

The picket line

DECEMBER 2007



Officers (1 yr)

<u>President</u>	
Dan Marsh	587-7578
<u>Vice President</u>	
Bob Steinman	282-7166
<u>Secretary</u>	
Nanci Winget	582-5795
<u>Treasurer</u>	
Brenda Kessler	763-4241

Backcountry Horsemen Mission Statement

“The purpose of this organization shall be (1) to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in Montana’s road less 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.”

Directors

2 yr	
Jim Albright	995-4441
Janice Cartwright	579-3445
Rich Winget	582-5795

Christmas Party and Elections

Saturday, December 1st @ 6pm

Broken Hart Ranch

1 yr	
Wally Becker	587-9607
Dan Porter	388-0290
Larry Thomas	586-6878

Board Meeting - Thursday, December 6th @ 7pm

Dan Porter’s office, 1745 So. 19th

State Board Members

Rich Inman	2 yr
Dan Marsh	1 yr
Alternate: Jan Elpel	1 yr

Newsletter Editor

Jiffie Hale	763-4105
Mobile	580-0774
jhale@littleappletech.com	

BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh	587-7578
dmarsh@montana.edu	

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*Annual Christmas Party
and Election night
Saturday, December 1, 6pm
Broken Hart Ranch
Gallatin Road - 191 - East side
South of Gallatin Gateway
BYOB and appetizer
Pay at the door - \$20 per
Photographer - Vi Huffman
Membership renewals - applications will
be on hand*

Lee Hart has generously donated his entertainment barn for our annual Christmas Party. The meal will be buffet with choice cut of beef, potatoes, choice salads, Western beans, dessert and coffee. The Gallatin Saddle and Harness Club along with The Appaloosa Club are joining our party.

The Pretty Good Spring Band from Livingston will entertain us in dancing, **teaching and involving us. Don't dance or know how - they will teach you.** This is for old and young alike, those who dance and those who do not. You will dance!

The Pretty Good String Band was formed in 1999 by a group of musicians that had been playing together recreationally for a couple of years: J. L. Wilkins on Bass & Vocals, Sam Gordon on Guitar & Vocals, Ken Nelson on Mandolin, and Bob Frisbey playing Fiddle. Since then, the band has worked together to create a unique sound that smoothly moves from American fiddle tunes and Texas swing **to Celtic tunes with bluegrass overtones. It's** high energy entertainment with just the right

amount of beautiful waltzes and ballads to let you catch your breath momentarily.

They have performed in numerous venues including a two week concert tour in the Highlands of Northern Scotland in 2002. Since 2003, The Pretty Good String Band has been at the 63 Guest Ranch just outside of Livingston, MT entertaining their guests each Thursday evening during the summer season. The Pretty Good String Band prepared a program of era music and dance that they envisioned as a possible part of **Lewis & Clark's Expedition to Montana.** This program was presented at the Lewis & Clark Showcase that was held in Livingston in 2004. The band performed this program numerous times in 2005 throughout Montana including a performance at the Corps of Discovery **II's Tent of Many Voices and concluding** the 2005 season with a performance in Lewiston, Idaho at their Center for Arts and History. The band opened for country star Ian Tyson in 2005 on the Gravel Road Tour and joined with Bill Williams to open for Stephanie Davis during Livingston's Cowboy & Ranch Heritage Week in 2006. The Pretty Good String Band has also played for "contra-dances" throughout Montana as well as weddings, family reunions and special functions. The band especially enjoys interacting with their audience and teaches some simple contra-dances. The group characterizes its music and dance as upbeat, interactive, and fun.

Contra dancing –

A caller, usually working with a group of live musicians, guides new and experienced dancers alike through a variety of dances.

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A dancer and his or her partner dance a series of figures, or moves, with each other and with another couple for a short time. They then repeat the same figures with another couple, and so on. The figures are similar to those of old-time square dancing. The figures are combined in different ways for **each** different dance.

The caller teaches each dance before it is actually done to the music. This gives everyone an idea of what to expect so the movements can be easily executed. The caller leads the dances while they are being done to music, so dancers are able to perform each movement to the music. Once the dancers appear to have mastered a particular dance, the caller may stop calling, leaving the dancers to enjoy the movement with music alone.

