



# Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

# The Picket Line

November, 2006

## General Meeting:

3rd Thursday, November 16, 7 pm  
Belgrade Alliance Church

Jane Heath from the Montana Horse Sanctuary will discuss their Helena operation that provides or locates homes for older horses. The election slate will be presented and nominations taken from the floor. Ballots will be mailed in early December and cast by mail or dropped and tallied at the Dec. 16 Christmas Party election.

PO 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  
Jiffie Hale 763-4105  
[jhale@littleappletech.com](mailto:jhale@littleappletech.com)  
Webmaster  
Dan Marsh 587-7578  
[dmarsh@montana.edu](mailto:dmarsh@montana.edu)

## A Big Night Ahead

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 16TH

Here is an update on the Christmas Party Potluck, elections, auction and western swing dance. We share this night with the Gallatin Saddle and Harness Club. Your friends are welcome, too. The cost is \$20 per person paid at the door and includes:

Social Hour at 6 pm: bring your own libations.

Dinner at 7: steak & potato plus potluck.

Elections at 8: mail or deposit your ballot for tallying and announcement at the party.

Auction, music and dancing follow, concluding at 11:30.

The location is Building #4 at the Gallatin Fair Grounds. Your steak will be grilled on site, but this is a potluck so each member is to bring a contribution. Steak and potatoes are provided along with plates and utensils.

A silent auction will be held after the elections. Bring any new or second-hand donated item of food, clothing, tack/horse items, anything hand-made, or any item(s) that would be fun to bid on. We need your support since the auction will help defray, or hopefully pay the expenses for the building rental. The \$20 entry fee pays for your steak and the Western Swing Band. There will be dancing: "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 bet there will be no toe left untapped! Come shuffle your feet to the Open Range beat, like they did when the West was swung." For more information on this group from Livingston visit their site at [www.openrangeband.com](http://www.openrangeband.com). Dress will be informal and reservations must be made by December 1st by calling Rich Inman at 388-1564 or by e-mailing him at [mules04@yahoo.com](mailto:mules04@yahoo.com).

## 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.

# President's Report

The Editor apologizes for erroneously deleting Rich's column from the October newsletter...

It is good to be back from Alaska, Yukon and other points in the far north. I appreciated the beauty and the diversity God placed upon that landscape but I still prefer Montana. I returned from a mostly cool and wet trip to find heat and fire in Montana. As I write this, we are receiving much needed rain (and snow). Let's give thanks for this blessing and hope it keeps coming for awhile. Then hopefully we can look forward to a long Indian summer that usually gives us some of the best riding time of the year.

Two things come to mind with which I need your help. First is the nominations for officers and directors for 2007. As I said last year about this time, we cannot function as a club without a full slate of officers and directors. Our constitution and by-laws do not allow it. I ask that each of you search within yourself and consider accepting a nomination. These are NOT difficult positions that require a lot of time. If each of us helps out a little we function better as a club. It also enables you to learn more about Backcountry Horsemen and all that it stands for and does. It goes way beyond trail rides and trail maintenance. It goes to protecting your right to ride the trails and use public lands.

The second thing is the "Right to Ride" bill that is working its way through Congress. Not just the officers but each of us needs to contact our congressional delegation and let them know that we want this legislation passed and signed. There are groups and individuals out there that do not want to share the public lands with horse users. They support us as long as it fits their cause and they want our help but when it comes to bills like "Right to Ride", I doubt that they will be standing beside us. They usually revert to their purist philosophy. We will put the names, addresses and phone numbers of the Montana congressional delegation in the October newsletter. Please make the contact so we can be heard. We are a powerful group if we will only speak out. Learn from the turtle: It only makes progress when it sticks its neck out.

