

GALLATIN VALLEY BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN
POB 3232, BOZEMAN, MT 59772-3232
[HTTP://WWW.BCHMT.ORG/GVBCH/DEFAULT.HTM](http://www.bchmt.org/gvbch/default.htm)

THE PICKET LINE

April 2005



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."

Officers

President

Rich Inman 388-1564

Vice President

Janet Castro 388-0966

Secretary

Trina Fredrickson 522-9315

Treasurer

Cinda Eichenfels 227-6508

Directors

2 yr

Lori Brockway 587-7198

Joellyn Howell 388-4493

John McIlhattan 586-9094

1 yr

Wally Becker 587-9607

Donna McGeein 587-5645

Beth Merrick 388-4047

State Board Members

Brown Parsons 2 yr

Dan Marsh 1 yr

Alternate: Linda Kelly 1yr

Newsletter Editor

Jiffie Hale 763-4105

cell 580-6455

jhale@littleappletech.com

BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh 587-7578

dmarsh@montana.edu

Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 6th @ 7pm

At Janet Castro's 388-0966

990 Bulltail Rd, Belgrade

General Meeting

Thursday, April 21st @ 7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church

Cameron & Hoffman Sts.

Program

Kimberly Schlenker

Speaking on the

Forest Service Travel Plan ... Alternate 7

and

what this means to horse owners

Program for Thursday, April 21

Kimberly Schlenker will be our guest speaker at our General Meeting on Thursday, April 21st at 7pm. Kimberly will be speak to us on the **Alternate #7 of the Forest Service travel** plan and what it means to horse users.

Kimberly is the Wilderness Recreational Staff Coordinator for the Gallatin National Forest, and is one of the Forest Service team members that has helped write this Forest Service travel plan.

This is a very important meeting for BCH members and horse owners in general. Plan to attend and bring your friends — it is open to the public. This is the opportunity for you to learn more about the travel plan and just how it may affect horse use. Generally, the proposal would allow use of pack and saddle stock anywhere on the Forest, but it would not be emphasized on roads and most trails open to ATV's. Consideration is being given to restricting use during the spring when facilities are wet, soft and prone to damage. Currently the majority of the proposed seasonal restrictions are from April 1st through June 15th. Year-round restrictions are also being considered on 34,000 acres of the steep, rocky, high-elevation terrain of the Beartooth Plateau. Year round closure of trails on Lava Lake, Pine Creek and Sunlight trails due to hiker interaction are also being considered. We encourage members and friends to become better informed before you attend this meeting in order to have your questions answered.

To become knowledgeable about these closures you can visit the Forest Service office in Bozeman and ask Dan at the front desk for information. You also can get information from our web site at

<http://www.bchmt.org> or the

Forest Service web site at

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/travel_planning

All members should make a special effort to attend this informative meeting.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, April 21st at 7pm.

Your 2005 roster is enclosed.

Check your personal information.

Notify your editor as to any changes .

Thank you.

For members that do not have internet access and would not be receiving email notices...

you might want to have a friend who has a connection notify you when an email is sent out to members.

Hello Backcountry Horsemen and women, Believe it or not we are in the first week of spring in Montana. What a blessing to have the moisture that we now are receiving. This is what we need to have a longer riding season this year. Many of us are concerned that the national forests will have to close in August due to dryness and this still is a possibility. Most of it now depends on our spring rains.

A few things I want to bring to your attention. First I want to welcome back all of you who have been gone for most of the winter (what winter?). Good to have you back on board. Next, mark your calendars for the May 21st horse safety training clinic that we will have at Shenango Station. There will be presentations in the morning and probably a short trail ride in the p.m. Once again, this training is required for all of us who want to volunteer for forest service trail maintenance and other projects on national forest lands. Bottom line is that this will be a good horse safety training session and I encourage all of us to attend. Details will be out in coming newsletters.

THERE WILL NOT BE A RED BLUFF TRAIL RIDE ON THAT DAY.

