



# Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

# The Picket Line

## February, 2006

### Coming Events

#### General Meeting:

3rd Thursday, February 16, 7 pm  
Belgrade Alliance Church  
at Cameron & Hoffman

#### Board Meeting:

Wednesday, March 1, 7 pm  
at Bettye White's

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](mailto:bmerrick1@aol.com)

#### Membership & E-Mails

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

#### Webmaster

Dan Marsh 587-7578

[dmarsh@montana.edu](mailto:dmarsh@montana.edu)

### Website/Newsletter Workshop

Convention time is just around the corner and the Mission Valley Chapter is busy putting the finishing touches on what promises to be a memorable State Convention in Poulson on March 24 - 26. If you are interested in attending as a Gallatin Club delegate, contact Rich Inman. The club picks up 66% of the \$65 registration cost.

There will be a web-site/newsletter workshop taught by Gallatin BCH member Dan Marsh. It will be held at 7:00-8:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 26th at the Kwa-taq-nuk hotel which is the site of the convention. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided. Dan Marsh will be the leader of this workshop.

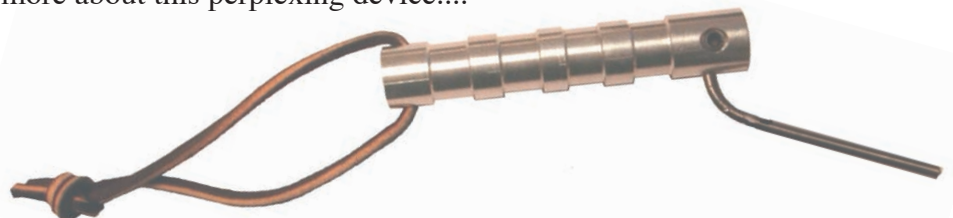
The Mission Valley BCH is gathering questions for Dan to address at the workshop. There will be plenty of people who are learning about websites from the ground up. Bonnie Kiser, Newsletter Editor for the Mission Valley BCH says, "I remember a time when I had no clue what a 'high-line' was. Thankfully someone was willing to teach me and now I not only know what it is, he expects me to help him put it up!!!" Anyone producing a club newsletter or sharing information on the internet will benefit from this workshop. Please contact the Mission Valley BCH and let them know if you are attending or have questions to be addressed. Contact Bonnie Kiser at [flyingk@compuplus.net](mailto:flyingk@compuplus.net), or phone 406-883-2186. Raffle tickets (3 for \$5, or \$2 each) will be available at the general meeting: win a Down Comforter, Framed Art, or a Round Pen Package.

### Winter Riding Opportunity

Janice Cartwright invites club members to join in some de-spooking activities on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:30 - 12:30 at the fairgrounds. The cost is \$6 per person/per hour. If you give her a call in advance at 579-3445, Janice will be pleased to offer guidance in preparing your horse for this summer's trail rides.

### What Is It?

A pocket dowsing device? A trailer hitch element? Turn to page 2 to learn more about this perplexing device....



# President's Report

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Thank you to the 25+ people who attended the January 19th meeting and helped us draft the 2006 schedule of events, projects and rides. Janice Cartwright facilitated an interactive session that allowed everyone to make suggestions. Thanks Janice. Several new trail bosses have agreed to help with rides to new places.

At our February board meeting we will be working on how we can more effectively communicate with our membership and those who might like to be members. I know you will be reading this after the fact but I want you to share your ideas with any of the officers or directors. I have heard some interesting things about what keeps people from joining our ranks or participating in our events, projects, etc. One person shared with me that they did not think you could join the club or participate if you did not have a horse. This is not what we want people to think. We presently have members who do not own a horse but would like to someday. They are here to learn from our experienced cadre of horsemen and women. That is part of what we are about.

We also invite any club member (men, women and youth) to participate in our projects. There are all kinds of tasks on any project. We try to match tasks with people's comfort level or what they might want to learn. These projects are a great place for on-the-job (OJT) training. I share this with you because we want to replace rumor with fact, and invite everyone to come join us in the backcountry.

