

THE PICKET LINE

April 2004



Officers

President

Rich Inman 388-1564

Vice President

Janet Castro 388-0966

Secretary

Joan Holborn 586-3306

Treasurer

Cinda Eichenfels 285-4651

Directors

1 yr

Joyce Haner 388-4273

Sharon Lowry 587-4013

Jim Nelson 388-2201

2 yr

Wally Becker 587-9607

Dave Read 388-1154

Amy Waring 585-2785

State Board Members

Linda Roffe 1 yr

Dan Marsh 2 yr

Alternate: Brown Parsons 1yr

Newsletter Editor

Jiffie Hale 763-4105

Mobile 580-6455

jhale@imt.net

BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh 587-7578

dmarsh@montana.edu

Backcountry Horsemen Mission Statement

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

Director's Meeting

Wednesday, April 7th, 7pm at Sharon Lowry's 587-4013

General Meeting

Thursday, April 15th, 7pm, Belgrade Alliance Church
Cameron and Hoffman

Program:

**An open session with Rod Warren, DVM
Associate with Hardaway Veterinary Clinic, Belgrade**

Rides

Sat., April 3rd, 10th, and maybe the 17th with Wally, Chick & Jiffie. Location/ time/weather flexible.

Join us in a short, flat and easy ride for those who lack experience riding in a group. 763-4105

Sunday, April 18th, 10 am Copper City Trail Ride

Trail bosses: The whole Read family 388-1154

Parking is on side of road. There is no trail head. Advise to double up. NW of Three Forks. Directions on pg 2...

This is a easy ride with a gentle climb with a max of 2 hrs to top for a beautiful view of Bozeman. 4 +/- miles.

WE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

This new member has quite a list of accomplishments and is listed on your roster. Dave Schilz comes to us from Red Lodge. He has 10 yrs on the BCHM board where he spent the last 4 years as Vice Chairman and Chairman. Dave is a 20 year member of BCH: Last Chance, North Central Idaho, Gallatin Valley, Greater Yellowstone (Pres.) and started the Beartooth Chapter. Add to this are 14 years with the FS as a Wilderness Specialist Packer, Wilderness Ranger, Trails Specialist and Bridges.. Dave also has 8 years as a professional Ski Patrolman along with 10 years as a guide and packer for various outfitters.. Finally, Dave is a 14

year professional farrier and teaches part time at MSU Horseshoeing School.



Dave is shown here as the acting chairman at the 2004 BCHM state convention in Dillon prior to turning the gavel over to the new chairman.



Our other newest member, Judy Smaaland, comes to us from Oregon. She is not new to horses, but it has been awhile since she has ridden. Judy is presently hunting horse property and horse hunting for a "BCH trail horse." We hope she finds both soon and can join us on our 2004 BCH trail rides.. Judy is listed on your roster.

HELP WANTED

Janet Castro needs more volunteers for our Poker Ride...

- Lunch Crew
- Pop Stop #3

Call Janet @ 388-0966 or

Email: Hoselay2@aol.com

Thanks folks.

Volunteers needed for summer work: projects that you may want to ponder...

- The FS is looking for a work crew and packers for building a bridge over the Spanish Creek. This is the third crossing. Late summer-TBA.
- Do you have any masonry

skills and would be interested in helping rebuild a fireplace and chimney up Hyalite? Date TBA

- Sat., July 5th is National Trails Day and the GVBCH will be working on the Spanish Creek Trail.

Call Chick Hale @763-4105

DIRECTIONS TO COPPER CITY RIDE

According to last year's ride in that area and what was in the NL for April '04 Bonnie said, "Horses need to be shod as the ride is VERY rocky in several places.. If the ground is really wet, i.e., rain or fresh snow the day before, the ride will be cancelled, as there is no parking

when ground is wet, It is GUMBO!

You want to get off the interstate at Wheat Montana and go north. There is a sign telling you where to go to Copper City. Last year people met at Wheat Montana and car pooled to ride site.

All questions - Call the Reads

A 6 year old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her we just go get her. Then when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport.."



2004 BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF MONTANA CONVENTION

Submitted by Dan Marsh GVBCH State Delegate

Pre Convention Meeting March 19th 2004

Minutes from December meeting were approved as written. Bill Maloit complained that a discussion item he raised was not in the minutes. Carellen Smith the secretary said the minutes were an abbreviated form of the meeting and not all discussion items are recorded only items that action was taken on.

Kathy Allard, the treasurer handed out a detailed balance sheet and reported we had \$5047.84 in the account on December 6th 2003 and on March 19th we had a balance of \$8963.10. Kathy noted that the BCHMT silver buckles had gone up considerably from the last time they were purchased and noted that they did not look as good. They now cost about \$154 each and we are selling them for \$125. A motion to sell all seven buckles for \$160 to get rid of them was passed.

