

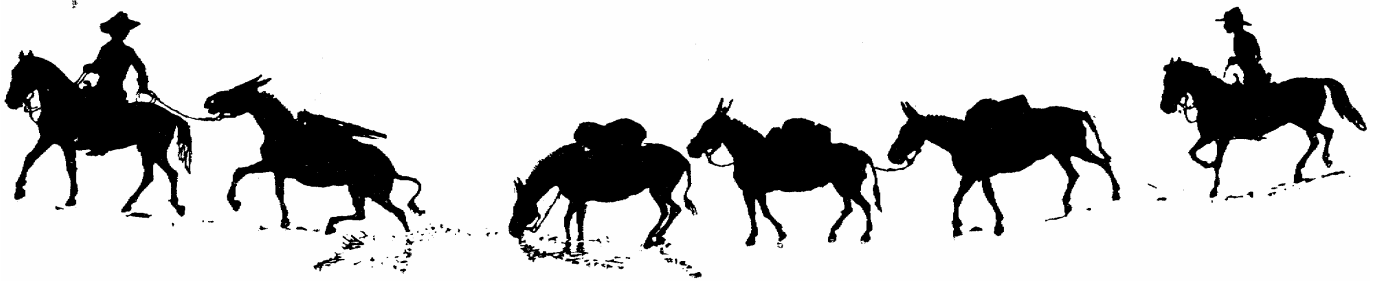
December 2003

# *The Picket Line*

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

Post Office Box 3232, Bozeman MT 59772-3232

[www.bchmt.org](http://www.bchmt.org)



## Officers

### President

Brown Parsons 586-9030

### Vice President

Ron Rassley 388-4415

### Secretary

Joan Holborn 586-3306

### Treasurer

Bettye White 586-2301

## Directors

1 yr

Bonnie Hammer 284-6822

Rich Inman 388-1564

Aaron Linton 582-8889

2 yrs

Joyce Haner 388-4273

Sharon Lowry 587-4013

Jim Nelson 388-2201

## State Board Members

Harry Boughton 1 yr

Linda Roffe 2 yrs

Alternate: Ron Rassley yrly

## Newsletter Editor

Jiffie Hale 763-4105

Cell 580-6455

[jhale@imt.net](mailto:jhale@imt.net)

## BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh 587-7578

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

## **Backcountry Horsemen**

“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

**Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm**

Sharon Lowry’s, 160 Lake Rd. 587-4013

Members are welcome

## **Annual Christmas Party**

**Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**

Kountry Korner Café

Four Corners

Election of Officers

Final Tack Sale at 6:45

PLEASE RSVP by Wed. Dec 10<sup>th</sup>

Jiffie/Chick Hale @ 763-4105

(\$15 adult; \$7 kids under 10 yrs)

**Christmas party information:**

Our annual Christmas party buffet will be held 6 PM, Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Kountry Korner Café in Four Corners. The menu is Baron of Beef and/or Stuffed Chicken Breasts, baked potato and/or rice, mixed green salad, fruit salad, hard rolls or French bread and dessert. The price is \$15 adult and \$7 for children under 10 yrs (price includes gratuities). You can BYOB or wine will be available for sale by ordering with a waitress.

We will have our annual election of officers, directors and state delegates voted on at this time. Also, we will be finalizing the sale of the tack items donated by Dr. Steele at 6:45pm. You may call Ron if you want to place your bid before the dinner. He will tell you what the highest bid that has been submitted when you call.

Also, Kay has taken care of musical entertainment for our enjoyment as we arrive and during our meal by having Debbie Goltz at the keyboard and Hallie Rugheimer, accordion.

You must call for reservations to Jiffie/Chick Hale @ 763-4105. Please, not the Café! In addition it would be appreciated if you would call on or before Wed., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>

There will be a table set up where you will pay for your dinner as you arrive and at the same time you can save stamp and envelope by paying your 2004 dues. We will have applications handy. New members who have paid their dues after Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> of this year are paid for 2004.

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**A brief profile on our nominees:**

Wally Becker: Wally is a charter member and has served as director in the past. He is our trail superintendent in charge of field operations.

