

# The Picket Line

Post Office Box 3232, Bozeman, Montana 59772-3232



## Officers

### President:

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### Vice President:

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586-9030

### Secretary:

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Rich Inman 388-1564  
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Linda Roffe  
alternate : Ron Rassley

## Newsletter Editor

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## On The Calendar This Month



### Club Meetings in March

**March 5th, 2002 Board meeting.** .7:00 at Brown and Sammylu Parsons house.

**March 21st** - This will be an exciting meeting with GPS ( Global Positioning System) and Weeds with the Belgrade FFA speaking. 7:00 at the Belgrade Alliance Church.

### Special events in March

**March 5<sup>th</sup>** - The Board of Directors will meet at Brown and Sammylu's house at 7:00.

**March 9<sup>th</sup>** Helena Rendezvous 10:00 - 4:00.

**March 10<sup>th</sup>** - Another rip roaring **Ski Day** with Chick Hale. Call Chick and let him know that you will be there. 763-4105.

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23rd** BCH convention at Red Lodge

### **First Ride !**

**March 30<sup>th</sup>** - Red Bluff Trail Ride, be ready to ride by 10:00.

## Do you Suppose She is Talking about Horses?

*"It's easier to influence a few pounds of brain than 1000 pounds of muscle."*

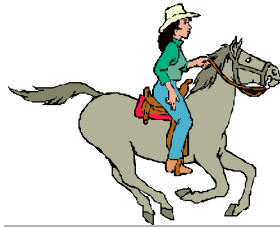
## Membership



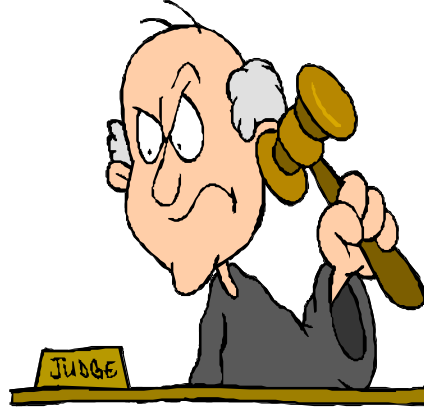
We don't have any new members to report this month, but we do need to remind you that if you haven't paid your dues this will be the last time you will receive this prize winning Newsletter! There will be an application in this paper. Please fill it out and return it with your dues. We would hate to lose any of you.

## Red Bluff Ride

On March 31<sup>st</sup> we plan to have the first ride of the year. It could be a little chilly, but if you all are like me, I am ready to go riding. The winter has been long enough! I can hardly wait to get on my horse and GO! I haven't heard who the trail boss will be, so I am going to suggest that if you plan to go call Chick Hale 763-4105, so we will have a head count. Be at the trail head and ready to ride by 10:00.



## March Ramblings from your President



The schedule for the coming year is filling up with just a dew dates to be decided. March meeting is the time to finalize our dates, so if you have any concerns, please let us know now. Remember you are always welcome to come to the Board Meetings - the next meeting date is March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at the Parsons', 516 North Willson, Bozeman.

Several of you have returned the survey and indicated that you would be a "Trail Boss" if given some instructions on what is expected, so please let Wally or Chick know who you are so they can coordinate the rides.

A special thanks to Sharon for the job she is doing with the newsletter. Some members said they will give her a hand, so please step up to the call. Our club would falter if we did not put out a newsletter. Sharon can reach some of you who have E-mail, but that is limited. Thanks again Sharon.

We may have two spots open for delegates to the state convention in Red Lodge on March 22, 23 & 24<sup>th</sup>. The Reads will just be returning from a trip to Germany at that time and may, or may not, be able to go to convention. Let me know if you are interested.

We have not lined up chairmen yet for the Poker Ride or Steak Ride. There is a lot of help that goes with these events, but we need someone to coordinate the other volunteers. Please let me know if you are willing to be a chairman. Dan Porter and Margo Doohan ran these successful events last year and will give you rundowns on what needs to be done.

Now that I am through with my begging process, I want to tell you this year will have a lot going on both the work side and the fun ride side and all will be worth your participation. This is a volunteer organization and a community service where we may be working for the Forest Service, but all users benefit from our actions. You can take pride in belonging to BCH, not only as a member of this chapter, but as a member of the national BCH organization because many other chapters are just as busy as our chapter. For those of you going to the state convention, you will learn what State and National are all about and how other chapters function. Please join us at Red Lodge, it's a lot of fun and you get to know others who work hard for BCH.

