

The picket line

FEBRUARY 2008



Officers (1 yr)

<u>President</u>	
Dan Marsh	587.7578
<u>Vice President</u>	
Jim Allbright	995.4441
<u>Secretary</u>	
Amy Hathaway	282.6089
<u>Treasurer</u>	
Brenda Kessler	763.4241

Directors

2 yr	
Stacy Bragg	222.0077
Dan Porter	388.0290
Larry Thomas	586.6878
1 yr	
Janice Cartwright	579.3445
Duane Wiltse	586.3597
Rich Winget	579.9866

State Board Delegates

Jim Allbright	2 yr
Rich Inman - 388.1564	1yr
Alternate: Stacy Bragg	1yr

Newsletter Editor

Jiffie Hale	763-4105
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jhale@littleappletech.com	

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, February 7th - 7pm

Dan Porter’s office 1745 So. 19th

General Meeting - Thursday, February 21st, 6 pm

Belgrade Alliance Church, Hoffman & Cameron Sts

Wild Game Potluck Supper - 6pm

Program -

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Thursday, February 21 - 6pm Wild Game Potluck Supper

Bring your favorite dish of a wild meat, or another meat, choice of a casserole, potato dish, salad, or a dessert. Coffee will be available.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET YOUR PLATES AND UTENSILS

Program - 7pm - general meeting to follow

Speakers

Brian McNeil, GNF Roads and Trails Supervisor

And

Mary Erickson, GNF Supervisor

Very important meeting for BCH trail maintenance volunteers

Volunteer forms for signing up will be on hand along with explanations and your questions

Welcome new members:

John and Melanie Dyba

83 Wild Rose Loop

Three Forks, MT 59752

223.8801

hoffmanmel@hotmail.com

Address change for

Ron and Sherrie White

141 O'Halloran Road West

Wilsall, MT 59086

Don Funke email change to:

drdon@donfunkehorseworks.com

The 2008 member roster will be sent in the March or April newsletter.

Are your dues paid?
NO?
O.K. - this is your last newsletter



Presidents Report for February 2008

Our annual planning meeting was well attended even if the weather didn't cooperate very well. We got the major event dates set and we filled in a few dates for trail rides and trail clearing days. We still need to finalize a few dates, but we will correct them as the year goes on. If you see something we missed please let me know and we can get it added to the calendar.

I presented Janice Cartwright with her MVP award and her belt buckle for getting us the most new members last year. Janice started the year in true MVP fashion by taking over the portion of the meeting getting the dates set and agreeing to be the Program chairperson and already we have most of the speakers lined up for the year. If you have an interesting program in mind for a general meeting please contact Janice and give her your idea.

We need some volunteers to be the trail boss for some rides this year. If you have an interesting trail in mind please let me know and we can put it on the schedule. We left a number of weekends open and it was suggested we have some weekday rides for the folks that can get free during the week.

We decided to have another multi-horse club Christmas party again this year and we are contacting Lee Hart to see if his barn will be available again. Janice has agreed to chair the horse safety clinic again this year and we are moving it earlier in the month as was suggested last year. If you would like to volunteer to help at the clinic as an instructor or with help setting up please give Janice a call. It also is not too early to start planning for the Poker Ride. I am hoping Sherie White will agree to help again this year now that she has one under her belt. If you would like to take on some of the duties such as trail flagging, lunch, prize collection, pop stops, or any other help please let me know and I will add you to the list of volunteers.

We were presented with a Stihl chain saw as a Stewardship award by the Citizens for Balanced Use with the help of Stacy Bragg and I turned it over to Wally Becker for safe keeping until our first trail clearing ride. Stacy also agreed to work on building us a set of aluminum boxes to carry the new chain saw. If you are interested in helping on either the Monday or Wednesday trail clearing crew please contact Larry Thomas or Ron Rassley. We will post the trail boss of our regularly scheduled work weekends in the newsletter as they get closer. Brian McNeil, the Forest Service Trail Supervisor, is tentatively set as our guest speaker for the February pot-luck general meeting.

We had a short presentation about the newly formed equine group GalleP that is fighting for an equestrian park and equestrian trails in the Gallatin Valley. The Board will meet in February and determine if we will add the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen as sponsors for the organization.