People of all ages and lifestyles, including children, are welcome. Contra dances are a place where people from many walks of life come together to dance and socialize.

**Vi Huffman, BCH member, will be our photographer for the evening taking candid shots and portraits. Please look for her if you desire a certain photo.

This is Vi's club contribution. Vi will have your photos available for pick up at our January general meeting.

Elections of GV BCH officers for 2008

These officers are for a 1 year term -

President: Dan Marsh

Vice President: VOTE FOR 1 - Stacy Bragg - Jim Allbright

Secretary: VOTE FOR 1 - Amy Hathaway - Nancy Winget

Treasurer: Brenda Kessler

State Delegate - 2 year term: VOTE FOR 1 - Stacey Bragg - Jim Allbright

State Alternate - 1 year term: This position will be filled by the unelected nominee of the State Delegate

Directors - 2 year term: VOTE FOR 3 - Cindy deBethizy - Sandy Kypfer - Vi Huffman - Duane Wiltse - Stacy Bragg - Dan Porter - Larry Thomas

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Presidents Report December 2007

I hope this letter finds you all of good cheer for the holidays. We have a lot to be thankful for even if life throws us a few curves every now and then. Ask me about losing both front tires and a radiator on my pickup in less than six months if you want a real tear jerker. I'm not talking about flats either; I'm talking about wheels coming off of the truck! No one was hurt except my pocket book so you see I have a lot to be thankful for.

I want to thank all of the current Officers and Directors for their work this year. I know it is quite a commitment to take a couple of days every month to attend meetings and all of the other duties as assigned over the year. We will be electing new officers and directors at our December Christmas party and I want to thank everyone that threw their name in the hat. My pleas to find someone to take over as President were not answered so I agreed to run for President for another year. Brenda Kessler has also agreed to stay on as our treasurer. For the first time in a long time we actually have more people than positions that have accepted nominations. We have Amy Hathaway running against incumbent Nancy Winget for secretary. We have Jim Albright and Stacy Bragg that agreed to run for Vice President and for State Delegate. We have a wonderful list of people that have agreed to run for the three open director positions including Stacy Bragg, Cindy deBethizy, Vi Huffman, Duane Wiltse, Sandy Kypfer, Dan Porter, and Larry Thomas. Officers can only hold their positions for three consecutive years, but directors have no limits on how long they stay. I want to remind the officers and directors that they are expected to attend both the regular and board meetings and they must get a proxy if they are unable to attend.

We decided to have a friendly competition to get more new members in the club with a \$90.00 BCHA silver belt buckle as the prize for the most new members from January 1, 2007 until December 1, 2007. The winner of the prize will be revealed at the Christmas party on December 1st. We now have around 95 memberships with a majority of those being family memberships which brings our body count to well over 120. It is good to see our club growing and I hope we can continue that growth next year.

The Christmas party on December 1st is coming along great. We now have over 120 people that have signed up between the three clubs. We have contracted with the Pretty Good String Band for the entertainment and it should be an enjoyable evening with good music and a chance to show your dance moves. I want to thank Lee Hart for his generosity for the use of his barn and I think it will be a great place to hold the Christmas party for our three clubs.

I am still looking for anyone that has not turned in their volunteer hours to me for the state records. This would be time spent on the Horse Safety clinic, the Poker Ride, or any trail clearing that you did by yourself.

Here's wishing you and yours a safe and joyous holiday season.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Marsh
President GVBCH

I lost a friend, *by Chick Hale*



My Appaloosa named Splash, was born March 4, 1977 in Lexington, NC. We acquired him November 12, 1985. During his lifetime with us he enjoyed fox hunting, some cross country racing, stadium jumping and fundamental dressage. He was the only horse who participated in our Memorial Day parade and he loved to 'show-off!' When we moved to Montana from Pennsylvania he easily took to the mountain trails. However, there were those 'cussedly' few years he threatened to jump every blow down as I felt him gather himself for a few canter strides before the jump. He had to be restrained. However, Splash settled down and became my great trail horse and my companion, especially on trail maintenance days. We finally retired him. As time left its mark and at the age of thirty it was time to say goodbye to a wonderful friend.

The Fourth Day

If you ever love an animal, there are three days in your life you will always remember...

