

GALLATIN VALLEY BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN  
POB 3232, BOZEMAN, MT 59772-3232  
[WWW.BCHMT.ORG](http://WWW.BCHMT.ORG)

# THE PICKET LINE

November 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@littleappletech.com](mailto:jhale@littleappletech.com)

## BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh 587-7578

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

## Director's Meeting

Wednesday Nov. 3rd @ 7pm

at Sharon Lowry's 587-4013

## General Meeting & Program

Thursday, November 18th @ 6pm

Belgrade Alliance Church

Cameron & Hoffman Sts.

## Program

**POTLUCK SUPPER**

*Bring your favorite casserole, salad, meat or dessert*

*And*

*Your eating utensils*

***Please note the time @ 6pm***

## President's message

This is the season where Montana puts on its best colors for all to see. What a beautiful fall this has been. I hope you all have been on your horse and out enjoying the best that Montana has to offer.

I want to share with you my thoughts as I conclude my first year as your president. First I want to thank all who participated in one or more of our projects or activities. It was a good year with great participation in most of our activities. Participation in trail rides was down quite a bit so we will need to evaluate what is going on in that area. Once again I want to thank Chick and Bill and their trail crews for the many hours they put in. You have done a great service for BCH and people who use our public lands.

Second I want to note and share things I feel real good about. Beginning with our club activity planning in January, about 25 members participated in this to help plan the 2004 activities. I look forward to that level of participation and more when we do this in January 2005 so put it on your calendar now. We need your ideas.

Next was the board of director's interaction with me as new president. At our February meeting, I asked what they expected of me then in March; I shared what I expected of them and how we would conduct our meetings. I specifically asked each board member to lead a club activity or project. I am here to tell you that I am very proud of each of them as they accepted the challenge of leadership. They all took on at least one activity and worked well as a board.

Our Poker Ride was a huge success thanks to the many members who gave of their time. New and not so new members alike pitched in to do what needed to be done. The spirit of helpfulness and sharing was everywhere. (Thank you participants and donors)

Our Spanish Creek adopt-a-trail continues to improve each year that we work on it. We interface with many people on this trail which is great advertisement for who we are and what we do. The Bridger Mtn. trail system is cleaned

at least once a year and usually twice. Here again we meet many people who see and acknowledge the good things we are doing to preserve and enhance our public trail system. (Thanks Chick, Bill and all)

Our monthly programs have been timely, informational, and educational. There was something for everyone in one or more of the programs. Some of you did not take advantage of this opportunity and I sincerely hope you will reconsider for 2005. (Thanks Joyce and Jiffie)

The Steak Ride was not well attended but 28 people got to enjoy a great steak and fellowship at Spanish Creek Station. The steaks from Lee and Dads were marinated to perfection and melted in your mouth. Plan to join in next year for a great time. (Thanks Jim, Karma and all)

Our newsletter continues to be recognized as one of the best, if not the best, in the State. I look forward to it each month and find it to be informative, educational and often times humorous. (Thanks Jiffie and all who contributed)

I want to thank Janet, Joan and Cinda for the great job they do as officers in your club. It is an honor to serve with you. Dan Marsh, thanks for all you do behind the scenes.

Last but not least I want to recognize our safety attitude. I participated in many of the projects/activities and feel real good about how we look out for each other. This is evident by the fact that we had no injuries. There are many accident potentials out there so thanks for being heads up.

### *Joke*

*The other day, I went to work with both ears bandaged. My boss asked what happened. I said, "I was ironing a shirt when the phone rang and I accidentally answered with the iron instead of the phone."*

*"That explains one ear." said my confused boss, "but what about the other?"*

*"The person called back!"*

## Roster change and addition

Dave Schilz email to [dlazys@msn.com](mailto:dlazys@msn.com)

New members: Kasper and Heidi (Bergsjo) Engelhardt, 115 G West Julia Martin Dr., Bozeman, Mt 59715

556-8705 [vildmand75@hotmail.com](mailto:vildmand75@hotmail.com)

## Club dues increase

At the October 6 Board meeting, the board discussed and agreed upon a dues increase of \$8 for both individual and family membership beginning in 2005. This was recommended to the GVBCH membership at the October 21, 2004 general meeting and approved by the membership.

