

The Picket Line

Post Office Box 3232, Bozeman, Montana 59772-3232



Officers

President:

Brown Parsons 586-9030

Vice President:

Margot Doohan 586-4262

Treasurer:

Sammylu Parsons
586-9030

Secretary:

Joan Holbern 586-3306



Directors

Dick Grover
Bonnie Hammer
Rich Inman
Bettye White
Jacki Conti
Dan Porter

State Board Members

Harry Boughton
Linda Roffe
alternate : Ron Rassley

Newsletter Editor

This position is open!
Please apply by calling Brown Parsons at 586-9030. You will have help on this if you would be willing to be editor.

On The Calendar This Month

Club Meeting in January

January 17th, 2002 General Meeting .
7:00 at the Belgrade Christian Alliance Church in Belgrade.

Club Meetings in February

February 4th Board Meeting Brown Parson's house 586-9030
February 21st General Meeting 7:00 Belgrade Christian Alliance Church in Belgrade.

Christmas Party

Fifty five fun loving people showed up for the Christmas dinner that was held at the Korner Café at the Four Corners. We had a very good meal that included baron of beef, stuffed chicken, potatoes and gravy, salads, rolls, and dessert.

After dinner we had a short business meeting and elections for new officers and board of directors. We have three hold over officers from last year and we do thank them because these are big jobs and require a lot of time and effort on their parts. They are: Brown Parsons - President , Margot Doohan - Vice President, Sammylu Parsons - Treasurer. We have a new Secretary -Joan Holborn. The new

Board of Directors are: Dick Grover, Bonnie Hammer, and Rich Inman. New State Director - Harry Boughton. State Alternate - Ron Rassley

Some awards were presented and entertainment for the evening was provided by Cater Benedict who told us stories and sang.

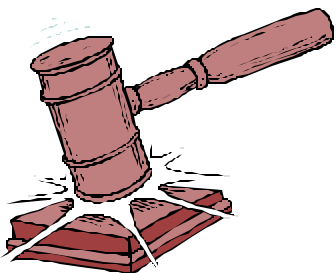
Dues are due!

Included in this Newsletter will be an application for renewing your Gallatin Valley Back Country dues. The by laws state that they need to be paid by March 1st. You will not receive a newsletter after that date if they are not paid. Also if you plan to attend the State Convention your dues need to be paid.

Remit your dues to GVBCH at PO Box 3232 Bozeman, MT 59772. Send in your application with your remittance. It is necessary for us to have the application for a number of reasons, the least of which is so we have a waiver for each of you for rides and club functions.



Message from the President



If you were not at the Christmas party, we missed you. Rich Romano gave the invocation and an

enjoyable meal was had by all. After dinner we had a business meeting and our slate of officers and directors were elected to serve for the coming year.

While the ballots were being counted I tried to thank all those who helped make it a successful year, and of course, unintentionally left out Sharon and Jack Lowry who do so much for our club. My apologies to Sharon and Jack and anyone else I may also have failed to mention.

After the nominating committee had counted the ballots and the new officers and directors announced, I made what I hope will be an annual event at the Christmas party - the President's award, which has been named the Becker/Hale award. This award will go annually to either one, two or more recipients who the club president thinks deserves the award based on the time and effort put forth for the good of the club and community. It is my belief we do perform a community service. I also think the Award has been properly named after two people, Wally Becker and Chick Hale, who have done an outstanding job year after year and who represent the spirit of our BackCountry Horsemen Club. There are others who qualify for the award and I am sure they will be recognized in the future. Please accept this award as a way for the club president to thank all members for a job well done.

We also had an award given by Rich Romano to Diana Swan for her courage in riding the high country. If anyone feels the need to make an award please do so. Just run it by the party committee or the Board of Directors first. Following the awards, we were treated to song and poetry by Carter Bradley Benedict, a new recording artist who is promoting cowboy Christianity through his performances. We may have had a little more religion than some would have liked, but I do not apologize for it.

As I begin my second term as club president, I look forward to working with the new slate of officers and directors who were elected by the members. This is unusual for our club. Some of our members who could not attend the Christmas party expressed a concern about not being able to vote absentee. There has not been any provision in our bylaws for absentee voting so

I assume your new board will deal with this matter at its first meeting.

I would like to put out a call for a newsletter editor due to the resignation of Beth Merrick as editor. Our past election has made the Newsletter so important to our club that it is imperative that we continue with a newsletter. Sharon Lowry has a format that can be used by the new editor if desired. Also she will help out the editor by seeing that it gets out to the membership after it is printed. That means the folding, labeling, stapling, and stamping the Newsletter. There are others who will help with news items, but do not feel they can take on the whole job. This is not an elected spot, but we would like to have the editor serve for the whole year or more, if so desired. Please step forward if you are interested.