Aaron Linton: Aaron is finishing out his 2 year term as director and has volunteered to run for another term.

Beth Merrick: Beth has been on the board in the past as president, director and editor of the newsletter.

Dave Read: Dave has supported our Poker Ride by watching over our equipment the night before our ride and attending one of the pop stops. He wants to become more involved.

Amy Waring: Amy is a new member who comes to us from the Three Rivers Chapter BCH in Dillon where she participated in trail and weed maintenance. She was employed with the Beaverhead NF before taking on the job of Code Compliance Specialist with the Gallatin County.

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***Did you notice?***

Well, of course you could not have noticed! It was not there! It's a sorry mess...

It has been brought to my attention that one of the top contributors in our 2003 Poker Ride had been inadvertently omitted in the August issue of our Newsletter where the top contributors and winners were listed. **Jehnet Carlson** contributed the \$400 stud prize of her Jack, Windy Ridge Maxamillian. The winner was Beth Merrick and her mare is well in foal to Max. Please, Jehnet, accept the apologies for this neglect. Your contribution was the largest and gratefully appreciated.

## President's letter

It has been a pleasure working with our club members for the past five years (two as your VP and three years as your President) in achieving our goals and activities. We want to thank Tom Griffith for spearheading the weed control grant and for the lessons in the GPS and weed identification. And we want to thank Reggie Clark, who has become a member of our club, and who represented the Forest Service in the Project. We want to thank Linda Roffe for her work on the Rendezvous and her photo show at the State Convention. We want to thank Linda and Harry Boughton for their time and efforts at the State Board meetings and for keeping us informed. We want to thank our Trail Bosses, Chick Hale, Wally Becker, Bill Shields and Ron Rassley for the many hours and work done on many trails in the Gallatin National Forest which, as of this year, includes two new bridges on our adopted Spanish Creek trail. Our club has received a plat of appreciation and letters from the Forest Service for the volunteer work that the club has performed.

We have made a great effort to start an out-reach program with other user groups of the back country, mainly through Chick Hale's efforts. As a result, we have been invited to participate in a panel discussion on the wilderness area at the state Montana Wilderness Area convention coming up in December. Tom Griffith will be on the panel and we will have a club booth at the convention displaying what our organization represents.

We are also looking into a program for youths sentenced by the court that have to pay fines in community work, so we might get some help in trail maintenance as a result. This is another Chick Hale project.

We want to thank Sharon Lowry and Beth Merrick for organizing and chairing our successful 2003 Poker Ride, Harry Boughton and Dan Marsh for their work on LTL project, both at our club meetings and at the state level; and Sammylu Parsons for handling the details in our participation in the Sweet Pea and Belgrade Fall Festival parades. Thanks also to Bonnie Hammer and Beth Merrick for putting the schedule together for our yearly activities. This is an important function for our members to plan their rides and where they can work on our projects. We are very glad to have Beth Merrick back after such a battle with her hospital visit.

We want to thank Jiffie Hale for editing our monthly newsletter that gets club information out to members who do not regularly attend meetings. We have received favorable comments on the newsletter from club members and other BCH clubs who have adopted our format.

We want to thank our officers and directors for giving the extra time and effort to over see the activities of our club. We appreciate the effort Jiffie and her nominating committee made to find a good number of people to fill the slate for officers and directors in the forthcoming election. We look for a good election at the Christmas Party. Please plan to attend the party or use the absentee ballot in the newsletter. VOTE

All the volunteer work done by our club members is appreciated. Without you nothing would have gotten done. So thank you all and may this holiday season bring you much joy and love. I hope your new president will enjoy leading the club as much as I have.