The National Directors reported that the Right to Ride legislation needs 150 co-sponsors to pass. Chuck Miller said they are looking at putting together a folder of all of the BCH state chapters and wanted each of the delegates to give him a 1-1.5 page summary of club activities along with a photo. Chuck also requested a summary of the BCHMT web site. Chuck also said each club should apply for 501 – C4 status by registering with the state through Bob Brown at sos@state.mt.us , 444-3665 by March 31st. The chapters then need to send in an application with Peg Grievy of the BCH of America organization.

Smoke Elser described the work that is being done regarding the horse safety requirement for Forest Service volunteers. Smoke along with Ron Stuber and John Favro have a document ready for signature of the regional forester essentially allowing the BCH to provide a list of trainers to the FS to teach the horse safety course. A manual was created by Ron Stuber to act as a guide for the training. This action was pursued to hopefully prevent having a less qualified FS employee attempt to train members of the BCH in horse safety. Smoke seemed to think that the regional forester was going to sign it within a week.

Steve Didier the Chairman of BCH of America gave a talk on issues facing the organization. He said even though we come from diverse backgrounds we are more similar than different. He asked for help in adding to the legislative fund to protect our rights for horse use in the back country.

There was a handout for helping apply for trail grants. Everyone was told to keep an eye on the Forest Service Travel Plans in their area and report back to the committee with any information that would be of use to the organization. A handout of the current constitution was distributed and any changes should be submitted to the Constitution Change committee. A resolution was passed to hold a silent auction at each convention with chapters encouraged to bring an item of around \$50 or greater in value.

A special agenda item was brought to the floor in the form of a resolution from the Flathead chapter concerning drilling on the Rocky Mountain Front. The reason given for the late entry was last minute information that demanded immediate action. Dave Schilz pointed out that the item must be presented to the Chairman prior to the meeting and it must be voted on as a bona fide item. Since Dave did not receive notice of it prior to the meeting it is against the constitution to vote on it. The board voted 20 to 10 to go against the constitution and enter the item as a special agenda item to be voted on at the convention.

The topic of insurance was brought up and a web page will be set up with insurance contacts displayed for chapters to investigate. The question of who was covered was discussed asking whether both participants and spectators were covered.

Continue next page

APRIL 2004

Convention March 19th & 20th 2004

National Anthem was performed by Mary Allen who did a marvelous job. UMW Chancellor Karl Ulrich spoke on the roots of the college in equestrian education. Jim Chambers who is 95 years young gave a short speech on what it means to be a Back Country Horsemen. It was announced that the photo competition had over a hundred entries. A slide show of the Three Rivers area was presented by Dan & Lois Pence.

The eight resolutions were voted on with a lot of discussion on each item. A brief summary of the resolutions include:

1. Raise dues to BCHM \$5.00 to cover cost of BCHM dues increase. Passed
2. Raise dues to \$5.00 for BCHM. Passed
3. Dual membership guidelines. Passed
4. BCH & FS Signage. Failed
5. Liability waiver for horses. Failed
6. Training provided for certification. Lots of mods. Failed
7. Travel Plan position statement. Lots of mods. Passed
8. Special Agenda Rocky Mountain Front drilling. Passed



Bob Walker gave talk on submitting trail grants to FS. You have to fill out all of the questions to get accepted. They are willing to help. Contact him at bwalker@state.mt.us, 444-4584 or Steve Gilbert 444-7642. Jim Jones a member of the Trail Committee is moving to Big Sky 252-3800. Kurt Dyer is on committee and has done a lot to help BCH move up in the point structure.

Lobby had a live rattle snake presentation. Snake handler distributed new first aid instructions for snake bite. Vendors had lots of goodies to eat. Saddle Maker demonstrated putting leather on a tree. Someone displayed horseshoeing with plastic shoes that are supposed to be easier on the hoofs.

Post Convention March 20th 2004

New officers were elected. No new nominations from the floor. Dave Crawford – Chairman, Ron Stuber – Vice Chairman, Charley O’Leary – Treasurer, and Kathy Frazier was appointed Secretary. Standing Committee Chairman were established including Kurt Dyer – Issues, Jason Newton – Education, Bill Maloit – Expansion, Chuck Miller – Membership, Linda Brewer – Newsletter, Dan Marsh – Web Site. Working Committee Chairman include Bob Facklam – Convention, Smoke Elser – Horse Safety Training, Mike Chandler – Forest Travel Plan, Ken Ausk – Constitution Revision, Julie Schram – Live Auction. It was agreed that Kathy would contact the people that sold us the Belt Buckles and implement the clause that states if you are unhappy with the quality return them for a full refund. We need an inventory of BCHMT assets. East Slope will host the 2005 convention. The 2006 host will be determined at the May board meeting. The dates and locations were set for the 2004 board meetings including May 1st in Great Falls, September 11th in Deer Lodge, December 11th in Missoula. Smoke said we should establish a Liason committee for speaking to public organizations so we don’t ruffle any feathers. Smoke was nominated as the Chairman. There will be a FS meeting in Augusta on May 10th with a few BCH members. The audit of the treasurer report was found to be accurate. There is a meeting of the LAC on April 17th in Choteau and Rich Fitzpatrick will be in attendance.

