

The Picket Line

December 2009

Officers (1 year)

<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

<u>2 years</u>	
Marianne Meyer	388.2676
Sandy Kypfer	600.4737
Rich Inman	388.1564
<u>1 year</u>	
Stacy Bragg	222.0077
Dan Porter	388.0290
Larry Thomas	586.6878

State Board Directors

Rich Inman	2 years
Jim Allbright	1 year
Alt: Stacy Bragg	1 year

Membership

Marianne Meyer	388.2676
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Newsletter Editor

Margaret Burns Vap	587.2390
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BCH Webmaster

Dan Marsh	587.7578
dmarsh@montana.edu	

Back Country Horsemen Mission Statement

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.

Board Meeting – **Thursday, December 3 @ 7 pm**
Dan Porter's Office, 1745 S. 19th

General Meeting – **Thurs, December 17 @ 7 pm**
Belgrade Alliance Church

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President's Report December 2009

My, how time flies when you're having fun! I have been at this for three years now, and according to our constitution an officer can only stay in the same position for no more than three years consecutively. Not only is this my last President's letter, but we are also losing our Vice President Jim Albright of the same three years and our Treasurer Brenda Kessler. Even if there were not term limits written into our constitution, it is time for some new people to step up and help run the chapter.

Our nominating committee made calls to all of our membership and have come up with a few names that are willing to run for directors and officers next year. We had good luck finding people to run on the board, but we didn't have that great of luck finding a new slate of officers. Remember, if we can't find someone to step forward to fill the officer positions we would have to disband the organization. I believe this is a great organization with a lot of dedicated individuals and I would hate to see it go. Currently we have Charley Smith, a brand new member, who has agreed to act as Treasurer and Rich Inman said he would run as Vice President, but then we would have to find another director to fill his current board position. We still desperately need a President and Secretary. I know everyone is busy and doesn't think they could possibly spare the time. I'm not going to sugar coat it and tell you it isn't a serious time commitment, but if I can do it while holding down a full time plus job and still stay involved with four other organizations, I'm sure you could make it work also. As a great scout leader Ken Marcotte once told me, "When you need something done always ask a busy person. No one else has the time."



I have enjoyed the last three years and I want to thank all of the people that helped make it go so well. I especially want to thank our Vice President **Jim Albright**, who took over for me when I couldn't make a meeting, showed up for just about all of the meetings, was a regular on the trail clearing crews, volunteered as an LNT master trainer, helped on the Safety Clinics, Poker Rides and Steak Rides, and attended all of the state board meetings as our delegate. I also want to include our Treasurer, **Brenda Kessler**, someone I could always count on to be there to lend a hand and who did a wonderful job of keeping track of the chapter's finances. Brenda was also a regular with helping out at all of the events and trail clearing rides. Our Secretary **Amy Hathaway** volunteered to take on the Chairmanship of the 2010 Back Country Horsemen of Montana, which I really appreciated.

President's Report

December 2009

Rich Inman, our past President, has always been there to lend a hand and acted as the co-chair on our trail clearing committee. I relied on Rich to offer his console and wisdom on the many issues that affect our organization.

Janice Cartwright, our program committee chair and Horse Safety Clinic chair, who reminds me a lot of the energizer bunny, with her boundless energy and enthusiasm. Our MVP's of last year **Sherrie and Ron White**, who when aren't basking in sunny Mexico are always around to lend a hand. Sherrie has done a great job each year organizing the Poker Ride and along with her husband Ron have been a regular for both the trail clearing crews.

Dan Porter who has been a board member for a bunch of years and has always been there to chair the Steak Ride and ran the Poker Ride prior to Sherrie. Dan attends a lot of public meetings on current issues and is a valuable voice on maintaining stock use in the back country. **Larry Thomas** has been a pleasure to work with on the board and has done a great job riding herd on the trail crew. **Walter Becker**, a past board member and trail crew leader, along with **Chick Hale**, who has led the trail crews since before there were any trails, is still very active in keeping our trails open. I want to thank **Marianne Meyer** for taking on the membership chair and volunteering to work on the board. Marianne is also always there to lend hand when needed. **Stacy Bragg**, our board member and alternate state director, who has to travel a long way from south of Livingston to make the meetings. Stacy took on the job of being our publicity chair, has led trail rides, and is helping out with printing the raffle tickets and flyer for the State Convention.

Sandy Kypfer stepped up to the plate when we needed a board member and has done a great job acting as secretary when Amy was not able to be at the meetings. Our newsletter editor **Margaret Burns Vap** has done a great job in spicing up our newsletter with pictures and took a load off my full plate when Jiffie Hale, who had done an excellent job of being the newsletter editor for six years or better, had to step aside. **Catherine Nelson** and **Jan Elpel** stepped in to help pick up the newsletters from the printers and snail mail them to folks that didn't have an email address. I'm sure I missed somebody, and I want to thank all of the members that attend the meetings and help out at the events.

