

Officers (1 year)

President  
 Jim Allbright 599.4620  
Vice President  
 Rich Inman 388.1564  
Secretary  
 Charley Smith 547.3459  
Treasurer  
 Charley Smith 547.3459

June 2010

# The Picket line

Directors

1 year  
 Marianne Meyer 388.2676  
 Sandy Kypfer 600.4737  
 Allen Hathaway 282.6089  
2 years  
 Stacy Bragg 222.0077  
 Dan Porter 388.0290  
 Brenda Kessler 763.4241

## 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.

State Board Directors

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

Membership

Marianne Meyer 388.2676

Newsletter Editor

Vacant

BCH Webmaster

Dan Marsh 587.7578  
 dmarsh@montana.edu

**Board Meeting – Thursday, JUNE 3 @ 7 pm**

Dan Porter’s Office, 1745 S. 19th

**National Trails Day, June 5**

Larry Thomas, Trail Boss  
 telephone: 586:6878

**General Meeting-Thursday JUNE 17 @ 6 pm**

Janice and Ron’s place at 1655 Harper Puckett Road  
 Ice cream social with Joe Turner presenting

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## A "WORD" from your Pres:

Well! As most of you know by now, Brenda and I were the horse owners with the two horses in Gallatin County with the EIA disease. The pictures that you see are the horses being loaded on a trailer for their trip to Ames, Iowa. There, they will live at a research lab and donate their blood, once a month, in hopes of finding a cure or vaccine.



Nimbus: no 3 horse in pasture

For those who do not know the story, it all started with a planned trip south, taking the horses. The trailer was cleaned, cohorts were contacted, food to take, trip routes, research on trails and parks were discussed, shoes for the horses scheduled, trip permits renewed, and even several

e-mails to park rangers.



BEST HORSE EVER !

Two weeks before the leave date was the Vet's visits with a complete health check and a blood draw for the Coggin's test. That was on a Thursday. Late Friday afternoon, while I was frying fish for the Belgrade Senior Center Fish Fry, Brenda received a phone call on her cell. She was serving so after she came back into the Center; she asked me if I was ready for some unbelievable news. Blackie had come back positive. She went on to say: "the Vet said there may be a mistake and they were redoing the test."

It was a long weekend as both of us started searching the internet on what a failed Coggin's really meant. The options did not look good for our horse. Then came the visits from several state Vets and the questions. The letter came explaining that not putting the horse in quarantine was a criminal offense which could result in prison and a fine.

Fortunately, for us we have had both horses tested four years in a row, so we knew that last year at this time our horses were negative. Also, we immediately wanted to reassure our neighbors, the subdivision at the end of the 160 acres hay field, that our horses were only present in that alfalfa field after a hearty freeze, i.e., no flies. The times in question became the summer work rides, the Poker Rides and the steak ride.

Soon we were answering the phone calls: Panicked people, some as far away as five miles, worried that their horses were infected. Somewhere in this time span, the EIA article on the front page of the Chronicle appeared stating erroneously "highly contagious" without qualifying that the virus can only be spread by a blood transfer. One phone caller even stated "You could be found liable."

Meanwhile, we were dealing with, what to do with Blackie as we had him penned by himself which was most disturbing as he was very aggressively trying to find and be with his companions. We imagined trying to shoot him, directing the Vet to euthanize him and desperately

hoping for another scenario. Then the white horse (the third horse, the pasture companion) tested positive, so now we had two horses with EIA.

Interestingly, the yellow horse, Sunny still tested negative and was separated. This was somewhat a relief as he handled the isolation much better. But again, we had two horses with EIA. To deal with this, we were fortunate as the grass was up in the far pasture. So we separated them from the world but for how long.? (It is interesting to note that Sunny, Blackie's constant companion was negative.)

Bless her heart, Dr Tahnee, the State Vet working with us, found a place for our horses: the lab in Ames, Iowa and they were coming to get them. Hooray! As we no longer had to deal with the death of our horses, and knowing that they would be well taken care of was a real reprieve.

The latest note from Tahnee the State VET was: "Just wanted to pass along, I spoke with Denise Chapman at NVSL this morning. She said both horses did fantastic on the trip. They are currently being housed in isolation stalls which is normal procedure but they are within sight of each other. She said they are settling in very nicely and have both been good to work with. They will stay in quarantine for about another week and a half and then will begin their introductions to their new herdmates".