The first is a day, blessed with happiness, when you bring home your young new friend. You may have spent weeks deciding on a breed. You may have asked numerous opinions of many vets, or done long research in finding a breeder. Or, perhaps in a fleeting moment, you may have just chosen that silly looking mutt in a shelter-simple because something in its eyes reached your heart. But when you bring that chosen pet home, and watch it explore, and claim its special place in your hall or front room-and when you feel it brush against you for the first time-it instills a feeling of pure love you will carry with you through the many years to come.

The second day will occur eight or nine or ten years later. It will be a day like any other. Routine and unexceptional. But, for a surprising instant, you will look at your longtime friend and see age where you once saw youth. You will see slow deliberate steps where you once saw energy. And you will see sleep where you once saw activity. So you will begin to adjust your friend's diet-and you may add a pill or two to her food. And you may feel a growing fear deep within yourself, which bodes of a coming emptiness. And you will feel this uneasy feeling, on and off, until the third day finally arrives.

And on this day-if your friend and God have not decided for you, then you will be faced with making a decision of your own-on behalf of your lifelong friend, and with the guidance of your own deepest Spirit. But whichever way your friend eventually leaves you-you will feel as alone as a single star in the dark night.

If you are wise, you will let the tears flow as freely and as often as they must. And if you are typical, you will find that not many in your circle of family or friends will be able to understand your grief, or comfort you.

But if you are true to the love of the pet you cherished through the many joy-filled years, you may find that a soul-a bit smaller in size than your own-seems to walk with you, at times, during the lonely days to come.

And at moments when you least expect anything out of the ordinary to happen, you may feel something brush against your leg-very very lightly.

And looking down at the place where your dear, perhaps dearest, friend used to lay-you will remember those three significant days. The memory will most likely be painful, and leave an ache in your heart. As time passes the ache will come and go as it has a life of its own. You will both reject it and embrace it, and it may confuse you. If you reject it, it will depress you. If you embrace it, it will deepen you. Either way, it will still be an ache.

But there will be, I assure you, a fourth day when-along with the memory of your pet-and piercing through the heaviness in your heart-there will come a realization that belongs only to you. It will be as unique and

strong as our relationship with each animal we have loved, and lost. This realization takes the form of a Living Love-like the heavenly scent of a rose that remains after the petals have wilted, this Love will remain and grow-and be there for us to remember. It is a love we have earned. It is the legacy our pets leave us when they go. And it is a gift we may keep with us as long as we live. It is a Love which is ours alone. And until we ourselves leave, perhaps to join our Beloved Pets-it is a Love that we will always possess.

Written by Martin Scot Kosins,

Author of "Maya's First Rose"

Whose permission was granted to

www.anangelsdestiny.com

November 15th BCH Program, *by Nancy Winget*

Darla Nassif, director of breeding and training at Mountain Magic Ranch, and her trainers, Joe Turner and Jessa Wilkening made a great presentation featuring the training procedures they use and discussed the Rocky Mountain Horses raised at the ranch. The Ranch has the largest herd of Rocky Mountain Horses in the world. These horses are a unique breed. They have nine breeding stallions, each stallion has a band of mares, and the horses are allowed to breed naturally. The foals arrive in July and are allowed to run naturally. The goal of this breeding plan is to let the horses be horses by running free and gaining confidence.

The Ranch begins training their horses while they are young foals. The goal of the training is to raise horses that are quiet and safe and to build into the horse a sense of leadership. Rocky Mountain horses have a temperament that makes them want to be with people. The Ranch's training program reinforces that desire. The basis of the training is for humans to understand what horses are saying to us, and to act in an appropriate manner. Horses are prey, humans are predators and we need to understand what that relationship means to the horse.

Rocky Mountain Horses are a gaited breed, therefore are ridden and saddled differently than non-gaited breeds. The rider must learn how to ride correctly, or the horse will lose its gait.

