

THE PICKET LINE

January 2007



Officers

President

Dan Marsh 587-7578

Vice President

Bob Steinman 282-7166

Secretary

Nanci Winget 582-5795

Treasurer

Brenda Kessler 763-4241

Directors

2 yr

Jim Albright 995-4441

Dan Alderman 388-9080

Rich Winget 582-5795

1 yr

Wally Becker 587-9607

Dan Porter 388-0290

Larry Thomas 586-6878

State Board Members

Rich Inman 2 yr

Dan Marsh 1 yr

Alternate: Jan Elpel 1yr

Newsletter Editor

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BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh 587-7578

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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.”

Board Meeting

Thursday, January 4th 7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church

NEW DATE—NEW LOCATION

It is customary that both the outgoing and new board members attend

General Meeting

Thursday, January 18th 7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church, Cameron & Hoffman Sts.

A VERY IMPORTANT meeting. The club will plan our 2007 schedule for rides, programs, trail maintenance, Poker Ride, steak ride and more. We need a large member attendance as it is your input and ideas we want. Bring them and any projects you would like the club to endeavor to do. (see page 2)

Presidents Report January 2006

I want to first of all thank the previous officers and directors for all of their hard work this past year. I know I will have big shoes to fill in taking over for Rich Inman who served us admirably these last three years. Rich did a great job on being our voice for the comments we gave to the Gallatin Forest Travel Plan. Because we offered constructive ideas to the plan most of our concerns were addressed in favor of the stock users.

I am looking forward to working with our new crop of officers and directors. I am glad you were willing to step forward and lend a hand. I want to especially thank Jiffie Hale for getting the majority of the nomination list of people and agreeing to chair the nomination committee. I also want to thank Jiffie for agreeing to be the news letter editor for the next year.

I want everyone to start thinking of ideas for programs for next year and ideas for fun events and new trails to ride. I believe everyone had a good time at the combined Christmas Party this year with the Gallatin Saddle and Harness Club. One thing that I thought was a good idea their club did was to have a number of overnight rides. Our club used to have a couple of these rides every year and it was a great way to get to know everyone and have a great time.

On May 16, the House of Representatives passed Congressman George Radanovich's "Right-to-Ride"

bill (H.R. 586) but failed to make it in the Senate. Now our attention must be focused on Senate bill (S. 781), which has been introduced by Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID). We have a new Senator Jon Tester and he needs to know where we stand on this legislation. Senator Baucus has been very non-committal on the Right-to-Ride bill and needs to keep hearing from us that we support it.

Rich Inman, Walter Becker, Chick Hale, and I recently met with Kimberly Schlenker, Jonathan Kempff, and Forest Supervisor Becki Heath of the Forest Service. We expressed our concerns about the budget cut in trail maintenance, the new trail classification guidelines, volunteerism, campsite closure, consistency of trail guidelines being applied at Spanish Peaks, and a little on the Travel Plan. Overall it was a good meeting and we walked away with the feeling that we will be able to work together on future projects and help each other reach our common goal of providing quality trails for stock use in the Forest Service.

I look forward to seeing everybody at the next board meeting that is for both the old and new officers and directors and will be held at the Belgrade Alliance Church on January 4th, 2007. Note the day was changed from the normal first Wednesday because of a scheduling conflict with church activities.

Best regards,

Dan Marsh

January 18th General Meeting

Have you found the club lacking in overnights, trail rides, trail clearing, meetings lacking interest, programs not what you want, or that clinics and rides should be changed? Then it is important that you show up at this meeting to express your opinion. This is redundant to say, but the January general meeting is important to you members. We gather information from you in order to formulate our 2007 schedule. This schedule is for you, not the club per se, but what you want from the club for your activities. Therefore, we need your attendance, input, ideas and please understand that we cannot form a schedule without your input. We plan a large turn out of members this night. *See you on Thursday, January 18th at pm at the Belgrade Alliance Church.*

It is not what the club can do for you, but what you can do for the club

One retires, yet remains and new blood begins for 2007

Outgoing president, Rich Inman, gone as president, now ex-officio, will remain an active spokesman as our 2 year state representative. We thank you, Rich, and are very proud of having had you as our president for the last three years.



For 2007, we have our new president, Dan Marsh, capable, devoted and a long time member. One may think he needs big shoes to fill this position of following in the footsteps of his predecessor, but Dan has big feet, figura-

tively and literally. He will do us proud and put in his time. Guaranteed. Dan has been a member of GVBCH for many years yet he was close to having been a charter member. Dan spent four years in the Air Force before he began to work full time at MSU back in 1979. That makes him more than ready to retire, but chooses to stay a while longer. His office is in the computer technology building at MSU. His representation as our state delegate for many years has been an asset to our club. He was instrumental in forming the web site for the BCH where all charter clubs are found. Dan always has all the up-to-date information on any issues relating to the Backcountry Horsemen for local, state and national on the site: www.bchmt.org

We thank you, Dan, for accepting this position and we look forward to having you as our new president. This is going to be another good year.

NF system study finds horseback use is 1% of users

Your editor recently received a call from Bob Gish, VP of the BCHW, who spoke of information he received from a member of the Public Lands committee. He was given permission to use it any way he sees fit. I saw fit to use it.