Bridger Feeds

- ◆ Cattle Feed & Mineral
- ◆ Horse Feeds & Supplements
- ◆ Pet Foods & Supplies

***Feeding the Valley's
Animals for over 17 years***

501 Evergreen Dr. Ph 586-3026
Just East of I-90/N 7th Interchange

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

GVBCH Board Mtg. Minutes, March 3,2004

Attendance: Rich Inman, Sharon Lowry, Janet Castro, Dave Read, Cinda Eicenfels, Amy Waring, Dan March, Wally Becker, Joyce Haner, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Brown Parsons, Jim Nelson, Aaron Linton, Harry Boughton, & Joan Holborn.

MOTION to accept minutes as printed from Feb.N.L. made by Joyce/2nd by Janet.Passed.

TREASURERS report given by Cinda.

POKER RIDE review by Sharon & Janet. Chick proposes to invite outfitters to bring clients to poker ride.

STEAK RIDE Janet will reserve forest service cabin for club use.

RESOLUTIONS for State Convention discussed with the following recommendations to bring to membership for delegate direction.

MOTION by Jim 2nd by Brown to endorse resolution # 1 & 2 on dues increase, passed.

MOTION by Joyce, 2nd by Cinda to endorse resolution # 3 on dual membership, passed.

MOTION by Brown, 2nd by Sharon not to endorse resolution #4 on signage, passed.

MOTION by Brown, 2nd by Jim not to endorse resolution # 5 regarding release of liability to Forest Service, passed.

MOTION by Brown, 2nd by Jim to endorse resolution # 6 position statement regarding training required by Forest Service. Passed.

MOTION by Brown, 2nd by Sharon not to endorse resolution # 7 on expanded mission statement to Forest Service, passed.

MOTION by Sharon, 2nd by Cinda to send the following delegates: Dan & Alice Marsh, Rich Inman, Linda Roffe, Chick & Jiffe Hale, Amy Waring & Aaron Linton, passed.

Many thanks to Sharon for the comfort and warmth of our meeting place.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec.

GVBCH General Mtg. Minutes March 18,04

ATTENDANCE: Rich Inman, Janet Castro, Cinda Eichenfels, Larry & Billie Thomas, Reggie Clark, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Joyce Haner, Dave, Lisa, Brandon & Jessica Read, Amy Waring, Harry & Alice Boughton, Dan Porter, Aaron Linton, Bonnie Hammer, Wally Becker, Bettye White, Dave Schiltz, Carellen Smith, Joan Holborn, and Guest Greg Cooper.

LIGHT ON THE LAND Program for members was presented by Harry . His topic was an alternative to building a traditional fire. Things to consider are site selection, equipment to mitigate heat and ash to the ground, selection of fuel to eliminate escape of embers. Picking bare ground is best, if none, spade a circle of sod with the soil & save to a shady spot and water to replace when done. Place a piece of fire blanket on the ground. Set small stones/gravel on the blanket. On this another fire blanket piece is set, here make a pile of charcoal briqs to ignite. Harry likes to use a Dutch oven for cooking and places a number of the hot coals on the lid. A third piece of fire blanket set on top with the reflective surface down holds in heat and if it is windy holds in the embers if not using charcoal. Thanks Harry & Alice for all your support and contributions to the club.

MOTION by Chick, 2nd by Bonnie to accept minutes from Feb as printed in NL. Passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT given by Cinda.MOTION by Bonnie, 2nd by Chick to pay NL postage passed. Joyce informs postage does not require approval as set in 2003 by board.

Treasurer report as of March 18, 2004 submitted by Cinda Eichenfles, treasurer:

Checking a/c balance as of 2/19/04			\$2,887.49
<u>Deposits (+)</u>			
Dues	\$120.00		
Advertising (Bridger Feeds for 3 mos)\$	<u>15.00</u>	<u>135.00</u>	
Checking a/c bal			<u>\$3,022.49</u>
<u>Bills paid (-)</u>			
Jiffie Hale (stamps for Feb NL)	37.00		
Postmaster (stamps for Mar NL)	37.00		
Kinko's (pd on a/c)	106.80		
Postmaster (annual POBox rental)	<u>48.00</u>	<u>228.80</u>	<u>\$2,793.69</u>
<u>Other Debits (-)</u>			
Ck #2265 First Security Bank		\$1,576.00	
Checking a/c balance 3/18/04			<u>\$1,217.69</u>
<u>Other Assets</u>			
Petty Cash	\$23.96		
Money Market	1,932.54		
Three (3) month CD	<u>3,084.71</u>	(Volney Steele Fund)	<u>\$5,041.21</u>
<u>Outstanding Bills</u>			
Postmaster (April NL)	\$37.00		
Kinko's (Paid on a/c)	<u>110.00</u>		<u>\$147.00</u>

POKER RIDE Janet reviewed openings still available for volunteers to get in on our one fundraiser. Give her a call.

