

# 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:

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388-0032

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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 May

**May 7<sup>th</sup> - Board of Directors Meeting** - To be held at the Parson's home.  
7:00 PM

**May 16<sup>th</sup> - General Membership Meeting** - Belgrade Alliance Church at 7:00 PM. - Trail manners, open mike night with *pet peeves* and reasonable suggestions. We will also get into weed identification so we will be able to spot those pesky critters when we are out riding and spiffing up the trails.

### Club Events in May

**May 18<sup>th</sup> - Trail ride at Twin Rivers Ranch.** Be ready to ride by 10:00. The previously scheduled breakfast has turned into a ride. Call Linda Roffe 586-2142.

**May 19<sup>th</sup> - Sheep Ranch** We still need a trail boss for this ride. Until we have one I suggest you call Brown Parsons 586-9030. Be saddled and ready to ride by 10:00 AM

### Non Club Events in April

**May 25<sup>th</sup> - Virginia City Poker Ride** - Virginia City, MT - Call the Pioneer Bar for details.

*Worrying is like standing in a mud hole; it gives you something to do, but it doesn't get you anywhere.*

Texas Bix Bender

## Membership



New members this month are:

Ruth Hall  
11330 Bridger Canyon  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
586-0506  
[rhallmt@hotmail.com](mailto:rhallmt@hotmail.com)

Stan Peeler  
1700 West Koch Street  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
587-5653  
[peelerlaw@aol.com](mailto:peelerlaw@aol.com)

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



## Mating Finches

Twisting, Tumbling,

Falling, fluttering.

How do they...

do it?

*Jim Gould*

(He seems to have been bird watching!)

## Travel Management Planning

*Beth Merrick*

The Forest Service has begun a process called Travel Management Planning that we will be hearing about in the near future. The Management Plan will be the legal document that decides where ATVs, motorcycles and snowmobiles are allowed. (Trails where motorized use is allowed are also open to nonmotorized users.) The plan will also designate which trails are open to horse use, hikers, mountain bikers etc.

The process that the Forest Service is currently developing establishes "Benchmarks" that detail what uses are allowed and how damage will be controlled, or not, in various areas. After the benchmarks are released the Forest Service will be taking official public comment and holding public meetings.

To get our voices heard and our concerns addressed, we need to get involved and stay involved. Discussion in letters and meetings will help shape the "benchmarks", and thus the rest of the process. It is important to remember that this approach is applied nationally, effecting trails nationwide, not just regionally. It applies to regions where ATV use is increasing more rapidly than here in the Gallatin National Forest.

As I write this, I can hear the traditional BCH plaintive creed that "if ATVs go, horses will be next." Horse use in the National Forests is a traditional use that proceeds the inception of the Forest Service. The trails were built with horses and are maintained with horses. The Nine Mile Station program is testament to the Forest Service's recognition that horse culture needs to continue within the Forest Service. What is new is the use of motorized vehicles, in ever growing numbers, while horse-use declines.

There is a difference between the right to access public land and the right to drive everywhere within it. That's why trailheads exist; they are a place to leave your cars and proceed in a different fashion. Will ATVs have access to some places or all places? What access will horses have? These decisions are close at hand.

Every user group must be honest about their impacts and own up to their responsibility to mitigate damage or get off the trail (including us!). No group should be allowed to claim the trails by virtue of irretrievable damage, but rather by the claim of appropriate multiple use.

We enjoy the quiet trails of the Spanish Creek that are designated as a wilderness area where motorized vehicles are currently prohibited. Contrast them with the trails that we avoid. It is possible that Travel Management is the process in which we can save and restore traditional pack and saddle trails and return them to the sound of birdsong and creeks instead of the sounds of motors revving "equitably" in every corner of the forest.

Ask yourself objectively which groups most closely share your view? Which don't?

