

The Picket Line

Post Office Box 3232, Bozeman, Montana 59772-3232



Officers

President:

Brown Parsons 586-9030

Vice President:

Margot Doohan 586-4262

Treasurer:

Sammylu Parsons
586-9030

Secretary:

Joan Holborn 586-3306

Directors

Dick Grover 586-0575
Bonnie Hammer

284-6822

Rich Inman 388-1564

Bettye White 586-2301

Jacki Conti 586-5047

Dan Porter 585-8879

State Board Members

Harry Boughton

Linda Roffe

Alternate: Ron Rassley

Newsletter Editor

Sharon Lowry
587-4013

lowry@180com.net

On The Calendar This Month



Club Meetings in April

April 2nd Board of Directors Meeting - To be held at the Parson's home. 7:00 PM

April 18th - General Membership Meeting - Belgrade Alliance Church at 7:00 PM. Our special speaker will be Arlan Thingsvold, of the Montana Department of Livestock on health requirements and related topics for transporting your horses.

Club Events in April

April 14th There is a ride scheduled that is yet to be determined where it will be held. If any of you have suggestions or would like to be a trail boss let Brown know and we will get the word out.

April 27th OTO Ranch Elk Preserve trail ride Be saddled and ready to ride by 10.00. This should be a great ride. Would someone please step up and volunteer to be the trail boss!

Non Club Events in April

April 6th and 7th Gallatin Valley Saddle Club Horse Fair

Help is Needed!

We have a couple of big events coming up awfully fast! The first one of major concern is the **Poker Ride**. We need a Chairman for the committee badly. This is the one event where you will have all the help you could ever ask for. Would someone please step up and take this on. Time is of the essence!

The other event is the **Steak Ride**. Maybe you could co-chair with someone in either of these functions.

Membership

Submitted by:

Sharon Lowry
lowry@180com.net
587-4013



New Members

Linda McMullen and
Farwell Smith
Box 64
McLeod, MT 59052
932-6188

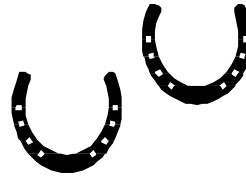
Gregory N. Pool
717 North Bozeman Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59715
582-0676

Josie Powell
8602 Starling Drive
Bozeman, MT
522-1251
bjjcpowell@imt.net

Also welcome back to
Mark and Sarah
Deopsomer

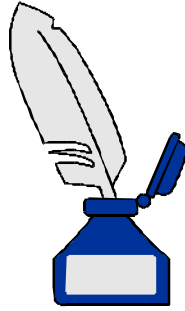
Poem we learned as kids

One white foot, buy 'em
Two white feet, try 'em
Three white feet look well
about 'em
Four white feet do without
'em



From Bonnie Hammer

From the Pen of Our President



We want to thank Tom Griffith, Mr. H and the FFA Boys from Belgrade for their program on the GPS instrument. At last we are beginning our weed program. I look forward to the weed identifications program in May that will be a refresher course to the program we had at a picnic under the "M" in 2000.

We had nine members at the BCH State Convention held in Red Lodge on March 22nd - 24th. I felt this was a good convention due to the speakers, entertainment and, most of all, the leadership of the convention. We had some lively discussions on the resolutions presented, which I thought was handled in a controlled and fair manner.

I was disappointed that the State Board tabled the web site proposal to a committee made up of several members, two of which are dominant in their approach to control the leadership of the club. We are fortunate that Dan Marsh was allowed to be on the committee and that Linda Roffe was also asked by the committee members to come to their May meeting. Our new state president, Dave Crawford, asked us at the President/Vice President breakfast to continue the dialog of that meeting through the chapter newsletters. This method is not satisfactory. Our newsletter goes to each club, but it may never get past the person in charge of correspondence, or just as we do at our chapter, it is offered to the members at the meetings but few, if any, take time to read them. E-mail through the web site would go to all those members that are on the Internet.