Also, I want to encourage each of you to stay

tuned to the Gallatin National Forest Travel Plan. Our directors will be working diligently to discern what alternative 7 means to us as horse users. Joellyn Howell, John McIlhattan, and Chick Hale are providing the leadership in developing our response to the forest service. We will work on this issue at our board meetings, develop a response and bring it to the general membership for approval, probably in May. I invite each of you to listen and learn and share what you think and hear with your directors. Dick Haines, thank you for your positive suggestion that you already have shared with us. Last but not least is our Poker Ride. Mark your calendars for July 9th and get in touch with Janet Castro to learn where we still need help. This is our major fund raiser and totally dependent on volunteer help from our membership. It is a great time of fellowship and a good way to get to know fellow club members. We start setting up in the p.m. on Friday the 8th and finish with the final ribbon take down ride on the 9th or 10th depending. Food, fellowship and a great ride planned. What more could you ask for? Come join us in the fun!

Rich Inman, president

How can there be self-help "groups?"

What's another word for thesaurus?

Is there another word for synonym?

BRIDGER FEEDS

MANAGER
ROBBY MOCK
PHONE: 406-586-3026

OWNER
MARCIA S. ANDERSON

Dear Back Country Horsemen,

Entering into 2005, our 32nd year as Back Country Horsemen, we have made tremendous progress over the years with membership and sharing our mission statement with horsemen all over North America. That does not mean we can sit on our laurels and enjoy eternal success. With the ever rapidly changing world we live in today there are new challenges to backcountry horsemen appearing every day. Rapid population expansion in the West has created quite a burden on our Public lands and those agencies charged with managing those lands for all Americans. Our own Gallatin National Forest, one of the largest in Region One of the Forest Service, has had the task to be the initiator in tackling these complex issues. While a valiant and expensive effort is being made to tackle the most controversial part of Forest Plan Revision they are doing the travel planning first and by accomplishing writing a Plan that will anticipate the next 20 years of change. This plan is possibly a more staggering effort than the last 20 years on the Gallatin. We are seeing an amazing revision to our customary uses on the Gallatin National Forest. As Back Country Horsemen, we are also being challenged to grow, get more involved and be more active than ever in the planning and use of our public lands. All other interest groups are feeling the same challenge and are stepping up to the plate.

Let's renew our heritage of perpetuating wise stock use on our public lands. There are some very serious potential threats to our traditional use of trails on the Gallatin National Forest by blanket type areas and seasonal closures. We Back Country Horsemen do acknowledge that there are fragile landscapes that prudent horsemen should choose to avoid. Restrictions and management actions that are minimal to mitigate problems in these areas are required

for protection of the resource. We do need to preserve our heritage and comment on these plans against the convenience to the agency's blanket closures, in favor of site-specific restrictions, i.e., site-specific closures, timing restrictions, trail relocations, education and the enforcement of existing regulations.

So please get involved right from the start with Forest Plan revision. Be part of the solution and work pro-actively with your local on the ground managers to develop wise solutions for them to incorporate in these plans. As we speak a resolution addressing these issues is proposed for the Montana Back Country Horsemen's Annual Convention in Great Falls, MT, April 2 and 3, 2005. This proposal will be passed on to the Back Country Horsemen of America's Annual 2005 Convention. Protect our heritage by opposing undocumented blanket restrictions. This is what we are all about as Backcountry Horsemen and our mission statement. Work with your Chapter to preserve our heritage and the pastimes we love so much. Put aside our differences and find our common ground about loving to ride our stock in the wilds. Stand up, make comment and be heard. Also challenge the other user groups to accept wise utilization of our public lands; that there are some lands that we horse people have always chosen to modify our ways as apposed to closure.

Dave Schilz – Back Country Horseman

Dave is a member of our GVBCH, president of the Beartooth BCH and is the past chairmen of the BCH of Montana.

The following letter has been submitted to our club and various other state chapters.

*They told me I was gullible ...
And I believed them.*

*I used to be indecisive...
Now I'm not sure.*

March 25, 2005 To All Back Country Horsemen,

Because the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Gallatin National Forest Travel Plan did not come out until Feb. 15th, 2005, this resolution could not be submitted to the BCHM Resolution Committee by the closing date. Attached is a Special Agenda Item regarding that Plan to be submitted to the 2005 Annual Back Country Horsemen of Montana State Convention. The resolution is sponsored by Beartooth Back Country Horsemen. Any and all Chapters are invited to support this resolution in becoming a co-sponsor. Please take a moment to read this Special Agenda Item. Please call Beartooth BCH Chapter President, Dave Schilz, with your responses or comment, or to add your Chapter's support.

dlazys@msn.com 406-445-9808 (home) 406-425-1113 (cell)