Be sure to attend our February wild game dish pot-luck meeting. If you don't have a special game dish to share please feel free to bring a salad or desert to compliment the game dishes. I would like for the folks that bring a game dish to make up a card with a description of your culinary masterpiece.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Marsh
President GVBCH

Citizens for Balance Use (CBU) and what it is, by Stacy Bragg

Citizens For Balanced Use (CBU) started 3 years ago as a group of people concerned about the loss of access on the Gallatin National Forest for the many different user groups. CBU quickly formed into a multiple use organization that supported several uses utilizing a common sense "SHARE IT" approach. This approach seeks to operate by the "wise use" philosophies, recognizing that we can use our resources while also protecting them. In other words, CBU is more in line with conserving our resources rather than *preserving* our resources. Education is essential to making this work for all user groups.

I have served as one of the twelve Executive Co-Chairman of CBU for the past 3 years. During this time, CBU has gained 2500 members, 140 supporting businesses, and 60 supporting organizations. We have expanded to work with the Custer, Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Lewis & Clark, Helena, and Bitterroot National Forest users in regards to travel management planning. We have also been involved with the Montana Stock-growers Association, Montana Farm Bureau, Montana Logging Association, and federal, state, and county governments.

CBU encourages individuals to join local organizations to help maintain their preferred types of recreation. Of equal importance is that individuals and groups enjoy their activities and be respectful of other user groups as well as respect and maintain the publicly managed resources. CBU has recognized that GVBCH is one such organization that promotes and practices our philosophies.

Last year we developed a program to recognize organizations that worked hard to maintain the resources and trails on the forests. The program called the "CBU Trails Stewardship Program". One of the recipients was the GVBCH. While working with Dan Marsh on the Trail Time-Share process, I overheard that the trail maintenance volunteers had burned up some of their own saws. Dan had asked the Gallatin Forest Service if they had any saws to loan out for volunteer trail maintenance. Unfortunately, the GNF did not have saws for loan. Recognizing the efforts and hours that GVBCH put into trail maintenance, I nominated GVBCH for our CBU Trails Stewardship Program award. GVBCH was awarded with a high quality Stihl chainsaw, purchased locally at Matt's Saw Shop in Belgrade.

For the folks who are not familiar with me, I am one of the latest GVBCH board members. Thanks to all who voted for me, and, I must apologize for missing the Christmas party! I am a 5th generation Park county resident and still have a family ranch, homesteaded in 1882 in Paradise Valley. My livelihood is supported by my welding shop with snowmobile fabrication and repair. My "good weather" passion includes using and enjoying my three Morgan mares, which myself and friends often ride. We typically ride each Sunday anywhere from Red lodge, the A-B wilderness, Gallatin, Madison, Bridger, Crazy mountain ranges, and Yellowstone Park in the fall. We try to never cross the same track twice in a year. However, if the price of gas continues climbing, I will park the truck and buy a buggy. Then I can add I-90 to my list of places to go with a horse.

In closing, I would like to remind all that apathy is one of our greatest enemy's when it comes to maintaining recreational use and access on our public lands. Together, we can conserve, maintain and share our publicly managed resources among all user groups. It simply takes a little effort and time, after all, "many hands makes light work".

Ice, snow, 5°, I gathered cows, by Janice Cartwright

Well, I said the last cow day was over. That was for 2007. They have already begun for 2008. RC (horse), Mike (dog) and Janice (me) were assigned the job of gathering the herd at the ranch in Wilsall -



solo. This was solo since Ron had that go around with the mad mama that creamed his lower leg. He prefers Cow Crushed Cowboy over Cow Creamed Cowboy as his nickname with the locals. The snow was dropping as were the temps as we - dog, horse and I - headed out to accomplish our mission. We did great gathering them all up and heading them down to the creek crossing. It took awhile for Mike to understand **that you can't push 29 cows across a narrow opening in the ice.** After we

all crossed we managed to convince them to turn left towards the corrals instead of right where they all headed out into the field. We did hit a snag when they found the horse hay and stopped dead about 75' from the corral gate. Unbeknownst to me, Ron was watching from the window and couldn't



resist adding his two cents via the walkie talkies. I bowed to his greater bovine experience and baited the entrance with hay. I made sure those cows saw that I was spreading fresh hay and made quite a show of it, actually.

Then we pushed them hard. One very smart cow got the hint and took the bait and they all followed her into the corrals and the gate got slammed shut. Mission accomplished. Another notch on my ranch hand



belt - the belt that will proudly display my BCH buckle!

Editor's note: Did Ron take these pictures from the ranch house or has Janice taught Mike, the dog, to shoot pictures? Another one her talents?