"You want a good chuckle over economic impacts? Read the federal reports on the compilation of information gathered through the National Visitor Use Monitoring Program (NVUM). This study is the official information about user activities within the National Forest system. The results that are circulating nationally are that horseback use is 1% of users. The NVUM also included economic studies on spending patterns by users for the cost of their recreational activity on Forest Service lands, including prep costs, gas, food, etc.

The Stynes and White 2006 Spending Profiles (the NVUM summary) breaks out spending for most of the major user groups including skiing, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, OHV, driving, camping, hiking, biking and other.

So what happened to horseback riding which was a specific category in the visitor / user surveys? Well, apparently we are considered such an insignificant user group that we are lumped in the "other" category along with forest recreational product gatherers."

In other words, officially we have as much economic impact as a mushroom picker does."

Chick Hale, trails committee member, remarks on this information, "It appears that the 1% of these horse users supply 90%+/- of the volunteer work force to help keep our trails maintained!"

For more information on these federal reports:

http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/spending_profiles_2006.pdf

JANUARY 2007

BIG NIGHT AND WE ATE AND DANCED

Thanks to the Saddle Club's gracious invitation to share their Christmas party Saturday, December 16th our club enjoyed a night of food, camaraderie, and a sensational band for country dancing. This night of fun was held at the Fair-



grounds. The tables were laid with care holding holiday decorations that were very festive. Members brought their booze and the Saddle Club had a delicious display of various horderves. The potluck items members brought had a variety of delicious bowls of food and there was an ample supply for all to feast on. The donators for the silent auction brought interesting items purchased at very reasonable amounts and we hope that defrays some expenses for the building rental and the band. The elections went off without a hitch for both clubs. Our club nominees had no contention; floor nominations had been decided on at our last general meeting. After drinking, eating, voting, and auction the dancing began. We danced to the beat of the "Open Range and the Swing Stampede." What a great band. They were good! And there were some great dancers on the floor. It was a night to remember.



Let's hope they will invite us again.



Congratulations to Larry Thomas who received the president's trophy for 2006.

***Gallatin Valley BCH welcomes these new members***

Maggie and Rocky Goertz, Gallatin Gtwy

Kari Swenson Albrecht and Mark Albrecht, Bozeman

Bob and Susan Waddle, Bozeman

Ken Yankelevitz, Bozeman

Your new 2007 roster will be inserted in the March newsletter.

Those of you that received an application in this month's newsletter means we have not received your membership. February is your last month to receive our club's newsletter.

JANUARY 2007

December 6, 2006 GVBCH Board Meeting Minutes

Officers and Directors in Attendance: Rich Inman, Wally Becker, Trina Frederickson, Bettye White, Dan Porter, Larry Thomas, Joellyn Howell, Janice Cartwright. Also in attendance was Jiffie Hale, Chick Hale, Dan Marsh.

Minutes: Board minutes of November 1, 2006 had one amendment; exclude Bill Shield's name from attendance. Motion to accept the minutes of November 1, 2006 with the one amendment by Joellyn; second by Wally.

Treasurer's Report: Bettye gave Treasurer's Report. One bill outstanding to Jiffie in the amount of \$20.40 for printing of the ballots and stamps. Motion to pay the bill by Trina; second by Joellyn. Motion by Trina to pay the church \$350.00 for use of their facilities and supplies for our general meeting; second by Wally. Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence: The only correspondence received was from the Missoula chapter of BCH.

Membership: Jiffie advised that we currently have 20 paid members for the 2007 year so far. Membership applications will continue to be printed in the January and February newsletters.

Issues: Dan advised that the Forest Service Travel Plan will be made available to the public on December 7, 2006.

House Committee on Agriculture Votes 37 to 3 to Unfavorably Discharge HR 503 which is the bill banning slaughter of horses for human consumption. The BCH has taken no position on this matter to date. Interested parties can get further information by checking the BCH website.

Dan is collecting data to be added to our Volunteer Hours spreadsheet to be submitted to the Forest Service. This includes hours spent giving seminars, hosting events and meetings on behalf of BCH.

Communications: Joellyn has suggested that we have a "Trail Etiquette" article printed in the local newspaper as we get closer to riding season. The article would provide information for hikers, bikers, ATVer's and riders on what should and shouldn't be done when you encounter a horse on the trail.

Newsletter: Jiffie has volunteered to do the newsletter for 2007.

Trails: Chick has been doing a wonderful job of keeping records of all the trail work he and his crew have done for the last couple of years. We were surprised to hear (although we really shouldn't have been), that Wally has dug 26,503 (approximately 5 miles) of trail since 2001!

New Business: Bettye and Janice have volunteered to collect money/dues at the Christmas dinner on December 16th. Copies of the Right to Ride form letter will be available at the dinner for anyone who has not already taken the time to send a copy to our governor or senators.

Billie and Rich will assist Bettye with auditing our accounts before handing over the Treasurer duties to the new Treasurer.

Rich handed out the new Expense Voucher and Guidelines for Travel Expenditures for 2007. The hotel rates for the two State Board Directors have increased to \$50.00/night (max. two nights); fuel \$0.30/mile for one car or \$0.15 for two cars; meals are \$5.00 for breakfast; \$5.00 for lunch and \$12.00 for dinner. Motion by Trina to adopt the changes; second by Bettye; passed unanimously.

The Board Meeting for January, 2007 will be held at the church on **Thursday, January 4, 2007 at 7:00 pm.**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Trina Frederickson, sec.

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

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