The rest of this message is written as a continuation of that dialog at our Sunday morning breakfast to express my views on the web page. Most of our chapters in Montana are looking for new members and, in my view, what better way to sell the benefits of joining our clubs than through a web site. A web site has become the best selling tool in the electronic age and almost every company has one and is anxious for the public to use it. We all want younger people to our organization and this in today's world is the place where you can reach the younger generation.

For two-way communication purposes, the web site would be the most economical means to get your message across and you could get feed back right now. Who could afford to call all the people you can reach through the web? Who would have the time it takes to do that? Our newsletter also takes a lot of effort to get your point across because in the time it takes me to write this up, it could have been typed in my computer and sent off. This message is now typed, then goes to our newsletter editor who adds it to other articles that make up the newsletter and then it is mailed to the members and the other club presidents. Then if you want to respond, you have to call or write to me.

I have not checked, but out of the 13 other state organizations there must be several state offices that have web sites. Wouldn't that be interesting to talk with those other state organizations about some of our concerns? Such as the Roadless Proposal or about the money spent on the American Horse Association, which prompted the Flathead Club to present a resolution to control the national leadership on how to spend our money?

If the Flathead Club had access to a web site that allowed them to talk directly to Al Simmons, our BCHC National President, maybe they would not need to present such resolutions and they might be better informed about the American Horse Association and the purpose of our affiliation. In my view, they are acting as a lobbyist for us only and for \$2,500 you could not ask for a better deal. The newspapers tell us that Senator Burns received \$23,000 from Enron to represent their interest where ever he could and who knows how many more people and organizations Enron gave money to in order to be heard in Congress.

This message has been long enough and I want to thank you if you took time enough to read it all. It shows you how cumbersome this process is and so far it is only half done because you have not responded yet. Thanks again Mike Chandler, Dave Crawford, Ernie Strum and the Beartooth BCH Club for a great convention.

Quote from Monte Roberts
“...gentle horse people speak not of people with horse problems, but rather hoses with people problems, Your horse is your teacher.”

Thanks Jiffie

For Your Information

The Nine Mile Mule Team will be in Bozeman August 25-30th to pack into the Hell-Roaring trail. They will be staying at the Squaw Creek Ranger Station. This assumes they get the Slough Creek job completed on Schedule the week before.



Rewards are Few

Almost as if the lands asked

What did you expect?

Did you expect this wild, free land

To give you something?

It is mute,

Did you expect an apology,

Or an excuse?

It is spare for all.

Jim Gould

OOPS!!

Fraud Perpetrated on Club!

A number of club members were spotted last year actually having a good time on work parties when they were supposed to be working hard at clearing trail. This investigative reporter has uncovered a systematic attempt to cover up the real nature of trail clearings. Counter to the claims of witnesses, trail workers have been observed having a great time and actually covering significant distances on horseback. Several team leaders have been directly observed engaging in entertaining banter with team members rather than the oft spoken of lashings to keep the crew in line. It appears that the misrepresentation of these trips as work parties is intended to keep new members from discovering the pleasures of trail clearing.

One trail leader, Bill Shields, leads a group into the woods on Mondays, riding out at 9:30 from the designated trailhead with chainsaws in tow. Evidently the group is not even obligated to work up a sweat grappling with hand saws.

Another trail gang, reportedly headed by Chick Hale, has been spotted on Tuesday and Thursdays in the Spanish Creek drainages above the Flying D. This group has been seen actually leaving the parking lot at 10 in the morning in the company of a pack animal that carries all the tools needed for the day's sojourn. Their individual effort appears to be showing up on time with a pair of gloves, raincoat, plenty of water, plastic bag for carrying away weedy loot and a lunch.

The truly devious aspect of this fraud is that unsuspecting homestayors are deprived, I repeat, deprived of the opportunity to find new trails, new skills, and new friendships on our region's exceptionally beautiful trails. Imagine what would happen if everyone in the club discovered how much fun it is to feel entitled to ownership of our regional trails by virtue of a little elbow grease. New members who actually make that call to these ringleaders, have become trail-clearing converts instantly with that first "thank you" from passing trail users.