The Ranch stresses a pre-ride exam that must be completed every time you ride. With practice and with knowledge of your horse, the exam can take less than 5 minutes. Steps 2 and 3 can be done from the ground or from the saddle. There are three steps to the exam:

1. Work with the horses on a lunge line to insure that he/she knows that the human is the alpha in the relationship. The goal is to make the horse face up to the human, to look at the human with both eyes. Using both eyes insures that the horse is using both sides of his/her brain.
2. Perform lateral flex movements to get the horse soft and supple. Care must be taken not to **jerk the horse, but to move him/her in a firm manner. Flex the horse's neck three times on one side before flexing to the other side, making sure the horse is supple on both sides. The horse's reward for flexing is freedom, or relaxing of the tension on the lead.**
3. **Work with the horse to gain backend disengagement. The horse's power (drive) comes from the rear quarters. These exercises are to cause the horse to cross his/her near leg over the other. In order to do this the horse must think. It cannot be done as a reflex.**

After the pre-ride exam, mount the horse holding 1 rein. When dismounting, make sure that the horse knows you are getting off. Seventy percent of riding accidents occur during mounting or dismount-

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ing. When trail ride, use both a halter and headgear. The lead from the halter can be looped through the rider's belt. **If the rider should fall, he/she can still control the horse with the lead. If the lead is tied to the saddle, the rider has no control should he/she fall.**

The presentation was well received by members and guest attending. If BCH members would like to tour the ranch and see the horses they are encouraged to contact Darla. The Ranch is located at the old "Love place" on Buffalo Jump Rd across from the Gray Cliffs campground just south of Three Forks. You may find Darla Nassif in your BCH member roster.

Board Meeting Minutes, November 1, 2007

President Dan Marsh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Dan M., Brenda K., Dan P. Jim A., Wally B., Jiffie and, Chick H, Larry T, Bob S, Diane Furman, proxy for Janice C, Vi Hoffman, and Amy Hathaway proxy for Nancy Winget, sec. and , guest members Stacy Bragg, Sonja Berg

Minutes of October Board Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report: Checking balance \$3556.89. No new bills. The increased cost of mailing prompted suggestion that new members are to pick up packets at meetings rather than receive packet via mail. Check off member(s) to insure they receive(s) their packet.

Membership: One new member joined this month.

Issues: BCHA letter was discussed as was Wilderness Bill H.R. 1975.

Community members have contacted board members in regards to supporting trail use under the new PROST plan, which has been past. Horse interest groups are encouraged to join in an effort to insure that horse use is included in this broad community development plan. As the trails being affected are existing and future community trails of **Bozeman and its continuing growing boundaries, and as these trails will join with others, it is in the club's interest to stay in contact and support these efforts.**

2007 is the USDA Census. Livestock census is every five years.

Program: No general meeting to be held in December as it will be replaced by the Christmas party. As Program Chair is a needed position in the upcoming election, it has been suggested that the Chair head the program, but that other board members be recruited to provide for diverse programming, and the Chair will manage and insure programs are on the schedule.

Time Share: Stacey Bragg has been attending the Time Share meetings. At this point, only one of nine of the proposed trails has had an acceptable proposal to all groups. #185 Storm Castle, Sype Canyon, Highlight #434, 427 are some of the trails being discussed. At this point, it appears that motorized use will be restricted to summer months of July-Sept; and June-Sept. Livestock and foot traffic are not to be restricted. Specific day uses are still under discussion.

Decal: Jiffie has continued to acquire quotes on decal production. Rainbow Signs has currently given the best price of 1.00/each with order of 125. If less than 125 decals are produced the cost would be 1.75. No setup fee is required. This information will be shared the State board.

Committee Nominees—Elections will be in December. Currently there are enough nominees to fill the needed positions.

Help with '09 convention, Poker Rider, Trail Crews, Leading Trail Rides, Program Committee, and Publicity is still sought.

New Business

The club is to join with Gallatin Saddle & Harness Club and the Appaloosa Club to share in Christmas festivities at the Broken Hart Ranch on Saturday, December 1. Cost is \$20.00 - paid at the door. Pretty Good String Band will

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be providing entertainment. Applications will be on hand for membership renewals. Lee Hart has graciously given the club use of his facilities and dinner at his cost. Thank you, Lee.

2008 Convention Raffle tickets were passed. The convention is in Great Falls in March '08, 8 delegates will be required to attend. Jim, Brenda, Bob S, Rich, Dan, and Alice have volunteered. Two more delegates required.

