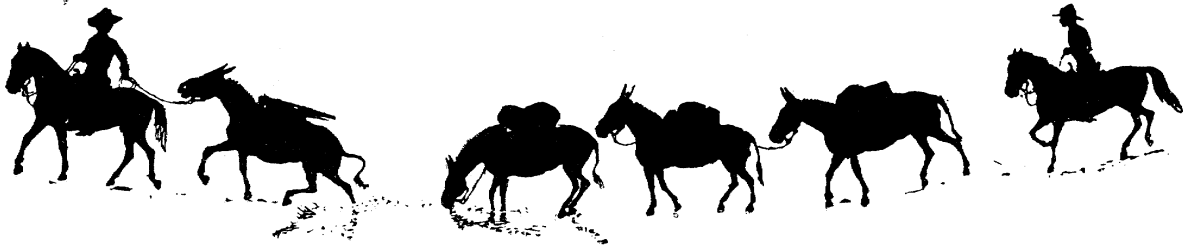


# The Picket Line

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 Holborn 586-3306

## Directors

Richard Romano  
388-0032

Bonnie Hammer  
284-6822

Rich Inman 388-1564

Bettye White 586-2301

Jacki Conti 586-5047

Ron Rassley 388-4415

## State Board Members

Harry Boughton  
Linda Roffe  
Alternate: Ron Rassley

## Newsletter Editor

Sharon Lowry  
587-4013  
[lowry@180com.net](mailto:lowry@180com.net)

## State Web Site

[www.bchmt.org](http://www.bchmt.org)



## On The Calendar This Month

### Club Meetings in June

**June 4th - Board of Directors Meeting** - To be held at the Parson's home. 516 North Willson - 586-9030 - 7:00 PM - and Poker Ride meeting.

**June 20th - General Membership Meeting** - Belgrade Alliance Church at 7:00 PM. - Phillips Environmental Systems with Bill Phillips speaking on the World's Greatest Environmental Toilet. This is a portable dry system, the latest in "Light on the Land" waste disposal.

### Club Events in June

**June 9<sup>th</sup> - Flying D Riders** - You know who you are. Call R.J. Conti 586-5047 for time and place to meet up.

**June 15th - National Trails Day** - We will map weeds up Hyalite - The time will be announced. Check your email or call Tom Griffith 388-4677.

**June 22 - 23<sup>rd</sup> Video Shoot** - Call Linda Roffe 586-2142  
There is also a ride scheduled for that day. It is still to be determined.

**June 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> Spanish Creek** lower trail clearing overnight in campground.  
Chick Hale 763-4104

***Get all the fools on your side and you can lead the herd.***

## Membership



New member this month  
is:

Cinde Whitman  
PO Box 1231  
Bozeman, MT 59771  
587-5380

### **Submitted by:**

Sharon Lowry  
587-4013  
[lowry@180com.net](mailto:lowry@180com.net)

## Placemats

The USDA, in conjunction with the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Celebration is publishing a set of four place mats. Don Greytak, a Havre artist, is doing the drawings. The first set is out and can be found at Taco Johns, the second set featuring Rainbow Falls has been published, look for it in restaurants. The third one is of Trapper Roost. The fourth one is a mystery. Let us know. Noxious weeds along with native

plants are depicted on the placemats.

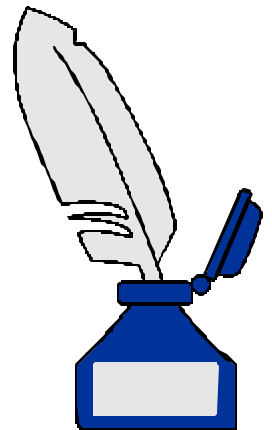
## President's Message

Spring brings snow, rain, warm weather and maybe some grass and weeds. We learned at our May meeting about the weeds we are looking to identify and locate for the Forest Service on the back country trails. Sharpen your knowledge on weeds so you can look for them on your rides. If you haven't tried to use a GPS instrument you are in a generation gap with people who still think e-mail comes to your post office box. Anyhow, we are going after these noxious weeds with high tech equipment such as GPS, digital cameras and sprayers on horseback. Look out weeds - we are going to get the best of you--I wish...

If you have not already heard, Sharon Lowry and Beth Merrick are our new Poker Ride co-chairpersons. Thank you ladies!! Now is the time to offer or volunteer to help them. Everyone should get involved because it is a lot of fun and the Poker Ride is our annual fundraiser.

