

# THE PICKET LINE

January 2005



## 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

Mobile 580-6455

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

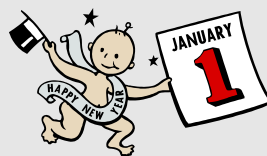
## BCH Web Master

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."



## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### **Board Meeting**

Wednesday, January 5th @ 7pm

At Janet Castro's 388-0966

990 Bulltail Rd, Belgrade

For directions see page 3

For PAST AND NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS

### **General Meeting**

Thursday, January 20th @ 7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church

Cameron & Hoffman Sts.

### **Planning of the 2005 schedule of events**

For more information see page 5

## President's message,

As we come to the close of 2004 I want to take this opportunity to thank one and all for your support and cooperation during this year. As I said at the Christmas party, it was a transition year for many of us on the board but a good year for all of us. Even though our membership was down some from the previous year, our willingness to participate and help with projects and events was up. For me it will go down in the books as a good year for GVBCH.

At the Christmas party I gave the president's Becker-Hale trophy to Jiffie Hale and Dan Marsh for their outstanding communication's contribution. Jiffie did a great job with the newsletter and Dan works quietly behind the scenes making the website the quality information link that it is. Great job you two. I appreciate all you do to keep us informed.

I recognized Janet Castro for her continual willingness to take on tasks. She always seems to have the energy and time to take on one more item. Thanks for the gravel bags too.

I recognized Chick Hale, Bill Shields and their trail crews for their tireless work at making our trails better. I received many complements during the year for the work you do. Thanks.

I also recognized Sharon Lowry, Jim Nelson and Joyce Haner as outgoing board members and Joan Holborn as outgoing secretary. Thank you for your support and contributions these last two years. It was a fun Christmas party for those who attended and enjoyed a good dinner plus fellowship.

Election results are probably mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter but I want to welcome Lori Brockway, Joellyn Howell, and John McIlhattan as our new 2 year board members. Trina Frederickson comes on as our new secretary. Welcome and thank you.

As we get ready to tackle 2005 with its many challenges and opportunities, I want to again mention that in addition to our annual events and projects, we have a big issue to deal with called the Gallatin National Forest Travel Plan. If we want to retain our freedom to ride national forest trails, we must review this pro-

posal in detail and provide written comment during the public comment period. Stay tuned and keep informed.

The purpose of our January 20th club meeting at Belgrade Alliance Church will be to set up our calendar of events/projects/rides/programs for the 2005 year. I invite each of you to come join in and have your say about trail rides, events, training, programs, etc.

Until we meet again, I thank you for your support and I wish you a very Merry Christmas. Take care of each other out there and enjoy your families over the holidays. May God bless you all.

Rich Inman


### The Secret of Their Long and Happy Marriage...

A couple was celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. Their domestic tranquility had long been the talk of the town. "What a peaceful and loving couple."

A local newspaper reporter was inquiring as to the secret of their long and happy marriage.

"Well, it dates back to our honeymoon," explained the man. "We visited the Grand Canyon and took a trip down to the bottom of the canyon by pack mule. We hadn't gone too far when my wife's mule stumbled. My wife quietly said, 'That's once.' We proceeded a little further and the mule stumbled again. Once more my wife quietly said, 'That's twice.' We hadn't gone a half-mile when the mule stumbled the third time. My wife quietly removed a revolver from her purse and shot the mule dead. I started an angry protest over her treatment of the mule, when she looked at me and quietly said, 'That's once.'"

And we lived happily ever after"

<b>BRIDGER FEEDS</b>	
	MANAGER <b>ROBBY MOCK</b>
	PHONE: 406-586-3026
	OWNER <b>MARCIA S. ANDERSON</b>

**Directions to Janet Castro's residence:**

Just south of the Belgrade exit (road next to truck stop) turn **west onto Amsterdam Rd.**

Go two miles (just past River Rock subdivision) and turn **right onto Royal Rd.**

Go one mile to stop sign and turn **left onto Thorpe Rd**

Go West to the **second gravel road**

Turn **right onto Bulltail Rd** (the sign is on the telephone pole).