The Gallatin Travel Plan is still a work in progress with a decision not expected until July or later. Once the decision is made, we will have 45 days to evaluate it, see how it fits with our written recommendations, then decide if we need to file an appeal. Right now I keep in touch with the forest service periodically to see how things are going. I will keep you updated as I learn more.

In closing I invite you to think about attending the state convention in Polson this coming March 24 - 26. We can have up to 8 voting delegates. Any club member can throw their name in the hat to attend as a delegate. We will decide who goes as a delegate at the March board meeting.

Remember that one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

*Rich Inman*  
President

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## February 1, 2006

\*Officers and Directors in Attendance: Rich Inman, Janice Cartwright, Beth Merrick, Wally Becker, Trina Frederickson, Joellyn Howell, Bettye White, Dan Porter, Larry Thomas, Dan Marsh, Jennifer Tuthill, Lori Brockway

\*Motion to accept minutes of January 4, 2006 by Bettye; second by Janice. Minutes passed as written.

\*Bettye provided Treasurer's Report.

Previous Balance:	\$3,646.85
Expence: Rent, Print & Postage, Bank Fees, Party	\$103.43
Income: Membership Dues, Collections, CD	\$230.00
Checking:	\$3,773.42
Assets:	
Petty Cash	\$51.13
Money Market	\$1,995.95
3 Month CD	\$2,914.79
Total	\$8,735.29

\*With the State Board meeting in March, we need to update a display board of club activities. A new board is needed as the current one is bulky and heavy. Photos of club events are needed.

\*The Board reviewed the 2006 calendar events and will publish them in the February newsletter.

\*We would like to hear ideas from the membership for the Christmas party. Suggestions for a location or format are welcome at the upcoming general meetings.

\*The Board brainstormed ways to improve communications within the club and with non-members and the general public regarding BCH programs, training and trail rules. The Board has committed to these:

- Send invitations to a non-member to join us for a trail ride or to attend a general meeting. Trina will draft the invitations.

- Jenny and Lori will make up Welcome Packages, to be handed to guests who attend trail rides or come to a general meeting. A separate package will be given to new members.

\*Appointments: Dan Marsh will be in charge of Issues. Joellyn Howell will head up Communications. Please contact either of them if you have anything you'd like to discuss or ideas to suggest.

\*The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

### ANSWER TO PAGE 1 MYSTERY:

It's a high tech hoof pick made by club member Richard Romano from stainless steel and aluminum bi-products from a fabrication contract for NASA. Suggested alternative uses are being sought. Win one of these Martian Manicure Marvels by suggesting the most humorous alternative use at our next meeting.

# Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen Events for 2006

**General Meetings** are held on the **third** Thursday of the month at Belgrade Alliance Church in Belgrade. Meetings begin at 7 pm unless otherwise noted.

**Trail Ride** participants should contact the Trail Ride Boss before the day of the ride so that club members can be notified of changes in time or location, and arrangements can be made to break large groups up into smaller units, each with their own trail guide, if the turn out is large. Departures from the trail head are generally at 10 am, but please confirm this with the Trail Boss.

Items in *italics* are NOT sponsored or endorsed by BCH, but are provided for your information.

## January

- 4** Board Meeting, 7 pm, Bettye's.
- 19** General Meeting, 7 pm, Annual Planning meeting.

## February

- 1** Board Meeting, 7 pm, Bettye's.
- 16** General Meeting, 6 pm:  
Wildgame Potluck- bring a dish to share and a plate and utensils.  
Program: Forest Service Orientation for Trail volunteers.
- 17 thru 20** *Winter Fest, Gallatin County Fairgrounds. Horse events, Packers' Scramble 1 pm on Monday.*

## March

- 1** Board Meeting, 7 pm, Bettye's.
- 16** General Meeting: Jenny Tuthill.

