



# Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

# The Picket Line

April, 2006

## Coming Events

**General Meeting:** April 20, 7 pm., Belgrade Alliance Church  
**Horse Safety Trailing:** April 22, 9 to 4 at Gallatin Fairgrounds

### Rides:

**Red Bluff,** April 29, contact Rich Inman @ 388-1564  
**4 Hour Ride,** April 25, contact Janice Cartwright @ 579-3445,

Post Office Box 3232,  
Bozeman MT 59772-3232  
Website [www.bchmt.org](http://www.bchmt.org)

## Officers

**President**  
Rich Inman 388-1564  
**Vice President**  
Janice Cartwright 579-3445  
**Secretary**  
Trina Frederickson 522-9315  
**Treasurer**  
Bettye White 586-2301  
**Directors**  
**2 years**  
Wally Becker 587-9607  
Dan Porter 388-0290  
Larry Thomas 586-6878  
**1 year**  
Lori Brockway 587-7198  
Joellyn Howell 388-4493  
Jennifer Tuthill 587-2289  
**State Board**  
Brown Parsons (1) 586-9030  
Dan Marsh (2) 587-7578  
**Alternate**  
Janet Castro 388-0966  
**Newsletter Editor**  
Beth Merrick 388-4047  
*bmerrick1@aol.com*  
**Membership & E-Mails**  
Jiffie Hale 763-4105  
*jhale@littleappletech.com*  
**Webmaster**  
Dan Marsh 587-7578  
*dmarsh@montana.edu*

## Horse Safety Training

GVBCH Defensive Horsemen Clinic---for members and guests

A really great horsemanship and safety class is being offered for chapter and potential members interested in trail rides. Registration begins at 8:30 am at the Outdoor Arena at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds. If it rains, we will use the Indoor Arena. This clinic is free, but donations will be cheerfully accepted to help defray the cost of the arena rental. Riders on each and every BCH trail ride are encouraged to complete this course. Consider it an easy and inexpensive investment in preparing for spring riding and protecting yourself through this safety refresher course.

### Schedule: Saturday, April 22

#### 9:00 -11:45 am:

On the Ground -- Horse Care and Handling ---- General horsemanship, ground manners, safety and herd mentality.

On The Trail Safety and Trail Courtesy ---- Trail savvy, mounted manners, obstacles and safety.

#### 11:45 am - 12:45:

1 hour lunch break  
Participants are on your own for chow and drinks.

#### 12:45 – 3:00 pm

Equine and Human First Aid

Tack and Equipment ----- What is needed? Where does it go? How does it work? Does it fit properly? Is it in good condition? Etc.

#### 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Question and answer session or practice time with your own horse.

Horses are welcome, but NOT NECESSARY! They can join us in Sessions 1 and 2 and during practice time. During other times they should be prepared to spend time tied at their trailers eating hay. Horse owners are responsible for cleaning up manure, so bring your own manure shovel or fork.

Registration is limited to 32 participants. Beyond that number, names will be placed on a waiting list. We expect the clinic to fill up fast. Make your reservations by calling Janice Cartwright 587-3003 (res) or 579-3445 (mobile) or email [janiceinmontana@mac.com](mailto:janiceinmontana@mac.com). Your place on the list will be confirmed. Please register by Thursday, April 20th. Call Janice with any questions. Dress appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions. We have the use of indoor and outdoor arenas with adjacent parking. Everyone is required to sign waivers for both the fairgrounds and the GVBCH.

# April 4, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes

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**Call to Order:** President Rich Inman called the meeting to order with the following board members present: Janice Cartwright, Bettye White, Wally Becker, Dan Porter, Larry Thomas, Jiffie Hale (proxy for Lori Brockway), Joellyn Howell, Dan Marsh, Janet Castro and Jiffie and Chick Hale.

**Treasury Report:** Betty White gave the treasurer's report:

Checking account: \$3,726.61

Money Market and C.D \$8,773.13

There were a total of \$361.96 in bills. Motion was made and seconded to pay them.

**Communications Report:** Janice briefly told of communications and correspondence.

**Membership Report:** Jiffie reported a total of 30 individual members, and 19 family members.

**State BCH Report:** Dan Marsh reported on five different state issues:

**BCH Lawsuit against Forest Service.** The judge ruled in favor of BCH on one count. The Forest Service must get public comment to change trail designation. The issue is still not settled.

**Gate Park Bridge.** Public comment period has expired on this bridge in the Bob Marshal Wilderness. The bridge is unsafe and needs to be either torn out or redone.

**National Identification Act.** This act could have serious impacts for cattle, llamas, sheep and horses which must all be identified in order to use them on trails. The purpose is to track disease. Write your congressmen to exclude horses from the act. This act becomes permanent in 2008.

**Right to Ride.** This act is still in committee, but is moving closer to adoption.

**Sale of Public Lands.** Montana Senators Burns and Baucus are against such sales. Keeping public lands public is both their philosophy and stand on this issue.

