thoughts please send me an email or come and join us at the meeting.

Catherine Nelson has agreed to be our Secretary for the next few months and we still need to fill one of the Board of Director positions. Please let me know if you are willing to serve on the board or would be interested in taking on the Secretary position.

The Poker Ride was a humongous success again this year. I want to especially thank Sherrie White for chairing the event and all of the members that gave so much of their time to make this a success. With over 350 riders we are beginning to get near our maximum carrying capacity of the Bridger Bowl parking lot! We used Rich Inman's tent along with the club tent and everyone seemed to like the extra room and shade it provided. Rich has offered to sell the tent to the club at a very attractive price and we will propose purchasing the tent at the next board meeting. Overall things went well considering the number of people that attended but we did have some minor horse problems and medical issues to address. We need to remind everyone to use a little common sense when you get around that many different horses and rider abilities.



The trail crews have been very busy clearing trails and have got to the point where we need some guidance from the Forest Service to find out what trails need our attention so we don't show up at trails they have already cleared. The Forest Service received stimulus money this year and has added a lot of boots on the ground and has been clearing a lot of trails. The Monday crew, lead by Ron Rassley, have mapped out some trails to work on for August. Please contact him before Sunday if you plan on joining them. Larry Thomas is leading the Wednesday crew with the help of Rich Inman stepping in while Larry got his hay up. Larry said they don't have any designated trails picked out for August unless Brian comes up with a list. If you are interested in helping out on the crew give Larry a call and he can tell you what trail head they are meeting at.

President's Report

August 2009

We ran into some confusion this month because we posted rides with no trail bosses assigned to them. We will try to correct that in the coming months. Look in the newsletter for updated scheduled rides and trail bosses for August.

The Gallatin Interconnect Challenge was a success. For our part we had to open up a trail going out of South Cottonwood called Wheeler Gulch that connected up with forest road 980 on the Little Bear drainage where we to meet the motorcycle group. The Wednesday crew along with Dick Grover of the Monday crew went up the week before the ride and punched a hole through to the top. Wally Becker led the group on the trail that he and Chick Hale had last cleared more than 15 years ago. We had to make a new route from the main trail since the original route was washed out a number of years ago. There was still a sign and the old cabin that marked the beginning of the trail left to let us know we were on the right track.

Be sure to RSVP to Dan Porter if you want to go on the Steak Ride this month. Dan said he hasn't got a lot of members that have signed up so far. We will be inviting the Gallatin Saddle and Harness Club again this year and they will be hosting the Christmas Party this December.

It's not too early to be thinking about the Back Country Horsemen Convention that will be held in Bozeman in March of 2010. Keep an eye out for prizes, vendors, and speakers while you are out talking to folks.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Marsh
President GVBCH

Dan & Wally Fix' in a flat on Wheeler Gulch Trail



Gallatin Back Country Horsemen

Board Meeting July 2, 2009

President Dan Marsh called the meeting to order. In attendance were Larry Thomas, Dan Porter, Sandy Kypfer, Marianne Meyer, Brenda Kessler, Stacy Bragg, Catherine Nelson, and guests Wally Becker and Sonja Berg.

Minutes of the past board meeting, June 4, were approved as written in the July newsletter.

New bills: Two bills were reimbursed by Brenda Kessler. One was a bill for \$48.60 from Dan Marsh for printing the July newsletter and the other was a small bill, \$6.19, for stamps for mailing the June newsletter by Catherine Nelson.

Correspondence: A decision was made to renew the chapter Certificate of Deposit for another six months at an interest rate of 1.76%.

Membership: Marianne reported our total membership is 66 with the addition of Joe Turner as the newest member. Margaret Burns Vap will be joining the chapter in the near future.

Issues: Dan shared with the board members an announcement from the National Forest Service regarding a land swap in Bear Canyon with a private property owner who is requesting a road easement on his property. The Bozeman Ranger District has set July 17th as the deadline for comments. Several board members reviewed the map for continuing access for the public and determined that it looks good as long as trail access is provided.

A second issue discussed was the Interconnect Challenge. Volunteer Forms have to be submitted by July 3rd. The actual date for the event is July 23rd, from 1:30 –5:30 pm. The goal of this effort is to be able to navigate Gallatin Valley without the use of cars. Our chapter has been assigned the S. Cottonwood. See the July newsletter for a map and more details. The correct road designation is 980 (not 890). There will be a lot of publicity for this event and some riders will be asked to wear helmet cams.

Publicity: Stacy discussed the one quarter page ad for the Poker Ride that he ran in the Mini Nickel for one week. He reported that the Chronicle gave the chapter a 50% reduction in the fee.