Brown Parsons

### **First aid for horses...**

Dr. Jacy Cook spoke to us at our general meeting Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> on first aid for horses showing his slides of the before and after injuries that horses incur. Approximately 24 people attended this very informative presentation. His slides were most impressive showing very bad injuries, most of which were wire cuts. His purpose was to show you that, "You do not want to



give up on your horse's injury." Some were so bad that I would probably have shot my horse! However, the later slides proved that with proper care your horse can recover. The worst case can be when accidents are caused on the joint area where there is constant movement. An injury at the foot area can be

placed in a splint or cast. Arterial cuts are of course worse; however a horse can loose a gallon of blood without much stress as they have a large spleen. You need to apply pressure on this injury. Small cuts can be treated with Superglue. The important factor is to remember to watch for infection and washing down the injury with Betadine is very important. We noticed that these injuries did not need any powder, etc., to prevent proud flesh--none showed in the after slides. Placing salve on an injury to keep the area clean will protect from infection and the bugs, but should be done only in the early stages. Interestingly enough Jacy mentioned that snake bites are more of a problem causing infection than the venom itself and that a young snake carries stronger venom than an older snake. Jacy also showed All West's new horse emergency kit they sell that can be carried on your horse. It has all you need: Banamine Paste; Electroplex (Electrolyte paste); Vet wrap; Elasticon; Triple Antibiotic Ointment without Cortisone; 8x10 Telfa; 3x3 gauze; Nolvassan Wound Cleaner; Thermometer; PRN Wound Dressing; Tucoprime; Syringe and Scrub Brush. After your trip your horse should see the vet for any stitching and to prevent future infection.

Infection can be the horse's enemy and "cleanliness is next to Godliness" rings true. Thank you. Jacy, for presenting to us your program.

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The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual gathering of the Montana Wilderness Association will be in Bozeman at the Grantree Inn, December 5-6, 2003. Tom Griffith will be on a panel at 3:15 on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Tom says, "They have me listed as a Gallatin outfitter and hunter! This was printed up before they got my biography!" The GVBCH will also have a table display at the gathering. If you want a copy of the complete schedule go into [www.wildmontana.org](http://www.wildmontana.org) Go see Tom, members!!

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### *Caught for speeding...*

*The cop got out of his car and the kid, that was stopped for speeding, rolled down his window. "I've been waiting for you all day," the cop said. The kid replied, "Yeah, well I got her as fast as I could."*

**GVBCH Board Mtg. Minutes November 5, 2003**

Attendance: Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Sharon Lowry, Bonnie Hammer, Bettye White, Rich Inman, Aaron Linton, Jim Nelson, Joyce Haner, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Linda Roffe, & Joan Holborn.

Brown states minutes from Oct. 1 '03 should be corrected to show motion for resignation defeated for lack of quorum. No motion follows.

Treasurer report by Bettye accepted as follows:

Checking acct balance October 16, 2003	\$2,038.28
No deposits Bills Paid: Western States Insurance (deposit)	300.00
Checking acct balance Nov. 5 2003	\$1,738.28
Petty cash	25.24
Money Market	1,929.74
3 mo CD	<u>1,500.00</u>
Grand total	\$5,193.00

INSURANCE: Brown states retainer sent to cover 4 events. We will hear back from insurance co. concerning coverage/cost.

MOTION: by Jim, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron to support the effort by Chick to use youth assigned to community service to work on trails, carries by majority.

MOTION: by Aaron, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bonnie to offer 2 meat selections for xmas dinner party with cost set at \$ 15.00/ adult, \$7.00/ child 10yrs old & under. Cost will include gratuity. Call Jiffie with reservations. Motion carries.

MOTION: by Sharon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joyce to donate \$300.00 to Church for use of facilities during the year, motion carries.

Many thanks to Sharon for her warm hospitality

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec.

**GVBCH General Mtg. Minutes Nov. 20, 2003**

Attendance: Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Ron Rassley, Bettye White, Harry Boughton, Linda Roffe, Aaron Linton, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Joyce Haner, Lisa ,Brandon & Jessica Read, Reggie Clark, Tom & Jean Griffith, Janet Castro, Wally Becker, Sonja Berg, Joellyn Howel, Amy Waring & Joan Holborn.

Brown states minutes from October accepted as from the newsletter.

Guest speaker Dr. Jacy Cook DVM from All West Vet practice in 4 corners presented a talk & slide show on equine first aid. A first aid kit was presented and available to purchase by order. Outtawear, a shop in Belgrade has collaborated with Jacy to make a compact kit to attach to a saddle. Following the slide show questions were answered. Interesting fact: A horse can lose up to 1 ½ gallons of blood before going into shock; Snake bites in the spring or from a young snake carry a high concentration of venom.. Unless to the face they are rarely life threatening. Face bites can cause swelling to their airway causing suffocation. A hollow tube placed in the nostril can keep the airway open but must be long enough to reach the throat.