**State Convention Report:** Janice Cartwright took honorable mention with her photograph.

**Communication:** Trina has successfully distributed invitations at the last general board meeting for members to offer friends for trail rides and club meetings. We will need more of these as they are a popular idea. There was no information regarding preparation of new member packets and whether they are completed. It was suggested that Dave Visher be contacted regarding doing a radio spot on our club. Ron Stuber, state BCHA President, wanted to contact state media for upcoming events for all Montana clubs: Dan Marsh will take care of this. It was also suggested that we post our schedule and a copy of our newsletter at those places that board horses. Rich will duplicate the schedule and have it available at our next general meeting.

**Trail Report:** The Tuesday and Thursday work groups will keep their same schedule as last year - Tuesday hikers will repair trails, and Thursday horses will be used to pack supplies to repair sites. Again the Adolescent Resource Center will help out as well as RSVP participants. Chick Hale reported that no horses had left any prints where erosion was occurring. Damage was all human caused. Rich asked Chick to take pictures so he could show Forest Service people that some trails should be closed to hikers as well as horses in early spring.

**Poker Ride:** Joellyn went through the list of donors and donations and asked that all donations be gathered as soon as possible. GVBCCH will send out an email asking all members to volunteer for jobs in organizing the Poker Ride, not just the board members. More will come through emails to members. Everything else is on schedule with board members already volunteering their services.

**Horse Safety Defense Workshop:** Planning is in place for the event on April 22, from 9-3. Topics for workshop are: general horsemanship/ horse care and handling; Tack and equipment; Safety and Trail Courtesy; and First Aid - Horse and Rider.

**Meeting was then adjourned.**

## President's Report

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I will begin this column by wishing Beth Merrick our best as she undergoes knee surgery. I pray for successful surgery and complete healing. *(Editor's Note: I'm doing great- have jettisoned both the walker and the brace and have permission to drive just 2 weeks after surgery.)*

I have just returned from the State Convention and will give you a quick update as to my perspective of happenings there. It was a good convention and my congratulations to the Mission Valley BCH for doing a great job of hosting the annual event. The facilities and the setting were terrific. Three resolutions were presented but none of them were earth shaking:

One reaffirmed the purpose of BCH and it passed without much fanfare. This resolution did provoke some comment concerning the forest service requirements becoming too intense and demanding. We will see something more on this in the future from Montana BCH.

Another resolution involving the sale of public lands also passed. It affirmed our position of public lands generally not being for sale except for special cases.

Mark Brides gave a good presentation on the newly proposed Animal Identification System. It is a few years away for equines, but probably is going to happen in the future. It is being set up to track diseases and will include both the animal and its location. Stay tuned on this one.

My one disappointment in the convention was our Chapter's lack of participation. We only had 3 of our entitled 8 delegates in attendance. Most clubs had their full compliment of 8 delegates. Next year we need to have at least 6 and preferably 8 representatives. I invite all of you to give it some thought.

### REMINDERS For APRIL:

Janice Cartwright is hosting midweek trail rides for beginners and horse conditioning on April 25 and 28. Contact her at 579-3445 for information on signing up.

Our first trail ride will be an early spring conditioning ride at Red Bluff on April 29th. Contact Rich Inman for information and sign up.

Finally, I congratulate Janice Cartwright on winning honorable mention in the State Convention photo contest scenery category. There were over 50 entries in this category. Nice work Janice!

**- Rich Inman, President.**

## Mustang Update

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There are 161 wild horses in Montana, far fewer than the nearly 19,000 in Nevada. A recent revision to the 1971 law protecting wild horses and burros will require wild equines over 10 years of age, and proven unadoptable, to be sold for slaughter. Conrad Burns inserted a rider in the federal budget that lifts the ban on selling wild equines for slaughter. These revisions to the law effect immediately some 8,400 animals currently held by the Bureau of Land Management. Burns believes that slaughter is simpler than adoption. Animal groups prefer gelding stallions and programs to inject mares with long term contraceptives.

This photo of last year's spring ride was taken by J. Tuthill.



The Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen are indebted to the following businesses and members who contributed to the success of our 2005 Poker Ride. Please give them your business.

**Businesses:**

**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 Carson**

**Double Diamond Halters**  
**Freeway Enterprises**  
**Gourmet Gas Station**  
**Broken Hart Ranch- Lee Hart**  
**Kountry Korner Cafe**  
**Lee & Dad's**  
**Montana Canvas**  
**Montana Harvest**  
**Montana Mandolin Society**  
**Murdoch's Ranch & Home**  
**Owenhouse Hardware**  
**Precision Fence Systems**  
**Rocky Mountain Hat Co.**  
**Rocky Mountain Supply**  
**Schnees' Boots and Shoes**  
**Shear West- Diana Swan**

**Members**

**RJ Conti**  
**Dick Haines**  
**Laura Hanks**  
**Joellyn and John Howell**  
**Rich Inman**  
**Beth Merrick**

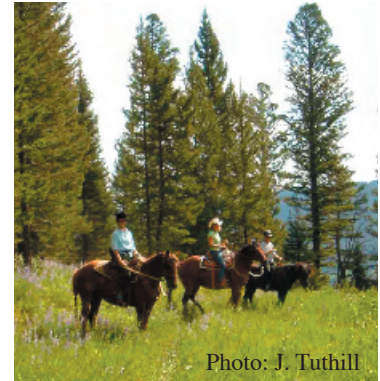


Photo: J. Tuthill

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**PO Box 3232, Bozeman Montana 59772-3232**