Why the increase in dues? The last dues increase was about 1996. In 2004 the national office increased the national dues to the states by \$5. The State did not increase their dues but did pass the national dues onto chapters. Since 1996 we have absorbed at least five postage

increases, printing cost increases, insurance increases and others. With these increases the board and membership has agreed to a chapter increase of \$3, which added to the national \$5 makes a total of \$8. Our goal is to have our dues pay for our operating expenses so we at least break even. With this increase the dues for 2005 will be \$30 for individuals and \$40 for families. Dues for 2005 can be paid anytime. Contact Dan Marsh or Rich Inman if you want more information.

Submitted by Rich Inman, president

### We have a winner

Larry Thomas won first place in the driving obstacle course at the Big Sky Draft Horse Expo in Deer Lodge on the weekend of Sept. 18-19. He also placed fifth in the log skidding completion. The club congratulates you Larry for the fine job you do with your horses.

The club's general meeting on Thursday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> was a huge success as we were presented by Eagle Mount's Riding Program Director, Cheryl Christman. Cheryl gave us an informative evening about Eagle Mount and what they are doing for special people and the Big Sky Kids suffering from cancer. Cheryl is so enthusiastic about her work and Eagle Mount in general that this is not just a job to her, but a sheer joy of her life. She was meant to be there. We were first shown a beautifully scripted video of Eagle Mount, which in general showed all their activities. Then Cheryl gave her presentation telling us of the examples she and her volunteers encounter in the riding program and then answered questions. Our community is proud to have Eagle Mount. Maybe you would consider volunteering? Your life will forever change.

## Pack In and Pack Out, *by Jiffie Hale*

One would think that packing is a simple process. In reality it is a time consuming and technical chore, done by many and mastered by few. Beginning Monday Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> Rich Inman, president, along with Wally Becker, director and “field superintendent,” and Chick Hale, “trail administrator,” met at the FS warehouse at 8:30am. The Forest Service had their necessary tools and equipment assembled for their job of installing the third bridge in the Spanish Peaks Wilderness area. It was our job to pack this “stuff” in to the work site. Our men began to sort items into equal weight piles for packing as it must balance evenly on the sides of the packhorse. It is an art and science and this is where our Wally excels. The items consisted of axes, hammers, sledge hammers, chains (big ones), Pulaski’s, McClouds, long metal rods, spikes, come-a-longs, nylon webbing (for hauling big rocks), 300’ of steel cable, pulleys, adzes (for chopping and surfacing logs), wrenches, a 6’ saw, rock bars, a 5’ long pee-vee (and you ask what is that?), two 5’ long tongs, shovels, bags of nuts and bolts, etc., and food. Tools of diverse and different shapes. How do they pack it? The orange panniers handled the short items. The longer items were wrapped in mantes. These mantes were hand made from the old, worn, torn and ripped club tent that could not be sold, let alone be given away. But it was given, gladly. Wally and Chick spent two days sitting like two women quilting as they tore and cut the tent into sections for future mantes. They used these hand made mantes on this trip.



The next day, Tues, work began at 9:30am at the Spanish Peaks trail head. Loading the pack horses began. The FS work crew consisting of Will Shoutis, FS trail supervisor, Dan and Callie (the lone female) packed in their own gear. Pictures were taken and off they went. The FS had already felled and peeled the trees prior and they were located near the bridge site. These consisted of two stringers 30’ long and 30” at the butt end. All was unloaded and our guys came home.

They went back into the construction site on Friday along with Larry bringing his pack horse. Five pack horses went in to pack out. When they arrived at the site the work had not yet been completed and they helped the FS finish the job. Larry took a 6’ saw and cut blow downs off the trail, while Rich went back the trail and cleaned water bars. Chick removed trash from bog holes for draining and Wally carried rocks for the bridge approaches. Generally, they made themselves available to the FS.



Pack in Pack Out continued...