Thanks Jacy for your presentation.

Treasurer report by Bettye accepted as follows:

Checking Acct Balance Nov. 5, 2003	\$1738.28
No Deposits. Bills Paid: USPO Newsletter stamps	37.00
Belgrade Alliance Church, annual rent	300.00
<u>Kinkos Oct. NL &amp; agenda</u>	<u>51.68</u>
Total expenses	<u>-\$388.68</u>
Checking acct balance Nov. 20, 2003	1349.60
Petty cash 20 release forms, 2 by-laws 2.95	22.29
Money Market month 0.72 interest	1930.46
<u>3Month CD renewal date 11-22-03 1.15% int inc</u>	<u>1504.35</u>
Grand Total	\$4806.70

Brown instructs Bettye to renew CD for 3 months.

Tom states the Wilderness Convention will be here in Bozeman, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> at the Grantree, Tom is willing to put up our display for the club. Brown & Chick voice support.

Harry announces he is moving out of the area but will complete his term.

Ron will handle bidding process of the items donated by V. Steele, bidding to end at 6:45 pm, Dec. 13, at the Xmas dinner. At the request of Sammylu, Ron reads a letter from Karen Watson. Brown instructs Bettye to return to Karen her check for the chaps.

Harry made a request for volunteers interested to keep an idea of a regional rendezvous alive. He states Dillon & Butte are interested. Amy voiced her interest to support effort.

Many thanks to members able to attend, the rest missed my pumpkin/carrot bars.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, secretary

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen  
Trail Construction and Maintenance for 2003

The year 2003 presented challenges to our trail program. Fire danger and hot weather kept us out of the forest and curtailed our Spanish Peak Adopted trail efforts at the upper trail area. National Trails Day was canceled due to bad weather. The County Community Service work program which could add people to our trail rebuilding efforts is on hold because the county will not supply liability insurance.

Enough of the negative. We are working with the Adolescent Resource Center to help troubled teenagers and show them the rewards of working with us in the forest doing routine maintenance as their Community Service requirement.

The diversity of this year's work is a sign of our ability. The list of work completed includes installing posts and signs, clearing blow downs, removing rock, constructing new tread, chiseling rock to form a tread, installing water bars, cleaning water bars. Pruning limbs overhead and packing tools, food, etc., for both the Forest Service and the MT Conservation Crews. We also packed rock and gravel for bridge foundations, used a pair of work horses to haul three large beams to a bridge site, worked as packers, camp cook, and camp manager for a Forest Service crew for six days, packed out debris from old camp sites and erected cairns to locate trails.

I would also like to believe that the diversity shown above also indicates the trust and skill others think we are capable of by asking us to undertake these projects.

On a lighter note, an old roto-tiller was modified and used successfully to retread a trail. The Forest Service questioned our mental condition, but after an on site inspection approved the work. The real proof of its success was the fact that 390 feet of trail received a new tread with the use of the machine and two (old) men.

It is my hope that my report will stir more interest in forest projects. The following is a summary of our work reports for 2003.

Sincerely, Chick Hale

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
❖ Total man hours	1,515	1,980	1,773	847
❖ Number of people participating	221	315	258	106
❖ Number of days worked	56	71	43	24
❖ Number of riding horses used	185	220	214	110
❖ Number of pack horses	95	105	163	31
❖ Total miles traveled by all horses	3,224	1,731	2,549	1,481
❖ Number of feet of new tread constructed on trail	1,486	3,027	5,631	---
❖ Number of vehicles used	138	136	131	---
❖ Total miles traveled by vehicles	9,982	9,880	6,509	3,749

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Silly stuff...  
How do you catch a unique rabbit?  
Unique up on it.  
How do you catch a tame rabbit?  
Tame way, unique up on it.

