

The Picket Line

Post Office Box 3232, Bozeman, Montana 59772-3232



Officers

President:

Brown Parsons...586-9030

Vice President:

Ron Rassley.....388-4415

Secretary

Joan Holborn.....586-3306

Treasurer:

Bettye White... ..586-2301

Directors

1 year term:

Bonnie Hammer.... 284-6822

Rich Inman 388-1564

Aaron Linton 585-3493

2 year term:

Joyce Haner.....388-4273

Sharon Lowry..... 587-4013

Jim Nelson.....388-2201

State Board Members

Harry Boughton

Linda Roffe

Alternate: Ron Rassley

Newsletter Editor

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State Web Site

www.bchmt.org

DIRECTOR'S MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH @ 7pm
@ Lowry's, 160 Lake Rd.587-4013

GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 20th @ 7pm
The Belgrade Alliance Church
Cameron & Hoffman Rd, Belgrade

PROGRAM: Talk on West Nile Virus
Given by Shannon Moreaux, D.V.M. of the
Equine Veterinary Assoc. of Belgrade
ALSO

We begin our first POKER RIDE meeting

APRIL DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Note the date change
Thursday, April 10th @ 7pm

This is also a meeting for our July Poker Ride. All members are encouraged to attend. The meeting is held at Sharon Lowry's home
160 Lake Rd. 587-4013

MEETINGS

President asks for support and effort

Our schedule of activities for 2003 is now almost completed and you may have noticed that there are quite a few dates for trail work. This has been done on purpose to accommodate an outreach program that some of our members are attempting to initiate this year. Our outreach program is to encourage other backcountry users groups to participate in trail work with GVBCH. Another purpose is to work with the county in a community service program, which will allow offenders to work off their fines in trail work supervised by members of our club. This program, if successful, will provide manpower to work on trails and relieve some of the stress on our trail bosses.

I am hoping that in conjunction with these programs that we might establish a goal for 2003 whereby every member of GVBCH will work at least one day on trails. I know people join the club for various reasons, but wouldn't it be wonderful to report at year-end 100% participation on trail work for our club and wouldn't it make a difference in the trails in Gallatin Valley.

Please consider this request and plan for one day on the trails in the capacity of a trail hand. I am sure the experience will be a remembered one.

Brown

GVBCH welcomes two new members---
Jehnet Carlson has rejoined after a few years of absence and we sure welcome her back. Pat Green is new and we welcome her. Both members are listed on your enclosed 2003 roster.

*Keep your words soft and tender,
You may have to eat them tomorrow.*

HORSESHOE HILLS POKER RIDE

All the information will be forthcoming in the April issue for a poker ride that is going to be held in the Horseshoe Hills on May 31, 2003. This is to just wet your appetite.

Attention Country Western Music Lovers

Kay Tate has informed us that there is a hootenanny at Music Ranch, Belgrade every 3rd Sunday of each month at 2:00pm. Families are welcome. The next one will be March 15th. For more information visit the site musicranchmontana@theglobal.net and be put on their reminder list. You can listen or play, as you like. Location is in the Bruce Industrial Park
285 Ellen Street
Belgrade, MT 59714
Tel 388-0591

Some winter reading in paperback---

Mark Rashid has written three books on horses. These are not training books, but rather stories of his experiences with them. "*Considering the Horse*"; "*Horses Never Lie*"; and "*A Good Horse is Never a Bad Color.*" Another book and an eye opener is, "*The Shocking Story... 'Horse Whispers and Lies,' did Monty Roberts Trade Truth for Glory?'*" Monty's aunt, Joyce Renebome and her daughter Debra Ann Ristau are the authors. Their book does not take away Monty's ability with horses, rather it questions and even proves the credibility of his tales. You might want to read Monty's book first, if you haven't done so already.

WHAT HORSES SEE THAT RIDERS DON'T?

By Rich Inman

Whether you are leading a trail ride or out riding alone, most of us have experienced our horses taking evasive actions to flee something they have seen or smelled. Most of the time the rider does not see or smell anything different. But, the horse's view is often different from the rider's view.

Take for instance, a log or dark object on the ground, or a stump or brush pile. The horse is a flight and prey animal. That dark object or brush pile could hold a perceived threat to the horse. Instinct tells him to flee far from the threat and then turn around to look at it. The rider should be alert to the horse's reactions, but be aware of your own reactions. We often breathe shallowly or hold our breath when tense. This affects our whole body. If you lean forward on your toes, it tells your horse that you also are scared. If you can keep relaxed but alert, it will help your horse relax.