DRAFT

Gallatin National Forest Travel Plan Resolution

Sponsored By: Beartooth Back Country Horsemen

Co-Sponsored by: Greater Yellowstone Back Country Horsemen

Whereas:

Back Country Horsemen of Montana (BCHM) by mission statement is dedicated to perpetuating the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness; and,

Whereas:

BCHM acknowledges that not all public lands are suitable to stock use in the historical/traditional manner. And further acknowledging that management and mitigation of impacts on those lands must be through a site specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assessment including a full range of reasonable alternatives, an effects analysis, and which must provide the minimum disruption to customary and historic pack and saddle stock usage necessary to accomplish the objective; and,

Whereas:

BCHM also acknowledges a potential threat to historic stock use on public lands, by blanket Area and Seasonal Closures, as outlined by the Gallatin National Forest (G.N.F.) Travel Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (D.E.I.S.). In reviewing the D.E.I.S., the analysis and rationale for this decision, do not appear to be clearly justified or specifically displayed; and,

Whereas:

BCHM has worked extensively on the public trail systems over the years, assisting the managing agencies in their mission of providing quality recreation experiences to all Americans. And To meet the mandate of the Wilderness Act to administer Wilderness lands "for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness", while also providing for historical use.

Therefore be it resolved:

That BCHM is opposed to any blanket type (area or seasonal) closures to stock use. However note, BCHM would support other type restriction / actions by most other means than blanket closures, to the extent that they are clearly necessary to meet the intent of Congress and are determined through site specific NEPA analysis providing public involvement, a range of alternatives, which provides through public involvement, a range of alternatives, and associated effects analysis. Also, BCHM will continue to support our heritage of stock use on public lands, will continue to work with management agencies, to seek workable alternatives (i.e. site specific closures, timing restrictions, and/or trail relocations, education and the enforcement of existing regulations), to any type of stock closures; and,

Therefore be it also resolved:

That BCHM adopt this resolution and send letters stating this position to Region 1 Regional Forester, Gallatin N. F. Supervisor, Chief of U. S. Forest Service, and Montana Congressional Delegation; and,

Be it further resolved:

That BCHM support, by written comment, the local Chapter's responses to the Gallatin Forest Travel Plan; and,

Be it further resolved:

That this resolution be forwarded to the Chairman and Executive Secretary of the Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA), with a request that it be a part of the agenda at their 2005 Annual Convention, and that our National Directors, on behalf of BCHM, request that the BCHA Board of Directors provide written comment on the Gallatin N. F. Travel Plan in support of the local Chapters responses to that Plan.

GVBCH to sponsor its first Defensive Horsemanship clinic

Our Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horseman will be sponsoring its first Defensive Horsemanship clinic on Saturday, May 21st at Shanango Station (Squaw Creek) to begin at 9:30am and last all day. This is a FREE clinic. It is not mandatory, but recommended that you bring your horse.

This clinic is a requirement by the Forest Service for our members and friends who plan to volunteer their time on trail maintenance and be around stock. This is not for certification. There are pamphlets available for you to read and may be on hand at the general meeting or call Chick Hale @763-4105. It is also available on our web site <http://www.bchmt.org>

There will be a scheduled pleasure ride after the clinic up Garnet Mountain to review what you have learned from this clinic.

The Defensive Horsemanship committee has been approved by the Forest Service to be your teachers. However, the committee has asked the following "advisors" from the Beartooth BCH to come and help us. The Beartooth BCH club has had previous and successful experience sponsoring these clinics. The following BBCH members are:

Dave Schilz is the past chairman of the BCHMT, is the present president of the BBCH and a member of GVBCH. Dave has spent 14 years as a wilderness ranger, a trail foreman and wilderness packer and 15 years as a horseshoer.

Dan Aadland has just stepped down as president of BBCH and has spent 25 years raising Tennessee Walking Horses. His ranch has held the previous DH clinics and his own "Beyond the Round Pen" clinics on horse training. His articles are numerous in *Equus*, *Horse and Rider*, *Western Horsemen*, etc. and five books. His web site is <http://my.montana.net/draa/>

Tom Highberger is a member of the BBCH and a recently retired Forest Service Resource Assistant with 30 years of packing and wilderness management experience, along with being a very schooled and accomplished horseman.

Mike Lorash is a BBCH member and a professional horse trainer and horseman educator. He has worked with Pat Parelli and John Lyons. Mike is an excellent communicator with a dedication to safety and solid horsemanship as it relates to back country riding.

