



Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

The Picket Line

March, 2006

Coming Events

General Meeting:

March 16, 7 pm
Belgrade Alliance Church
Speaker: Dr. Peter Heidemann,
DVM, Montana Equine
Associates
"Why, When, and Why Not?"
of Vaccination.

State Convention:

March 24 - 26 Poulson

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Website www.bchmt.org

Officers

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Rich Inman 388-1564
Vice President
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Horse Safety Training

The upcoming Horse Safety Training covers general practices that we should all know and use when we ride. The Forest Service requires that every trail group have one person along who is currently certified. The Board is currently planning the April 22 event, and needs a response from the membership in order to select a site that can accommodate the number of participants. If you plan to participate in this great training event, please call Rich Inman at 388-1564 on or before March 11, 2006.

State BCH Convention

The Mission Valley Chapter is hosting the State Convention in Poulson on March 24 - 26. Dan and Alice Marsh, Brown & Sammylu Parsons and Rich Inman are representing the Gallatin Club. We can have up to 8 delegates. If you are interested in attending as a Gallatin Club delegate, contact Rich Inman. Raffle tickets (\$2 each or 3 for \$5) will be available from Dan Marsh at the Gallatin General Meeting on March 16. Prizes include a king-sized Down Comforter from Three Dog Down (\$300), a framed print Wild Horse Sunset by artist Karen Noles, and a 40-foot Round Pen Package from Hi Qual donated by Mountain West Co-op and valued at \$1,740.

State Convention Photo Contest

BCH members are welcome to participate in the annual BCH Photo Contest whether or not they plan to attend the convention. The winners are selected by silent ballot of convention attendees. Dan Marsh has offered to deliver entries that he receives before March 23rd to the competition. Here are the rules:

Categories:

Animals: Horses, wildlife, dogs, cats, etc.
America the Beautiful: scenery, mountains, lakes, etc.
Kids of All Ages: People of an age.
Back Country Horsemen at Work: work projects & events

Photographers may submit up to 2 photos per category.
Photos must be taken by BCH members, no professional photos allowed.
Prints must measure 5"x7" or 8"x10" and be mounted or matted.
No frames are allowed.
Name and address of the photographer must be attached to the back of the photo.
Questions? Call Marie Hall at 406 676-0231 or Carol McCrum at 406 676-8114.

February 16, 2006 General Meeting Minutes

Attending: Officers & Directors in Attendance: Trina Frederickson, Rich Inman, Janice Cartwright, Bettye White, Wally Becker, Beth Merrick, Dan Porter, Larry Thomas.

Minutes: Motion by Larry to approve the minutes from the January 19th meeting; second by Dan. Motion carried.

Guests & New Members: Rich welcomed our new members and guests: Jim Jones, Cindy Dee Beetheezy., Jim Albright and Rich & Nancy Wingets.

Treasury: Bettye White provided the Treasurer's Report. We have bills in the amounts of \$37.00 for the post office box and \$80.99 to Jiffie for the newsletter. Motion by Beth to pay these bills; second by Billie. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous: Newsletters from a variety of clubs and organizations are the only correspondence.

State Report: Dan reminded everyone about the State Convention on March 24, 25, 26 in Polson. If you're interested in being a delegate for our club, please contact Rich Inman to discuss further. We currently have Dan, Alice, Rich and Brown/Janet heading up for the convention. We're allowed to have up to eight delegates and really need to have that many in order to ensure that our vote counts. Some of the votes are won with just a couple of votes on one side or the other.

Dan also reminded the membership to be watchful for Forest Service Land sales. We need to be aware of what land is being sold so that we don't lose our access to trails through the sale of public land to a private owner. Periodically, there are meetings on upcoming sales/proposed sales where votes are held. It may be in our best interest to be present at some of these meetings.

Issues: Chick has requested that we set a time to meet regarding trail work for 2006.

Contest: Janet Winget was the lucky winner of the "high tech hoof pick", for coming up with the best alternative use for the pick: a beer can opener for when the pop-top breaks off and you don't want to break a nail!). Congratulations!!



March Refreshments: Billie Thomas has volunteered (was actually volunteered by Larry Thomas), to bring the treats for the next general meeting. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Peter Heidman, DVM speaking on equine vaccinations.