Newsletter: Margaret Burns Vap has agreed to write the monthly newsletter beginning with the July issue.

Trail Crews: Larry reported on the activities of the trail crew to Ousel Falls and Spanish Peaks.

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen Board Meeting June 4, 2009

Poker Ride: Sherrie White had sent a list of tasks to Dan Marsh that still need to be addressed in preparation for the Poker Ride. The board discussed each item/task and several board members offered to help out to complete the preparation. The Friday set-up crew will put up a few more tents. Wally requested that cantaloupes be available in addition to watermelons and the board approved his request. Two cash boxes will be provided. The Sunday "deflagging" will begin at 10 am and there are four sweep riders signed up. It was noted that last year there were 249 participants and there could be more this year.

Old Business: Catherine Nelson has agreed to be the secretary and write the minutes of the board and general meetings until September.

New Business: Jim reported delays in filing the IRS paperwork for the 501C3 status for the club.

Convention 2010: Dan discussed several aspects of the planning for the upcoming convention in March. Amy Hathaway is the organizer and she has had little time available because of her heavy workload. Amy has a book with a list of all the activities and required work involved and Dan believes we can wait until the fall to begin some of the work. However he said we do need to get moving on the prizes needed for the convention raffle tickets because it is a valuable source of revenue for the chapter. We can expect about 250 people from around the state to attend. There will be vendors with displays, and lots of foot traffic.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Kypfer



Gallatin Back Country Horsemen

General Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2009

The 7/16/09 general meeting was attended by Dan Marsh, Jim Allbright, Dan Porter, Larry Thomas, Rich Inman, Brenda Kessler, Marianne Meyer and a handful of other members. We welcomed new member Charley Smith who came all the way from Ringling to attend; Charley joined the club at the Poker Ride. He enjoyed the ride very much and had one suggestion: a sign directing people to the registration tent. He said many people thought they were supposed to sign up where the big 'START' sign was located. The board made a note to discuss this at the pre-board meeting P.R. meeting.

Minutes: Minutes from the June 18th meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report: Brenda Kessler reported funds of \$12,246.65. The deposit made from the Poker Ride was \$6,703, but net income has not been established yet. Still waiting for some bills to come in.

New Bills: Rich Inman presented a bill of \$240.30 to stock the trailer both prior and after the poker ride. Motion to approve bill was passed. (Motion made by Jim, second by Larry, all in favor.)

Brenda Kessler received a bill from Southwest MT Publishing Group, Classified Advertising in the Mini Nickel, for \$115.50. Dan Marsh said that we did not run the ad for two weeks and the bill may need to be corrected.

Correspondence: Brenda Kessler reported new mail from the bank: A member's check for membership was returned by the bank. Jim Allbright said he would call the member for new payment.

Issues: Interconnect Challenge: About 8 members cleared trail on the section of the challenge that we have been asked to ride. The trail has been closed and was all but gone but thanks to the Wally Becker "GPS" the group managed to find it and the trail is now open again. Dan Marsh will have a meeting with the GVIC coordinators to find out precise times and location for the day of the ride. Dan Marsh and Rich Inman talked about the Tester Wilderness Bill.

Membership: Marianne Meyer, membership chair, reported 3 new members and 1 renewal. Total membership now stands at 70.

Publicity: Stacy Bragg did not attend. He must be doing a great job with publicity since we had a record turn-out for the Poker Ride.

Newsletter: Dan Marsh reiterated that we now do have a newsletter editor: Margaret Burns Vap. He passed on her request for articles.

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen General Meeting Minutes (continued) July 16, 2009

Trail Crews: Trail bosses reported that New World Gulch is “not abandoned” and really “not that bad”. However, the trail itself is a mess. Jim Allbright brought up the question of repairing the bridges. Larry reported that the Forest Service crew has been very busy and there is not much work left for BCH work days. Discussion ensued about planning a work day for New World Gulch and when to have another Saturday work day.

Program: Program for the August general meeting (8/20/09) will be a presentation by Joe Turner at Ken’s new arena. He plans on covering three common topics and showing how to correct them. We will have an ice cream social as well.

Old Business: Poker Ride wrap-up: Dan Marsh read a letter from Sherrie who suggested we should have a wrap-up meeting soon while everything is fresh in our minds. The meeting was scheduled for 6:00pm on 8/06/09, one hour prior to the board meeting. Location: Dan Porter’s office. Sherrie also offered that anyone is welcome to take over management of the Poker Ride for next year; she certainly does not want to monopolize it. Eager members started discussing some of the issues already, but in order to keep this general meeting shorter, postponed everything to the board meeting. Some issues to think about: do we need three Porta-John’s, should the flyer and posters state “no dogs, no stallions”, should we raise the fee. Rich Inman asked if the club is interested in the tent he set up and Dan Marsh said it would get decided at the next board meeting but was very likely.