Our club will serve lunch and there will be a can for donations/contributions.

YOU MUST CALL BEFOREHAND TO REGISTER. THIS IS MANDATORY.

CALL CHICK or JIFFIE HALE @ 763-4105

GVBCH Board Meeting Minutes March 8, 2005

Attendance: Rich Inman, Janet Castro, Beth Merrick, Wally Becker, Trina Frederickson, John McIlhattan, Joellyn Howell, Lori Brockway, Sheila Haydel, proxy for Donna Mcgeein, Jiffie & Chick Hale, Wally Becker, Dan Marsh,

Minutes of February 2, 2005 meeting were accepted; motion by Dan Marsh; second by Janet Castro.

Treasurer's Report: In Cinda's absence, Janet Castro advised that the bill for the post office box has been paid. The Volney Steele CD has rolled over for another three-month period. Motion by Trina/2nd Beth to pay the Kinko's bill for \$36.90. Approved.

The Rocky Mountain Rider magazine would like to include the Back Country Horsemen's schedule activities in their calendar of events. Dan Marsh will get in touch with them and send them information regarding upcoming trail rides and trail maintenance days.

Chick advised that a one-day session has been scheduled for the Defensive Horsemanship training on May 21 at Schenango Station, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Lori Brockway has volunteered to act as Secretary for the event. Consultants/"advisors" from the Beartooth BCH Chapter will come and assist with us with their past experience. The Beartooth Chapter consultants have been assisting other Chapters with their training and have, as a result, garnered more experience in delivering the training effectively. Motion by Lori Brockway to have the consultants assist with the training; second by Joellyn Howell. All in favor with the exception of Dan Marsh.

In appreciation of the consultants traveling for this Defensive Horsemanship training, we have agreed to assist in covering their expenses for travel, accommodation and meals. Lunch will also be provided for those attending the one-day session. Cost of the session is estimated to be approximately \$350. Motion by Joellyn Howell to use the Volney Steele fund up to a maximum of \$500.00; second by Beth Merrick. All in favor with the exception of Dan Marsh.

In anticipation of the State Convention, the Board reviewed the changes proposed to the Resolution. Most of the changes were minor wording matters. Dan Marsh, Rich Inman and possibly Parson Brown will be attending the convention, although we are permitted up to eight delegates.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted, Trina Frederickson, sec.

GVBCH General Meeting Minutes March 17, 2005

Minutes from the February meeting were accepted and approved. Treasurer's report accepted/approved. No outstanding bills. (Editor's note: No room in this month's NL for report to be included, but is available for the asking.)

State convention. Dan reviewed the proposed resolutions for the upcoming convention meetings April 1-3 to be held in Great Falls and he reported he had received the minutes from the December state delegate meeting by email. The minutes cannot be published until they have been accepted by the state delegates at the pre-convention meeting. Dan brought raffle tickets for the items that will be at the convention which can be viewed on the web site. If anyone has any pictures they want submitted for the convention please get them to one of the attending delegates as soon as possible. Information is available for the convention on our web site at <http://www.bchmt.org>. Those attending the convention are Dan Marsh, Rich Inman, and Brown and SammyLu Parsons. Anyone interested in attending the convention should call Rich Inman so we know who is going and make reservations with the form available on the web site. SammyLu spoke on encouraging members to attend our state conventions.

Defensive Horsemen clinic: Chick spoke briefly saying it is scheduled for Sat. May 21st. It will be an all day affair beginning at 9:30am and probably have a trail ride up Garnet Mt afterwards. More complete information will be written in the April and May issue of the NL.

Poker Ride: No report.

The nine-mile mule string pack train will be here in August. No definite date set.

The evening program was presented, spectacularly I might add, by Dan Aadland of Absarokee. He read passages from his latest book, *The Complete Trail Horse* and was very willing to answer our questions. Dan will be one the "advisors" for the Defensive Horsemanship clinic so we had a chance to meet him and hear his expertise on many matters. Members thoroughly enjoyed the program as it was very inspiring and informative. Approximately 35 were in attendance, a record, considering snow earlier in the day then icy roads when we left for home. Proud of you members who attended!

Many thanks go to Janet who baked those wonderful cookies.

Respectfully submitted by Jiffie Hale, proxy for Trina Frederickson, sec

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

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Kay Tate



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