**24 thru 26** Annual BCH State Convention, Poulson.

## April

- 5** Board Meeting, 7 pm, Bettye's.
- 20** General Meeting: check the newsletter for program.

**22** Horse Safety Clinic: recommended for all trail workers, contact Rich Inman @ 388-1564.

- 25** Midweek 4 Hour Ride- contact Janice Cartwright @ 579-3445.
- 28** Midweek Beginners Trail Ride, contact Janice Cartwright @ 579-3445.
- 29** Trail Ride: Bed Bluff, contact Rich Inman @ 388-1564 for ride sharing, and departure time.

## May

- 3** Board Meeting, 7 pm, Bettye's.
- 6** Trail Ride: Horseshoe Hills, contact Joellyn Howell @ 388-4493 for information.
- 13** Trail Work Ride: Spanish Peaks, contact Wally Becker @ 587-9607 for information.
- 18** General Meeting: check the newsletter for program.
- 20** Green Horse and/or Rider Trail Ride: Garnet Mountain, contact Chick Hale @ 763-4105 for information.
- 20** *Pat Green Poker Ride in Logan, call 285-6949 for information.*
- 27** *Virginia City Poker Ride benefit for the fire department.*

## June

- 3** National Trails Day: Spanish Creek Work Day, contact Wally Becker @ 587-9607 or Chick Hale @ 763-4105 for information about this annual event.

- 7** Board Meeting, 7 pm, Bettye's.
- 10 - 11** Clinic: Horse Packing & Camping for Dummies, contact Bob Steinman for information @ 282-7166.
- 15** General Meeting: check the newsletter for program.
- 17** Trail Ride: Hell Roaring- contact Larry Thomas @ 586-6878 for information.
- 24** Trail Work Ride: Spanish Creek, contact Chick Hale @ 763-4105 for information.

## July

- 1** Poker Trail Work Ride: Bridger Bowl, contact Bill Shields @ 586-3865 for information.
- 5** Board Meeting, 7 pm, Bettye's.
- 7** Poker Trail Flagging Ride: Bridger Bowl, contact Janice Cartwright @ 579-3445 for information.
- 8** Poker Ride: riding out of Bridger Bowl from 9 to 11 am, with supper at 1 pm and prizes at 4 pm.
- 9** Poker Trail De-flagging and Clean-up Ride: Bridger Bowl, no-host ride departs the parking lot at 9 a.m.
- 15** Trail Work Ride: Spanish Peaks, contact Wally Becker @ 587-9607 for information.
- 16** Trail Ride: Wilsall Beginner's Ride, contact Janice Cartwright @ 579-3445.
- 20** General Meeting: check the newsletter for program.
- 20 thru 23-** *Gallatin County Fair, Bozeman Fairgrounds.*
- 28 - 30-** Pack Trip: Slough Creek, Yellowstone, contact Bob Steinman for information @ 282-7166. This trip is limited to the first 12 riders to register. Coggins test and fee required.

**29** Trail Work Ride: Spanish Creek, contact Wally Becker @ 587-9607 for information.

## August

- 2** Board Meeting, 7 pm, Bettye's  
**5** Sweet Pea Parade: Osco Parking Lot, watch the newsletter for costumes and times.  
**11 - 14-** Pack Trip: Slough Creek, Yellowstone, contact Bob Steinman for information @ 282-7166. This trip is limited to the first 12 riders to register. Coggins test and fee required.  
**12** Trail Work Ride: Spanish Creek, contact Wally Becker @ 587-9607 for information.  
**13** Trail Ride: Porcupine, contact Ray Madsen @ 995-4173 for information.  
**17** General Meeting: check the newsletter for program.  
**19** Trail Work Ride: Spanish Creek, contact Wally Becker @ 587-9607 for information.  
**19** *Manhattan Potato Festival.*  
**20** Trail Ride for Beginners: Ramshorn, contact RJ Conti @ 586-5047 for information.  
**26** Steak Ride: Spanish Creek, bring your own steak to grill and a dish to share. Free riding and dinner at 3 pm.