No matter what your view, here is how to contact the Gallatin Forest Supervisor: Becki Heath  
PO Box 130  
Bozeman, MT 59771

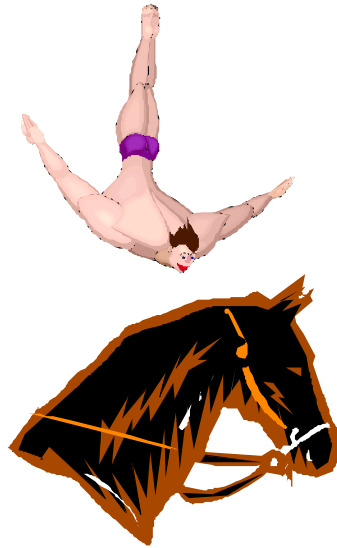
(Supervisors Office is in the Federal Building downtown)  
Phone: 587-6701

## First Ride!

**Submitted by:**  
Kay Tate

First club ride of the year: Red Bluff Experimental Station near Norris. March 30<sup>th</sup>. Did we get lucky or WHAT!!! This was the 2nd best day I have ever seen over there: Sun, clouds, light breeze, perfect temp (although the long haired horses may not have thought so), terrific 360 degree views.

Participants were Ron Rassley, Greg Pool, Kay Tate, Bonnie Hammer. Brown & Sammylu Parsons started the ride but returned to their trailers with a lame horse. We had a support staff of Chick, Jiffie & Wally (thought they would bring lunch with wine but we never saw them again). We made a two hour loop to the north toward Cold Springs Ranch, lunched at our trailers and then looped south to the river in 3 1/2 hours. We saw at least 30 deer. Riders were asked to leave their dogs at home due to calving and lambing going on. Greg went on to the Norris Hot Springs for a dip and I think we all should bring our suits next year.



## Bits

### Horse Hauling the Right Way

Probably few of us have actually taken a ride—like our horses do—in our horse trailer while someone else starts, stops, turns, speeds up, slows down...etc. Try it sometime *without holding on* (and not on the road). The experience is educational to say the least!

The point here is twofold: If we 'gentle' our horses while riding them in the trailer, they're probably not going to get fearful or hurt, and...they're not going to mind loading the next time. So...

--Start off slowly, so your horses can brace for the motion.

--When you're about to turn, get your turn signal going early (for the impatient driver behind you) and give your horses a little signal with a preliminary touch on the brakes.

--Take your turns slowly.

--Even if you're on a highway, always go at a moderate speed (e.g., 55 to 60 tops) and allow extra space ahead in order to give your driving and your live cargo extra time and space for one of those #%\*& bleepin' drivers or a jumping deer.

--And when you're about to stop, give your horses (and those drivers behind you) another preliminary touch on the brakes and then stop slowly.

All this is so common sense that someone might be insulted to hear it. But it may be easy to forget what your 'riders out back' are experiencing on the road.

--*Jim Gould*

## Thank You, Club Members

Dear members and friends,  
I truly thank all of you who called or sent cards to me when Brown announced at the general meeting that I had made a brief visit to the ER. I had an attack of transient global amnesia. TGA is a sudden memory disturbance. I kept repeating to Chick, "I don't remember." This ended as

abruptly as it began, within minutes. All tests, CT scan, blood work, etc., were negative. No worse for the wear. Is that the expression? I don't remember! However, it is said that if a person can drive a car during these attacks, then surely I am able to ride my horse. And don't you worry. my trusty horse knows the way home.

Jiffie Hale

## Second Ride

Submitted by: Karen Watson

About ten hearty souls gathered on April 13th to ride the unspecified club ride. This ride was lead by Chick and Jiffie Hale. We staged several miles from four corners down Norris Road at Axtel-Anceny. We left on the timely schedule that Chic always maintains 10:00 AM sharp. I particularly enjoyed the ride as Chic was kind enough to show me the ski trails at Bridger this winter and here I was again following him down the road. He is a very trustworthy guide!

This is an easy ride on the dirt road, and the same ride **out** on the same dirt road. In effect you just ride until your (not yet trail- ready horse) and you have had enough of the gale force wind and threatening rain. Those early finishers got back before the storm and had lunch at the trailers until

the rain chased us out. Those four who took the longer ride have yet to be accounted for by this author. We had a great time. Jiffy's young horse was the star performer.

It was wonderful to see the club members again and imagine what wonderful rides are yet to come this summer.



## Meeting With Forest Service

We, Backcountry Horsemen of Gallatin Valley, have received a letter from Jose Castro, District Ranger of the Gallatin County Forest Service inviting us to a meeting with other volunteer trail maintenance workers.