The 2009 Convention will be in Bozeman. A chairman and program committee will be needed. Any interested in these positions should make a point to attend the 2008 Convention. Do we have eight voting members attending?

Stacey Bragg attended the Custer National Forest meeting also. Trail closures are on the slate of the Draft EIS. It was heard that "no horses in wilderness area" has been suggested. That is disturbing!

Treats. Who next will bring Treats?

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Amy Hathaway, proxy for Nancy Winget, sec

November 15, 2007 BCH General Meeting

Meeting called to order by President Dan Marsh. Minutes of the October 18th General Meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasure's Report: Brenda reported that we have \$3,669.89 in the checking account. Bills of \$19.68 for postage to Nancy Winget and \$610.00 to BCHMT were approved. The Belgrade Alliance Church bill of \$300 will be paid.

Correspondence: none

Standing Committee Reports:

Membership: Jiffie requested that members send her a list of new members that they have sponsored this year. The belt buckle will be presented at the Christmas party. A new membership chairperson is needed for 2008.

Issues: Dan reported that the Right to Ride Bill has been revised, is now the Equine Heritage bill, SB2283. He has posted the bill on the web site. Stacy is preparing comments for the Customer Forest DEIS.

Publicity: a new chairperson is needed for 2008.

Newsletter: Jiffie has added a Training Tips section and is soliciting input from members.

Trail Crews: no report

Program: Sandy and Janice will work together as co-chairpersons for 2008.

Old Business:

Time Share: We are still waiting for the Forest Service decision.

New Business:

Convention 2009 Chairman: we need a chairperson for the convention, time is running short!

Nominating Committee Report and Nominations from the Floor: The following roster of officers will be presented for elections during the December meeting/Christmas party.

These officers are for a 1 year term

President: Dan Marsh

Vice President: Stacy Bragg and Jim Allbright (Jim has a 1 yr term left as director, but can run for VP, he would have to resign as dir) VOTE FOR 1

Secretary: Amy Hathway and Nancy Winget VOTE FOR 1

Treasurer: Brenda Kessler

Directors for a 2 year term: VOTE FOR 3

Cindy deBethizy, Sandy Archer, Vi Huffman, Dan Porter, Duane Wiltse, Larry Thomas, Stacy Bragg, Jim Allbright
State Delegate - 2 year term: Stacey Bragg, Jim Allbright VOTE FOR 1

Christmas Party: Reservations must be made by Nov. 26, the cost is \$20 per plate. Members are encouraged to invite guests. Pay at the door. Applications will be on hand for membership renewals.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted: Nancy Winget, Secretary



Snow, cold, wind, and gathering cows did not stop us, by Janice Cartwright

On Tuesday, November 13th, we were scheduled to gather cows for shipping day. Well, all night long the winds howled and I just kept thinking how miserable it was going to be riding in cold with wind gusts up to 60mph in a few hours. Well, at 5am we arose to rain. Oh great, now wet and windy and cold. By the time we left the house 30 minutes later there was an inch of snow and still coming down hard. Diane Fuhrman had agreed to help along with Ron and myself and 3 others. We had 120 pairs to

gather in a white-out with howling winds before dark in about 600 acres. Fun. I had to keep "emptying" my hat because the weight of the snow was pushing it down over my eyes.

Now....perhaps this is impressive to some of you and may be everyday stuff to others, BUT...it was very impressive to me that Diane even showed up. Turns out her 5 year old gelding had bucked her off hard the day before and she could hardly get on her horse that morning (she brought a friend's horse, not hers). The leg that she landed on just did not want to go where she wanted it to.

We did end up having fun and the day went off without any hitches, once we dealt with the weather. Only one more cow day left. Actually, it's a 2 day drive from Anceny to Swamp Road. Can't wait to see what weather hits us then! By the way, Diane has this really good elixir that warms you up and makes you forget that your horse bucked you off! Ask her about it!

The Front of the Back Country is Still Open, by Janice

Ron and I had the opportunity to help a friend gather his cows the other day. We were on the north side of I 90 between Bozeman Pass and Livingston. I had never ridden in this area before. The weather was most agreeable, the cows went exactly where they were supposed to and the scenery was awesome. Wasn't I the lucky



GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2007 POKER RIDE - THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

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