They are the **5<sup>th</sup> house on the right**, a two story house with tan siding and burgundy shutters, **990 Bulltail Rd.**

Their home number is 388-0966. Call if lost.

***Please note:***

*As is customary, the first of the year board meeting has both the outgoing and incoming officers and directors attending. We hope you will make this possible. The meeting will be located at Janet & José Castro's home and the directions are noted on your left. We look forward to seeing you all to begin the year 2005.*

**GVBCH Board Mtg. Minutes Dec 1,2004**

**Attendance:** Rich Inman, Janet Castro, Sharon Lowry, Brown Parsons, Chick and Jiffie Hale, Wally Becker, Dave Schiltz, Joan Holborn, & Bettye White in attendance for Joyce Haner. Cinda Eichenfels, Beth Merrick and Donna McGeein excused. Jim Nelson absent.

**Motion** by Brown 2nd by Wally to accept Nov. Minutes as printed in the Nov.NL,Passed.

**Motion** by Brown, 2nd by Janet to authorize payment of Kinko bill for \$30.86,Passed.

**Correspondence:** Letter form the Forest Service request assistance with weed control in the Gallatin Canyon, discussion amongst board in full support **Motion** by Brown, 2nd by Sharon to support grant process, Passed. John Councilman is Forest Service contact.

**501C-4** Rich reports awaiting tax exempt status response.

**Motion** by Sharon, 2nd by Bettye to drop advertisement fee in newsletter for members, Passed. **Many Thanks to Sharon** for providing a warm, comfortable meeting place for the last 2 years. Future Board Mtg. to be held at Janet and Jose Castro's home.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec.

**GVBCH General Election, Dec 10,2004** (Christmas party and elections held at the Kountry Korner Café)

**Attendance:** Rich Inman, Janet & Jose Castro, Sharon and Jack Lowry, Dan & Alice Marsh, Beth Merrick, Carol and Wally Becker, Chick and Jiffie Hale, Cinda Eichenfels and guest, Larry and Billie Thomas, Brown and Sammylu Parsons, Linda Kelly, Wayne and Trina Frederickson, Bettye White, Sonja Berg, Dr. John McIlhattan and guest, Joellyn Howell, Anna Hostrom, Jehnet Carlson and guest, Rich and Joan Holborn and Dave Shiltz (too late for dinner), and also RJ Conti (too late for dinner...car side swiped him).

**Election of Officers and new Board members** Rich announced election open to voice nominations from the floor, announcement repeated for all to hear. No candidates added from the floor. **Motion** by Beth, 2nd by Sharon to close nominations. Passed. Printed ballots distributed, marked and collected. Results are for **President**-Rich Inman, **Vice President**-Janet Castro, **Treasurer**-Cinda Eichenfels, **Secretary**-Trina Frederickson, **New Board Members** for 2 year terms, Lisa Brockway, John McIlhattan, & Joellyn Howell. **State Board Rep**-Brown Parsons. **State Board Rep. Alt.** Linda Kelly.

**Becker-Hale Award** recipients were Dan Marsh and Jiffie Hale.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec.

## GALLATIN VALLEY BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN

### 2004 Trail and Bridge Construction and Trail Maintenance Report

The year 2004 was in many ways a success. My first thought is the up and coming Forest Service Travel Plan. If you have reviewed the preliminary information you will be aware of two items that affect horses and riders. One is the closing of at least two trails for horse use. The second item recommends the closing of many trails until after June 15<sup>th</sup> for horse use. True that the weather often affects horse and riders, but let me list what we have done from April 14<sup>th</sup> until June 15<sup>th</sup> of this year which under new regulations we would not be permitted to do:

1. Rebuilt 2,967 feet of trail.
2. Seventeen horses and riders as part of National Trails Day worked on our adopted Spanish Creek Trail.
3. Twelve horses and riders cleared trails in the Bridger Mountains.
4. Equipment and tools were packed into the forest for the Forest Service and with them we assisted in the construction of a bridge.