Both of these gangs leave a variety of evidence along the trail to belie the

actual nature of the fun: water bars that drain water away from trails, neatly sawn downfall that is rolled several feet away from the path, and trail that any horse would be delighted to travel.

I'm sure all of you who received the Newsletter last month and actually read it, discovered that you got two pages that were twins. This goes back to the old adage that haste makes waste. Sorry for the inconvenience. Hopefully this little problem won't rear its ugly head again!

Spring Tune-UP

Spring will be upon us before we know it and we need to get our horses prepared physically and mentally when they come out of their winter storage. They need to be reacquainted with the outside world, because they have felt secure in their enclosed area. One of the best ways is to hand walk them past those mailboxes, trash cans, barking dogs, cars, trucks, and running horses in other pastures. Remember, horses do not get to see these things when out on the trail. When you walk beside your horse, you are telling him that these things do not bother you, which gives him reassurance. He can stop, look, smell, and check them out. It is a time to also use voice commands while showing him that you want the walk, whoa, back and trot (if you feel up to that!) There are

other things you can do. Bending, for instance, by doing little circles, figure 8's and serpentines. Use both sides of the road so as to have him on the car side. Go out when the school bus goes up your road. This is also a good way, when leading, to teach your horse to stay at a distance from you and not let him invade your space...try raising your elbow. Besides testing your horse's reaction to the outside world, you will get some exercise and fresh air. My new horse is young and did fine up in the mountains in Nov. but really went nuts on one of those nice days we had. We walked for 10 min before returning and showing me that I need to do quite a bit of ground work.. Lots of it! Chick's horse, Splash, wasn't so good either! And he knows better...he's 25 yrs old and has been around.



Bits

Ride in Circles to make a Straight Line

We've all been there sometime...riding out across a field on "green broke" horse that just won't go straight! He has his own agenda, or no agenda; just meanders around, going anywhere but straight. We might hang all over the reins, trying to get him to line out. We pull him back left or right when we actually want him to go forward. We may even look down at the ground when we should be looking straight ahead--where we want him to go.

Here's a way to help him 'find' that straight line. When he drops off to the left, pick up your left rein and drive him into a circle all the way around to the left and back to the desired line. If he drops off to the right, pick up the right rein and drive him off in a circle to the right and back on line again. Repeat the drill each and every time he rolls off the straight line. Be sure when you apply your leg pressure, you drive him onto a loose rein. He should begin to get the idea that the easiest way out of all this extra work is...*a straight line*. And the golden rule of looking up and straight ahead is that it lifts your chin and head, which in turn straightens your spine, adjusts your pelvis and puts your balance and weight in the right position for going forward. *Our Thanks to Trainer Patrick Severance of Perfect Circle Horses, in Whitehall*

Jenny's Corner

Preparing Your Horse for the Farrier -Cont. from last month

Another thing you can do is have your horse caught when the farrier arrives. If he's easy to catch and you can't be there, put him in a pen for easy access. If you have a horse that is not easy to catch, it is your responsibility to have him caught. Also, if your horse cannot be tied up, or does not stand well, it would behoove you to be there to hold him for the farrier.

If possible, plan to shoe the horse in an area that is relatively level, dry, and safe. It's hard to get a dry spot at certain times of the year, but it's nice when one doesn't have to work in a foot of mud! Don't expect your farrier to have to tie the horse to a wire fence of any kind or work in an area with all kinds of stuff around that the horse may get into if he spooks and gets away. A good stout hitching rail, pole fence, or even a horse trailer works well.



Most of the things we have discussed here pertain to safety, which we as farriers always have uppermost in our minds. This is not only safety for the farrier, but also for the horse, it's owner, and any other person who may be in the immediate area. Don't ask your farrier to shoe a horse who is unruly. It's your responsibility

to make sure your horse will stand quietly and pick his feet up when asked, and hold them up long enough for the farrier to do his job. Horses are large, strong animals, and can move faster than the blink of an

eye when they care to. Anyone near an unpredictable horse can get hurt before they see it coming.

