

THE PICKET LINE

Back country Horsemen of GALLATIN VALLEY
P.O. Box 3232, BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59772-3232

April, 2011
Newsletter

Officers (1 year)

President

Jim Allbright 599.4620

Vice President

Rich Inman 388.1564

Secretary

Marianne Meyer 388.2676

Treasurer

Charley Smith 547.3459

Directors

2 year

Clark Kinney 388.1505

Michel Harney 586.3571

Mike Haugen 539.0538

1 years

Stacy Bragg 222.0077

Henry Glenn 578.2084

Brenda Kessler 763.4241

State Board Directors

Rich Inman 2 years

Jim Allbright 1 year

Alt: Stacy Bragg 1 year

Membership

Marianne Meyer 388.2676

Newsletter Editor

Brenda Kessler 763.4241

BCH Webmaster

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OUR PURPOSE:

To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use. To assist various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands and. To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustained use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public, commensurate with our heritage. Foster and encourage formation of new Back Country Horsemen organizations.

Up coming Events

Board meeting (April 7, Thursday) Place **Belgrade Alliance Church. 205 W. Cameron , Belgrade, MT: 7:00**

General Meeting (April 21, Thursday) Place : **Belgrade Alliance Church. 205 W. Cameron , Belgrade, MT: 7:00** April program will be:
"Chainsaw Safety/demo for everyone (not just the sawyers)".
Presenter: Larry Thomas (Plan on attending !)

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President's report

Hello Fellow GVBCH,

Well, this has been a busy month for me. I started out by going to Helena to the State Aviation Convention for three days to get my IA (inspector authorization) license renewed. This way I can continue to inspect aircrafts and make sure they stay in the air. Then, it was off to the Montana Back Country Horsemen Convention in Butte for three days. This year's state BCH Convention, March 25-27 was attended by 7 delegates from the our Galatin Valley Chapter.

Many thanks to Rich Inman, Clark Kinney, Mike Haugan, Brenda Kessler, Alice and Dan Marsh for representing our chapter.

At the convention, four resolutions were voted on. These, I will read to you at the next general meeting. We also talked about the TMO's which were presented by Rich. We had good turnout from all chapters and GVBCH was well represented.

Rich and I set up our wooden horse with pictures and it was well accepted. Also, a fun event was the crosscut saw contest. Rich, Dan and I, entered as two different teams., with Rich as anchor for both.



Well it seems that the snow is starting to melt and hopefully it won't be long before we will be out on the trails working. Koda and I are waiting to go to work. Well I hope to see everyone at the next general meeting in April.
Your President
Jim Allbright

Rich and Dan- "sawing hard against the clock"!

Board Meeting Minutes,

March 3, 2010

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Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Rich Inman, Vice President.

Officer present were: Rich Inman, Charley Smith, Marianne Meyer and ex-officio Dan Marsh

Directors present were: Stacy Bragg, Sonja Berg as proxy for Brenda Kessler, Mike Haugan, Clark Kinney, and Michael Harney

Rich Inman asked for a motion to appoint Henry Glenn to the vacant position on the board. Clark Kinney made the motion, Michael Harney seconded and the motion passed.

The newsletter was not online yet so minutes from the February meeting could not be approved. It was decided that the minutes would get emailed to all board members in the future.

Bills

Circle L registration needs to be signed and sent in with \$175. Charley will take care of it.

Correspondence

The Van't Hul family sent a thank you letter and enclosed the program from Art's service. On the cover is a picture of Art on his horse in the back country and they asked if anyone knew who gave this picture to Art. Dan Marsh will get the picture in the newsletter.

Membership

Marianne reported that 44 memberships are paid for 2011. Invitations to renew (with an application form) will be sent out after the MSU Equine Conference.

Issues

Rich requested that someone track the Bear Canyon timber sale. Henry Glenn offered to do so.

Dan Marsh said bills to watch are #470 and 309. He had a request from GallEp that we have someone represent the BCH at their club summit. Michael Harney said he would attend.

Publicity

Stacy is submitting PSA as usual. He will get with Janice on the Safety Clinic.

Newsletter

Brenda is working on it and will have it out this month.

Trail Crews (dormant)

Programs

Clark Kinney has talked to Janice about using the program time of spring meetings for safety training.