This is just one of the many projects our club seeks to further trail maintenance of our Back-country Horsemen mission statement. Nurturing our relationship with the FS expands their work projects and in this manner the club looks for more volunteers to help on these projects. Is this something you would like to participate in? Would you like the experience? You are welcome to "tag" along with our packers and as outriders you would keep an eye on the loads for shifting, looking for hikers and warning them to control dogs and asking them to step off the trail. You may have a future packhorse who needs experience/exposure and you could help load and unload and offer your assistance on many chores. In as much as help is needed, you would also experience a pleasant excursion on a club activity. You can ride in and ride out. It can be done by many and mastered by more than a few.



### **Trail crew report,** *by Chick Hale*

**Sept. 2,** Larry Thomas, Wally Becker, Chick Hale along with non-members Ernie Rajala and my son Bob Hale worked on Garnet Mountain trail #85. Because of the steep angle and type of soil we had to cut and install log retainers on the down-hill edge of the trail. This will hold the trail in place and reduce trail sloughing for a good number of years. It also keeps the trail straight, retains its grade and removes dips and humps. At the end of the day we completed 420 feet, not too stingy.

**Sept 7,** The three of us and my son, Bob, worked on Garnet Mountain #85. New tread was dug and the trail straightened. A switch-back was rebuilt so that a turning platform was formed and drainage provided to reduce erosion. Only 220 feet bit the dust.

**Sept 9,** Again Garnet Mountain trail #85 was our destination. Along with Larry, Wally and I, we enjoyed having our president, Rich Inman, work

with us. Our work site was between parking spots so time was spent going up to a reasonable meadow to park our stock. Again, conditions required log retainers. Time was spent felling trees, trimming and using a come-a-long to pull the logs into position. Straightening the trail, adding fill and removing some rather large rocks made for tough going and the completion of 156 feet of trail.

**Sept 16,** Our work force was back to the big three. We worked in the same general area of the Garnet Mountain trail. We had to remove some rather large rocks, install log retainers and re-align sections of the trail completing 174'. Wally this time overworked and underpaid us and it was 5pm when we arrived back at the trail head. A general discussion led to the idea of applying demerits to such behavior. Discussion will continue.

**Sept 21,** Because Larry was not available, Wally and I cleared the heavy brush on both sides of the narrow road leading into the Garnet Mountain horse trailer parking area.

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**Oct. 2,** With a few hours to spare and a new puppy to exercise I cleaned 19 water bars in that first mile up the #401 trail from the Spanish Peaks trail head.

**Oct. 4,** Rich, Wally and I met at the FS warehouse. We gathered all their tools and equipment and packed them in our panniers and the mantes took the long ugly stuff.

**Oct. 5,** The three of us met at Spanish Creek trail head. We packed five horses and delivered the loads to the crews who were up at the third bridge. We helped some and came on out before dark.

**Oct. 7,** I picked up a heavy and broken hammer for the bridge and installed a new handle to deliver the next day.

**Oct. 8,** Rich, Wally, Larry and I took our empty

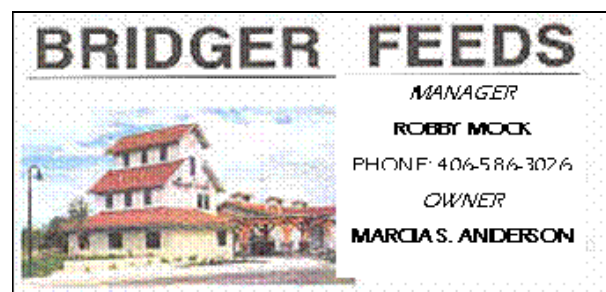
pack horses up to the new bridge site which is a stone's throw past the Mirror Lake junction. We spent the day helping the crews. We intended to use Janet Castro's hand made gravel bags, took them with us, but didn't have time to use them. When bridge was finished, all but the approaches, we loaded all the equipment on six pack horses/mules and returned to the trail head. While there we were able to clean some water bars, drain off the trail and carry rock to the bridge approaches. A good day.

**Oct. 12,** Wally, Larry, I and our guest (Kasper Engelhardt, from Denmark) completed 345 feet of trail on Garnet Mountain.