In closing, I would like to say how much of a pleasure it is to work on a well behaved horse. It makes your day, not only because one can do a good job shoeing, but because it's great to see a happy horse and happy horse owner!

*-Jenny Kawasaki
Certif*

GVBCH 3/5/02 Board Minutes

Attendance: Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Margo Doohan, Jacki Conti, Linda Roffe, Rich Inman, Bonnie Hammer, Ron Rassley, Kay Tate, Harry Boughton, Chick Hale, & Joan Holborn.

Treasurer report submitted by Sammylu and accepted .

Discussion about reimbursement to Kurt Stabenau for attendance at the December state board meeting. Concern was voiced that reimbursement should follow after submission of report to the club. Further discussion that \$50.00 for lodging & \$84.00 for mileage would be agreeable, no formal vote taken.

Discussion concerning horse certification by the club brought issues of raising funds but also acquiring liability in certifying . Rich advised leaving the issue up to the Forest Service to fulfill.

History and discussion about how Spanish Creek Trail was adopted by the club. Rich advised how to get an exemption to use chain saw in the area by writing a minimum tool analysis to use such for 1 day or 1 week as they do in other states. Chain of command to follow , go thru Brian and then to Jose in the Forest Service. Chick voiced readiness to pursue.

Discussion to reduce breakfast cost on the Twin Rivers Ranch ride May 18. Kay will look into.

Chick & Harry voiced concern about changes to bylaws to allow absentee voting. Brown addressed these concerns. Copies of the clubs' constitution were circulated. The measure was voted upon at the general meeting January 17, 02 and passed without objection.

Expo in August- Linda circulated the promo sheets she has created for the Expo. Her employer, Little Apple is donating services for the barter auction. The flyer looks terrific. Linda requests anyone can help by meeting her between 5:30-6:00 at the Mint in Belgrade before the clubs general meeting each month.

Thanks to Sammylu for providing warming drinks and cookies.

GVBCH March 21,2002 minutes of the General Meeting

Attendance: Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Margo Doohan, Linda Roffe, Bonnie Hammer, Rich Inman, Jacki & RJ Conti, Tom & Jean Griffith, Chick & Jiffy Hale, Dan Marsh, Sharon Lowry, Bettye White , Kay Tate, Wally Becker, Sonja Berg, Joyce Haner, Harry Boughton, Ed Long, Rich & Joan Holborn, & 15 add'l members.

Treasurer Report: Sammylu reports that Kurt Stabenau was reimbursed for expenses from state mtg. The current balance of account in total is \$3,396.68.

Issues: Chick reports that volunteers working on forest service land can as individuals write an application for certification on horse management and chain saws based on life experiences, other wise they are requiring 8 hr. training to certify.

Helena Expo: Dan Marsh reports the expo was well attended but disorganized. After tent hopping several times Dan continued with the GPS demo. The most FAQ "Which one should I buy?"

Expo in August: Linda reports acquiring a live 'Bear in Camp' demo at no cost to the club pending state approval. Quite a donation from Troy Hyde-animal trainer. Great work Linda!

State Convention/Red Lodge: Issues were discussed that are being brought to a vote, members in agreement how our delegates will vote. Dan & Linda will bring an opportunity to the state members to create a state web site representing the 15 chapters for a one time setup fee of \$1,000 being offered by Linda's employer. Other companies quoted up to \$5,000 for the same service.

Red Bluff trail ride on the 30th will have Kay Tate for our trail boss. Thanks for volunteering Kay. Be ready at 10AM.

Flying D ride June 9: RJ reports we are waiting for Ted's O.K. & it will require riders to have documentation of current vaccines, worming and Coggins test.

Poker & Steak ride still need Chairmen.

Program of the evening: Tom Griffith introduced Roger Hendrickson or “Mr. H” as he is known around the state to introduce GPS and weed mapping. He and his FAA students showed us the true grit of the task complete with sound effects. Tom has requested ½ dozen people from the club to be trained. Our GPS units are Garmin Extrex Legends.

Many Thanks to Bettye White for providing cookies and refreshments.