## Testing Mettle

*By Will Shoutis, Bozeman Ranger District Trails Supervisor*

The busy fire season in the northern region made scheduling trail projects futile, but, once the humidity dropped and the temperatures told us we were in Montana, my planning eye turned up Spanish Creek to the second creek crossing on the way to Mirror Lake. It was a bridge site ogled at by the Hale/Becker freelance surveying team many times, and the two of them would prove invaluable in the construction of the new horse bridge.

The September weather proved fair upon arriving at the trailhead for pack-up and

strategizing, but, as usual, I was late due to last minute hardware purchases.

The BCH crew packed up our gear with impeccable efficiency, and before



long the trail crew was following a fully loaded pack string up the drainage. The FS trail crew was no longer as green as when the first bridge at Falls Creek was placed, thus encouraging eagerness was not so easy, they knew what awaited them six miles south.

The trail crew went out on several fire crew assignments in 2003, and, during August, the crew was down to me and Bob Cashner. We knew we would need a hand felling the trees for stringers and peeling them in the same day, so we enlisted the help of a Bozeman District fire crew that happened to be on standby in the Spanish Creek area (They usually need the exercise anyway!). We spent several hours looking for sturdy lodge pole in an area chalked with big spruce, and soon enough we were crosscut sawing face cuts and finishing them with double bit axes per accordance with the Wilderness Act. It was a long day that culminated in three trees cut to thirty feet and peeled completely, and sure enough, on the way out the fire engine was called to the Rathbone fire near West Yellowstone during its large push; the rest of the trail crew was on that same fire that day as sawyers constructing fire line.

The weather grew foul and fickle, and the first morning found us trying to carry many soaked rocks weighing anywhere from 60-90 pounds; it was similar to missing every greased pig at the fair when I was young, only trouble was these pigs either blackened your finger or pancaked your foot when they got away. The 2-ton cum-along came through with some very large armor rocks (boulders in excess of 400 pounds) that we always try to place on the upstream side of the abutments to protect against high water washout in the spring. It soon got to the point where the webbing and strapping wouldn't even hold on the rocks being pulled, things were becoming unsafe and morale was on the decline, so we constructed a small hooch at the bridge site and proceeded to lose two hours work time and gain laughter playing word games to pass the time. The storm broke for a short time, and we gained ground on abutment construction again, but that night a snowstorm decided to pay us a visit. It was particularly difficult getting the crew going with snow everywhere, but the snow turned out to be easier than the rain.



It was a tremendous turning point in the project's overall mood when Chic and Wally arrived with the draft team, and after exchanging a few "nicetaseeyas" and several fun, verbal jabs stringers were skidding through the snow faster than any of the crew had imagined. It was two hours of beautiful efficiency, and two hours that saved us two days, with the elegant power of the team and the composed instruction of Wally's lifelong experience, and after several minutes I was forced to manually close the jaws of several crew members and get them back in the action.





Chic and Wally came back two days later with more of the BCH members, all of whom deserve grand thanks for assisting in the final stages of the project, and with the sun shining warmly the bridge was finished on schedule with a smiling photograph to prove it. It was a project to test the mettle of the young trail crew, and examine the dimensions of

leadership. It was a chance to stoke the remembrance of things like horse logging, double-bit axes, adzes, crosscut saws, snowy Septembers, and friendship alongside hard work. A big thank you from every blister on my hands and every ache in my back to both the trail crew and the BCH.

*(BCH members above are: Ed Long, Jan Eppel with daughter Jeanne, Larry and Billie Thomas, Wally and Chick. Will is in the prone position and others are his FS crew. This group photo by Billie.*

*The very top picture shows Jehnet Carlson on the left with her two pack horses along with Wally and Chick. All told they used 5 pack horses that day.*

*The finished horse bridge...*



*Will comes from Lander, WY where he worked on the Bridger Teton NF trail crew as a crew leader. Brian McNeil hired Will last summer and under Brian he is the Trail Crew leader/supervisor. Will has an Education (teaching) degree and has a strong interest in Wilderness and Leave no Trace principles. He is very knowledgeable in trail design and construction and the Bozeman District is very lucky to have him on board.*

**Note:** See these pictures in color on BCH web site [www.bchmt.org](http://www.bchmt.org) click on Gallatin...

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*My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60.  
Now she is 90 years old and we don't know where she is!*