-Rich Inman, President

## General Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2006

Attending: Officers & Directors in attendance: Trina Frederickson, Rich Inman, Bettye White, Wally Becker, Dan Porter, Joellyn Howell, Larry Thomas  
Guests & New Members: Rich welcomed Bettye's daughter, Carla, who joined us for the meeting.  
Minutes: Motion to accept Minutes of September 21st by

Chick; second by Dan Marsh. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Bettye White reported that we have one bill outstanding from Dan Marsh for travel to a State Board meeting in the amount of \$45.47. Motion by Trina to pay the bill; second by RJ Conti. Passed.

Communications: Joellyn suggested that we submit an article to the newspaper regarding trail etiquette for horseback riders, mountain bikers, hikers, dog walkers and those using motorized vehicles.

Trails Report: Chick reported that the GVBCH have logged 24 days of trail work this summer. This translates into 918 man/woman hours, vehicle travel of 5,291 miles, and 2,082 horse/mule miles.

Nominating Committee: We are still looking for volunteers for the 2007 Board of Directors. We need a State Representative as well as an alternate.

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.

Jiffie sent out an e-mail on September 23rd with three letters attached and addressed to our state officials regarding the Right to Ride Bill. If you haven't already taken a chance to complete the letters and send them off, please take an opportunity to do so.

Rich has contacted the Montana Stock Grower's Association and volunteered our services to the ranchers effected by the fires around Big Timber. Should they need our help, they'll call Rich who will then get in touch with club members who can assist with labour, etc.

Next Meeting: November 16th; Joellyn Howell will be providing snacks.

Attendance: 20

## Treasurer's Report

October 19, 2006

Checking Account Balance 9/20	5,350.73
Checks Written	
2450 9/21 Inman coffee pot	52.49
2451 9/21 Merrick stamps	56.37
2452 9/21 Kinkos newsletter	29.40
2453 9/21 Porter steak ride	280.24
Total	-2,918.50
Deposits	
07 Dues	+90.00
Checking Account Balance	+2522.23
Other Assets	
Petty Cash	+30.03
Money Market 9/29	7.61 +2,060.88
CD 7 Month 4.03 APY	+5,570.36
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$10,183.80</b>

# October Days

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Carole Becker found this poem by Malvern Wallace and wanted to share it with the membership:

Warm days - cool nights  
Colored leaves - pretty sights.  
Game on the mountain  
Fish in the stream  
Hunting is fabulous  
A homesteader's dream.

Crops all in - wood in the pile  
Geese flying over - single file.  
Meat in the freezer  
Grain in the bin  
Cattle grazing  
Not one of them thin.

Stove is working - windows taped up  
Fresh-baked bread - overfilled cup.  
Friends in for supper  
Children all well  
If this isn't Heaven...  
It's a long way from Hell!

And Rich Inman offers this wisdom on:

## How to Keep Your Horseshoer Happy

When everyone wants their horse shod yesterday, keep these tips in mind:

1. Plan ahead and schedule your Horseshoer well in advance. It is best for your horse to wear his shoes at least 5 days before a big ride to help prevent stone bruises.
2. If you think your horse might be unruly, advise your shoer to allocate a little extra time and not make him/her late for the next appointment. Also, advise the shoer about special shoeing

needs so he can plan extra time and materials as necessary.

3. If it has been raining and the ground is muddy, provide a dry well lighted place in which to work.
4. Catch your horses before hand so that the shoer can get right to work.
5. When you pick a location for shoeing, remember that your shoer needs to drive his truck nearby. If you don't have a safe place to tie your horse, plan on holding your horse while it is being shod.
6. Do not expect the horseshoer to train your horse to stand still. Break barn sour horses on your time, not the shoer's.
7. Start working those foals when they are young. Teach them to pull their feet forward and accustom them to pounding on their feet.
8. All though few people do, teach your horse to mover over when light pressure is applied to its sides.
9. After long dry spells, hooves get hard. Pen your horses in a muddy place overnight to soften their hooves.
10. Shift your horse's weight off the foot the shoer is going to pick up, by controlling the horse at the head.
11. If your horse is kept stalled he will stand better if he has been exercised and has eaten before the shoer arrives.
12. In appropriate seasons, you can make the job easier and more pleasant for everyone if you apply fly spray before the shoer arrives.
13. Pay the horseshoer at the time of completion of the job. If you wish to pay later, discuss arrangements well ahead of time.
14. On hot days, the horseshoer gets thirsty and hungry, too.