This is a site to see! <http://www.horsemanshipssafety.com/>

The American Association for Horsemanship Safety. This is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) not for profit organization dedicated to promoting safe horsemanship skills through training and education. AAHS offers a unique, defensible, systematic approach to teaching horsemanship safety. AAHS President Jan Dawson quotes:

"HARMONY is a state of mind, a safe state of mind. It takes two to harmonize. If one is out of tune, both sound awful. We cannot consider the horse without considering the rider, and we cannot consider the rider without considering the horse."

Board Meeting Minutes, January 3, 2008

President Dan Marsh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Dan Marsh, Jim Allbright, Brenda Kessler, Dan Porter, Jiffie Hale, Rich Inman., Larry Thomas, Stacy Bragg, Rich Winget, and Duane Wiltse, guest Sonja Berg and Chick Hale proxy for Janice Cartwright.

Minutes of December Board Meeting were read. Minor correction made to the spelling of Mary Amsden. Dan P. motioned to accept; Chick seconded; approved.

Treasurer's report: New bill for reimbursement of mileage to Dan and Rich for \$123.00.

Correspondence: Convention quotes had been received from Holiday Inn and Hilton Garden Inn. Dan M. shared letter of GALLEP, Gallatin Equestrian Partnership. They will be presenting at the general meeting in January.

Membership: Jiffie said 37 renewals have been turned in; will pursue after the January meeting.

Issues: *Public Lands Act S2283, Preserving our Equine Heritage on Public Land.* Dan urged to contact Senators and Representatives to *sponsor* and not just *support* this bill. Discussion was made about best way to make easy countable contact via website link and email vs. mailings. All links can be found on the website, as well as mailing addresses. www.bchmt.org

Fire suppression comments formed by Legislature in September—what would happen with no change in the next 10 years. Comments by Feb 1, 2008, by contacting lheisel@mt.gov.

S2438-1S Fee Repeal and Expanded Access Act of 2007. There is some confusion as to the proposed changes to this act. More investigation is to be done by Dan Marsh.

Publicity: Brochure was passed for viewing. Not yet printed.

Trail Crews: Trail crew record keeping needs organization. Larry Thomas was designated data collector. Amy Hathaway volunteered to help compile data.

Program: Program for General Meeting in January to be Organizational Meeting and brief introduction of GALLEP.

Future programs ideas have been passed on by Jiffie to newly formed program committee headed by Janice Cartwright.

Old Business: Chainsaw donation by CBU failed to get publicity they were hoping for. Chick motioned to write a letter of appreciation; Jim seconded; approved.

The Christmas party was a huge success. The only cost incurred by the organization was for 1/3+ the cost of the band. Jiffie suggests reserving for next year's party now so as to not cause Lee Hart schedule conflict as he was so gracious as to allow us to use his wonderful facility. Jiffie will contact Appaloosa Club, Lee, and band, and Larry will contact Gallatin Saddle & Harness to insure they too have interest in a shared party for next year. Suggestion was made to invite donors to attend also.

New Business: Dan Marsh asked who would be interested in getting belt buckles at the Convention as they like to keep a minimum on hand.

Convention delegates for March 28- 30th will be Dan and Alice Marsh, Rich Inman, Jim Allbright, Brenda Kessler, Stacy Bragg, Rich and Nanci Winget. Others are encouraged to attend, or stop by. The more attendance from our organization, the better able we will be to run the 2009 Convention.

In appreciation to her years as a donor and hostess of the Steve Edwards Clinic/Rendezvous, Jehnet Carlson is to receive the Newsletter for a year. This clinic is to be the 3rd Thursday in June and will be added to our upcoming program.

Stacy Bragg attends the Forest Service Time Share meetings and it had been brought up by the bike organization that they had interest in volunteering for trail maintenance. This would have to be worked

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out due to certification and liability issues.

Gallatin Valley Horse Resource is hosting a booth at the Wild West Winterfest and has requested brochures and DVD to be used at the booth for promotional purposes.

There is a new way to play on horseback called Equicaching. GPS savvy horsemen set up quests. Interested parties can contact Bethany Caskey at 641-226-6196 or b@caskeystudios.com or visit www.equincaching.com.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Amy Hathaway, sec

General Meeting Minutes, January 17, 2008

President Dan Marsh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members in attendance were Dan Marsh, Jim Allbright, Brenda Kessler, Dan Porter, Rich Inman., Larry Thomas, Stacy Bragg, Janice Cartwright, and Amy Hathaway.