Don't forget to RSVP to Janice for the **Christmas party** on December 5th at Lee Hart's Broken Hart Ranch who has graciously offered his barn at no expense to our club. See, I knew I would forget someone! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you on the trail.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Marsh
President GVBCH

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen Board Meeting November 5, 2009

Board members and committee chairs in attendance were Dan Marsh, Jim Allbright, Brenda Kessler, Larry Thomas, Stacy Bragg, Dan Porter, Sandy Kypfer, Marianne Meyer, Amy Hathaway and Jan came as proxy for Rich Inman.

Correction was made to the minutes as Brenda had not promised to post in the Newsletter. Jim made a motion to accept them with correction, Stacy seconded; carried.

New Bills: A bill was presented from Insty Prints for \$17.19, and \$28.34 to Jan for stamps and newsletter. The State dues are now due. Marianne will get a breakdown of members to Brenda so she can make this payment. Jim made a motion to pay the bills, Stacy seconded, carried.

Correspondence: Beaverhead Deerlodge.

Membership: Marianne Meyer, membership chair, reported 75 memberships.

Issues:

- S.1470 has Baucus for a Co-sponsor. This is Tester's bill on Forest Jobs and is still in committee.
- The Trail Blazer magazine is accepting nominations for their Trail Warrior/Trail Saver award. It was suggested that the trail crews should be submitted for consideration.

Publicity: Stacy will post the general meetings on the community calendars.

Newsletter: Jan Elpel has been assisting Margaret publish and mail the newsletter.

Trail Crews: Trail crew hours need to be compiled as well as all paperwork for reimbursement.

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen Board Meeting November 5, 2009

Old Business:

- The Dedication Plaque for Volney Steele (Sage Creek) is \$131.00. Jane Huffine will pick it up.
- A large number of members attended the North Cottonwood Access meeting. The current trail crosses private land that is now a proposed conservation easement and the owner does not want to commit to permanent access. The Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks has been interested in the layout of a new trail due to the mule deer population. The new trail proposed will most likely not accommodate horse travel due to the steepness.

New Business:

- Dan Porter presented the Continental Divide Trail Alliance flyer. This trail is a 3100 mile trail from Canada to Mexico that is for stock and motorized use only. The contact for this organization is Shannon Frey: info@thecontinentaldividetrailalliance.ccsend.com. Jim is to talk to Charlie O'Leary in regards to having this organization added to the Convention for a presentation and to get a feel for where the State stands on supporting this organization.
- Nominations for next year are to be held in December. All officers positions are open. The membership list was divided among all meeting attendees to contact members interested in filling these positions.
- Raffle ticket items for the convention have been settled. Stacy Bragg will pursue the printing of the tickets. Packets need to be sent to the December State Board meeting in regards to the convention.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Hathaway.

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen General Meeting Minutes November 19, 2009

President Dan Marsh called the meeting to order following a programn of horse-related games; both of the mental/paper type and the physical "all for fun" type; all led by our program chair extraordinare, Janice Cartwright.

Board members and committee chairs present were Dan Marsh, Larry Thomas, Dan Porter, Marianne Meyer, Sandy Kypfer, and Rich Inman. A total of 16 members were present. We had one guest, Brenda Laden, Ron's sister. She assisted Janice with the games.

Program: There will be a general meeting as usual. This will be an ice-cream social. Be prepared to vote from a slate of nominations for new board positions, if we get enough nominations.

Minutes: Charlie Smith motioned to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as they appeared in the online newsletter and Vi Huffman seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda was not present, but left Dan with her report. \$1,250 deposit has been paid to Montana Rose for our March convention entertainment.

New Bills: No new bills were presented.

Issues:

- **Continental Divide National Scenic Trail**

Dan Porter is involved with group and has reported to the board some of the details and also spoke to the club. 900 miles of the total 3,100 miles is in Montana and much of this is yet completed. Dan suggested that it might be a good idea for us as a club to get involved with this.

- **N.Cottonwood Trail**

lengthy discussion about this and in particular as to where do we as a club stand

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen General Meeting Minutes (continued) November 19, 2009

Issues (continued):

- **BCHA LNT Master Class, May 3-7, 2010**

If anyone in the club would like to take part in this Leave No Trace class, there are student scholarships available. You would need to apply to:

Bob Wagner

BCHA LNT Program Manager

618.638.4416

twostar@hughes.net

This will take place in Missoula and in order to qualify for the class/grant, one would have to then hold 2 classes upon their completion in order to pass on the education and knowledge.

Membership: Marianne reported a total of 72 members. This reflects 31 members lost in the past year and 14 added. It was then decided to mail out membership forms to boost the numbers; Marianne made the motion and Larry 2nd it. Marriane said that she would do this. There will also be renewal forms available at the Christmas Party.

Publicity: Stacy was not present; but had said at the board meeting that he will begin sending out info on our monthly speakers as PSA's.