The better the conditions you provide for your horseshoer, the more likely he/she will be willing to accommodate you in an emergency. Although some horseshoers are known to be habitually late, planning, horse training, and working with your shoer will result in a better and long-lasting relationship. This all applies to your veterinarian, too.

# Justin Hanson

## Horse Trailers

Reported by Trina Frederickson

Our guest speaker works with Sport Land Manhattan (formerly Bitterroot Trailer Sales). Justin provided some great information and tips on trailer maintenance and safety. Sport Land started out with their original store in Lolo, MT nine years ago and they also have a store in Kalispell. They sell and service Sundowner, Trail West, Featherlite and Charmac trailers as well as a number of other brands.

When hooking up your trailer, make sure the couple and ball fit well together and that the pin is in. You should apply a thin coat of wheel-bearing grease on the ball, as needed. Make sure your trailer sits levelly when fully hooked up and that all your lights are in good working order. Make sure the pin holding your wheel/drop-leg is in good working order (not held together by wire, etc). Your break-away battery should be checked annually.

Check tires frequently for wear and air pressure. The tires should be rotated every 5,000 miles and your wheel bearings packed annually or every 12,000 miles. If you axels are in need of aligning, both Midwest Industries Inc. & Tom's Alignment Center can service horse trailers locally.

Most horse trailers have an aluminum or wood floor with rubber mats on top. When traveling with your horses, put wood shavings down to absorb moisture. Clean out the manure and wet shavings when you unload your horses. Every three months the mats should be pulled out and the floors cleaned with soap and water. In the winter, slide two 2x4s under the mats to allow for circulation. Your mounting bolts, frame and welds should be checked annually for wear and rust all around and under your trailer.

All the doors, roof vents, windows and dividers of your horse trailer should be checked regularly to ensure they open and close properly. Clean & grease hinges as needed and make any adjustments if they are not closing properly. Bumpers on the walls and dividers should be in good condition. Face guards are strongly recommended if you have drop-down

windows, as well as butt and breast bars, for safety reasons. Justin also recommends using trailer ties to secure horses in the trailer rather than lead ropes as the lead ropes can become untied, hang out the window and get wrapped around a wheel, causing injury to your horse. Fly masks are a good idea to prevent any sawdust or debris swirling around in the trailer from getting into your horses' eyes.

If you have a water tank in your trailer, ensure that it is securely anchored. There is nothing worse than soggy tack!

On the outside of your trailer, the tie rings should be firmly attached and free of sharp edges. The bumper pads where you unload your horse (rear or side of trailer), should be in good condition so your horse doesn't cut a leg entering or exiting the trailer.