Blackie was the best horse I have ever owned and it was very sad to lose him. However, the summer is coming and I am now actively looking for a good gaited trail horse. I tried out a big 16 hands paint named Jorge but he went back as he was a handful on the trail. Other than that he was perfect. Hopefully, It won't be much longer before we will start working on the trails and hopefully building the new corrals at Spanish Creek.

This message is not short as Brenda felt that those who did not know about EIA should know and share with us what it means to have a positive Coggin's test.

Also I want to share with all who missed Dr. Tahnee J. Szymanski, DVM, State Veterinarian's presentation that we do have her power point presentation and it is available for viewing if one would so wish. It was an excellent presentation and there were many questions answered.

Oh yes, don't forget to come to the general meeting next month to Janice Cartwright's for a ice cream social and a program from Joe Turner. June 17th js the date of the General Meeting. (SEE BOX)  
See everyone at the next meeting.

One more thing my new email address is: [rocketman\\_1@ymail.com](mailto:rocketman_1@ymail.com).

Jim Allbright



**June 17th General Meeting** – We are doing a repeat of last year's Ice Cream Social/General Meeting at Janice and Ron's place at 1655 Harper Puckett Road. Last year the arena was new. This year the house is new. Be prepared for dirt or mud and please stay on the gravel areas. Parking will be at the arena. Please park to conserve spaces. Dessert is from 6-6:45pm. Joe Turner will be doing a training demonstration aimed at specific trail issues from 6:45 – 8pm. General Meeting will be around the campfire (if this rain ever stops) from 8-9pm. Either way, you'll need to bring your own chair to tote around. This is our last meeting before the Poker Ride so please attend to assist Sherrie in making this a successful event. Reminder to bring in all Poker Ride donations.

## **Board Meeting Minutes May 6, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Albright.

Directors present were: Brenda Kessler, Dan Porter, Allan Hathaway, Stacey Bragg, Sandy Kypher, Marianne Meyer and Dan Marsh.

Officers present were Jim Albright, Rich Inman and Charley Smith.

Also present were Janice Cartwright and Sonja Berg. A motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting was made by Rick Inman and seconded by Stacey Bragg. The motion was passed.

### **Bills**

The following bills were presented:

Southwest Montana Publishing: \$100.00  
(Ad in Mini-Nickel for the Safety Clinic)

Janice Cartwright: \$34.22

(Costs incurred for Safety Clinic)

Circle L Ranch: \$ 175.00

(Rental of the Arena for the safety Clinic)

A motion to pay the bills was made by Rich Inman and seconded by Stacey Bragg.

The motion was passed.

### **Correspondence**

There was no new correspondence.

### **Membership**

Marianne Meyer said that we had three new members bringing the membership to 69.

### **Issues**

Jim Albright said that his horses had contracted Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). He is sure that his horses contracted the infection at either last year's Poker Ride or the Steak Ride. He suggested that the club require a Coggins Test for each horse participating in the 2010 Poker ride. A motion to require the test was made by Sandy Kypher and seconded by Stacey Bragg. The motion was passed.

A further motion that the test be made in 2010 was made by Rich Inman and seconded by Dan Potter. The motion was passed.

### **Publicity**

Stacey Bragg said that the requirement for the Coggins Test would be included in the Press Release for the Poker Ride.

### **Programs**

Tahnee Szymanski, DVM a veterinarian with the Montana Department of Livestock will speak at the May General Meeting.

### **Old Business**

The National Forest Service has asked for our club's support for their plan for a new trail head at the North Fork Trail.

A motion was made by Brenda Kessler and seconded by Allan Hathaway to support this effort. The Motion was passed.

A motion was made by Dan Porter and seconded by Marianne Meyer to support the HPBH Travel Plan. The interim rule disallowed mountain bikes and four wheelers from using the Hylite, Porcupine, Buffalo Horn area.

The motion was passed.

A motion to discuss the problems of the Cherry Creek Road Trail at the next board meeting was made by Stacey Bragg and seconded by Allen Hathaway. The Motion was passed.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Sandy Kypher and seconded by Stacey Bragg. The meeting was closed.

Respectfully Submitted by Charles D. Smith, Secretary

## General Meeting minutes for May 20, 2010

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The meeting was called to order by President Jim Allbright. Officers, directors, board members, chair persons present were: Allan Hathaway, Brenda Kessler, Sandy Kypfer, Dan Marsh, Marianne Meyer, Dan Porter, Sherrie White. Brenda was filling in for Charley Smith (treasurer) and Marianne was filling in for Charley Smith (secretary).

Jim Allbright requested a motion to approve the minutes from the April 15 General meeting which were posted in the May Newsletter. Beth Merrick made the motion, Kay Tate seconded, the motion was passed.