Newsletter: Since most view it on line, we have only been mailing out about 20.

Trail Crews: Snow on the trails.

Old Business:

- the Sage Creek Dedication Plaque was on display for all to view. This dedication will take place in the spring.



*Snow on the trails...? Vi says
Bah Humbug as she saddles up.*

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen General Meeting Minutes (continued) November 19, 2009

New Business:

- **Nomination Committee**

We were suppose to vote on and approve the slate tonight, but the slate is lacking and far from complete. We are still in need of nominations for 3 board positions. We have Charlie Smith standing for Treasurer; Dan Porter, Connie Lien, Allen Hathaway, and Clark Kinney are standing for the 2 Director positions. Rich indicated that he would stand for VP. Standing for Delegates are Jim Albright and Stacy. According to the club bylaws, President Dan Marsh will send out a letter informing all the club members that if our slate does not fill up, the club will have to disband.

- **Christmas Party December 5th**

\$20pp. Janice is taking reservations which are due Nov. 30th to Bill Sowa 222.7507. It will take place at Lee Hart's Ranch. Everyone should bring your drink of choice and contribute an appetizer or salad.

- **December 12th State Board Mtg. Quality Inn, Missoula**

Rich and Jim will be going to represent the club. They will carry a packet for the convention to each of the chapters.

- **2010 convention, March 19th-21st, 2010 at The Holiday Inn**

Chairman Amy Hathaway.

Anyone who can help with anything for this, please contact Amy. Collection of items for silent and live aution should be underway by all club members.

After a lengthy meeting, which was anticipated to be a short one, Dan Porter motioned to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Kypfer.

Tales from the Trail

BCH Game Night, November 19

Janice Cartwright



See what you missed by not coming to our last meeting? Game night, and we sure have some fierce competitors in our club. No more MR. NICE GUY or GAL! Janice divided us up into 2 teams for some warm up table games (Labeling "Parts Of The Horse" - by the way, tongue and eye were pretty lame parts, and a customized GVBCH Crossword Puzzle). Then the real action began with "Outhouse Dash", with our Big Girl and Big Boy Pants. We even had a designated TP dispenser (Brenda Laden/guest). Our last event of the evening was the "Trail Class". Dan and Vi agreed to be the Trail Boss for each team and they were blind folded, dressed, and then talked through a trail course. What a hoot! Lots of laughs and some knowledge testing & acquisition to boot. Stay tuned for a few more of these sessions. Who knows what Miss Ex-Gym Teacher/Camp Director will come up with next?



*Above: Dressing Betty;
And Away We Go!*



*left: Vi & Rich in
"Outhouse Dash"*

*Right: Larry and Beth
"stripping" with Brenda
dispensing toilet paper.*



Cowgirl Yoga!

Margaret Burns Vap

My daughter Morgane and I were featured in a national ad for a yoga mat company called JADE, in the December '09 issue of Yoga Journal Magazine. For you non-yogis, this is pretty significant press, and we hope it will help recruit lots of new Cowgirl Yogis to join us for our yoga and horseback riding retreats at Janice and Ron's Wilsall ranch next summer. This photo was taken in April at the ranch. Yeehaw & Namaste!



Happy Horsey Holidays!

I asked Janice if she had some holiday horse pictures for the newsletter, and she of course went out and took some, sending along this report on the horsecamp holiday spirit:

This was so funny. RC was not interested...UNTIL I put the ears on Moose and then DUDE, OLLIE and RC all stood at attention. I turned Moose loose in their corral and they ran to the other side. What a hoot! Dude would have nothing to do with him, he stayed in his corner. The other two followed Moose all over the pen, snorting and spooking. Then, Ollie started eating and RC nibbled the ears. Mr. "Don't Touch My Ears" Ollie did not mind my putting the moose ears on him!



**GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING
BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2009 POKER RIDE
Thank you one and all!**

Ag Depot
All West Veterinary
Ardesson Boots and Shoes
Biggerstaff Construction
Big Sky RV
Bozeman Fence
Bozeman Saddle Outlet
Bridger Feeds
Bunkhouse Originals
CBU
C'est la Vie Salon
Chalet Market
Chalet Sports
Cole's Custom Saddlery
Concrete Construction
Divine Equine &
Three Forks Chiropractic
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Dr. Phil Aumann
Don Funke Divine Equine
Double Diamond Halters
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Greater Yellowstone Flyfisher
Hardaway Vet Clinic
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Kountry Korner Café
Lee & Dad's
Madison House
Momma Mac's
Montana Canvas
MT Equine Medical and Surgical
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Laura Hanks
Jane Huffine
Rich Inman
Sandy McManus
Brown & SammyLu
Parsons
Alice Pilgeram
Dan Porter
Ron & Sherrie White

Other Sponsors

We'd like to acknowledge
several anonymous
donors for providing
prize and cash donations
for this year's event.

Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen