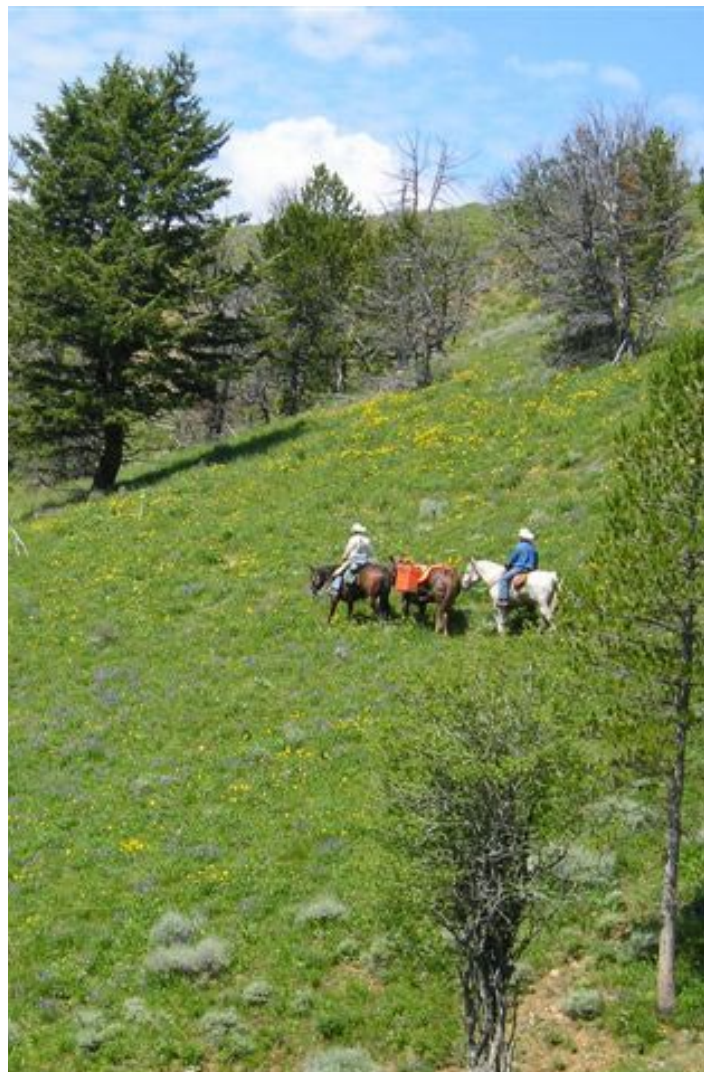


Photo from Kay Tate

# BCH Board Minutes

November 1, 2006

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Rich Inman.

Attendance: Rich Inman, Rich Winget, Bettye White, Jiffie Hale, Bill Shields, Chick Hale, Dan Porter, Larry Thomas, Dan Marsh, Wally Becker and Nancy Winget. Absent were Janice Cartwright, Jennifer Tuthill and Joellyn Howell.

Minutes: October 4th meeting minutes were accepted and approved: Motion by Jiffie, second by Wally, approved/passed.

Treasurer's Report: Bettye White reported \$1,165 in State dues were paid as passed on the Oct. 4th. Meeting.

Correspondence: Discussion was held regarding the National Trail Symposium report by Chuck Miller quoting \$10 per hour for volunteer. Local BCH quotes \$15 per hour for unskilled volunteer hours.

Membership: nothing to report

State Report: Dan Marsh reported that letters to legislators have been prepared by Jiffie, and will be distributed at the Christmas party. Members will be urged to send letters to the appropriate legislators. The Forest Service Travel plan: the November meeting dates are still pending due to a death in the family of the forest service representative. Members should contact Rich Inman if they wish to participate in the meetings when scheduled. There are issues to be addressed, specifically why is the work performed by our members later torn out?

Trails: Chick reported that the Gallatin National Forest Service is looking for a volunteer to take over as volunteer supervisor for the trails and campgrounds. Chick will present the final trail work information for the summer at the November general meeting.

Christmas Party: Members should RSVP to Rich Inman, payment can be made at the door. Dress is informal; the band performs Western Swing. Members attending the Christmas party on Dec. 16th can vote at that time. Absentee ballots will appear in

the November newsletter, ballots must be returned by December 11th if mail, or returned during the November general meeting.

New Business: The board discussed changes to the GVBCH Expenditures Guidelines and Expense Voucher. Rich Inman captured proposed changes, further discussion will be held during the December 6th Board Meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.



Bill Shields and Ron Rassley doing trailwork.  
Photo from Kay Tate

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  
Murdoch's Ranch and Home  
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Quilting in the Country  
R.O. Brooks and Carter's Boots  
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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