The purpose of this meeting is to:

1. Organize
2. Discuss duties
3. Discuss certifications required
4. Complete necessary applications.

All those people who will be participating in trail work should attend.

This will be another first as all other groups planning to do trail work are also invited. An opportunity to meet these people and perhaps help one another in our projects is a possibility.

The meeting is **Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM** at the district office, 3710 Fallon St., Bozeman  
Chick Hale, GVBCH club trail manager

## Flying D Ride

The Flying D Elk-Calf Ride is set for Sunday, June 9th. This will be a members only ride. Riders will need the following :

- 1) A personal statement that your horse is current on vaccines and worming
- 2) Current Coggins Test Certification
- 3) West Nile Virus Vaccine Certification

Please note that the West Nile Virus Vaccine is a series of two shots that are four weeks apart. So if you plan to ride you must plan this ahead of time. ( I strongly recommend vaccinating your horses for this anyway.) A rider from the Flying D will lead the ride. I need to let the them know A.S.A.P. the number of riders that plan to attend. Please call me or e-mail if you do want to ride. Also, riders will be responsible to clean up their horses manure at the parking area. I will have more information on the exact time and place as soon as I can get back to them with the number that plan to attend. So PLEASE let me know.

Thanks. R. J. Conti.  
586-5047 or  
[jpconti@imt.net](mailto:jpconti@imt.net)

## Website

What a difference a member can make!  
Check out the revised website that Dan Marsh has produced to represent us to the world. Not only is our calendar there, but membership applications, intra and inter-state horse travel regulations, photos of recent club outings, and the newsletter (in case you ACCIDENTALLY misplaced it instead of having it framed. -the Editor).

## The New Horse

Does he know how much promise

You impose on him?

He thinks for the moment,

You think for the future.

He worries about his safety, his survival;

You think about his gaits, his willingness.

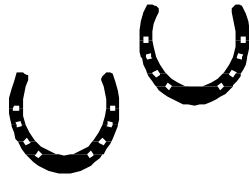
He needs to be free,

You need him to be controlled.

Nature asks that you

Give him a break.

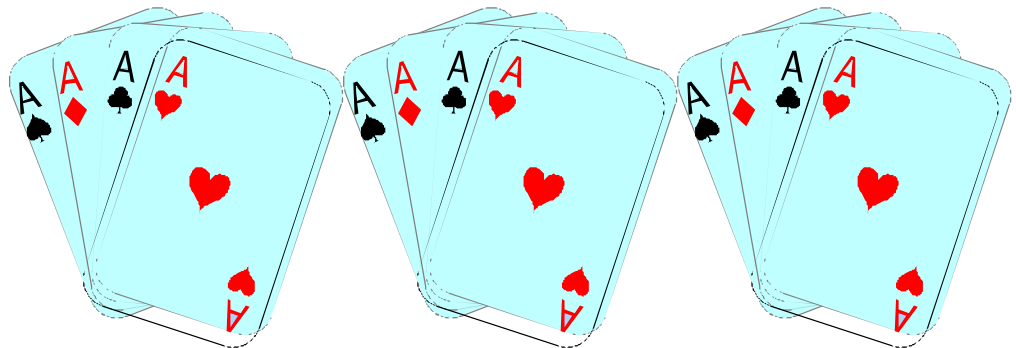
*Jim Gould*



The Billings club will have their annual work/ride party in the Pryor Mtns. on June 1/2.

You need a current health and a Coggins and import number to travel to Wyo. And come into the Pryor's from there. It is a camp-over. Contact the Billings club for more information.

## Poker Ride



With our funds low and a late start, it is REALLY necessary that everyone pitch in with help to make the Poker Ride a success. Dan Porter has promised to contact our regular Mega-Prize contributors (prizes worth over \$100): Rocky Mountain Hat, Ardesson Boots & Shoes, Big R, Quality Landscape & Seeding, Precision Fence, and Montana Canvas. Here is how you can help: in order to get advertiser's names out on the advertising, we need prizes by May 16 at the general meeting. Your individual prize contributions are really needed, too. Everyone is invited to the May 7 Board Meeting at Brown's when we will start up our Poker Ride planning. Please join us! We need YOU: food and trail planning, prizes, pop stop workers, and set up. Mark the July 13<sup>th</sup> Poker Ride on your calendars. This is our 15<sup>th</sup> Ride! And Chairmen Sharon Lowry and Beth Merrick want this one to be the most fun of all.

