



Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

The Picket Line

December, 2006

Coming Events

Next General Meeting:

3rd Thursday, January 18, 7 pm

Belgrade Alliance Church

at Cameron & Hoffman

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, December 6, 7 pm

at Bettye White's

Post Office Box 3232,
Bozeman MT 59772-3232
Website 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
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Membership & E-Mails
Jiffie Hale 763-4105
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Webmaster
Dan Marsh 587-7578
dmarsh@montana.edu

Annual Elections

You will find a ballot inside this newsletter. Please mark your ballots and mail them to PO Box 3232, Bozeman Montana 59772-3232, or you can hand deliver your ballot to the elections ballot box at the Christmas Party. The ballots will be counted at 8 pm and announced.

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party Potluck, elections, auction and Western Swing Dance will happen this December 16 in Building #4 at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds.

The Backcountry Horsemen will share this night with the Gallatin Saddle and Harness Club, and your friends are welcome, too. The \$20 per person cost that covers your steak and band support can be paid at the door.

A social hour kicks the evening off at 6 pm. Be sure to bring your own Seasonal Celebratory Imbibement. Previously known as BYOB, bring your own SCI to the party and join the festive group in a toast to the coming year of good times on the trail. Dinner starts at 7, your steak will be grilled on location. This is a Potluck, so bring a casserole or salad to share. Your steak and potatoes are provided along with utensils. The revelry will continue until 11:30 pm.

A silent auction will be held after the elections. Bring an item of food, clothing, tack or horse gear, anything hand-made, or anything else that would be fun to bid on. The auction will defray building rental.

"Western swing is alive and well in the mountains of Montana with the music of Open Range & the Swing Stampede. When this energetic 6-piece band hits the stage and starts to jam you can almost bet there'll be no toe left untapped! Come shuffle your feet to the Open Range beat, like they did when the West was swung!"

Bring your casserole, auction item(s) and dancing shoes. Dress is informal.

President's Report

I am writing this message on Thanksgiving morning as I truly am thankful for all the blessings of this year. I am thankful for our officers and directors. They rose to the challenge of leading our club through some sensitive issues. The Gallatin Forest Travel Plan caused us to put on our thinking caps, take a close look at our mission statement and write a meaningful response that hopefully will protect our right to ride on public lands. To date the forest service has not published a decision. We will have additional work to do on this issue in 2007.

I am thankful for the trail crews and many other individuals that gave of their time and energy to the many projects we took on this year. We may not have covered as many miles or dug as much tread but we certainly did some heavy duty work. This is the first year in many years that I can remember us getting to work our adopted trail all the way to the lakes. Great job folks. Our Poker Ride was a huge success. This event was well run and well organized. I thank each and every one of you who gave their time and contributions.

Lastly I want to thank those of you who have agreed to be officers and directors for 2007. Your commitment enables us to have an organization that will continue to protect and perpetuate the commonsense use and enjoyment of horses in Montana's roadless backcountry.

I leave you with this "pearl of wisdom". Each day is a special gift from God, and while life may not always be fair, you must never allow the pains, hurdles and handicaps of the moment to poison your attitude and plans for yourself and your future.

-Rich Inman, President

2007 Candidates:

Dan Marsh	President
Bob Steinman	Vice President
Nanci Winget	Secretary
Brenda Kessler	Treasurer
Directors:	Jim Albright
	Dan Alderman
	Rich Winget
State Board	Rich Inman, Jan Elpel alternate

State Convention

Convention will be held in Lewistown, so mark your calendars for March 30, 31 and April 1. Everyone can enter in the photo competition. Entries must be 5" x 7" or 8" x 10" and matted NOT framed. Categories are American Beauty, Kids of All Ages, Backcountry Horsemen at Work. There will be a Quick Draw Artists event at the banquet at the Yogo Inn. The price jumps if you register after the March 9th pre-registration deadline.



Kay Tate Photo

Treasurer's Report November 16, 2006

Checking Account Balance 10/19	+2522.23
Checks written	
2455 10.20 Dan Marsh State Mileage	-45.47
2456 11.02 MT BCH Annual Dues 1165.00	-1210.47
Deposits (Dues)	+450.00
10.24 100.00 10.27 170.00	
11.09 110.00 11.16 70.00	
Checking Account Balance 11.16.06	+1761.76
Other Assets	
Petty Cash	+30.33
Money Market 10.01, 10.31 add 8.42	+2069.30
CD	+5570.36
Total	+9431.75

Board Meeting Minutes

November 26, 2006

Attending: Officers & Directors in attendance: Janice Cartwright, Jenny Tuthill, Trina Frederickson, Rich Inman, Bettye White, Wally Becker, Joellyn Howell, Larry Thomas

Guests & New Members: Rich welcomed Robert and Susan Waddle to the evenings meeting.