We currently have approximately 40 new/renewed GVBCH memberships for 2006.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. Total Attendance: 24

PROGRAM:

Jose Castro and Brian McNeill of the Forest Service were our guest speakers for the evening.

Jose discussed the New and Expanded Food Storage Order coming in 2007. The Order will be in effect from March 1 – December 1 when the bears are out of hibernation. It's important to note that the bears are not the only ones who can wreak havoc as a result of improperly stored foods. Skunks, raccoons, etc. can also be a nuisance. They're all attracted by anything that provides a scent (ie. Pet/livestock feed, human food, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.). While the Forest Service does not "rent" bear resistant storage boxes, there are "community" storage boxes at their campsites (both pay-for-use and no-fee grounds). The boxes can also be rented from local outlets.

Brian thanked GVBCH for all their help in maintaining local trails. He also asked that we let him know of any trails that are in need of work for the coming 2006 season. The annual Forest Service Volunteer Applications were completed by the members and returned to Brian.

March 16 Meeting Speaker

Dr. Peter Heidemann, DVM, Montana Equine Associates (Formerly EVA) will speak on the "Why, When, and Why Nots" of horse vaccinations in our region. Veterinarians are looking a bit differently at some of the shots customarily given to horses in the past, and whether giving them all at once is the best practice. Dr. Heidemann is an enthusiastic spokesperson for horses and their medical needs. In addition to his DVM degree, he is a recent graduate in the specialty of Internal Medicine from U.C. Davis.

Trail Work Parties Forming

The most rewarding part of a day spent working on the trail is sitting down with your cohorts for a beer or a cup of coffee back at the trailers. The horses are glad to stand quietly, the folding chairs are arrayed, and boots are resting on the trailer hitch while everyone takes a few moments to reflect on the accomplishments of the day, tell some tall tales, and share some humor before loading up the horses and heading back down the road for the day.

Trail teams are forming up for the coming summer. There are frequent weekend opportunities listed in the club calendar, but there are also mid-week enterprises shaping up:

Bill Shields leads a weekly Monday trail-clearing group up on a variety of Bridger Mountain trails. You can sign on to his work crew by giving Bill a call at 586-3865 for dates, times and gathering places.

Chick Hale and Wally Becker clear trail up Spanish Creek on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These two packers are experts at transporting tools for intrepid adventurers joining them. Wally promises to share some of his horse sense with anyone interested in joining them on their trail clearing trips. Call Chick at 763-4105 or Wally at 587-9607 for more information. Show up with an unusual object to pack, and see them rise to the challenge!

19th Annual Poker Ride

Planning is already started. This year we will be offering coffee and a muffin for \$2 in lieu of a formal \$5 breakfast. Start thinking about businesses that might be willing to support our trail efforts with a contribution or prize. Contributors receive year-round advertising in our newsletter, and their names are featured on our Poker Ride Posters that are distributed broadly. Proceeds from the fundraiser support our trail maintenance projects. Can't afford to contribute a prize? How about hosting one of our three Pop Stops along the trail, or help prepare the trail for our estimated 150 participants by joining the trail crew.

New Gallatin BDH Display

The Club is building a new, light-weight display to take the Gallatin Backcountry Horsemen story to fairs and conventions. Trina Frederickson has found the fabricator, Big Sky RV, and a new, high-tech material that looks like plywood but is made out of strong-but-light-weight fiberglass. Janice Cartwright is enlarging the drawing and transferring it onto full-sized sheet stock using a design provided by Beth Merrick. Rich Inman is transporting the project to Big Sky RV which is producing the self-standing draft-sized horse. The clips seen below on the twelve inch tall model will hold the parts together, and not be so visible when intalled on the seven-foot-tall display. The whole thing should disassemble and fit into our existing transport case and weigh a fraction of what the old plywood version weighed.

Now all we need are some terrific photographs of horse activities, club events and trail work to exhibit on the new club display. E-mail your images to Dan Marsh at dmarsh@montana.edu or mail photos to him at 211 Moffit Gulch Rd., Bozeman MT 59715.



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
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Freeway Enterprises
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Broken Hart Ranch- Lee Hart
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Montana Mandolin Society
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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



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