## September

- 1** *Bow Hunting Season opens.*  
**2** *Virginia City Poker Ride, benefit for the fire department.*  
**6** Board Meeting, 7 pm, Bettye's.  
**9** Trail Ride: Bacon Rind/Elk Bugle, contact Wally Becker @ 587-9607 or RJ Conti @ 586-5047 for information.  
**16** *Belgrade Fall Festival.*  
**17** Trail Ride: Fawn Pass to Fan Creek, contact Jenny Tuthill @ 587-2289 for information. Coggins test required.  
**21** General Meeting: check the newsletter for program.

**23** Trail Work Ride: Spanish Creek, contact Wally Becker @ 587-9607 for information.

## October

- 4** Board Meeting, 7 pm, Bettye's.  
**19** General Meeting: check the newsletter for program.

## November

- 1** Board Meeting, 7 pm, Bettye's.  
**16** General Meeting: check the newsletter for program.

## December

## Rules of the Ride

**WHO** All breeds and sizes of equines, equestrians, guests and pedestrians are welcome. Join us decked out in the tack style of your choice. Dogs and Stallions are NOT permitted on club rides

**REGISTER** Members and guests sign the Trail Boss's ride register and waiver acknowledging the Montana Equine Law which states that horse activities are inherently dangerous and that riders accept this danger while engaging in equine events.

**HELP** We love company on the trails that we have committed to clearing for the Forest Service. Trail work is scheduled mid-week and on weekends. The formation of new work groups is encouraged. Tools are provided, but riders should bring work gloves, water, lunch and their favorite hand tools. It's a lot of fun. Try it, you'll like it.

**CARPOOL** Share a ride: save money and reduce parking congestion at the trail head. It's fun and helps others with no way to get there.

**PREPARE** Horses should be taught to stand quietly while tied or hobbled. Please flag the tails of horses that kick, and maintain a horse's length between your horse and the horse ahead of you.

**TRAIL BOSS** Contact the Trail Boss ahead of the ride for details, locations and times. Arrive in time to saddle up and be ready to depart at the appointed time. The Trail Boss will ask for volunteers to carry the Human and Horse first-aid kits that accompany every ride. Please notify the Trail Boss if you must leave the group. The Trail Boss knows the trail and will lead or appoint a leader as well as describe the trail for riders. Offer or ask for help whenever needed.

**TRAIN** Be prepared.  
\* The Forest Service requires certification for chain saw and cross cut saw use, as well as the practice of first aid. The Forest Service encourages trail workers to carry bear spray and provides training.  
\* Horse Safety Training is offered on April 22, 2006, and everyone is encouraged to attend, but it is not a requirement for participation, though someone in every group must have training.

### Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen

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**  
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[bmerrick1@aol.com](mailto:bmerrick1@aol.com)

**Membership & E-Mails**  
Jiffie Hale 763-4105  
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**Webmaster**  
Dan Marsh 587-7578  
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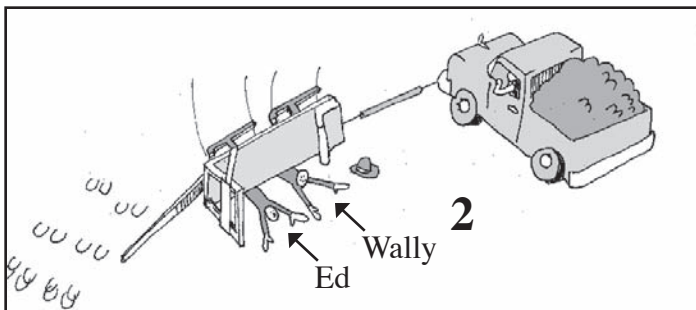
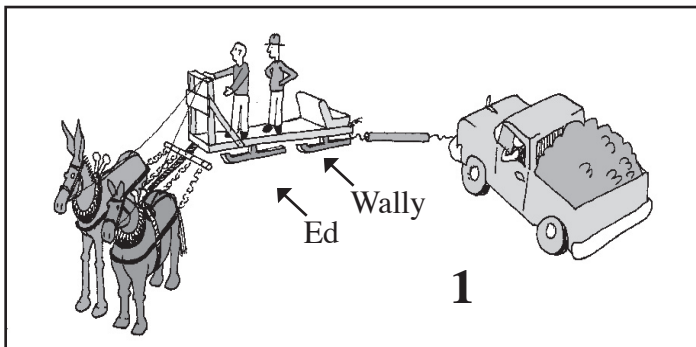
# The Wally Becker Method: Converting Doubletrees into Singletrees