As for the major accomplishments our Bridger group completed their scheduled trail clearing and rebuilt 450 feet of trail in the Bridger/Fairy Lake area.

The adopted Spanish Creek trail was cleared, rocks kicked, water bars cleaned and/or replaced and new tread constructed above the Mirror Lake junction. Packing and assistance was provided to the Forest Service in the construction of bridges. In all six packing trips were made in assisting the Forest Service.

Our modified roto-tiller was again put to work along with improvements which made work easier. Four members of our club worked on trail construction as did a hiker who has become a regular. A young man from Denmark helped as did our president, a new director and various others making the work move faster.

The thrill of the year was provided by the Adolescent Resource Center who supplied us with good capable young men and women, obligated to community service work, along with their supervisor. They worked one day a week, each day providing a new crew who needed training, but we all enjoyed having a young group with us.

Looking back over this past summer more work was accomplished not only because of the lack of a fire season and very hot weather, but because our crew was consistent, energetic and took real pride in a trail well done. All are to be commended.

Sincerely,

Chick Hale

The following is a numerical accounting taken from our reports made for each day's project:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Total man/women hours	2,410	1,515
Number of people participating	329	221
Number of days worked	64	56
Number of riding horses used	167	185
Number of pack horses used	78	95
Total miles traveled by all horses	2,261	3,224
Number of feet of new tread constructed on trail	11,579	1,486
Number of vehicles used	244	138
Total miles traveled by vehicles	9,266	9,982

### **OUR FIRST GENERAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR 2005**

The meeting for January (Thurs., Jan. 20th) will be a very important time for all members. You will have the opportunity to suggest a favorite ride, tell us what program you would like, mention what trails you think need improvement and in general just what you members wish the club to sponsor. It is the time when members can voice their wishes and desires to enhance the club's activities. After all, this is a club where all members have a say, should have a say and will have a say in how we run our organization. So, come to this meeting and tell us what you would like the club to do. It is very important that you attend and we look forward to seeing you there.

#### ***BCH members in the recuperating department;***

Kurt Stabenau, past president, has had open heart surgery almost 2 months ago and is now recovering very nicely.

Bettye White is home from her surgery, a right knee replacement. Her left knee was done some years ago.

Bonnie Hammer has returned home from her hip replacement and is doing wonderful. Her knee replacement was done in November (she has now had both knees replaced).

Do we wind up these robots to keep them going or do we just keep fresh batteries on hand?

#### ***FOR SALE ITEMS...***

- 5 yr old reg. appaloosa gelding. Well trained. Good mountain horse. Has been packed. \$2,500
  - 7 year old Quarterhorse/Foxtrotter gelding. Well trained mountain horse \$1,500
  - 2003 WW 2-horsetrailer with tack room. New condition.. \$5,000
- call:(406) 209-0894 (cell) or (406) 994-0074  
Anna Holstrom

#### ***"NATIONAL DAY OF THE HORSE "PASSED IN WASHINGTON, DC ON SENATE FLOOR BY UNANIMOUS VOTE***

*Dear Friends,*

*We are so proud and happy to announce to you:*

*Today the National Day of the Horse was passed in Washington DC on the Senate Floor by unanimous vote!*

*We extend our deepest thanks and gratitude to all of you that signed our petition. Without your help we could not have achieved this goal.*

**S. Resolution 452 states : "A Resolution designating December 13, 2004 as The National Day of the Horse and encouraging the people of the United States to be mindful of the contribution of horses to economy, history and character of the United States."**

*Sincerely,*

*Dennis & Deborah*

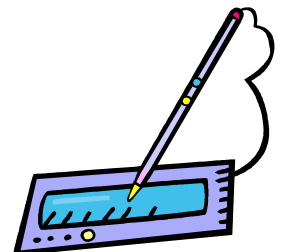
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Laura Hanks

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Rich Inman

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Beth Merrick

Dave & Lisa Reed

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Kay Tate



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