April General meeting to discuss general safety about chainsaw use, bystanders, making sure we

operate safely. Cover safety both for sawyers and all members who are present.

First Aid and CPR training needs to get updated before we get busy with trails. Clark contacted the Belgrade Fire Dept. They will have a 4-hour training for us at no charge for 12 people with 2 instructors. March 6th at 1:30 pm. The 12 people have already been signed up. This is a first go-around and there will be more opportunities.

Trail Etiquette: Clark suggested making a "trail boss tickler card" and will start working on one. He also suggested an "Etiquette Card" that could be given to each rider, resulting in safety on the trail. Consider this a topic for May meeting?

Clark proposed a "horsemanship award" to present to the member who got the best reports from trail bosses throughout the year. He asked for a motion to approve such an award. Michael Harney made the motion, Mike Haugan seconded and the motion passed.

Business

Scot Shuler, Resource Assistant in the Gardner District, has contacted the GVBCH with an opportunity to help with maintaining structures at Slough Creek, Buffalo Fork, and Hellroaring Cabin. This could be a tremendous opportunity for our chapter to participate in the stewardship of these back country assets and structures in one of the most beautiful parts of this region. 2011 may be too booked already, but the club should definitely pursue this offer for the future.

RAC Grant Projects: Henry will take over coordination of these 3 projects.

MSU Equine Conference: Michael Harney donated (2) \$20 gift certificates from the Pickle Barrel for a drawing at our booth. Anyone who signs up during the conference will automatically be entered in the drawing.

Forest Service will purchase 2 spot locators for our trail crews.

Stacy Bragg will donate a freeze brand for the State Convention.

We need to start thinking about the Poker Ride. Who will be the committee chair? Henry Glenn offered to contact Sherrie White to ask her if she could do it again. The Poker Ride will need to be on the agenda from here-on-out.

Rich Inman asked for a motion to close the meeting. The motion was made by Clark and seconded by Stacy. The motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted by Marianne Meyer, Secretary.

General meeting minutes

March 17, 2011

Presentation: by Ride Right instructor Karen Ososki from 7 – 8:00 pm.

Welcome to new member Willow Molendyk, friend of Mike Haugan.

Officer present were: Jim Allbright, Rich Inman, Charley Smith, Marianne Meyer, ex-officio Dan Marsh. Directors present were: Mike Haugan, Clark Kinney, and Henry Glenn

Meeting was called to order at 8:00pm by Jim Allbright, President, and started with the business of the Poker Ride. Sherrie had a couple of topics that had to get addressed/resolved at this meeting.

How should the requirement for the Coggins test read on the Poker Ride poster? Final choice of wording was left to Clark Kinney, who will once again check for Coggins proof on the road to the parking lot with the help of Henry Glenn and a couple more folks.

Beth Merrick will collect, inventory, and label prizes and donations. In order for prizes to get listed on the poster, they must be submitted by May 2nd!

Vi Huffman is the coordinator for poster distribution.

Jim Allbright asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February general meeting. Janice Cartwright made the motion, Dan Marsh seconded and the motion was passed.

Bills

Three new bills were presented: Insty Prints bills for printing newsletters \$25.78 and 35.28. Rich Inman for buying stain for the display horse \$10.79. Jim asked for a motion to pay the bills presented. Henry Glenn made the motion, Sonja Berg seconded and the motion was passed.

Jim had another bill to renew the club's annual state business fee and asked for a motion to approve paying the bill online with a credit card and then getting reimbursed by the club. Janice made the motion, Dan Marsh seconded, motion was passed.

Issues

Dan Marsh said there numerous bills right now that have to do with cutting spending. The club did not have enough time to sign on to the letter Dan Porter had received. If you are interested in voicing your opinion on the topic, send an individual letter to Tester or Baucus.

Newsletter

Jim reported that Brenda will continue preparing the newsletters.

Trail Crews

Rich Inman continues to look at trail classifications. He has a spreadsheet that shows every trail in the region and what its classification will be. There are too many Class 2 trails. There will be another meeting with the Forest Service, hopefully in March.

Programs

April program will be "chainsaw safety/demo for everyone (not just the sawyers)". There is no scheduled May program so the club can address safety issues on club rides and work projects.

Business

New World Gulch – Henry Glenn is staying on top of this issue, there are no news as of today.