We recently attended a meeting at the Forest Service office in Bozeman put on by Brian McNeal to bring the volunteers who do trail maintenance up to date on certification. For the most part, we have people who are certified in all areas, so it should not be a problem for our club. If you think you need to be certified in a particular area such as cross cut sawing, please contact Brian about a class. If you want to help on the trails, but are not certified in anything, just show up. We can use you on something that does not require certification.

Get out and ride, ride, ride. It's going to be a great year.



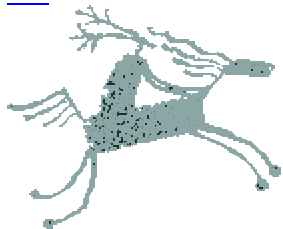
## Equine Barter- Auctions

### **A Discount for BCH members at the Equine Barter-Auctions June 1<sup>st</sup> and August 24<sup>th</sup>:**

Right after the expo clinics on August 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be a *Barter-Auction* at 6:30 PM. It's a horse and tack auction like you've never seen before. If you have something to sell (including your services), it can be used as CASH to make bids on something else you want. Need a new saddle and have a colt for sale? We'll make the trade happen. Use your trailer (or whatever) to get training, barn construction, arena sand, hay or breeding services. It's simple. Register and then bring something to trade valued at \$1,000 or more. You then pay or receive – cash differences (if any from your trade). It's a way to develop new business or to get things you normally couldn't afford to buy. This unique barter-auction uses Market-Maker software to match bids. Just tell us what you need, and we'll tell you what's at the next auction. You can still register for the next auction June 1<sup>st</sup>. Reservations are limited to 50 participants. The \$50 **refundable** registration fee is **discounted at 50% exclusively for BCHM members** making it only \$25 to sign up. Call Linda at

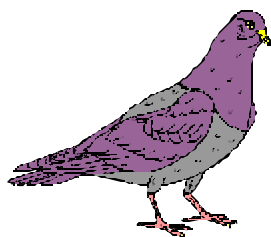
284-3174 or at home 586-2142 for more information or visit online:

[www.MarketMakerTech.com](http://www.MarketMakerTech.com).



## Virginia City Poker Ride

Five members of the BCHGV showed up for the Poker Ride in Virginia City. They were Richard Romano, Annie Jensen, Jackie and RJ Conti, and Diana Swan. Richard reports that there were over 200 riders, The weather was nice and cool with sun, no wind, and the ride was just right for distance. The food was good, the people were great, and the people weren't bunched up on the ride. They had a perfect day.



## Funny Story

*Richard Romano*

The baby pigeon complained that Mom's flying lessons were too tough on him. Patient Momma bird said, "Don't worry I'll tie one piece of string to one of your legs and the other to mine." Baby started crying even louder. "What's wrong

now?" Mother bird asked. Baby hollered. "I don't want to be pigeon towed!"

## Twin Rivers Ranch Ride

On Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30, twelve happy riders met at the teepee grounds near the river ready to ride the Horse Shoe Hills trails. Tom and DeAnn Langel and their teenage daughter were the leaders for the day.

We headed north past the Langel's picturesque homesite to gain the hilltops. On the way up we saw seven mule deer on top of the ridge. We could see why they were this far down as the grass was lush just about everywhere. The walking horses ridden by the Langels and Marshes had to wait for those of us without walking horses, on occasion, which we appreciated. Some saw a lone jack rabbit head down a draw, but lucky for us no one encountered a rattlesnake.

Surprisingly riders may come upon a homesite tucked away in the hills though none seemed to be occupied at the time. Some new construction is underway way up on top where some of the ladies were privileged to use their portapotty. This was nice because of the scarcity of trees up there.

The walkers left us at the potty stop and we took our time to wander down the hillside trail to the teepee from which we had departed and we enjoyed our belated lunch break.

At the trailers we found three other BCH'ers who arrived late and missed our departure. They attempted to catch up for awhile but finally decided to just go it on their own and enjoyed a ride of their own choosing.

The day was perfect and even became hot. The horses broke a good sweat on the ride. Thanks Linda Roffe who made this ride possible. She had some health problems and was unable to attend. Thanks to the Langels for their hospitality.

*Submitted by Bettye White*

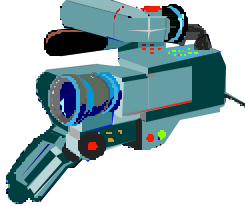
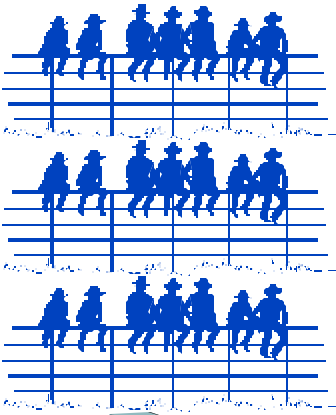
## We Invited all BCHM Chapter to Come To Our Expo, Aug.

