

THE PICKET LINE

December 2004



Officers

President

Rich Inman 388-1564

Vice President

Janet Castro 388-0966

Secretary

Joan Holborn 586-3306

Treasurer

Cinda Eichenfels 227-6508

Directors

1 yr

Joyce Haner 388-4273

Sharon Lowry 587-4013

Jim Nelson 388-2201

2 yr

Wally Becker 587-9607

Donna McGeein 587-5645

Beth Merrick 388-4047

State Board Members

Linda Roffe 1 yr

Dan Marsh 2 yr

Alternate: Brown Parsons 1yr

Newsletter Editor

Jiffie Hale 763-4105

Mobile 580-6455

jhale@littleappletech.com

BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh 587-7578

dmarsh@montana.edu

Backcountry Horsemen Mission Statement

"The purpose of this organization shall be (1) to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in Montana's road less back country and (2) to assist the various government agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource and (3) to educate and solicit active participation by various members of the general public in the wise and sustaining use of horses and people, commensurate with our heritage and the back country's resource."

Director's Meeting

Wednesday Dec. 1st @ 7pm

at Sharon Lowry's 587-4013

General Meeting & Banquet

Friday, December 10th @ 6:30pm

Kountry Korner Café

Four Corners

GVBCH annual Christmas banquet

And

Our annual elections



Details on page 2

Christmas Banquet Information

Our annual Christmas party and elections is **Friday, December 10th at 6:30pm** at the Kountry Korner Café, Four Corners. The menu is: Roasted Pork, Twice Baked Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Tossed Salad with dressing, Apple Crisp, Dinner Rolls and lemonade or iced tea. The price, which includes gratuities, is \$15.50 per person. Children 10 and under \$7.75.

For reservations contact Jiffie or Chick Hale 763-4105 and must be in by **Wednesday, December 8th**

Bonnie Hammer thanks you all.

Bonnie says, "Thank you all, my knee surgery was a great success."

Betty White operation on hold.

Betty was due for knee replacement on Nov. 23, but some tests need to be done in early Dec. We will keep you posted.

I am beginning to believe that our members are becoming robots by having their body parts replaced.

Fortunately they are not run on batteries.



Membership dues should be paid by end of year

Enclosed is your membership application for 2005. We suggest that you fill it out and bring it to the dinner along with your check for your dues. The club greatly appreciates those that pay their dues at the dinner. Considering that stamps and printing keep increasing, this will be your only application sent with the newsletter, therefore do not lose it.

Absentee Ballot Information

only if you unable to attend Christmas party

Please mail your dues with signed membership application with your absentee ballot.

Mark your write-in ballot and send to GVBCH, PO Box 3232, Bozeman, MT 59772-3232.

Your ballot must be received **on or before Wednesday, December 8th**

Your name(s) must be placed on the outside of your envelope or your vote will not be counted.

Family membership is entitled to two votes.

Your ballot will be a secret ballot and will be placed among the others at the Christmas party and opened at that time to be counted.

Will these trail crew reports end soon? *By Chick Hale*

I thought last month's report would be the last, but odds and ends are still being completed. On October 21st Wally and I spent a total of ten hours working on our "Becker-Hale" portion of the #401 trail. Spring and fall we try to get all twenty-six water bars cleaned and working properly. We also removed some rocks and leveled short sections of trail. For those who weren't around back then, Wally with other great members and I rebuilt the first three-quarter mile of the 401 trail over a period of two plus years. Prior to our rebuilding, most riders shunned the thrill going up that long side hill from Spanish Creek trailhead. Then on October 27th Wally and Ed Long used five pack horses, loaded 1200 pounds of gravel in two trips and dumped the gravel at a particularly rocky and eroded section of trail. Drains and much more work is needed. Janet Castro's handmade gravel bags worked great. On November 6th Wally and Ed Long rode into the Hell Roaring trail #81 and cleared blow downs past the creek and to the trail junction going about six miles. One tree was cut which was frozen in place and still remains in place. On November 9th I spent some time on the short section of trail in from the hard road to the foot bridge at the Spanish Peak trailhead. If the truth were known most of the time was spent on one rock and it still isn't completely off the trail. Rocks seem to get heavier and more cantankerous every year! Lastly on November 17th I hiked up Spanish Creek trail knowing of two blow downs across the trail. Both were short of the junction to Pioneer Falls trail. I made a clean removal of same. Removed the usual loose rock on the trail and having a heavy hammer and bull point in my pack, I split some rock to save people's shins and called it a day!



GVBCH RECEIVES PRAISE FOR THEIR TRAIL WORK

Chick Hale received a letter from David Steinmuller which reads as follows:

November 9, 2004

Dear Chick,

On behalf of my hiking buddies in the "BMAGS," the men's equivalent of the "BWAGS," I'd like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Big Sky Backcountry Horsemen for the incredible amount of trail renovation and maintenance you carry out with such perseverance and dedication every year. Having done some of this myself, I know how labor-intensive and time-consuming this work is, and what you and your horsemen and horsewomen friends routinely accomplish truly is remarkable—I don't know what the Forest Service would do without you! We often hike on many of the trails that you have worked on, and it really makes a difference for our experience "on the ground." Thanks again, and best wishes and personal regards.