Our first ride is scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> - **THINK SPRING**

***\*All Trail rides leave the trailhead at 10:00 on the day of the scheduled ride.***

***\*\*Always call your trail boss prior to ride date as schedule changes are possible.***



Ron Rassley and Kay Tate drove to Tucson, AZ to drive horses for Sombrero Ranches that provided 120 horses for the Tucson Rodeo Parade on Feb 21. The Parade Committee hauls the wagons, buggies, and antiques, out of their museum and rent them for the day to businesses, schools, etc. Sombrero Ranches provides the horsepower and drivers for the event. Monday through Wednesday Ron drove four outfits a day. Many of the horses had just come off winter pasture in Colorado and needed to be reminded of their jobs. Some others had only a month of harness work to their credit. For the Thursday Parade Ron was given a two seat buggy and a paint/Shire cross named "Blueberry" of the one

month experience variety. They had heard of the World's Longest non-motorized parade from reading the Nov '01 issue of Western Horsemen and decided to go. They had a great time and anyone interested in more information can call Ron @ 388-4415.



## Jenny's Corner

### Preparing Your Horse for the Farrier

It is important to have your horse(s) ready when the farrier arrives. There are many things you as a horse owner can do to help your farrier and make his job easier.

By far the most important is your horse's behavior. Can you pick your horse's feet up? By picking them up, I mean actually getting them off the ground and holding them in the position the farrier will while he is working on your horse. If you cannot pick up your horse's feet, is it fair to expect the farrier to be able to shoe the horse? In addition to picking the feet up, make sure you can bring them forward to the position they will be in when the farrier puts them on the foot stand. This includes both front and hind feet. Many people focus on teaching their horse to pick up his feet, and do a very good job at it, but neglect to bring the feet forward as if they were on a foot stand. This is often the spookiest part for some horses, especially regarding the front feet. It can be very unsettling to see a person directly in front of them, trying to put their foot on a foot stand, or holding it on their knee.

So what can you do to help your farrier? If your horse is a solid horse who has no problem with his feet, picking them up every now and then to clean them out is enough to remind him. Perhaps you have a young horse you're trying to get ready for his first set of shoes. If the horse allows you to pick his feet up, do it every day. Hold them in the position the farrier would, both ways. Take your hoof pick, or a small rock, and tap the horse's foot to simulate the driving of nails. When your horse is comfortable with this, he will probably be good to shoe. If your horse will not let you get close enough to run a hand down his leg, you need to do some homework before calling the farrier. You will need to do some basic ground work with a horse like this – you may even have to begin with work in the round pen to get him more accepting of your presence. While you are working him in the round pen, you might want to sack him out with a flag or gunny sack to get him more accepting of things around him. For your own safety, you might want to begin picking up his feet with a SOFT cotton rope. This removes you from close proximity with the horse if it is not safe to be up close at this point. The rope is simply an extension of your arm. If you're not a good roper, lay a loop on the ground and walk one foot into the loop. Draw it up around the pastern, and use this method to pick the feet up. You may begin by putting pressure on the rope, and as soon as the horse shifts his weight, release. By building on this, you will soon be picking the feet off the ground. You can do this with all four feet, picking the feet up both ways. While picking up the hind feet, stand slightly off to the side of the horse, and far enough away so as not to get kicked. Remember, if you release at the wrong time, you can actually make things worse instead of better. If the horse is fighting the pressure you are putting on the rope, DO NOT release until he has quit fighting or responded in the way you are asking. Once you can pick up the feet with the rope, and have done your sacking out homework, you should be able to pick up the feet by running your hand down the leg and asking the horse for his foot. Then practice your tapping on the hoof. Practice leading your horse around by each of his feet. This will do wonders for your horse in other areas besides handling his feet. If you have an older horse that is hard to shoe, do the same procedures with him. It may take longer than with a young

horse who has not been handled much, but if you hang in there for as long as it takes, you will be able to get the job done. Not to mention how much your farrier will appreciate it!

*Jenny Kawasaki*  
Certified Farrier

Next month Jenny will have more good tips on preparing your horse for the farrier.