Minutes of the January Board Meeting were read. Dan Marsh motioned to accept; Dan Porter seconded; approved.

Treasurer's report: Brenda Kessler reported a balance of \$1,825.01 in the checking; \$5,893.52 in CD; and \$2,183.17 in a Franklin Templeton money market account. Dan Marsh had a bill for annual expenses. Jiffie Hale will have one to present at the board meeting for the remainder of the brochures.

Correspondence: Recent correspondence was from Eagle Mount, Public Land Water Access, Steve Hample of Franklin Templeton, 9 Mile Wildlands Training Center, and a tax booklet.

Membership: Jiffie was not present, but needs copies. Two guests attended and perhaps will become members—Linda McMullen of Big Timber, and Melanie Dyba of Three Forks.

Issues: *Public Lands Act S2283, Preserving our Equine Heritage on Public Land.* Dan urged to contact Senators and Representatives to *sponsor* and not just *support* this bill. Dan got letters to Bacchus and Testor, along with the CD to Testor who is actually on the committee for S2283. All links can be found on the website, as well as mailing addresses.

Gallatin Forest Timeshare meetings had a news release for the nine trails under evaluation. Three of those trails will remain multi-use for the year; all others have days dedicated to non-motorized use. A schedule may be viewed on the Forest Service Web site at www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin and click on *time-share* on the main page.

Trail Crews: Larry Thomas will perhaps meet with Brian McNeal prior to the February meeting.

Program: Program for January was a brief presentation of GalleP, Gallatin Equestrian Partnership by Maire O'Neill and Marianne Amsden. Due to community decisions lacking equestrian input, this organization hopes to unite to promote access on trails and the development of an equestrian park. They are currently seeking endorsement. February 20 at 6:30 pm at the Bozeman Public Library will be a formal public meeting. GalleP would like our organizations input, and ideas.

Old Business: The Traveling MVP Trophy was awarded to Janice Cartwright. Janice stepped in for a director who had been unable to fulfill the commitment, she led the horse safety clinic, tack swap, helped the poker ride out in numerous ways, as well as doing rides for members. Janice was also awarded the belt buckle for recruiting the most members in 2007. Thank you, Janice for your dedication and time.

Chainsaw donation by CBU and member Stacy Bragg was passed to the Trail Crew. Stacy is also de-

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signing aluminum panniers to carry the chainsaw. Many thanks to Stacy.

New Business: Janice took over the remainder of the meeting to conquer the Planning Schedule for 2008. The meeting was run effectively. Programs schedule were setup through July. Due to weather conditions, many trail bosses were not in attendance and some dates of rides are yet to be confirmed. The full schedule will follow.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Hathaway, sec

The GalleP – Gallatin Equestrian Partnership – is hosting its first public meeting at the **Bozeman Public Library on Wednesday, February 20th at 6:30p.** Please come and share your ideas on the development of Equestrian Trail and an Equestrian Park in the Gallatin Valley. GalleP is very interested in adding our club's name to their list of organizations supporting equestrians on trails. The amendments which they will present at their meeting will have specific trails identified for equestrian access and the idea of an equestrian park. Only those present will have the opportunity to help shape these proposals!!

They are really hoping for a big turn out at their first public meeting so that they can get public feedback on their amendment to the city's PROST plan (parks, recreation, open space and trails) which extends well beyond city limits into agriculture and equestrian areas without providing for any equestrian access!!! If anyone wishes to read more about this organization, i.e. specific goals or about their efforts so far, please contact me. I will email you this information. Call 580.0774 or jhale@littleappletech.com

GALLATIN COUNTY WEED SUMMIT - weeddistrict@gallatin.mt.gov

The Gallatin County Weed District, in coordination with the Gallatin County Commissioners, is hosting their annual Weed Summit on **February 12th 8:30 to 4:30p at the Gran Tree Inn, Bozeman.**

The goals of this year's Summit are to:

1. Continue communication between agencies charged with the responsibility of Noxious weed management in Gallatin County.
2. Continue coordinated efforts between individuals, organizations and agencies on noxious weed outreach, education and control efforts.

Trail Blazer Magazine Celebrates 30 Years With the Trail Riding Event of the Year

“Different than anything else ever done before!” promises Trail Blazer Magazine founder and publisher Susan E. Gibson about the upcoming Trail Blazer Festival. The Festival will be held at the Rawhide (Wild Horse Pass), 20 minutes from the Phoenix airport on February 29 - March 2, 2008. 15 clinicians will present 60 workshops every day. For more information, tickets, etc. <http://www.trailblazermagazine.us/> and check out their magazine.