### 24

The Gallatin Valley chapter will receive one half of the admissions from the **Backcountry Horsemen & Sportsmen Expo** at 4 Dot (just west of Belgrade on the Frontage Road). Other BCHM chapters are invited to have **FREE booth space**. They may use this opportunity for fund raising ideas. Gallatin Valley's booth should do the same with a raffle or sale. We need a committee to plan this fund raising opportunity. We expect a good crowd with our radio sponsor, XL Country 100.7. We now have over \$5,000 in advertising dollars and sponsorships. Our live grizzly bear demo will also pull spectators. It will demonstrate what bears can do to a camp when food is not properly stored. There will be many good clinics for hunters and other backcountry riders. Smoke Elser will be there along with Forest Service, FWP and Park Service. Contact Linda at 284-6546 for more information or come to the Mint in Belgrade at 5 on the night of our general club meetings.

*Linda Roffe 284-3174 or 586-*

*2142*



## Video Production Time

You and your riding/packing horses can be in front of the cameras Saturday and Sunday June 22 and 23rd. We will be shooting our video for "Trail Etiquette". The script is being rewritten by Linda Roffe to include more user group issues, LNT and riding manners. Anyone interested in modeling, being a spokesperson, script ideas or working behind the scenes, please contact Linda at 586-2142.

## Trailer Cleaning

The BCH trailer is now recovered from exploded pop residue caused by winter freezing. Bettye, Joyce, and Sharon scrubbed up the mess. Joyce got the tire on the

barbecue grill fixed and she also aired up three of the tires (at least enough so it can be moved to get more air). The grill and the grate for the barbecue need to be cleaned too. We will be scheduling another work crew. Expect a call or volunteer 587-4013

## Bits

### Gates-manship ----Games, Goons, and Gambits

Almost nothing says ridin' like gates. And there are some caveats that experienced riders pay attention to—here's hoping no one will be insulted.

But first, a *Question*: Three riders are sitting across the front seat of a pickup; which one's the real hand? *Answer*: The guy or gal in the middle: he/she "don't have to drive" and he/she "don't have to open and close them barbed wire gates." (Har-de-har!)

Some gate "bits" to consider, two dangerous points first...

--Those corrugated gates with lethal unfinished ends that will slice a horse wide open (invented by a real cow rancher for sure!)...give your horse a *wide* berth around them!

--Going through a hard gate of any kind, open it *away* from you and your horse; the freaky experience of a horse jamming itself between the end of a hard gate and the latch post has actually happened, we're told.

--Then there's the ubiquitous barbed wire gate (Good luck! Seems to be a measure of Western machismo to make 'em so tight you could strum on them!)... Some rules we've been told: 1) leave a gate like you find it, usually closed. But, hey, if you find one of those wire gates that's been chucked down all over the ground—as if in utter disgust of finally getting the damned thing open—we recommend you pick it up, pull it over and lean all of it on the fence, away from horses' legs; 2) When doing the gate opening honors, lead your



horse all the way through, pulling the wire well back; 3) Those riding through, go far enough to allow the others behind to clear, but please don't do what a nameless friend used to do (never seen a B.C.H. rider do it): he and his companion just kept on riding off, like a Roman emperor, while the gate-keeper's horse worried that he was being left behind!

--Doing gates from horseback—okay, you've got a push-button horse, but if he's not quite responding to his buttons yet, please don't make us all wait while you and he do a Samba with the gate—thanks.

*Jim Gould, Honorary Gatekeeper*

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**Missing!! -- Please check and see if you might have these!**

We thoroughly checked in the trailer for the BCH Club banner and it is not there. Could someone have taken it home after one of the Conventions or some event at the Fair Grounds or an Expo? Please any of you check if you were involved. Also missing still is the eighth club vest. Someone may have worn it at a parade, ride, poker ride, club event, etc.????

## Proverbs

*"No man ought to look a given horse in the mouth."* John Heywood, (1546).

The proverb has been traced back to St. Jerome, 400 A.D. It appears in every European language. The saying is based on the fact that a horse's value depends on its age and its age can be determined by looking at its teeth, so that to look a horse in the mouth is to appraise its value.