## Pasture Management for Horse Owners

Would you like to know more about how to manage your horse pastures in order to improve grass production ? Wendy Williams from the Natural Resources Conservation Service teaches a course through the Cooperative Adult Education Program and the Gallatin Conservation District. "Pasture Management for Horse Owners" will be offered spring quarter. **Look for the brochure in the Sunday paper, March 17. Sign-up is the week March 25, 2002.** Sign-up is also available on the internet at [www.bozeman.k12.mt.us](http://www.bozeman.k12.mt.us). Classes will start on April 10th, from 7pm-9pm, and continue each Wednesday night for 6 weeks. (We will not have class on May 8) Agenda topics are designed to meet the needs of the audience. Whether you sign up at Willson School or over the internet, the **Audience Needs Assessment** is crucial for gathering the resource

information pertinent to your land. Throughout the 6 weeks we will study all of the resources on your property. These resources include your soil, plants, water, and animals. We will learn how you can maximize your resources depending on your goals. The end result will be a management plan that contains things that you can do to reach your goals. Hope to see you there! For more information call Wendy at 522-4012.

## Bits



### Questions and Answers by Ray Hunt from the book "Think Harmony with Horses"

#### 1. *How do you teach a horse to back?*

You fix it up and let him find it. You make it difficult for him to stand there but easy to move his feet. Just pick up on your reins and wait right there. All you want is for the horse to get ready. The saddle horn will start to move as soon as the horse starts to move to release some pressure. Reward him. At this stage I don't care if the horse moves his feet or not, just get him prepared to back. It becomes the horse's idea. He gets ready and then he can go; first thing you know he'll start carrying it further and further. It gets to where it doesn't weigh anything. Sometimes when I am working with a young horse who doesn't know yet what I mean, I may exaggerate some things. When I go to back my horse I might lean back, really lean back. This will cause him to shift his weight back in order to feel comfortable or balanced. He might need these things over-exaggerated in order to get the idea of what we want. You may have to over-exaggerate a lot of things sometimes to get the point across, even as over-exaggeration is used in a child's learning process. You exaggerate it but as they start to learn you take the exaggeration out and leave the true thing in there. He's learned to follow a feel but you have to let him learn it. Now, we can see how little it takes just to get him ready. You're adjusting to get the situation all this time. Remember that when you're backing the horse is backing between your legs. Your legs are backing up in rhythm with his legs. His feet are in your hands, which are picking up each front foot as it's ready to leave the ground. In other words, it's a guideline. Your weight is back, your life is back, the desire in your body is back, and his is too.

#### 2. *How do you keep a horse from throwing his head while backing?*

All you do is hold your hands still. When you go to back him up you've got some pressure on somewhere, mentally or physically, or both, that's causing him to throw his head. He doesn't understand it-it bothers him. He doesn't understand what you want. So all you do is take a hold of the reins; hold on to them. Put enough pressure there so he can move away from it but do not pull on him-fix it up for him to find. Keep your arms

and hands fixed right there so if he throws his head he bumps himself. Don't let him work your arms like a yo-yo.

You're trying to do several things at once. You're trying to get him so he doesn't get worried when you take hold of him-plus you don't want him to throw his head-plus you'd like him to try to back up with a decent attitude.

*Submitted by R.J. Conti*

### Letter from Ed

To All the Club

Members:

I was only with the club a few days in 2001. I made it to the General Membership meeting at Margot Doohan's house on Thurs. Aug 17<sup>th</sup>. I camped that night at the Fairgrounds in Bozeman. I went to the Spanish Peak Trailhead Friday morning at 5AM. Rode up to the Spanish Lakes on Trails 407 and 411. Back to the trailhead by dark. I camped there overnight. On Saturday I drove to Manhattan, MT to ride in the Potato Festival Parade with GVBCH. My pack horse was used for the Potato display on two panniers. BCH of GV was awarded best in equine display. Sat.

evening I drove back to Spanish Peak Trailhead. At about dark several horses waded the creek and rode up past my camper. As I watched them take saddles and packs off I became acquainted with Ron Rassley, Kay Tate, and Bonnie Hammer. Since their camper refrigerator went out on them while away for a few days, I had the privilege of furnishing a cold drink to each for the moment. After the long dry ride they had it was much appreciated.

The next day, (Sun) I rode out with Ron and Bonnie. We rode out on trail 401 to Junction with Trail 409 where we drilled a previously set post to erect a new sign. We headed back to camp and arrived in time to join in with the club for a steak cook out.