Dan Marsh has a letter from Reggie Clark looking for more help with a project at Taylor Fork. The Rocky Mountain Elk foundation has made a donation to remove old fence in the area and so far the MCC and FWP have committed to help. Reggie is looking for more help.

The club received notice from the IRS that we most likely cannot get 501c3 status. Jim Allbright will contact the lady at the IRS who sent the letter and also Mabel, who prepared the paperwork for us.

A motion was made by Janice to close the meeting and seconded by Dan Marsh. The motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted by Marianne Meyer, Secretary.

(Presentation report: Ride Right instructor Karen Ososki was our program for our March 17 2011 General meeting)

BALANCE AND CORE MUSCLES

Article & pictures: by Janice Cartwright

At our last general meeting, most of us found out that we are lacking a bit (or a LOT) in some of these areas. (continued on next page)

Vi and Sherrie with their balancing act.





(continued from previous page: Balance and Core Muscles)

Karen Ososki's presentation was informative on how we can improve our balance and form while riding, that will in turn, help our horses so that the ride is enjoyed by all

Better riding postures promote less soreness in the shoulders, hips, lower back, knees....just about everywhere. Playing with Karen's toys was a big hit (even though we ran out of time) and no one got bucked off of the balance boards.

Kay with the core finder.

I am planning on bringing some of these toys to the next few meetings. Before the programs start, they will be available for practice by anyone interested. I have lots of hula hoops so start warming up those hips.

(Thanks! Janice for not only sending the pictures but obtaining these interesting , fun programs: (Janice can be reached at: Montana Horse Sense <montanahorsesense@mac.com)

We still need “Help” for the Poker Ride! *(article by Sherrie White)*

Many volunteers have stepped forward but we still need to fill a few more slots for our 24th Annual Poker Ride to be held at Bridger Bowl on Saturday, July 9.

The Poker Ride is our primary fundraiser and has been a club tradition for over 20 years. Not only does this event give us valuable visibility within the community, but it provides an opportunity to toot our own horn and create an awareness for the work that we do. In addition to raising funds, we bring riders out to enjoy an afternoon on the trail with their friends or family; many participants come year after year, and for some it is one of the few rides they do all year.

Please step in and help if you can. And, don't forget to tell your friends and family to come and ride. It's great fun! Below is a list of work slots that still need to be filled.

I hope to hear from you!

Sherrie

686-9169

sherrie@mexico-villas.com

Someone to contact some or all of the following sponsors for their 2011 prize donation:

- ___ All West Veterinary, in 2010 they gave: Horse care products
- ___ Bridger Feeds, in 2010 they gave: 2 \$20 Gift Certificates
- ___ Four Corners Saddlery, in 2010 they gave: Spa Basket Bag
- ___ Kountry Corner Cafe, in 2010 they gave: Gift certificate for 2 free dinners
- ___ Montana Harvest, in 2010 they gave: \$50 gift certificate
- ___ Chalet Sports (has donated several pair sun glasses in the past
- ___ Western Pines, large bale horse hay (approx. 1600 lb.), POKER HAND PRIZE
- ___ Biggerstaff Construction, in 2010 they gave: halter and lead rope
- ___ Equine Solutions, in 2010 they gave: Horse Massage Gift Certificate
- ___ Montana Equine Medical & Surgical Center, in 2010 they gave: \$150 gift certificate, routine fall equine work

NOTE: Deadline for list of prize donors and poker hand prizes is Monday, May 2. Sponsors that have committed to a donation by that time will be listed on the posters that will be displayed throughout the area. Donors that come in after that time will not be listed on the poster, but they will be included for one year on the sponsor list that appears on The BCH online newsletter. Members are not listed on the poster.

Deadline to turn in prize items is June 20.