Rider Wanted - For Monument Valley Trail Ride May 11th - 16th, 2008

<http://www.monumentvalleytrailrides.com/>

Jan Elpel would like to drive to the ride on the AZ-UT border and she can take one horse and rider. Please let her know if interested 587.5844 or jelpel@montanadsl.net

Temporarily Out of Order, by Janice Cartwright

That's what a few of our members seem to be. First, it was the unexpected Cow Crushed Cowboy episode for Ron Laden. (As predicted, he's bored but improving.) Then Jiffie's foot got some attention. (Isn't there already a movie about "My Left Foot"?) Along comes Alice Marsh with her hip resurfacing and she's practically racing around already. Now, Linda Threlkeld (new member) goes under the knife in Billings for a serious back operation on Feb. 4th. Like the "temporarily out of order trails" around here during winter, these members will be back in service come summer, at least that is my hope for all of them. I'd like to thank all of you that have sent messages and calls of encouragement to Ron. They really perked him up, especially when he was tired of me! I'm sure the others feel the same.

Leaving the human conditions I'll make a note of some equine situations. While Anna Holstrom was out of the state, her horse ran across a cattle guard and had to be put down recently. Diane Fuhrman's horse got out of the pasture and was hit by a car the other day. (That's another article.) Amy Hathaway's new filly is seriously ill and at the vet with no known cause as of now. A kind word goes a long way towards any suffering, human or otherwise. Stay safe and healthy out there.

Note from editor - Our caretakers are special and we are surviving because of them - Janice, Chick, Dan and Terry. We thank you, love you dearly and are so blessed we have you. To contact Linda - St Vincent's Hospital, Billings - mtchromeapp@msn.com 12140 Gooch Hill, Gallatin Gtwy, MT 59730

Defensive Horse Safety –

We all know how to be safe around a horse, right? Now is your chance to prove it. The statements are designed specifically to make you think. As an experienced horse owner that's something you should be doing all the time – thinking, learning, expecting the unexpected and developing a safety attitude to be followed. Remember, riding is the art of keeping a horse between you and the ground.

1. You should strike "bombproof," "kidproof," and "spookproof" from your vocabulary. Remember, it is the gentle ones that kill or hurt you.
2. Your horse is very well trained, so it is worth always taking the time to tie properly, with a quick release knot.
3. The safest position from which to lead a horse is with your shoulders approximately at the juncture of his neck and shoulder.
4. When helping another person work on a horse (grooming, vaccinating, or shoeing) both of you should work on the same side of the horse. Remember, horses are always more comfortable if they do not feel trapped.
5. When saddling, fasten the main cinch first, then the back cinch, then the breast collar and then the crupper. When unsaddling - reverse the process, but unfasten the main cinch last.
6. Improving your own physical conditioning helps safeguard against accidents.
7. If you must turn around on a narrow trail, always turn the horse toward the downhill side.
8. Avoid loops of any kind hanging from your saddle which could trap you to the horse during a mishap.
9. Horses have a blind spot directly in front of and directly behind them so you must take extra care when working in or near these areas.
10. It is worth the effort to teach your horse to stand patiently in place when you mount.

Thanks to Rich Inman who gave us this important information for our newsletter

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

Ag Depot
 All West Veterinary
 Ardesson Boots and Shoes
 Dr. Phil Aumann
 Big Sky RV
 Books Off Broadway
 Broadway Flying J Restaurant
 Bozeman Saddle Outlet
 Bridger Feeds
 Chalet Market
 Chalet Sports
 Concrete Construction
 Creekside Vet Hospital
 DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service
 Don Funke Divine Equine
 Double Diamond Halters
 Freeway Enterprises
 Gourmet Gas Station
 Greater Yellowstone Flyfisher
 Hardaway Vet Clinic

Health Works Institute
 Kountry Korner Café
 Lee & Dad's
 Madison House
 Main Street Over Easy
 Montana Canvas
 Montana Harvest
 Montana Horse Sense
 Montana Side Saddle
 Murdoch's Ranch & Home
 Owenhouse Ace Hardware
 Precision Fence Systems
 Rocky Mountain Hat Compny
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 Second Self
 Sportland Trailer
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 The Optimal Athletic
 Three Forks Saddlery
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Way Out West

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