



# Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

# The Picket Line

## January, 2006

### Coming Events

#### General Meeting:

3rd Thursday, January 19, 7 pm  
Belgrade Alliance Church  
at Cameron & Hoffman

#### Board Meeting:

Wednesday, Feb 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 Cartright 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

#### 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)

##### Production & Distribution

Jiffie Hale 763-4105

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#### Webmaster

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## Happy New Year!

A hardy thanks goes to Jiffie Hale for her efforts the last few years in getting the news out to the membership about club events; both by email and snail mail. And thanks to Dan Marsh for computer savvy and formatting. We have a new editor, Beth Merrick, who returns to the Editorship in 2006. With her comes a new schedule for the newsletter. The newsletter will find its way to you immediately following the Board meeting which is held on the first Wednesday of the month. This plan takes advantage of information just finalized by the Board at its meeting early in the month.

Articles, ideas, art, photos and ads from members are welcome. Consider sharing that horse sense you possess in a monthly column. You can e-mail contributions and ideas to [bmerrick1@aol.com](mailto:bmerrick1@aol.com).

This month's edition includes a membership form so that you can join up and continue to receive the newsletter, as well as, partake in the plans that the club will be outlining in January, 2006. A draft schedule-of-events will be included in the February newsletter so that you can red flag the days in your calendar and join in the fun.

Please let us know if you would like to receive the newsletter as a PDF file that can be printed on your home computer printer. This is a great way to help the club save the soon-to-be-raised cost of mailing. It will also get the newsletter to you faster- with no waiting for the mailman, and you can receive the full-color version. E-mail the Editor to sign up for electronic delivery at [bmerrick1@aol.com](mailto:bmerrick1@aol.com).



### In Memory of Dr. David Catlin, DVM

I just wanted to let people know that Dr. David Catlin, DVM was in a fatal car accident on Friday night, December 30th, 2005. All we know right now is that it was a single car accident on Springhill Road on his way back from a veterinary call. Dr. Catlin came to our August pot luck and did the great demonstration on "Emergency Care" on trail rides, he will be greatly missed. We send our deepest sympathy to his wife Laura and their sons.

- Terry & Linda Threlkeld

Montana Chrome Appaloosas &

Sunny Maui Condos, Gallatin Gateway, MT

# President's Report

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Hello Backcountry Horsemen,

By the time you read your newsletter it will be 2006 so I bid you all a happy and healthy new year. We wrapped up the 2005 year with our Christmas party at Four Corners Cafe. The 20+ people that attended had a great time spinning tales and events of 2005. Janet Castro received the Becker-Hale award for outstanding service to our club. Congratulations Janet!

Your officers for 2006 will be:

Rich Inman	(pres)
Janice Cartwright	(vp)
Trina Frederickson	(sec)
Bettye White	(treas)

Your new 2 year directors are:

Wally Becker  
Dan Porter  
Larry Thomas

Jennifer Tuthill will fill the 1 year vacancy behind Dr. John McIlhattan. John's health will not allow him to continue. Thank you John for your service.

BCH State Board:

Dan Marsh will be the 2 year State board rep and Janet Castro is the alternate.

These folks plus directors Brockway and Howell make it possible for us to legally operate. I thank each of them for agreeing to serve. I also want to thank Donna McGeein and Beth Merrick for their service as directors this past year.

Also, the next regular club meeting is January 19th at 7:00pm at Belgrade Alliance Church. At this meeting we will draft the schedule of events, projects and rides for 2006. Please come to this meeting and help set up this schedule. I need your thoughts and ideas. I sincerely want to thank everyone who participated in one of our events, projects or rides in 2005. We had a good year of volunteering our service and enjoying the great backcountry that we are so blessed to have at our door step. 2006 will be another great year and I invite you to get on board early and support GVBCH.

**Here are some truths to ponder:**

Do the math. Count your blessings.

Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.

*Rich Inman*  
President

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2006

Officers and Directors in Attendance:

Rich Inman, Janice Cartwright, Beth Merrick, Wally Becker, Trina Frederickson, Joellyn Howell, Bettye White, Dan Porter, Larry Thomas, Brown Parsons, Jennifer Tuthill

\*Motion to accept minutes of November 2, 2006 by Joellyn; second by Bettye. Minutes passed as written.