Another experience is the "famous" blue tarps or scary over hanging objects. Horses are claustrophobic by nature and fear objects falling and injuring them. The horse usually is very curious at first but as they draw closer, they tense up and get ready to flee. In many instances, it is best to get off your horse and lead them on foot. You must reassure the horse that it will not hurt him. The horse needs to learn to trust you as leader. Calm, assuring words help build that trust.

We all have experienced water crossings. The horse's eyes are on the side of the head, which creates poor depth perception, and the horse cannot tell water depth. Not knowing depth makes the horse nervous. Standing next to it might be okay, but in his mind it is a potential threat. In the wild, the water hole is where predators wait to catch horses off guard. This may be on your horse's mind. The rider should be aware that the horse might splash or paw or even lay down on their first water crossing. Don't let the splashing/pawing continue. Get your horse moving. Practice the "advance and retreat" method, taking the horse as far as you can comfortably go and then back off for a moment. Proceed as long as this method is working. After you have done this a few times, and do not complete the crossing, you may want to follow another experienced horse across if you have a partner with you. You cannot force a horse to do something it does not want to do without increasing the risk of injury to the rider and/or the horse.

Remember that spooking horses hurt more people than any other way. Not all of us are well-experienced riders so let's help each other when these sensitive situations pop up. Don't be too full of pride to trust the knowledge of some of the Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen's seasoned riders.

*Rich has just retired as the
Deputy Supervisor of the Gallatin National Forest,
is an accomplished horseman and one of our directors.*

*Jehnet Carlson attended the American Farriers Convention and if you go into the web site:
http://www.hoofcare.com/afa03_other.html You will find photos and text copyright 2003 by
Hoofcare Publishing and/or Jehnet Carlson. You will be impressed. Nice going, Jehnet. .*

Expect the unexpected

Today as I look back to that day and remember what we had done is a bit amazing. It was Friday the 3rd of January and the ski hill lacked snow. We lacked snow everywhere. Our son, Bob, here for the holidays and his bride to be, Sandy, our friend, Dick, from PA, his stepson, Shaune, from Manhattan, Wally, Chick, our dog, MacDougal, and I set out to hike up Wally's and Chick's #401 trail from the Spanish Peaks trailhead. The road was clear until one got to the curve before crossing the cattle guard. It was a bit snow packed and icy, but Chick said, "Do not fear, fellow travelers, the trail will be good, it gets the sun and we'll be able to get a nice view from up high." As usual, he led us astray. The trail was spotty snow packed, icy and spotty wet mud. Yuck! All I could think of was, "This is going to be tricky coming back down." Of course Chick and Wally never get on a trail just to hike or ride, they have to work a bit. They have that addiction, you know, and part way up they had to break up and remove a large rock. No one noticed they brought a sledgehammer! They had made their sneaky plans ahead of time and brought up the rear. We only planed to hike to the top where it turns to the left, but since we had gotten that far they said, "What's up further?" Wally and Chick seemed to think we should check those water-bars on ahead, but I said, "What water-bars, they are snow covered?" The snow had gotten just a bit deeper by then. But we went onward anyway, stopped, sat, had a snack, joked, laughed and admired the view as the clouds rolled in and the breeze picked up. Returning was easier than expected. The ice had turned to slippery slush, but most places were dry. From the water-bar steps downward to the road was the tricky trail. We just got off the trail onto the snow for firm footing. It was a great day. Who would have believed it?

It is now mid-February. The snow is falling, piling up on the ski hill and we ski, we plow, we shovel, we use our 4-wheel drive, we feed more hay and more often and knowing this is now winter in Montana and one can expect the unexpected.

JH

Editor's response to Sonja...

Dear Sonja,

I am writing in response to your letter last month regarding a safety helmet. On a late Feb. morning I was skiing and fell, tumbling, what seemed a long distance down a fairly steep slope, leaving me unconscious. This tumble was done under the watchful eyes of those riders on the lift where they could admire my technique! Later the doctor asked, "Where did you hit your head?" and I answered, "I don't know, I had my helmet on!"

Back in our younger years when we fox hunted, it was mandatory that riders wear their hard hat. At that time I fell and was unconscious due to my hard hat having a poor chin strap, if we had them at all. Times have changed, my senses may have been scrambled, but it makes sense to wear a helmet. When spring arrives I am ordering mine.

I spilled spot remover on my dog...

Now he's gone.