**Oct. 14,** This day had the same crew completing only 164 feet of trail, but it is "straight as a dye" and beautiful to behold.

Kay Tate reports that 18 people met at the Battle Ridge Cabin at 4:30 on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> for the end of year celebration of the Bridger Trail Clearing Group. The Forest Service, in the form of Brian McNeil and family, brought the grill to cook the hamburgers and the remainder of the meal was pot luck. There is no way the weather, conversation and fellowship could have been any nicer. This concluded another season of trail work on behalf of the public and the Forest Service."

It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try and pass them.



**Barbara Haines** is presently recuperating from serious surgery, but she expects to be back on the ski slopes in February. She and Dick are home in Georgia. If you would like to drop her a card the address is PO Box 430, Cleveland, GA 30528

**Bonnie Hammer** will be headed for a total left knee replacement on November 12th. A month later, December 13th, she plans to have a total left hip replacement. Bonnie said, "I would appreciate your prayers."

**GVBCH Board Meeting Minutes October 6, 2004**

Attendance: Rich Inman, Janet Castro, Jim Nelson, Dan Marsh, Joyce Haner, Sharon Lowry & Joan Holborn. Cinda Eichenfels absent.

**Motion** by Jim, 2nd Dan to accept minutes from Sept. as printed in NL. Passed

Membership Committee- Rich seeking volunteers.

Spanish Creek -Rich reports 2nd crossing at 4 ½ miles getting new bridge.

Xmas Party set for Friday, Dec. 10th, 7pm at the Korner Café

501c-4 Rich reports has been filed.

State Representative term discussed and agreed goes from convention to convention making an overlap to orient newly elected Reps. To process.

**Motion** by Joyce, 2nd by Jim to reimburse travel voucher for State Rep. Linda Roffe for convention as defined by rules of reimbursement modified in Sept. 2003 as follows: \$35 for lodging x 2 nights, mileage @ 9¢ mile, & registration for the total of \$182.40. Passed.

**Motion** by Jim, 2nd by Janet to clarify heading on guidelines for expenditures 1st paragraph from "Rates 2003" to "Rates for State Board Representatives reimbursement for attendance", and the addition of "adopted" in front of Sept 2003.

Board Appointee replacements: in response to board member vacancies by Amy Waring & Dave Read as defined in the constitution Article IV section 3, The board approved the appointments of Beth Merrick and Donna McGeein to fill the remainder 1 yr board terms. Thanks Ladies

Nominating Committee -Janet, Jiffie and Rich volunteer to work.

Dues Increase After much discussion considering expenses & revenue researched by Dan

**Motion** by Jim, 2nd by Janet to accept Dan's proposal to present to the general membership. An \$8.00 increase for both a single/family membership is proposed. This would cover the mandatory \$5 increase going to BCHA and allow \$3 to remain with the club. Passed.

Many Thanks for Sharon's hospitality!

Respectfully Submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec.

Treasurer's Report by Cinda Eichenfels, treas. October 21, 2004

Checking Account Balance 9/16/04		\$2,897.65
<b><u>Deposits (+)</u></b>		
Steak Ride	\$280.00	
Bridger Feeds Ad	20.00	
Amy Waring Sale Ad	5.00	
Dues	76.00	\$381.00
<b><u>Checking Account Balance</u></b>		\$3,278.65
<b><u>Bills Paid (-)</u></b>		
Kinko's	\$6.30	
<b><u>Other Debits (-)</u></b>	\$0.00	
<b><u>Checking Account Balance October 21, 2004</u></b>		<b><u>\$3,272.38</u></b>
<b><u>Other Assets</u></b>		
Petty Cash	\$40.96	
Money Market	\$1,935.90	
3 Month CD (VSPfund)	\$3,084.71	\$5,061.57

We thank these sponsors for their generous contributions to our 2004  
Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen 17th annual Poker Ride

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John & Joellyn Howell

Rich Inman

Jack & Sharon Lowry

Beth Merrick

Dave & Lisa Reed

Linda Roffe

Kay Tate



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