Email me if you can help with any of these! sherrie@mexico-villas.com

(Food:

Need someone to pick up the food order at 10:30 in Belgrade on Sat., July 9 and deliver to Bridger Bowl (you'll need a pickup). Email me if you can pick up food: sherrie@mexico-villas.com

Need a couple of people to help serve food and keep drinks cold. Email me if you can help serve food: sherrie@mexico-villas.com

Friday night, July 8, set up and potluck. 5 p.m. Come and help us set up and get ready. Bring a potluck dish and join the fun. Everyone is invited; the more, the merrier! Email me if you can help set up: sherrie@mexico-villas.com **(HELP—continued next page)**

Pop Stops (Sat., July 9)

Need one or two more people to work at pop stops. Email me if you can work (help needed on Poker ride continued) at a popstop: sherrie@mexico-villas.com

Registration, 50/50 and BCH info booth (Sat., July 9)

Need a couple more people to sign in riders, collect money, etc. One person can man the BCH informational booth and answer questions about what we do, how to join (we will provide extra newsletters, membership forms, photos for display). One person can sell 50-50 tickets. It would be great to have at least 2 people in this group who know poker hands! Email me if you can work at registration, 50/50 or the Back Country Horsemen info booth: sherrie@mexico-villas.com

Deflagging, Sunday, July 10

What goes up, must come down. This group takes down trail signs and flagging material. Be sure to check around the parking lot! We have lunch on the trail and enjoy good company. Email me if you can help deflag: sherrie@mexico-villas.com

Not sure where you want to help? Let me know if you are willing to work wherever needed and I'll plug you in: sherrie@mexico-villas.com

Prize Donations If you want to donate a prize this year, please let me know! Donations should be new items. Here are a few suggestions:

- * New tack (blankets, lead ropes, halters, etc.)
- * Misc. horse care products (hoof picks, shampoo, fly spray, brushes, etc.)
- * Gift cards or gift certificates from restaurants or stores
- * Horse books
- * 12-packs of pop
- * Hats
- * Feed
- * T-shirts
- * Cash

Kids prizes* Anything that you think would be appropriate. Email me if you would like to donate a prize:

• **-Poster Distribution:**

Help us distribute posters. Putting posters up in visible areas throughout the area is key to getting riders to our event. **Vi Huffman** is coordinating the poster distribution. It's crucial that we get these out far and wide as early as possible. Put some in your car and post them wherever you go. Again this year, negative Coggins is required so we need to make sure that people are aware of this by getting posters everywhere. You can contact **Vi at 388-1807 or via440@imt.net**.

If you have any questions or comments or you'd like to volunteer, contact Sherrie at 686-9169 or contact at e-mail sherrie@mexico-villas.com

Thanks for all of your help in making this a success!

Sherrie

Safe Trail Riding

Article by Henry Glenn

Safe trail riding makes for fun riding. When there are unsafe conditions for either rider or horse then no one is having fun. Let us review some common problems we see on our trail rides.



Riders: Think about the weather! We can have every kind of weather in every month in Montana. Prepare for the worst and you will never be caught unprepared. Take extra clothes to layer up and always have a rain coat and hat of some kind. I always have some way to start a fire with me. Sometimes things don't go as planned. You could find your self spending the night in the back country? Will it be the night from hell or will it be an adventure that you tell your grandkids about. How you were prepared will determine which story you have to tell. A fire, water and a space blanket could determine how your story ends.

In our fast paced modern digital world we often forget that Montana back country is missing all this technology and help in not minutes away. We must be prepared to survive on our own, 911 is not an option.

Continued: next page

Safe Trail Riding (continued)

A trip through my saddle bags is a journey through my past experiences. I carry a Leatherman, knife, flashlight, leather string. Nylon cord, fire starting tool, GPS, space blanket, food and water. Food is usually jerky and granola bars. Someone on the ride needs a first aid kit and know how to use it. Boots are a very critical part of our equipment. I wear boots that are both safe to ride in and comfortable to walk in. Imagine walking several miles in uncomfortable boots over rough terrain and the blisters that you would get and the picture becomes clear.

Practice with the fire starting tool of your choice, it is of no value if you can't use it. I tend to go with things that can't break because Murphy is like a mole on my back. Remember preparing is also fun and makes the ride memorable for the scenery instead of the wet cold and miserable day that you forgot your slicker.

Horses: So often I see inappropriate tack headed into the back country. What looks good in an arena or around the barn where the consequences are a trip back into the tack room may not work in the wilderness. Remember Murphy lives in the back country so those bridles with pretty spots and Chicago screws could leave you with an uncontrolled horse or worse no horse as he runs toward the trailer without his bridle or you. Reins that snap on are a no! no!. They seem to come unsnapped at the most inopportune time. The best bridle is a working or ranch bridle with a brow band and a throat latch. The throat latch is important because it keeps the horse from rubbing the bridle off on a tree. A curb strap is also important to keep the bit from pulling through the mouth. I prefer split reins with a keeper tied on with a leather string. Should your horse step on the rein all that is broken is the string and I know that you have several with you.