All we wanted to know About Horse Feeding and didn't know whom to ask

By Jim Gould, Picket Post reporter

Actually, everybody has very definite ideas about what is good horse nutrition—just ask ‘em! But Sandy Gagnon, Extension Equine Specialist, MSU gave us all at the Feb meeting the benefit of 43 years of professional expertise—and empirical experience—on what’s good and not-so-good feeding for our favorite friends. And he graciously invited us to interrupt him all the way through a wonderfully informative session—interesting, useful, down –to-earth (pun intended) info, delivered with an obviously sure hand on the pitchfork, and good lively sense of humor. Some highlights from his generous hour-long teach-in with great handouts, such as:

- ✓ Horses eat intermittently all the time because they have only a 2-4 gallon stomach, so if they’re penned up, it wouldn’t hurt to divide their daily intake into as many as two or three feedings.
- ✓ On summer pasture with good forage, Sandy likes to let ‘em out during the day when they can be observed and keep them in at night.
- ✓ Careful what you feed, a horse can’t throw up bad stuff and can choke.
- ✓ A feeding horse can generate as much as 25 gallons of saliva a day, so they need 3 to 8 gallons of water, depending on the moisture content of your feed or pasture forage, as well as conditions and horse’s situation.
- ✓ Water requirements vary: with temperature, feed (pasture, hay or grain), lactation (up 50-80%), and exercise (up 60-80%).
- ✓ Occasional colic is probably naturally quite common, and rarely serious (10% incidence), but quality feed is more important in horses than other livestock.
- ✓ Overall, the more natural (similar to horses in the wild) feeding we can allow for, the better.
- ✓ Approximate feeding guidelines for mature horses in the mountains: 24-28lbs good quality hay or dry grass, or 12 hours of grazing, minimum of 12lbs of roughage, plus salt.
- ✓ Way too thing a horse: tail, hip and spine bones visible, no fatty tissue; Too heavy: crested neck, fat along withers, behind shoulders and between ribs, crease down spine.
- ✓ Grains should not make up more than half total diet.

And much, much more (see handouts). Thank you so much, Sandy!

And to add to that night was the first series of our mini program consisting of...

Pass the ketchup, please!

Gone are the days of eating beans outta the can! At the February meeting, Harry Boughton showed us how to plan ahead to avoid stinking up the forest with melted Styrofoam plate globs, not to mention having plastic fork tines stuck in our teeth! Aluminum and Melmac plates are light, cleanable and will go the distance for a five-day outing, which is about our limit. Thanks, Harry

And then the Kute Fillies Demo Trail Etiquette

Beth Merrick and Sharon Lowry certainly have a way with song and dance. They might need a trail permit if they do another one of these. Here it is folks, straight from the last meeting, complete and unadulterated to the tune of the Marine Marching Song...

We need some rules, to govern rides,
So for our group we can take great pride.
Common sense and courtesy,
It’s big priority.
Stay in line is what we’re told,
And if you don’t Jiffie scolds.
But I’ve been here a long long time,
And my horse hates that horse’s behind.
I wonder if I asked real fine,
Could I move up a little in line?

(talking now) “Excuse me Ma’am, but would it be all right if I very quietly sneaked past you?”

(moves on by) “Thanks so much, I really needed a change of scene...rear end that is!”

GVBCH General Mtg. Minutes Feb. 20th 2003

Attendance: Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Sharon & Jack Lowry, Bonnie Hammer, Rich Inman, Harry Boughton, Bettye White, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Ron Rassley, Kay Tate, Tom & Jean Griffith, Dan Marsh, Ed Long, Sonja Berg, Joyce Haner, R.J.Conti, Linda Roffe & Guest Camille, Wally Becker, Brenda & Jim Gould and guest Pete Gould, David & Lisa Read, Beth Merrick, Reggie Clark, Marianne Meyer, Jehnet Carlson, Rich & Joan Holborn.

Treasurer Report by Bettye accepted as follows:

Checking Acct Balance:	\$1198.22
Money Market Acct as of 1-31-03	1922.23
Petty Cash	35.00
Dues Paid	76.00
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Total Revenue:	\$3231.45

Bills Paid:

USPO	\$ 37.00
Kinko's	61.88
P.O.Box Rent	48.00
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Minus total Expense	<u>-\$ 146.88</u>
Acct Balance:	\$3,084.57

Issues: Tom reports receiving Environmental Analysis Update on weeds. Report on past controls, primary issues of noxious weeds, # of acres to treat. After draft we can comment. Tom will draft a letter by Feb. 28th to be included in process.