I feel privileged to be able to ride with BCH of GV and even more so that I could help to erect signs on the trail and furnish a pack animal for the Potato Festival.

I left Monday AM for the long drive back to Ohio. I left Ohio on July the 10<sup>th</sup> and did 2 pack trips in the Bob Marshall and rode in Glacier National Park before joining up with GVBCH.

Hope to see you in 2002

Ed Witsken

Cleves, OH

***Well Ed I think I can speak for all the GVBCH members-We feel very privileged to have you as one of our members!***

### Attention Trail Workers!

#### ATTENTION TRAIL WORKERS

On Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> a group of our club horse packers met with Jose Castro, District Ranger, and Brian McNeil, Trail Supervisor, to discuss the possibility of our packing construction materials, tools, supplies, etc., into the forest to assist the Forest Service in construction of bridges, etc., as well as an incentive for other clubs to undertake maintenance projects. The Montana Wilderness Assoc. and the Montana Conservation Corp have expressed their interest in our help. The Forest Service also seemed interested.

The 'fly-in-the-ointment' appears to be the need for horse management certification. This new requirement, dreamed up by the Forest Service, at first looked at with the usual disdain by some horse people may, in the long run, be an advantage to us. If we can become the leaders in this move it might allow us to become the certifiers. This might result in our approving other groups resulting in some financial benefits to our club.

All those working on our trails will be involved and I feel a meeting of all those interested would be in order for you to express your opinions, desires, etc.

I would like to invite all interested members to my house on Thurs, Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss our future summer work plans. My address is 11150 Gooch Hill Rd., Gallatin Gateway and my phone # is 763-4105. I would suggest 7

P.M. as a reasonable meeting time. Please call me so I'll have enough whiskey and beer!

P.S. Did you hear the latest?

Those people removing trees from Wilderness Trails will need training and certification on the use of handsaws.

What Next?

Chick Hale, Trail Committee Chairman

GVBCH Minutes report from General Meeting 2/21/02

Attendance: We had a nice potluck dinner. All told we had about 28 members who attended the meeting.

Treasurers report given by Sammylu and accepted. Reminder: March 1 to submit dues. Audit by Sharon Lowry and Joyce Haner finished with accounts in order.

Issues-Chick arranged a meeting with the Forest Service to discuss packing in their tools.

Please call to help him.

-Chick reports the Forest Service requires certification of hand saw use to work in Wilderness areas.

Spanish Creed trail has this designation. In light of this Chick asks the club, do we want to keep this trail responsibility?

-Coming in the future Chick reports Horseman Certification is

coming! Forest service in Missoula can certify. Chick proposes our club become certified as trainers because of the lack of teachers and facility in this area. The club could then offer this service and collect "handsome" fees.

Poker ride and Steak ride need chairmen's, please call Brown.

Noxious Weed- Tom reports 3 extreme legends will arrive next week. Purchases are handled by Dennis Hingle on the weed board.

Dan needs bodies to help him with the GPS demo March 1 at the Rendezvous in Helena.

State Convention-Linda & Harry, our state reps will attend, the club will pay their registration and 1 nights lodging by reimbursement afterwards. The club will also pay the registration fee for the 6 delegates.

Expo-Please help this club project, meet Linda at the Mint in Belgrade at 6pm before the general meetings each month.

Schedule Changes to the 2002 Calendar:  
May 16-Weed I.D. by Tom Griffith, mapping later.

May 18-Dutch oven breakfast ride at Twin Rivers?. You may bring guests, not open to the public. Come down by the Teepees. Meal \$15.00/plate.

June 9- Club member Bob? Spoke with Flying D manager Mark Kostler about access. Mark indicated it would only necessitate us to write a letter of request defining why and when. The ride would be open to members only. We await confirmation.

August 28- Tentative date set by the Forest Service for them to pack in a new bridge to Hellroaring creek. We are committed to install.

Club needs leaders for trail rides. Trail bosses would appreciate riders staying together. Bob suggests the use of 2-way radios to communicate between the front and back in case someone needs to stop for problems.

Other happenings: April 6-7, trail ride at the Green River in Utah, \$40.00/person, meals available for additional fee.

Thanks to Bonnie Hammer and Tom Griffith for their hands on instruction on knot tying, thanks too for the handout to help remind us of what we learned.

Thanks to everyone for bringing food to share.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Holborn, Secretary