Sincerely,

David Steinmuller

Cc: Brian McNeil, USDA Forest Service

GVBCH Board Meeting Minutes, November 3, 2004

Attendance: Rich Inman, Cinda Eichenfels, Dan Marsh, Sharon Lowry, Joyce Haner, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Wally Becker, Beth Merrick, Donna McGeein, & Joan Holborn. Janet Castro excused. Jim Nelson absent.

Motion by Joyce, 2nd by Dan to accept the minutes from the October board and general meetings. Passed.

Treasurers report submitted by Cinda as follows:

Checking account balance as of October 21, 2004	\$3,272.35
---	------------

Deposits

Dues	\$40.00	
Reimbursement (water/poker ride)	\$74.00	\$114.00
Checking account balance		\$3,386.35

Bills paid

Kinkos	\$40.74	
Reimbursement (Rich for Steaks)	\$136.78	
MT Secretary of State	\$20.00	
Postmaster (Oct stamps)	\$37.00	\$234.52

Checking account balance November 3, 2004	\$3,151.83
--	-------------------

Other Assets

Petty Cash + \$15.00	\$40.96	
Money Market	\$1,935.90	
Three (3) month CD (V.S.)	\$3,084.71	\$5,061.57

Motion by Beth, 2nd by Joyce to allocate the donation of \$300.00 to the Belgrade Alliance Church to be sent in January for the year 2005. Passed.

State Board mtg. date has changed from Dec. 10 to the 3rd. Due to the short notice Dan is unable to attend. The alternate will attend.

Membership committee - Sharon affirms she will continue working in this capacity.

Xmas Party is set for Friday Dec. 10 at 7pm. At the Korner Café.

Motion by Beth, 2nd by Sharon to select one meat for \$15.50 to include: roast pork, twice baked potato, green bean casserole and fruit cobbler dessert. Passed.

Motion by Beth, 2nd by Sharon to allocate \$100.00 for guests to attend our xmas dinner. Passed.

Many Thanks to Sharon for her warm hospitality!

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec.

GVBCH General Meeting Minutes, Nov. 18, 2004

Attendance: Rich Inman, Janet, Jose, Gabrielle, Dan & Joey Castro, Bettye White, Cinda Eichenfels, Wally Becker, Donna McGeein, Joellyn Howel, Chick Hale, Reggie Clark, Wayne and Trina Fredrickson, Anna Holstrom and Guest, Sonja Berg, Rich & Joan Holborn.

Guest speaker Kimberly Schlenker from the forest service gave the club a brief overview of where the travel management plan started and where it is as of today. The draft environmental impact package is anticipated to come out in April. The formal comment period will begin for 90 days. The forest service will plan a series of 'open houses' to receive comments. Travel Plan # 7 is the preferred alternative. Maps are available online, as well as CD's and hard copies at their office or the library. There are 3 maps addressing use, summer motorized, summer non-motorized, and winter travel. They may be viewed on the web at www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/ Thanks Kimberly, we look forward to more in the spring.

Motion by Joellyn, 2nd by Bettye to accept the October minutes as printed in the newsletter. Passed.

Treasurer Report submitted by Cinda.

Motion by Chick, 2nd by Joellyn to pay outstanding bill to Kinkos for \$48.60. Passed.

501C-4 Rich reports a need to show we are tax exempt, he will continue the process.

Nominating committee reports a full slate of candidates is ready to run for leadership positions. Many thanks to all the members coming forward to join the teamwork.

Many Thanks to all the cooks for our potluck and Bettye the rhubarb cobbler hit the spot!

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec.

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

Official Absentee Ballot, December 2004

Officers 1 year

President () Rich Inman

Vice Pres () Janet Castro

Secretary () Trini Frederickson

Treasurer () Cinda Eichenfels

Directors 2 years **vote for 3**

() Lori Brockway

() Joellyn Howell

() John McIlhattan

() Judy Smaaland

() Jennifer Tuthill

() write in nominee

State Board Member 2 years

() Brown Parsons

State Board Alternate 1 year

() _____

We thank these sponsors for their generous contributions to our 2004
Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen 17th annual Poker Ride

Ag Depot

All West Veterinarian

Ardesson Boots & Shoes

Big Sky RV

Billion Dodge

Bitterroot Trailer Sales

Bob Ward & Sons

Bozeman Saddle Outlet

Bridger Feeds

Century 21/Dan Porter

Chalet Sports

Concrete Construction

Costco

DJ Bar Ranch/Jehnet Carlson

Double Diamond Halters

Four Corners Saddlery

Freeway Enterprise

Gourmet Gas Station

Kountry Korner Café

Lee & Dad's

Montana Canvas

Montana Harvest

Murdoch Ranch & Home

Owenhouse Ace Hardware

Precision Fence System

RO Brooks

Rocky Mountain Hat Co.

Schnee's Boots & Shoes

Shear West/Diana Swan

Valley View Veterinarian Hospital

Club Members::

Dick & Barbara Haines

Laura Hanks

John & Joellyn Howell

Rich Inman

Jack & Sharon Lowry

Beth Merrick

Dave & Lisa Reed

Linda Roffe

Kay Tate



Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

Box 3232

Bozeman, MT 59772-3232