Halters are another piece of equipment that we take for granted. I only use rope halters with a tied on lead rope no snaps or buckles, they break at the most inconvenient time. More specifically, I use the best 8MM climbing rope halter and a yacht rope: Lead 12' long. This way I can tie my horse securely or pony him if need be. I know that this is an expensive halter and lead, but it will not break.

Something I see, all too often, is a loose horse because the person changing from the bridle to the halter doesn't have control of their horse. Never let your horse go loose in the back country or you may get to test your choice of boots. The proper way to transition from the bridle to halter is to tie the lead rope around the horse's neck near the ears and then remove the bridle and replace it immediately with the halter. Always maintaining control of the horse.

Some riders prefer to simply ride with a halter underneath the bridle. This is ok provided the halter does not rub or sore your horse. I personally use an 8mm climbing rope 15' long for a get down rope: This is light, simple and easy to use, but your horse and you need training before you go into the back country.

Hobbles are a part of my gear, as so often when we get to the most beautiful high places there is nothing to tie to so I hobble my horse. Also, sometimes you need to hobble your horse to keep it from pawing and damaging the soil. Back Country Horsemen encourage you to practice, "*Leave no Trace*". Be sure you and your horse are trained in the use of hobbles or a wreck is sure to happen.

Now, let's move back to the saddle pad. A good saddle pad is essential gear. Natural materials are best; wool fleece or wool felt. The saddle should be one you have ridden in several long days to make sure it fits your horse and you. Good natural fiber girths are a must. I have had several bad experiences with neoprene girths making horses sore. They are great for the arena and training horses because you can wash them but have no place in the back country.

Cruppers or britchen to keep your saddle in place on steep slopes are a good thing but must be tested at home to see your horse's reaction to them. You don't want your horse bucking when you are going down a steep rock slide nor do you want your saddle slipping over your horse's head guess where you might be? Most horses do best with some type of shoes on. Remember you can't just go around the rock slide. A sore footed horse is no horse at all. Yea, you get it, you brought the horse to ride, not lead and you wore good boots just in case, not to really walk 10 miles in.

I have attempted to help make your next trip into the back country safe and enjoyable by sharing some ideas with you. This is not the final authority on back country travel with horses nor is it the only way to outfit you or your horse. I hope it has opened your mind to evaluate your gear and make your next trip into Montana's Back Country memorable for the scenery not for the things you forgot.

Respectfully submitted by
Henry F. Glenn

Taylor Fork trail ride



GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2010 POKER RIDE

Ag Depot
All West Veterinary
Ardeson Boots and Shoes
Barnett's MT Gourmet Honey
Biggerstaff Construction
Big Sky Yoga Retreats
Bob Steinman & Assoc. Real Estate
Bozeman Saddle Outlet
Bridger Feeds
Bridger Glass & Windows
Bunkhouse Originals
CBU (Citizens for Balanced Use)
C'est la Vie Salon
Chalet Market
Cole Custom Saddles
Damasco's Restaurant
DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service
Double Diamond Halter Co.
Equine Solutions
Four Corners Saddlery

Freeway Enterprises
Gold's Gym/Jim Albrook:
Greater Yellowstone Flyfisher
Hardaway Vet Clinic
Harrington's: Beverages
Kountry Corner Cafe
Lee & Dad's
Mama Mac's
Matt's Saw Shop
Montana Canvas
Montana Equine Medical & Surgical
Center:
Montana Harvest
Montana Horse Sanctuary
Montana Horse Sense
Murdoch's Ranch & Home
Owenhouse Ace Hardware.
Rapid Tech
R.O. Brooks Custom Leather
Rocky Mountain Hat Company

Rocky Mountain Horseman (Joe
Turner)
Rocky Mountain Supply
Rocky Mountain Truck Center
Sandra J. McManus Jewelry Designs
Tri-Animals
Western Pines

Member Sponsors:
Don Drake
Jan Elpel
Vi Huffman
Rich Inman
Linda Kelly
Alice Pilgeram
Dan Porter
Ron & Sherrie White

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