\*Bettye provided Treasurer's Report.

Previous Balance:	\$3,070.60
Expence: Rent, Print & Postage, Bank Fees, Party	\$720.75
Income: Membership Dues, Collections, CD	\$1037.00
Checking:	\$3,386.85

Assets:

Petty Cash	\$48.56
Money Market	\$1,990.11
3 Month CD	\$2,914.79

Total \$8,343.24

\*In Dan Marsh's absence, Rich gave a State Board update.

\*Rich advised that he expects the final decision regarding the Forest Travel Plan to be available this summer, and that he is in communication with the forestry on a regular basis.

\*The Board has decided to make the following small changes to the newsletter: the Treasurer's Report will no longer be itemizing each individual transaction; our new editor (with cooperation of the secretary) will aim to have the newsletter printed and mailed within a few days following the monthly board meeting; advertising continues to be available in the newsletter at no cost to members (\$5.00 per issue for non-members).

\*We would like to have some ideas on where members would like to have the Christmas party next year. If you have a location and format that you think would work, please get in touch with a board member or bring it up for discussion at one of the upcoming general meetings.

\*We've been requested to submit a brief write-up and photo to be published on the Montana Back Country Horsemen's website, by the end of January. Rich has volunteered to do the write-up, but we need photos. If you've got photos from a GVBCH event or trail ride, please bring them to the meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

\*Janice has volunteered to facilitate the scheduling of Events and Projects for 2006 at our next general meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to attend this important meeting and give your assistance and suggestions for what you'd like to see and do in the coming year.

\*Jenny and Trina have volunteered to schedule the programs for the ten general meetings in 2006.

\*Rich has set aside some time during the next board meeting, to brainstorm on how the board can increase membership participation and overall satisfaction with the club. Our goal is to ensure members and prospective members know what they can hope to gain and enjoy by being part of the GVBCH, and ensure they have accurate information.

\*Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

# Teaching a Team to Drive with the Wally Becker Method

Here is how to break a green driving team (consisting of an extremely broad Percheron-Quarter Horse cross mare teamed with a narrow, but extra tall (16+ hand) mule jack) to pulling a sled together for the first time.

**First,** you have to construct an eight-by-four-foot platform on an old set of double skids that Wally has saved for a decade. **Estimated time: 10 years, 6 hours**

**Second,** you have to condense two sets of newly-purchased-but-very-worn harness into one usable set to fit the extra-wide mare that you could park a Volkswagon Bug under.

**Estimated time: 90 minutes**

**Third,** combine the irregular set of harness and horses into a team (experienced dam and inexperience offspring) after considerable individual ground time.

**Estimated time:** you can't possibly spend enough time doing this part

**Fourth,** load a truck with a ton and a half of gravel for traction in the snow and tie it on behind the sled as an anchor in case of a runaway. The truck is attached with a 12 foot sisal line carrying an eight foot length of pipe centered between two keeper knots.



The pipe keeps the truck from running into the rear-end of the sled in the event of truck operator malfunction.

**Estimated time:** take time to train the operator in preventing stall-out at slow speed or allow time to run-to-town for spare tow rope in the event that the truck motor dies at the wrong moment

**Fifth,** invite a few friends over for a good laugh at Wally Becker's snow-covered acreage to witness the event, then let 'er rip.

**Estimated time:** 1 hour, but the laughing goes on for a considerably longer time

**Sixth,** get Carole Becker to concoct some excellent chocolate-chip bars to go with a large quantity of coffee.

**Estimated time:** 1.5 hours

**Seventh,** walk the out-of-shape mare for a few miles down the road to cool her out before the sun sets and the temperature drops.

**Estimated time:** .75 hour

**Eighth,** thank your lucky stars that it all went off without a hitch, so to speak.

**Estimated time:** repeated and considerable

This was an excellent winter adventure.

**Estimated time: time well spent**

Thanks to Ed Long for starting this, Marianne Meyer for documenting the outcome, and Beth Merrick for giving new meaning to "stretching a rope."



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**  
**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**

**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.*