Minutes: Motion to accept Minutes of October 19, 2006 by Jiffie; second by Larry.

Treasurer's Report: Bettye White reported that we have bills outstanding from Beth for stamps in the amount of \$29.40 and printing for \$8.17. There's also one bill for Kinkos for \$29.40. Motion by Joellyn to pay the bills; second by Trina.

Correspondence: BCH America has sent out e-mails to the membership requesting updated membership information.

State Board: Dan will be posting the agenda for the State Board meeting to be held in Lewistown at the Yogo Inn from March 30, 2007 – April 2, 2007. Please register by March 9, 2007 if you plan to attend and receive a discounted room rate. Dan also advised that the Horse Protection Act has been passed in the House, bypassed Committee and headed straight to the Senate.

Trails Report: Chick has put together a summary report of the trails work done in 2006. Although we had fewer club work days, we had good membership turnout and lots of work accomplished on those four days.

Nominating Committee: The following people have volunteered to serve on the Board for 2007: Dan Marsh (President), Bob Steinman (Vice-President), Nancy Winget (Secretary), Brenda Kessler (Treasurer), Jim Albright, Dan Alderman and Rich Winget (Directors), Rich Inman (State Board), Jan Elpel (Alternate – State Board). Rich opened up the floor for additional nominations. Chick motioned to close the floor when no additional names were brought forward; second by Jiffie.

Old Business: Please confirm w/Rich by December 1st if you plan to attend the Christmas party & don't forget your silent auction item and potluck dish.

New Business: Rich has arranged a meeting with the Forest Service to discuss our relationship with their offices, trails, wilderness, etc. If you'd like to attend that meeting please contact Rich directly. The December newsletter will be distributed early in December in order to get the absentee ballots out to the membership and returned prior to elections on December 16th.

Next Meeting: There is no scheduled General Meeting for December. December 16th (Saturday) will not be an official meeting, but elections will be held at that time. The next official General Meeting will be January 18, 2007.

Attendance: 18
submitted by Trina & Wayne Frederickson



Montana Horse Sanctuary

Jane Heath with the Montana Horse Sanctuary was our guest speaker at the November meeting.

Sanctuary clothing that benefits the sanctuary operations is available at Bridger Feeds in Bozeman and by email at www.montanahorsesanctuary.org.

The shelter is seeks to serve unwanted horses in a crisis situation. They employ a holistic approach to horse rehabilitation, and try to place horses in permanent and appropriate homes.

Jane stated that horses have always been a big part of her life, and that some might think that she tries to save horses, but the reality is that they have rescued her. She started this endeavor after having taken in her third unwanted horse. Jane pointed out that between 90,000 and 100,000 horses are euthanized each year simply because they are unwanted. "Unwanted" is often less about the horse and more about the owner. Some horse owners do not like the age, behavior or health, others are short of money (most horse retirement operations charge \$40,000 per year in advance for horses that outlive their owners), time, suffering from illness or divorce or just lost interest in riding. Some horses have suffered cruelty or neglect or just outlived their usefulness in specialized areas like racing or reining.

After four years of consideration, this group decided to pull together a board of directors and apply for a 501c3 non-profit standing, and open a sanctuary that will care for their charges in perpetuity. Interestingly, the board's application for non-profit status was routed through Kentucky, where bluegrass horse ranches are a way of life, and the certification was granted in record time.

Volunteers have signed on from around the country, providing support from graphic design to stall clean-up. All envision a retirement facility that can support 20 horses, as well as, be a conduit for connecting horses with new owners. The Sanctuary is seeking 20 dry acres with dry lots, corrals, stalls and lands that can graze "dessert" after a meal in their stall. The selected site will be close to a major population area so that they can attract volunteers and be serviced

by vets and shoers. Most of all it will be sustainable---both economically and environmentally. They will be receiving the proceeds from Montana license plate sales that have already provided \$5,600 in their first year. The raffle of a bronze sculpture is ongoing, Sanctuary clothing profits are supportive and the facility also receives revenues from grants and direct donations. With 65 horses on the waiting list, all financial support is appreciated.