TRAILS Chick reports that Dave Carey from the Forest Service is looking for volunteer mason work for a cabin fireplace.

INSURANCE Janet reports she has found insurance thru Agri-risk that is approx. \$175.00/event for 1 million liability coverage. Great work Janet!!

MEMBERSHIP levels are down. Cinda requests feedback on what level may be needed to sustain the club. Discussion followed.

STATE CONVENTION resolutions were discussed at length with conclusions that mirrored the board recommendations. Rich and Dan gave helpful insight to many of the resolutions intent and birthing grounds. MT BCH President, Dave Schiltz shared his impressions encouraging our delegates to make their voices heard.

Many thanks to Amy & Rich for providing cake AND ice cream in honor of Harry.
Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT**Class for Horse Owners****Do you have horses?****Are weeds taking over your pasture?****Is your land healthy & productive?**

Pasture Management for Horse Owners is a **6 week course** that gives horse owners the necessary tools to develop a pasture management plan for their land. Each **2 hour class** session is devoted to a topic every landowner should know: from soils to grasses to weeds to grazing systems, learn to improve your forage production and keep your animals on healthy and productive pasture. Participants will receive:

- assistance with grass and weed identification
- aerial photos of their land & soil maps
- a variety of easy-to-use reference materials
- the principles of sustainable grazing systems

In addition, you'll gain the knowledge and resources you need to develop an individualized management plan.

Whether you have 2 acres or 200, one horse or many, sustainable pasture management can help reduce costs, increase forage, control weeds, and improve horse health.

The **class costs \$35**, is presented by Bridger Scientific, Inc, and is sponsored by the **Gallatin Conservation District** through a grant from the **Department of Natural Resources & Conservation Services**. Class size is limited to 15 people, so enroll now!

To enroll contact: Jennifer Mohler phone 388-5471

email: jenmohler@montana.com

Class 1: Wednesdays April 7 – May 12

Class 2: Thursdays * May 6 – June 10 *(will meet 1 Wednesday - May 19)

Classes will start at **6:30 pm** and will be held at the **USDA Service Center** conference room

{ 3710 Fallon Street }

Rich's message:

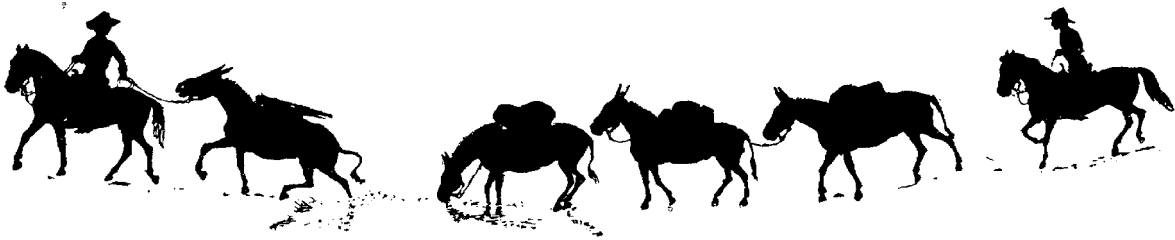
Spring has come. The grass is riz. It's about time to be about the horse and mule biz. I do not know if you all feel as I do but I am ready and waiting to head to the back country. I am sure everyone is doing their spring conditioning on their animals. If not, you might want to work it into your schedule. Our schedule of activities is in the newsletter. I invite you to look at it and pick the activities in which you want to participate and get them on your calendar. I encourage each of you to participate in both rides and project activities. Chick and Wally are starting off the year's rides with some short conditioning rides so give them a call and get in on the fun. First ride is April 3, 2004. Get involved early before the fire season is upon us. It is shaping up to be a fun year with abundant opportunities to ride, work on projects and enjoy the fellowship of other BCH.

**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN THANK THESE SPONSORS FOR
SUPPORTING OUR 2003 POKER RIDE**

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Club Members:
Sonja Berg
RJ Conti
Wayne Frederickson
Jiffie & Chick Hale
Joyce Haner
Laura Hanks
Rich & Joan Holborn
Rich Inman
Jack Lowry
Beth Merrick



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