## Part 1:

Hitch the team of horses to the sled. Hitch the sled to the truck with the pipe over the rope as described in the last installment (January edition of the Newsletter). *Figure 1.* **CAUTION:** it is VERY IMPORTANT to assemble these driving elements in a straight line. The following diagram illustrates what happens if you select a more artistic arrangement and the truck tires are stuck in the snow.

## Part 2:

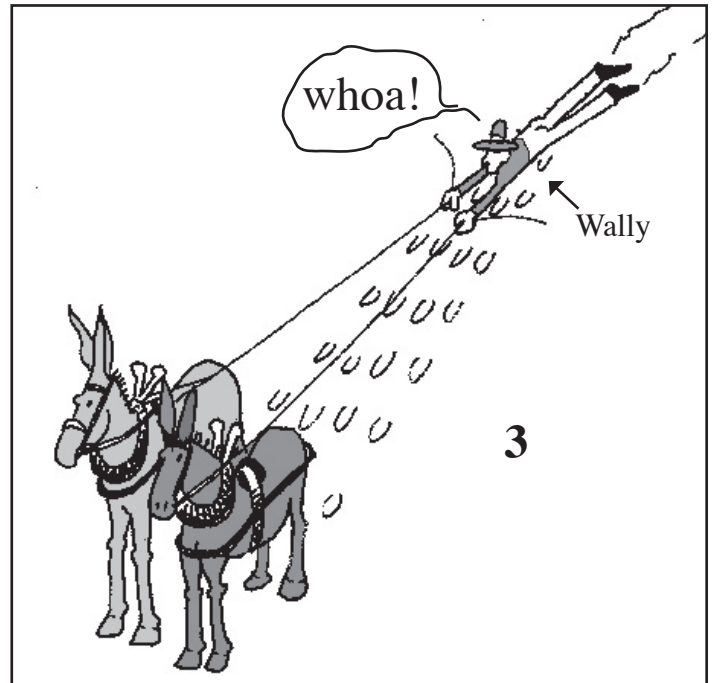
It's time to check for broken limbs and ribs, set the sled upright and go looking for the horses. The horse may well have scraped the mule off on the gate as they passed through. There are now two trails to follow. *Figure 2.* **WARNING:** The failure of the truck to move, combined with the scraping-off action, contributes to doubletree failure. The laws of compensation, however, provide that you now have the makings for two singletrees where once you had only one doubletree.



## Part 3:

Now its time to try a different pairing: this time it will be two mules, Speed and Grace. Time to apply a little ground time to the pair, just to make sure that all parties are on the same page. Wally has a nice 20-acre parcel and sets off for a couple laps on foot. *Figure 3.*

**WARNING:** Watch your footing, 'cause you wouldn't want to take a spill and fall down on the job in the middle of the first lap. See figure 3.



## Part 4:

Try out one of Jehnet Carlson's Feeders as a sled.



## Part 5:

Make sure everyone has a good experience before you hang up the harness for the day.



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 thanks.

**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**  
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**Gourmet Gas Station**  
**Broken Hart Ranch- Lee Hart**  
**Kountry Korner Cafe**  
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**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**

**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.*