### New Bills

Vi Huffman presented two bills in the amount of \$58.65 each for Poker Ride printing expenses, total \$117.30. She then made a motion to pay the bills. Sonya Berg seconded and the motion was passed.

Note: We did not have two persons present authorized to sign checks, so the check will be issued at a later time.

### Membership

Marianne received two renewals earlier that evening and total paid memberships are now 71.

### Publicity

Stacy is handling the publicity and will report at the board meeting

### Issues

Dan Marsh reported he was not aware of any new important issues relating horses and backcountry horsemen.

### Newsletter

Brenda is doing the newsletter. Recent months are all caught up on the website.

### Trail Crews

Larry Thomas told us that he and a few others rode up Spanish Creek earlier that day. The road to the trail head is in good shape. They were able to ride to the falls, but shortly after that ran into snow banks and turned around. He said the trails are NOT ready for work. Too wet. June 5<sup>th</sup> is National Trails Day and Larry is the trail boss for that day. Larry and Billie do not use email, so communication has to be either by snail mail or the phone. This is also the day for Pat Green's Poker Ride.

### Program

Jim Allbright had not heard if Janice has something lined up for the June meeting.

### Old Business

Sherrie White reported that Bridger Bowl had notified her that parking will be limited this year. There will be equipment stored on some tiers of the parking area. As a result, we will need to DIRECT parking to maximize the space we have and she requested help for this job. We don't know yet how limited the parking will be until just about a week prior to the ride. We need to be prepared to handle it.

Discussion followed that we will probably have fewer participants this year due to the Coggins test requirement. This led to a discussion on how to deal with people who did not adhere and want to force their way onto the trail anyways. Several options were suggested and discussed. Final decision will be made either at board meeting or the last general meeting before the ride.

\*\* Sherrie requested that perhaps we should plan a "short" program for the June meeting and allow more time to deal with Poker Ride business. \*\*

Vi Huffman is handling Poke Ride poster distribution. She handed out a list of possible locations (and who covered them last year) and asked folks to grab a handful of posters. She is keeping track of who is going where so we don't duplicate our efforts.

Beth Merrick is collecting Poker Ride prize donations. Two were turned in the evening of the meeting. Please remember to furnish a value for the donations so we can do due diligence.

Jim Allbright gave a brief summary of topics discussed at board meeting. One of the topics, the interim travel plan rule, was then discussed some more as a result.

### Copper City clean-up.

Kay Tate rode there earlier this spring and discovered that someone had unloaded heaps of trash there, including TV's, refrigerator, mattresses and much more. Our club decided at an earlier meeting that we will clean up this trail head. While it does not fall under the mission statement, it is a service that will help keep trails open. At an earlier meeting it was also decided that the club would pay the dump fees.

Jim Allbright will look for possible dates on the calendar and email the date for the clean-up to members. It will hopefully be a weekend, when non-retired members can participate.

Kay Tate made a motion to close the meeting and Beth Merrick seconded. Meeting thus adjourned.

NOTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY MARIANNE MEYER.

**GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIB-UTED 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  
DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service  
Dr. Phil Aumann  
Don Funke Divine Equine  
Double Diamond Halters  
Equine Solutions  
Four Corners Saddlery  
Freeway Enterprises  
Gallatin Valley Horse  
    Resource

Gold's Gym/Jim Albrook  
Gourmet Gas Station  
Greater Yellowstone Flyfisher  
Hardaway Vet Clinic  
Harrington's Pepsi Cola  
Kountry Korner Café  
Lee & Dad's  
Madison House  
Momma Mac's  
Montana Canvas  
MT Equine Medical and Surgical  
    Center  
Montana Harvest  
Montana Horse Sense  
Murdoch's Ranch & Home  
Owenhouse Ace Hardware  
Paula's Pepper Jellies  
Rapid Tech  
Rocky Mountain Hat Company  
Rocky Mountain Horseman  
Rocky Mountain Supply  
R O Brooks Custom Leather  
Sandra J. McManus Jewelry Designs  
Second Self  
Bob Steinman & Assoc. Real Estate  
Three Forks Saddlery

Tri-Animals  
Way Out West  
Western Pines

**Member Donations**

Janice Cartwright  
Jan Elpel  
Bob Furu  
Bonnie Hammer  
Laura Hanks  
Jane Huffine  
Rich Inman  
Sandy McManus  
Brown & SammyLu Par-  
    sons  
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  
PO Box 3232  
Bozeman, MT 59772-3232