New Business: Steak Ride update: Dan Porter has 9 people signed up. Folks planning on coming need to RSVP by August 10th so he can order the meat.

2010 Convention update: Amy Hathaway has been working mega-overtime at the vet clinic so not much new has been organized. Dan Marsh urged those present to think about possible vendors, prize contacts, raffle prize suggestions, performers etc. Michael Martin Murphy is willing to come as long as another larger venue is set up for him as well. The dates for the Convention are 3/19 to 3/21, 2010.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Marianne Meyer

Poker Ride 2009 – A Full House!



When the cards were on the table, it was clear that this year's ride was a win-win for all. A picture perfect day brought a swarm of riders from Bozeman, Belgrade, Manhattan, Gallatin Gateway, Livingston, Wilsall, Three Forks, Billings and beyond. *Bv Sherrie White*



Jan Elpel called it "over the top" and it was with MORE of everything this year. A whopping 352 riders participated this year; up from last year's record of 249. We had more food, more drinks and more space to display prizes with the addition of another tent. A total of 97 lucky folks went home with prizes including the woman at left admiring her new birdhouse. More prizes were awarded this year than ever before thanks to support from members and area businesses.

What we didn't have were any major complaints or reports of any injuries. Things went amazingly smooth. We planned for 250 riders, but were ready with forms for up to 340 riders. Never in my wildest dreams did I think we'd surpass that number.

Poker Ride '09

When we ran out of forms, we scratched out primitive forms on blank notebook paper.



The parking lot became a sea of horse trailers and Chick Hale on Pistol Pete, directed traffic. Rich Inman also directed traffic and attended to various horse emergencies in the parking lot.

The registration tent was buzzing with activity. Sandy McManus, Dan Porter, Diane Yankelevitz, Bob Steinman and Marianne Meyer scarcely got a chance to breathe, with a steady stream from 8 a.m. until late afternoon when last cards were drawn.



Dan Marsh and I visited Pop Stop #1 and #2 to replenish water supplies. We arrived at Pop Stop #1 just as Brown, Sammylu Parsons and Pete Naclerio gave out their last bottle of water. Pop Stop #2 was nearly depleted when we arrived. A long line of poker players waited to draw their next card from Larry Thomas while Ken Yankelevitz cut watermelon and dispensed tips about the trail ahead.



Poker Ride '09

We didn't make it to Pop Stop #3, manned by Bonnie Hammer and Billie Thomas, thinking that provisions at that station would last longer. Bonnie took this photo of our youngest rider (and mother) who seemed to be enjoying the day.



Back at camp, a "prize" team of Alice Pilgeram, Kay Tate and Karen Furu matched up prizes and signs and started drawing raffle winners.

A Back Country Horseman display, staffed by Bob and Karen Furu, was located in the prize tent. At right, Bob tackles a "knotty" project.



Poker Ride '09

A Sea of Horse Trailers



Jamie Porter and Dan Marsh, set up the Back Country Horsemen display.

Photo: Kay Tate

The food crew, led by Rich Inman, prepared for the masses. Servers included Carol Becker, Judy Correnti-Graf (not a member, but she sure jumped in and helped in many areas), Sherrie White, Ron White and Janice Cartwright (sorry if I missed anyone!).



Jim Hamilton was hoping to keep the beverages (courtesy of Harrington's) on ice (provided by Lee & Dad's).

And, YES, we had plenty of grub for the hungry throngs who gobbled up chicken and all the fixin's plus cake and watermelon. This year we also had a few new items including pickles, hot dogs and cantaloupe. And background music, too!

At right, some of the winners: Greg Roberts (generator), Ed Dodge (50/50, \$517.50); Kelsey Elfland (animal trax winner).



Other lucky winners included Danette Bell (boots), Casey Elmos (hat), Brandie Elfland (panniers), Deb Gotz (breast collar) and Laura Heck (hay).

Poker Ride '09



Excuses, Excuses

Because I was out watering the pop stops, I missed getting photos of our advance riders and sweep riders. Janice provided this photo of our advance riders Deeanne Hainsworth, Andrea Soheily, Margaret Burns Vap and Joe Turner at a creek crossing. Sweep riders were Amy and Alan Hathaway, Marianne Meyer and Stacy Bragg.