One form of the proverb – the one given here – says that we ought not to attempt to appraise a gift, but to accept it gratefully, and even more gratefully the spirit which prompted the giving. There is a subsidiary saying, however, *"Always look a gift horse in the mouth."* That is, there are no

gifts; all acceptances acknowledge an obligation, so make sure of what you're getting before you feel grateful or even accept it.

*Submitted by Jiffie Hale*



## Work Reminders

**June 15<sup>th</sup> National Trails Day.** This year Tom Griffith will hold a seminar and work day devoted to GPS use in locating weeds. This may be coordinated with trail work in the Hyalite region.



**June 29<sup>th</sup> –30<sup>th</sup>** This is our annual work weekend on our adopted trail at Spanish Creek. We helped the FS build this trail and have maintained it for at least 17 years. Join us for this highlight ride of the summer.

**Trail Schedule** - Chick Hale and Wally Becker will again head up work crews to maintain trails and complete other work as directed by the FS. They will be doing some packing and other chores. Workdays are Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call 763-4105 in advance if you are available.

**Travel Planning** - On Thurs. May 23<sup>rd</sup>, a meeting was held by the FS at the Holliday Inn. The purpose of the meeting was to bring attention to a Travel Plan process for trails so that a final decision can be made by the fall of 2004. The purpose of this endeavor is to designate trails for particular users. It will also clarify which roads and trails are recorded and those that are not recorded since many are illegal ORV trails. There is more to come and public Review and Comment to extend from July to Sept of this year.

*Chick Hale*

## Program Change

**Equine Dentistry on Sept 19<sup>th</sup>.** You don't want to miss this one! There's been a change. Mark your calendar, even if it is 3 months away! Our Sept 19<sup>th</sup> general meeting will feature a wonderful program on equine dentistry. Jacy Cook, DVM of All West Veterinary Hospital will be giving us a demo, using a horse's skull, and talk of the problems that arise from neglect in caring for our horses' teeth. You will be surprised at what you will learn. Jacy has studied equine dentistry and has been making this one of his specialties. So, please do not miss this and tell your friends to come too.

*Submitted by: Jiffie Hale*

## Current State BCH Members

The following states are current BCHA members: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois (added this year), Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Provisional affiliates include: Arkansas, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

As of now there are nearly 11,000 active members in 16 states, and 140 chapters.

## You Know ----!

**You know you're a real Back Country Horse person when...**

You keep getting lost in downtown Bozeman

Your truck is almost half your age

You spend more on shoeing than shoes

Your yard is not mowed; it's eaten

Your horse's idea of a good time is getting up close and *very* personal with the next horse

A good getting off, and on, place has stumps

You're used to eating scrambled peanut butter and jelly (with pickles on the side)

You're good at sweating

You actually enjoy digging out 300-pound boulders on trails

You will spend fifteen or more minutes unlatching a gate without ever leaving your saddle

Your significant other has a tail!

*"Happy Trails!"  
Jim Gould*

## Bridger Trail Clearing Schedule - Bill Shields' Group

All rides are scheduled for Monday. In the event of a cancellation due to bad weather we will try to make up the day on Tuesday. We depart the trail head at 9:30 AM If anyone needs directions to a trail head, please call Bill Shields at 586-3865.

All are welcome - bring a pair of gloves, lunch, water, and rain gear. It is necessary that every one fill out a "volunteer form" as provided by the Forest Service. I will have blank copies if needed

<u>Date</u>	<u>Trail</u>	<u>Work</u>	<u>Trailhead</u>
6/10	Trail 538 South	Repair Bridge	Bridger Bowl Parking Lot
6/17	Trail 538 North Trail 525	Clear Trail	Brackett Creek Y
6/2	Trail 401 to Willow Swamp	Install signs at Jcts. 401/406: 406/405-Clear trail	Spanish Creek
7/1	Trail 50 New World Gulch to Mystic Lake	Clear Trail	Bear Canyon
7/8	Trail 500 Fairy Lake	Clear Trail	Middle Brackett Creek parking lot
7/15	Trail 544 Corbly Creek Gulch	Clear Trail	Cattle guard at end of Corbly Road
7/22	Trail 400 Little Hell Roaring	Clear Trail	Spanish Creek
7/29	Trail 444 Logger Creek	Clear Trail & install post and sign	Indian Ridge- Rte. 191
8/5	Trail 540 Fairy Lake	Clear Trail	Seitz Road (Sedan)
8/12	Cherry Creek Cabin -overnight	Mark new trail 413 to JCT. 408. Clear Trail 401 to JCT 408	Ennis Lake Dam

## Poker Ride!



Our next committee meeting will be at the

Brown's house in conjunction with the Board of Director's meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Things are shaping up rather nicely and that is because of all the great support and help we have been receiving from all of you. If you have prizes you could turn them in that night to Beth and Sharon.