Chick reports after closer look of using individuals assigned by the County Corrections to community service, that using these persons for club maintenance would require carrying liability insurance against damages, for example causing a forest fire. Cost not clarified, no decisions made.

Correspondence: Ron reminds club of West Nile virus conference Feb. 24 at the Comfort Inn.

Continental Divide Trail is looking for Volunteers

Saddle & Harness Club is having a Chili feed March 2, & looking for horse teams.

Discussion about BCHA brochure brought to members, Harry encouraged club to wait for first aid brochure coming out for a possible better use of funds to promote club. No decisions made.

Tom & Jean request looking into changing date to work on Upper Spanish Creek trail, Chick will address and report back feasibility.

Many thanks to all the great cooks for our feast.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Holborn, Secretary.

GVBCH Board Mtg. Minutes March 5th, ,2003

Attendance: Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Sharon Lowry, Bonnie Hammer, Bettye White, Aaron Linton, Rich Inman, Ron Rassley, Chick (Jim Nelson's proxy) & Jiffie Hale, Joyce Haner, Sonja Berg, Beth Merrick, & Joan Holborn.

Treasurer's Report from Bettye accepted as follows:

Balance 2-20-03:	\$1127.34
Dues deposited:	316.00
Total Checking:	1443.34
Money Market	1922.23
Petty Cash	35.00
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Total cash for hand.	\$3400.57

Issues: Chick informs members that the date for trail work on Upper Spanish Creek has been changed from the 19th & 20 of July to July 26 & 27th.

Brown presented the board with an informational brochure on BCH being offered for purchase. After circulation for review, Rich made a motion to order 200 at a cost of .20/copy, 2nd by Joyce, passed by unanimous voice vote. Due to possible lack of quorum for April board mtg. the date has been moved to April 10th at Sharon's home. Poker Ride planning beginning, all members welcome.

Discussion about need to amend the Constitution regarding attendance by directors & absentee voting resulted in agreement of proposed changes to be brought back to the board. Rich has volunteered to pen changes.

Motion to ask general membership about direction of xmas party brought by Beth, 2nd by Rich, passed unanimous voice vote.

Many thanks to Bettye for banana bread & Sharon for comfort teas.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Secretary.

BY LAWS TO BE AMENDED

If you read the minutes of the March director's meeting, you will notice they discussed amending our constitution, or by laws. They also discussed the location of our Christmas party. This will be brought up at our General Meeting, March 20th for members to discuss and maybe vote on these issues at this time. We hope you will be able to attend.

HAY FOR SALE

Bettye White @586-2301

1st & 2nd cutting straight alfalfa \$80ton

1st & 2nd cutting 1/2 & 1/2 alfalfa/grass \$75ton

Each bale approx 85-90#. Hay has been covered, no mold. Beautiful hay.

HORSE FOR SALE

Rich Inman @388-1564

Her name is "Snickers" and she is a coming 5 year old quarter horse (Overo) standing 15hh+/- at about 1100lbs. Dark bay with black mane and tail and one rear white sock. She has good feet, is an easy keeper and well trained with a good disposition. She has been started up in the mountains and she packs. It is suggested that she would make a good woman's horse. Asking \$2000.

Medical Reports

Keith Kitchell, a former member and a charter member of our BCH, has 70% recovered from his nasty accident of Oct 13th, reports Shirley, his wife. Keith's horse went over backwards, stepped on his thighbone and breaking it.

Jim Nelson's knee replacement has been put off to March 14th and we wish him success.

Jean Griffith has reported, "I had my shoulder replaced Sept 26th and it's a long road to full use, but I'm close. My doctor said yesterday that I'm doing 'fantastic' for six months. So now I'm on my own—no more doctor, no more therapy appointments. They tell me that, if I continue my exercises faithfully, I will get back maximum range of motion and strength up to a year from date of surgery." Jean has gone back to skiing, carefully.

We end this month's NL with words of wisdom from Jean Griffith:

"Vaya con Dios (Go with God)

"Philip, my brother-in-law, has his own business, flying to spray crops, count game, or fly hunters into the back country. Philip is doing what he loves. He also knows the risks, and he's had a number of very close calls.

"His wife, my sister Ellen, is his contact on the ground. She is always in radio contact, she mixes his chemicals, and does all the bookkeeping. Her most important duty, though, is to send him into the sky with just three words, 'Vaya con Dios.'

"We believe that short little prayer has saved Philip a number of times when things went wrong. And—as we go about our work and play with our equine friends—we know that faith gives us the peace and assurance to proceed under the protection of the Almighty."