By the end of the day I was too pooped to get photos of our sanitation crew: Jim Allbright, Jim Hamilton, assisted by Kay Tate and Judy Correnti-Graf.

What an amazing bunch of members! Everyone worked SO hard to make this an incredible event. I personally want to thank everyone for pitching in to push this year's event "over the top."

So in 2010, how about we...

Is it over yet?

Marianne Meyer snapped this photo of me at the end of the day on Sunday after deflagging. The caption that immediately came to her mind was "is it over yet?" Apparently I looked abundantly tired.





Friday Flagging & Set-Up

Friday flagging began at 9 a.m. with Ron Rassley and Kay Tate flagging the loop from the shortcut cutoff to Pop Stop #2 and a bit beyond; they started in the parking lot near Pop Stop #2. The rest of the crew, led by Janice Cartwright, included Deeanne Hainsworth, Ken Yankelevitz, Emily Curtis and Ron and Sherrie White, departed from Bridger Bowl and did the shortcut. We made good time until the end of the trail when we decided to change the route slightly.

We returned to camp just in time to help set up and enjoy a great potluck dinner. Set up crew included Rich Inman, Larry and Billie Thomas, Wally and Carol Becker, Dan Porter, Jim Hamilton, Chick Hale, Jim Allbright, Brenda Kessler, Judy Correnti-Graf, Dan Marsh, Alice Pilgeram, Ron and Sherrie White.

Sunday De-Flagging

On Sunday, Ron Rassley and Kay Tate de-flagged "their" portion of the trail while Wally Becker, Marianne Meyer and Ron and Sherrie White did the shortcut route. The trail looked amazingly good considering the traffic the day before and we picked up very little trash. When we were done, we dined al fresco, complete with lace tablecloth and flowers. Menu was real similar to the poker ride chow. We chatted until an afternoon shower chased us away.





Come one, Come all!

Ice Cream Social, Training Demonstrations, Grand Opening of New Arena...How can you not attend our August meeting?

Our next meeting (August 20th) will be hosted at Horsecamp/Ron and Janice's place, 1655 Harper Puckett Rd. (off of Valley Center), in Ken's new Clearspan Riding Arena. *Once on the property, please follow the parking signs.*

Joe Turner will be our presenter, working on some common trail problems with horses. The Ice Cream social starts at 6:30 pm; we can sip and slurp while Joe entertains us. Program runs from 7-8 pm and the meeting from 8-9 pm, the usual. Bring a chair to sit on or we can supply a plank bench or bucket or something that will work. We hope to see you there.

Janice Cartwright

Annual Steak Ride on August 22



The annual GVBCH steak ride will be held at Battle Ridge Campground on Saturday, August 22. Trailheads for riding are available at Stone Creek, Bridger Bowl, Brackett Creek, Battle Ridge and Shafthouse/Carroll Creek. Ride at your leisure and trailer back to Battle Ridge for a grilled steak and baked potato at 4pm. Potluck on salads and desserts and BYOB. Pop and water will be provided. Cost is \$10. And reservations **MUST** be received by August 15th. Open to members and their guests. Call Dan Porter at 539.0879, or email dan@bozemanbrokers.com for reservations.

**GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING
BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2009 POKER RIDE**

Thank you one and all!

Ag Depot
All West Veterinary
Ardesson Boots and Shoes
Biggerstaff Construction
Big Sky RV
Bozeman Fence
Bozeman Saddle Outlet
Bridger Feeds
Bunkhouse Originals
CBU
C'est la Vie Salon
Chalet Market
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Cole's Custom Saddlery
Concrete Construction
Divine Equine &
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Don Funke Divine Equine
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Four Corners Saddlery
Freeway Enterprises
Gallatin Valley Horse
Resource

Gold's Gym/Jim Albrook
Gourmet Gas Station
Greater Yellowstone Flyfisher
Hardaway Vet Clinic
Harrington's Pepsi Cola
Kountry Korner Café
Lee & Dad's
Madison House
Momma Mac's
Montana Canvas
MT Equine Medical and Surgical
Center
Montana Harvest
Montana Horse Sense
Murdoch's Ranch & Home
Owenhouse Ace Hardware
Paula's Pepper Jellies
Rapid Tech
Rocky Mountain Hat Company
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Janice Cartwright
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Bonnie Hammer
Laura Hanks
Jane Huffine
Rich Inman
Sandy McManus
Brown & SammyLu
Parsons
Alice Pilgeram
Dan Porter
Ron & Sherrie White

Other Sponsors

We'd like to acknowledge
several anonymous
donors for providing
prize and cash donations
for this year's event.

Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen

