

THE PICKET LINE

December 2005



Officers

President

Rich Inman 388-1564

Vice President

Janet Castro 388-0966

Secretary

Trina Fredrickson 522-9315

Treasurer

Bettye White 586-2301

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

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."

PLEASE NOTE

NO BOARD MEETING for Dec.



Annual Christmas Banquet And Elections

Friday, December 9th 6:30pm

Kountry Korner Café

Four Corners

RSVP Jiffie Hale 763-4105 or 580-6455

Deadline is Wednesday, December 7th

(please .. do not call the café for your RSVP)

Hello Backcountry Horsemen,

This is the time of year when I try to say thank you to the good people who do so much for our club. As your president, I have enjoyed tremendous support for the issues and activities we took on this year.

First, I want to thank the nominating committee (Joellyn and Trina) for the great effort put forth to get nominees for the 2006 year. We came close to having to shut the doors on GVBCCH but thanks to their efforts we did finally come up with a slate of nominees for all positions. We will be electing four directors this year. Dr. John McIlhattan does not feel he can continue as director given his health. Please keep him in your prayers. We will elect one director to fill behind John for one year. The other three directors will be elected to a two year term. Thank you all who agreed to accept a nomination.

Next, I want to thank Janet Castro and the crew that planned, implemented and cleaned up the Poker Ride. It was a huge success and came off very smoothly.

Then I want to thank Bill Shields and his crew and Chick Hale and his crew for their tireless work on making our trails an enjoyable experience. They cleaned and sawed and brushed a lot of miles of national forest trails that are enjoyed by hikers and horsemen alike.

I thank Donna McGeein and Jiffie Hale for the fine programs we had for our meetings. The programs were both educational and informative. They were some of the best that I have been privileged to attend.

Jiffie Hale, I thank you for the fine job done on the newsletter. I know it was frustrating at times, but you pulled it off each month without exception.

Dan Marsh, I thank you for all you do to keep the website up and running. It is a quality site maintained by a quality person.

A little cowboy philosophy:

****There is alot more to ridin a horse that just sittin in the saddle and lettin yer feet hang down.*

****The easiest way to eat crow is while it's still warm.*

****If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin.*

With that I will close and say thank you for allowing me to be your president this year. It has been enjoyable and the good Lord willin' I will be around next year to help out in some capacity.

Your President,

Rich Inman

Christmas Banquet and Elections (Absentee Ballot and instructions enclosed)

Our annual Christmas banquet and elections will be Friday, December 9th at 6:30pm at the Kountry Korner Café.

Our menu is Baron of beef, Stuffed chicken breast, Twice baked potatoes, Fresh vegetable medley, Chocolate cheesecake. Tossed salad with dressings, dinner rolls, lemonade or iced tea are included. Price is \$18.00 and includes the gratuities.

Please RSVP Jiffie 763-4105 or 580-6455 no later than Wednesday, December 7th

And a reminder...you may pay your 2006 dues this night. Please bring the application from the last page.

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

Trail and Bridge Construction and Trail Maintenance Report for 2005

Our summer trail work started this year on April 27 with cleaning water-bars and ended October 24 with more water-bars. It appeared that the weather was good to us.

The Bridger Trail Crew produced their usual outstanding work with ten days of scheduled trail clearing. They also packed deck planks into the Hell Roaring Creek new bridge site. They also cleared the trail for our annual Poker Ride.

The Adolescent Resource Center supplied us with six to ten young people to assist us. We worked on the Sourdough Summer Trail which was within walking distance. With their help about a mile of trail was restored to specifications.

More trail was restored on the Garnet Mountain Trail, but as yet the five mile trail has not been completed.

The Hell Roaring Creek Bridge has been completed. It is for horses and well worth seeing. It is a 9000 foot ride on restored trail to the bridge. Nine Mile Mule Pack Train, the Bridger Crew and the Mid-week Crew packed materials in and the long pieces were flown in by helicopter. The Forest Service did an outstanding job with engineering, planning and construction.

The Forest Service asked us to pack their work crews in and out of Indian Ridge, Hyalite Lake, Fox Creek Cabin and Buffalo Horn where the Forest Service stayed most of a week and were able to complete an amazing amount of work.

The big club project this year was on our adopted Spanish Creek Trail. The weather finally allowed us to get to the lakes. We spent three days on trail maintenance and preparation. Finally the gravel was delivered and then the Mule Team arrived.

The preparation work related to three or four eroded areas and the mules deposited gravel as needed resulting in a tremendous improvement to a very heavily used trail. Twenty-five people helped load, unload, shovel, rake, pack, etc. This was again an outstanding effort by the club, Forest Service and others. Least I forget, the gravel was donated by a club member.

As per the Forest Service recommendation a Defensive Horsemanship Course was presented to members and those participating in the use of horses in Forest Service work. We had members of the Beartooth BCH who were instrumental in preparing the materials to serve as our instructors. Forty club members participated.

This accounts for the major accomplishments for the year, along with those other projects forgotten or omitted, which produced a very profitable year for the club's accomplishments.

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Total man/women hours	2,101	2,410
Number of people participating	346	329
Number of days worked	52	64
Number of riding horses used	175	167
Number of pack horses used	102	78
Total miles traveled by all horses	2,699	2,261
Number of feet of new tread constructed on trail	4,238	11,579
Number of vehicles used	174	244
Total miles traveled by vehicles	11,246	9,266

GVBCH Board Meeting Minutes November 2, 2005

Officers and Directors in Attendance: Rich Inman, Janet Castro, Wally Becker, Trina Frederickson, Joellyn Howell, Bettye White, Lori Brockway, Chick Hale as proxy for John McIlhattan, Dan Marsh. Also in Attendance: Jiffie Hale, Dan Marsh, Sonja Berg

Motion to accept minutes of October 5, 2005 by Chick Hale; second by Joellyn Howell.

Bettye provided Treasurer's Report. We have a bill from Kinko's for \$33.12. Motion by Joellyn & second by Lori to pay the bill.

Dan Marsh gave State Board report. The next delegate meeting is December 10, 2005.

Correspondence received: Newsletter from Wilderness Association.

Chick provided a brief summary regarding the trail work done in 2005. Dan and Chick will work together to get the summary posted to the web.

With regard to nominations for the Board and Director positions for 2006, we have the following people who have agreed to put their names forward:

Rich Inman for President, Janice Cartwright for Vice-President, Trina Frederickson for Secretary, Bettye White for Treasurer. Wally Becker, Sabrina Hanan, Dan Porter, Bob Steinman, Larry Thomas and Jennifer Tuthill for Directors. With regard to the Director's positions, there is one 1-year position to be filled and three 2-year positions. Dan Marsh for State Board, Janet Castro as Alternate for State Board, Beth Merrick will take over the newsletter.

Jiffie provided the results of the survey of people wanting to have hard-copy, monthly newsletters vs. those wanting to receive their newsletters via e-mail.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by Trina Frederickson, Secretary

GVBCH General Meeting Minutes November 17, 2005

Officers & Directors in Attendance: Trina Frederickson, Rich Inman, Janet Castro, Donna McGeein, Bettye White, Wally Becker
Paula Kirkpatrick of Buffalo Gal Hat Co. was the guest speaker. Paula is a professional hat maker working in Jackson, MT. She provided information about what goes into making a hat, how to tell what the quality is on a hat, waterproofing and average pricing. If you happen to be in the Jackson area, or are looking for a hat maker, or just someone to clean, re-size or even change the style of your hat, don't hesitate to give Paula a call.

Motion by Chick Hale to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2005 meeting; second by Dan Marsh.

We had one new member, Bill Cross, join us for the evening.

Bettye White provided Treasurer's Report for November 17, 2005:

Checking a/c balance November 3, 2005		\$2,930.00
Bills paid		
Jiffie Hale (NL/stamps)	\$70.12	2,860.60
Deposits		
Dues	\$210.00	
<u>Checking a/c balance 11/17/05</u>		<u>\$3,070.60</u>

Other assets:

Petty Cash	\$48.56
Money Mkt Fund	1,984.65 (10/31/05)
3 Mo. CD	3,148.69

minutes continued next page...

The Volney Steele CD is due for renewal in December. As per our previous discussion (September/05), the funds paid for the Defensive Horsemanship Clinic will be reimbursed from the CD, prior to it being reinvested.

Dan Marsh advised that the next State Board meeting is December 10, 2005. If you have any issues you'd like to be brought up, please contact Dan directly.

Jiffie provided a brief report on her membership survey regarding e-mail vs. snail mail. A number of people didn't respond, however, of the 69 members 21 would prefer to have their BCH newsletter received via e-mail.

If you'd like to attend the Christmas Dinner, please contact Jiffie by December 2nd.

We've been enjoying the use of the Belgrade Alliance Church for a few years now. In the past, we have made an annual donation of \$300.00 to the church for the use of the space and amenities. Rich asked for a vote on whether the membership would again like to make the donation and it was passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. Total Attendance: 23

Respectfully submitted by Trina Frederickson, Secretary

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Gallatin Travel Plan Revision Update

The Gallatin National Forest submitted a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register in 2002. In 2003 the forest sent out to the public a scoping document called the "bench mark." In early 2004 the forest presented a draft document with six alternatives for how to manage the thousands of miles of recreational roads and trails on the 1.9 million acre forest. Finally, in early 2005, the Forest Supervisor released the draft EIS with the forest preferred alternative 7.

During the three years the public, local and state governments, non-governmental organizations (NGO's), and the Forest Service have been working on this there have been many meetings to discuss the merits of one alternative or another. Alternative 7 was a well developed alternative that could meet the needs for growing recreational opportunities and is within the capacity of the land.

The Gallatin Forest believes that alternative 7 is pretty close to a final proposal that will come out as the Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD). It may be called Alternative 7M (M for modified) with some tweaks and will include a large section of "response to comments" and rationale for including the suggestion or why not.

In general, the response to comments will be categorized so that a number of similar comments (for example, not supporting seasonal closures) will be integrated into a comment or concern and responded to by the forest interdisciplinary team (IDT). Their responses will attempt to balance the social and best science available to address the issues.

Right now the forest supervisor and her staff is working hard to address any travel planning areas to add (tweak) the correct mix of recreational opportunities into the final plan and to take any substantive suggestions into consideration. The goal is get the final decision out for public review by late spring or early summer. People will then have 45 days to file an appeal if they cannot live with the decision. If no appeals are received, the forest can begin implementation after another short waiting period.

If you have further questions, contact Jose Castro at 522-2520.

Respectfully submitted,

José Castro

2005 memories



Hell Roaring Bridge before and after



2005 Sweet Pea parade



Defensive Horsemanship Clinic



Nine Mile Mule Pack Train and work on Spanish Peak Trail

THE GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES
AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2005 POKER RIDE.

WE THANK YOU ALL.

AG DEPOT
ALL WEST VETERINARY
ARDESSON BOOTS AND SHOES
BIG SKY RV
BITTERROOT TRAILER SALES
BOB WARD & SONS
BOZEMAN SADDLE OUTLET
BRIDGER FEEDS
CASHMAN NURSERY
CENTURY 21- DAN PORTER
CHALET MARKET
CHALET SPORTS

CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION
COSTCO
DJ BAR RANCH-JEHNET CARLSON
DOUBLE DIAMOND HALTERS
FREEWAY ENTERPRISES
GORMET GAS STATION
DICK HAINES
LAURA HANKS
LEE HART
JOELLYN AND JOHN HOWELL
RICH INMAN
KOUNTRY KORNER CAFÉ

LEE & DADS
MONTANA CANVAS
MONTANA HARVEST
MONTANA MANDOLIN SOCIETY
MURDOCKS RANCH & HOME
OWENHOUSE HARDWARE
PRECISION FENCE SYSTEM, INC.
R J CONTI
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HAT CO.
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SUPPLY
SCHNEES' BOOTS AND SHOES
SHEAR WEST-DIANA SWAN



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