## Expectations

This is the time of year when we are getting shoes put on our horses in anticipation of all those wonderful rides we plan on taking. These expectations were taken from an article in the May 2002 Western Horseman entitled:

**"Don't Shoo Off Your Farrier".**

The horse owner expects the farrier:

- To be knowledgeable of hoof and leg anatomy
- To be fair and reasonable in his rates.
- To be patient and gentle with the horse.
- To answer questions.
- To be polite.
- To consider the owner's opinion
- To be skilled in shoeing techniques.

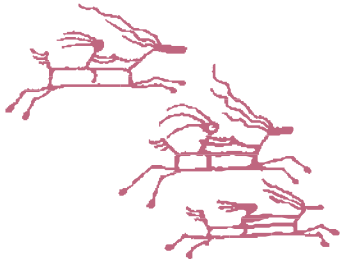
- To be honest and professional.

The farrier expects the horse owner:

- To have his hoses caught.
- To have well-mannered horses.
- To be present for hoof care.
- To have a clean work area.
- To have a working relationship with his veterinarian.
- To pay promptly for farrier services.
- To schedule his appointments in advance.

Both Horse owner and farrier should:

- Be on time.
- Be respected by the other.
- Be trusted by the other.
- Have regard for the horse's welfare.



## Letter to the Editor

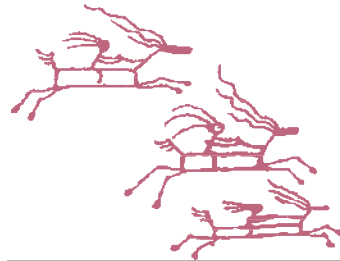
Dear Editor,

I know there are some people in the club that shoe their own horses and it's difficult because they are not sure of what they are doing. Having spent some 30 years shoeing

and am now retired from shoeing, I would be happy to help a few people get shoes on their horses so they can get riding. There will be no charge for helping them with their stock.

The horses do have to have manners, and the owners have to supply the shoes and nails for the shoeing.

Richard Romano  
388-0032



## More on the Convention

Your delegation of Ron Rassley, Kay Tate, Dan Marsh, Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Rich Inman, Linda Roffe, Harry Boughton and guest Alice Pilgeram attended. Brown & Sammylu got upgraded to the Presidential suite due to lack of heat in their room so you know we all had a great time. There were 168 delegates and over 200 for the banquet. Total state membership stands at 1067.

Resolutions passed: Establish a Jr. BCH outreach program.

Continue Wilderness trails & trail signing.

not passed: Assistance to convention club with silent auction and door prizes.

Require the National Board to inform and get affirmation from local and state boards and chapters before authorizing spending of large sums.

Dan Marsh was the winner of the State Board fundraiser 1/2 & 1/2 pot. His share being \$193--see what you missed!!

Al Sammons, BCH National Chairman, gave a welcoming speech. Brad Powell, Region One Forester (replacing Dale Bosworth) from Missoula gave an encouraging informal address.

Workshop Speakers were:

Jerry Fahrenthold, Red Lodge : "Historic Equestrian Trails and Tales of the Beartooths."

Dr. Larry Lahren, Livingston: "Evidence of early humans in the Bearthooths."

John Lounsbury, YNP: "Early and Present Day horse use in the Beartooths."

Elias Goes Ahead, Hardin: "Early horse use by native Americans."

Sunday Gary  
 Ferguson spoke on  
 humans with horses  
 throughout myth and  
 time. Later in the  
 morning many of the  
 intrepid conventioners  
 listened to Bob  
 Hoverson and watched  
 the Nine Mile  
 Demonstration Mule  
 String on the soccer  
 field under 5" of new  
 snow. You can't call  
 us wimps.

Our own Harry Boughton was elected alternate to the National Board of Directors.

Throughout the weekend there were outstanding slide presentations beginning with Ernie Strum 's (Pres. of Beartooth Chapter) on the Beartooth Region. (They hope to video his presentation and make it available to all of us.) Merv Coleman, an award-winning photographer of both nature & portrait from Red Lodge, gave a stunning presentation accompanied by live music at the banquet.