The Sanctuary considers condition, behavior, training and horse health before accepting an animal since safety is a major concern. The Sanctuary seeks to match horses and their abilities with appropriate owners.

Jane points out that horse owners should always ask more than canning price, which can be learned by calling the local stockyard, to be sure that they are not selling their horse to someone intending to turn the animal around for profit.

Education is one of the major goals of the sanctuary. The Sanctuary presents public programs on handling horse problems, pasture, nutrition, rangemanagement and death and dying. While the latter is never easy, it is very important; the sanctuary brings in a specialists to discuss homeopathy and dealing with the end stages of life.



Photo: J.

2006 Trails Report

from Chick Hale

In the process of checking files it comes to mind that our club has been working trails since its inception in the mid-eighties. However, the recording of daily work reports began in 1995. In this time, a lot of miles, and a lot of effort has been made by many of our present and past members. All are to be congratulated on keeping our trails open for use by all in the community.

Work for this year started on May 13th with the club's outing to our adopted Spanish Creek Trail in the Spanish Peaks. The crew of five was able to reach Mirror Lake junction and a half-mile beyond where snow put an end to removing blow-downs.

The Bridger Crew put in a good summer's work concentrating their efforts in the Bridger Range. Their work on the trail for this year's Poker Ride was much appreciated and the improvements made for an enjoyable and successful ride.

The Mid-Week Crew concentrated on the Garnet Mountain Trail, but work was limited this year by the fire season and poor crew health. The Adolescent Resource Center kids did not participate this year, but our hiking friend was a welcome participant.

Our club's Saturday workdays were well attended. One work day had twenty-one working members and friends which allowed us to haul gravel onto the Spanish Creek Trail, the #401 trail and the winter trail along the creek. We completed the usual maintenance plus removing weeds at the trailhead. One crew cleared up to one quarter mile from Spanish Lakes. Access to and around Spanish Lakes could not occur until August 19th when a crew of six made the final push.

The Forest Service, enlisted our aid to pack work crews in on two occasions.

Looking at this year as a whole, I believe that we can feel good about our accomplishments. It would seem that with the number of members, we could look for a bigger turnout in the future. Most importantly, be

aware that those that many of our hardest workers are retired, and while they spark the trail effort, they are a year older and hoping that younger members will step up to lead the trail effort!

	2006	2005
Total man/woman hours	918	2,101
Number of workers participating	142	346
Number of days worked	24	52
Number of riding horses	158	175
Number pack horses	45	102
Total miles traveled by all horses	2,082	2,699
Number of vehicles used	94	174
Total miles traveled by vehicles	5,291	11,346



Dan Marsh at Clinic

The Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen are indebted to the following businesses and members who contributed to the success of our 2006 Poker Ride. Please give them your business.

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

Ag Depot
All West Veterinary
Ardeson Boots & Shoes
Barrett Enterprises
Big Sky RV
Bozeman Saddle Outlet
Bridger Feeds
Century 21- Dan Porter
Chalet Market
Cindy deBethizy Art
Cole's Custom Saddles
Concrete Construction
DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service
Don Funke Divine Equine
Double Diamond Halters
Freeway Enterprises
Gourmet Gas Station
Huft Custom Leather
It Sew Happens

Kountry Korner Cafe
Lee & Dad's
MacKenzie River
Madison House
Montana Canvas
Montana Harvest
Montana Mandolin Society
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Precision Fence Systems
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R.O. Brooks and Carter's Boots
Rocky Mountain Hat Company
Rocky Mountain Supply
Schnee's Boots & Shoes
Shear West
Steele Halters
True Value Hardware- Belgrade
Your Friend's Happiness- S Hanan

CLUB CONTRIBUTORS

Anonymous
Janice Cartwright
Reggie Clark
RJ Conti
Cindy deBethizy
Jan Elpel
Dick & Barbara Haines
Jiffie Hale
Bonnie Hammer
Laura Hanks
John and Joellyn Howell
Rich Inman
Beth Merrick
Jane Shields
Bob Steinmann
Connie Wallace
George Zanck

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen
PO Box 3232, Bozeman Montana 59772-3232

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen Mission

The purpose of this organization shall be (1) to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in Montana's roadless 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.