It's not too late to contribute prizes, but it is too late for credit on the poster. Riders claim they come to the Poker Ride because of the great prizes. With over 150 riders, we need a lot of prizes. This is your opportunity to support the club's fund raiser by contributing a great horse related prize.

We will be distributing the posters at the June 4<sup>th</sup> committee meeting. You can be planning where you might take them to be hung.

We still need someone to man the third pop stop. If you can help, let us know!

### **GVBCH May 7,02 Board of Director minutes**

Attendance: Brown & Sammylu Parson, Margo Doohan, Rich Inman, Jacki Conti, Sharon Lowry, Bonnie Hammer, Bettye White, Ron Rassley, Rich Romano, Harry Boughton, Dan Porter, Jiffy & Chick Hale, Jim Gould, Aaron Linton & Joan Holborn

Treasurer Report from Sammylu accepted as follows:

Checking Acct Balance	\$ 874.06*
Money Market acct	<u>1,901.59</u>
Total Cash	\$2,775.65

Bills Paid:

Linda Roffe-Delegate to State Convention/fee	\$174.59
Kinko-Monthly statement	<u>67.10</u>
Total	\$241.69

Forest Service Volunteer Meeting, May 2: Chick reports a healthy turnout of user groups to mtg to which he introduced himself and invited other users to contact BCH for collaboration of resources to meet mutual goals. Volunteers need to fill out application for trail work, also specific to horsemen, the forest district wants a letter to acknowledge the persons level of ability to ride.

National Trail Day- June 15-Plans to map weeds up Hyalite

Ron Rassley & Rich Romano were installed as new board members

Remainder of meeting turned over to Sharon for spearheading Poker Ride

Thanks to Sammylu for baking and brewing, delicious!

### **GVBCH May 16, 02 General Meeting Minutes**

Attendance: Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Margo Doohan, Sharon Lowry, Tom Griffith, Harry Boughton, Bonnie Hammer, Rich Inman, Chick & Jiffy Hale, Kay Tate, Ron Rassley, Dan Porter, Dan & Alice Marsh, Wally Becker, Aaron Linton, Donna McGeein, Bettye White, Joyce Haner, Harry Boughton, Joan Holborn, & Visitors Kevin Lauer & Mary Ann Myer.

Treasurers Report submitted by Sammylu and accepted as follows:

Checking Acct Balance	\$ 802.40
Money Market Acct	<u>1,905.15</u>
Total Cash	\$2,707.55

Bills Paid Kinkos-April & March Newsletters \$115.66

Weed I.D. presented by Dennis Hingel from the Gallatin County Weed District

An informative program on noxious weeds was presented to the club including weeds shown as potted specimens, dried framed specimens including their root systems & examples of the mature skeleton as you would find remaining in the spring.

The goal of the weed district is to maintain county property with noxious weeds & assist the landowners in weed identification and eradication.

The county will assist a landowner with ½ the cost of biological or herbicide product for weeds listed as noxious.

The district office has a book available to help define the appropriate herbicide for each weed. Some weeds carry

a \$100.00 bounty for I.D. of new infestations! If you hire a weed applicator, ask to see their license, they should have one.

Thanks to Alice for bringing in her homegrown weeds for us to learn about. Her FYI-leafy spurge does not survive in a fairy ring, a natural occurring fungus.

Houndstongue or "beggars lice" is poisonous and causes liver damage in horses. A large area of infestation ID'd on Beatty Road. Common Tansy is poisonous to horses, as is Poison Hemlock. Thanks to Tom for bringing this speaker to the club.

Dan reports from the state qrtly meeting that the investigative committee has the consensus of pursuing a state web site. Funding is next.

Harry shared his information from the state meeting, he mentioned membership numbers of BCH at various levels including 11,000 members around the U.S.

BCH Library-Dan presented videos to the club for viewing on "Safer Horsemanship" & "Understanding Horses". These videos are recognized by the forest service in certifying individuals on horsemanship.

Thanks to Rich Inman for bringing a delicious home baked chocolate cake to share, thanks to Judy Inman for baking it. Did anyone else taste a hint of cinnamon? Yummy!

Respectfully submitted, Joan Holborn, Secretary