I recommend you all save March 28-30, 2003 for next year's convention in Hamilton. The theme will be "Back Country Horsemen Continuing the Lewis & Clark Experience".

#### **GVBCH 4/2/02 Board Minutes**

Attendance: Brown & Sammylou Parsons, Bonnie Hammer, Bettye White, Rich Inman, Sharon Lowry, Harry Boughton, and Joan Holborn.

Treasurers Report from Sammylou

Checking acct. balance:	\$ 334.34
Money Market Acct :	<u>2,898.46</u>
Total Balance	\$3,232.80

Bills Paid

#### Delegate Reimbursement for convention registration fee

Brown and Sammylou Parsons	\$110.00
Kaye Tate	55.00
Ron Rassley	55.00

Kinkos 3.44

Jean Griffith for Printing 6.44

Total Bills Paid \$ 229.88

Issues: It was agreed to support the Helena Chapter BCH in their effort to defeat air strips in the Gates of the Mountain Wilderness. The MT. Pilots Assoc. has requested a recreational airstrip. Brown will compose a letter of support.

State Convention Resolutions: Voting results on the following:

Yes-BCH Jr Program

No-Requirement for all clubs to donate door prizes to the club holding the state chapter convention.

No-Web Site Proposal from our club members Dan and Linda. Committee formed to continue dialogue.

Harry was elected as Alternate National Candidate

Discussion concerning lack of quorum at the Board meetings necessitates replacement of absentee members of board according to constitution article VII section 2 "Any Board of Director member missing 3 Board meetings within a 12 month period will be replaced by the Board at the next Board Meeting". Brown will address the absentee members and replacements will be sought.

Thanks again to Sammylou for her baking skills, the cake was delicious.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Holborn

#### **GVBCH 4/18/02 General Mtg**

Attendance: Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Bonnie Hammer, Jacki & RJ Conti, Ron Rassley, Rich Inman, Sharon Lowry, Beth Merrick, Dan Marsh, Harry Boughton, Bettye White, Tom & Jean Griffith, Wally Becker, Ed Long, Joyce Haner, Sonja Berg, new member Stan Peeler, Joan Holborn, and 5 other members.

Treasurers Report from Sammylu

Checking acct balance	\$39.75
Money Market acct	<u>2901.59</u>
Total Cash	2941.34

Bills Paid

#### Delegate Reimbursement to Convention

Harry Boughton	\$170.59
Dan Marsh	55.00
Rich Inman	55.00

Sharon Lowry-Newsletter Postage 68.00

Total \$348.59

Motion made by Sharon to transfer \$1000.00 from the money market fund to the general fund, motion 2<sup>nd</sup> & carried on a unanimous voice of members.

May 2 Mtg- The Bozeman Forest District is holding a mtg to inform volunteers of all facets about required certification. Please call Chick by May 1 if you plan to attend. Meeting is at 7pm at the forest district building, 3710 Fallon Drive, off Huffine.

Request granted to Beth to invite congressional candidates to join our trail ride June 22 or 23 on lower Spanish Creek. Beth will handle correspondence.

Dan reports from state convention. Due to territorial claims, misunderstanding of cost, & lack of organization the proposal presented by our members to set up a state wide web site was defeated. Dan was appointed to committee to determine if chapters want this at all. He has sent e-mails to all and so far has rec'd 2 replies. Dan formally asked general members, "Do we want this state web site?" All in favor.

\*A little birdie reports Dan won the 50/50 raffle at the convention\*

Flying D Ride-RJ reports it is a go for June 9<sup>th</sup>. For club members only. Riders need to state in writing that their horses are current on vaccines & worming. This includes vaccination against the West Nile Virus. The vaccine is administered in 2 doses a month apart, so if many riders are going. The Flying D will lead the ride.

Red Bluff Trail Ride- Kay reported the 1<sup>st</sup> ride of the season a beautiful trip. They took a 2 hr loop to start with lunch back at the trailer, then a 3 hr loop in the afternoon. Kay also shared her experiences and photos from her Green River trail ride in Utah, inspiring.

OTO ride cancelled due to site conditions. Need to plan this ride in the future for May/June time frame.

Next General mtg, Tom takes us on weed control.

Club members enjoyed brownies provided by Joyce Haner. Thank-you.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Holborn