Minutes from Christmas Party

General Mtg Dec 15 at Kountry Korner. Election results: Pres Brown Parsons, Vice Pres. Margot Doohan, Secretary Joan Holborn, Treasurer Sammylou Parsons, Directors-Dick Grover, Bonnie Hammer, Rich Inman, State Director-Harry Boughton, State Alternate-Ron Rassley.

Awards presented by President :

Certificate of Achievement to Leader of Windy Pass Drive- Chick Hale

Hi Ridge Award to Diane Swan

Presidents Award: For promoting use and service to trails representing the spirit of BCH, for participating, teaching good work ethics over the years to Chick Hale and Wally Becker. To be awarded in the coming years as the Hale & Becker Award.

Thanks to entertainment provided by story teller/song writer Carter Benedict

President message continued

Remember our January meeting. We do not have a program at this meeting but get together in groups to plan for the coming year. Whoever stated this procedure certainly knew what they were doing, as we produce a schedule of events, programs and rides for the year. They are not set in stone, but for the most part the dates chosen stay the same. So, if you would like to have some input into planning for the year 2002, by sure to come to our January general meeting. Until then, please be thinking about rides, events, programs and trail clearing that you would like to see incorporated in the schedule for the year.

I would also remind you that the State Convention of BCH is being held in Red Lodge in March and we need to select delegates to go, so let us know if you are interested. There is a picture contest again this year at the state meeting, so look over your photos and submit your favorite photo. The different categories will be announced at the meeting. Our Club Historian, Bonnie Hammer, has put together a picture portfolio of events for the past year, so come to the January meeting to view them.

One last thing I would like to say is that anyone is welcome at our Board Meetings, held the first Tuesday of the month at my home, and you can make presentations and enter into discussions, but only the directors can vote. I hope we can have as much fun or more than we had last year and learn something while doing it.

Brown

Winter Feeding

From the Bitterroot BCH Newsletter by Carellen M. Smith

Brrrr! The mercury is dropping down the thermometer, the days are short, and your horses are taking on a decidedly fluffy look. There's no doubt Ol' Jack Frost is peeking around the corner, ready to nail us with winter weather. The horses look ready with their winter coats on, but are you

prepared to help them meet their nutritional needs?

Since it takes more energy for your horses to keep their body temperatures up, their feed requirements increase as the temperatures drop. Obviously, their needs are higher in colder climates like Montana. Contrary to popular thinking, it's hay, not grain, that helps keep your horses warm. Increased roughage is the best winter diet. If you have older horses that don't maintain weight with free-choice hay, then you might want to add grain.

You ask why hay and not more grain? Carbohydrates (grain) give your horse quick energy - burned up in a short time. It is digested rapidly and is used primarily for activity, not for warmth. Hay is digested by fermentation in the large colon which provides a substantial amount of body heat.

The kind of hay you feed doesn't matter as much as the quality. It takes more poor quality hay to give the same amount of warmth as good quality hay. The risk of colic increases in cold weather due to dehydration, making the intake of water very important no matter what the type of hay. This is the most vital part of getting your horses safely into spring. When a horse is eating more roughage, they must drink more water or the risk of colic is even greater. They cannot get enough water by eating snow. Every horse needs to drink 15 to 30 gallons of water per day to remain hydrated. This is particularly true with older horses. So, even though plenty of horses survive in environments where they must eat snow or paw through ice to

get to water, they just don't do as well as they should. Simply keeping ice off your horse's water supply may not be good enough. Horses drink more if they are offered warm water once a day than if they have constant access to cold water. Also, a warm bran mash is a way to add fluid to your horse's diet. While bran mash isn't recommended for daily use, once or twice a week with a cup of corn oil added will help keep the intestines running smoothly.

Regardless of the season, your horses should have access to salt and mineral blocks. Surprisingly, horses do better in cold weather than in hot. It's not necessary, and not recommended that blankets be used. They are unnecessary unless your horse has been clipped for show, or has become wet and shivery, having lost its natural body heat.

We haven't mentioned shelter, have we? At the very least, your horses need some way to get out of the wind. That doesn't mean they need to be locked in the barn. The side of a building or trees can provide adequate wind breaks. However, if you have young horses, and the weather is wet, you'll need to give them a dry place to lie down. This enables them to utilize energy for growth rather than for warmth.

