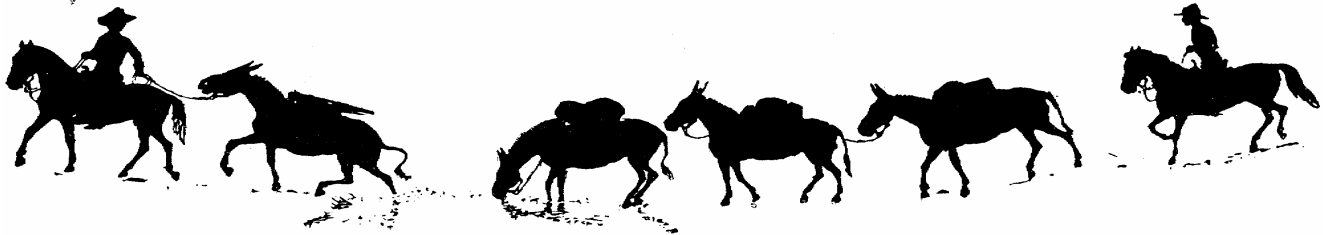


**FEBRUARY 2004**

# *The Picket Line*

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen  
Post Office Box 3232, Bozeman MT 59772-3232  
[www.bchmt.org](http://www.bchmt.org)



## **Officers**

### **President**

Rich Inman 388-1564

### **Vice President**

Janet Castro 388-0966

### **Secretary**

Joan Holborn 586-3306

### **Treasurer**

Cinda Eichenfels 285-4651

## **Directors**

1 yr

Joyce Haner 388-4273

Sharon Lowry 587-4013

Jim Nelson 388-2201

2 yrs

Wally Becker 587-9607

Dave Read 388-1154

Amy Waring 585-2785

## **State Board Members**

Linda Roffe 1 yr

Dan Marsh 2 yrs

Alternate: Brown Parsons 1yr

## **Newsletter Editor**

Jiffie Hale 763-4105

Cell 580-6455

[jhale@imt.net](mailto:jhale@imt.net)

## **BCH Web Master**

Dan Marsh 587-7578

[dmarsh@montana.edu](mailto: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 roadless 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.”

## **Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

Sharon Lowry’s, 160 Lake Rd. 587-4013

## **General Meeting**

**Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

Belgrade Alliance Church

Hoffman & Cameron Rds

## **Program**

**Trail building at Spanish Peaks**

**PowerPoint presentation**

**By**

**Will Shoutis,**

**Bozeman Ranger District Trails Supervisor**

**Gallatin National Forest**

### **President's letter to members**

I want to thank the 30+ people that came to the January meeting and helped us set up the programs, projects, and trail rides for the coming year. It was a very successful meeting with everyone involved getting to have their say. Thanks to Janet Castro for the great brownie bars.

When any organization changes leadership, there is a transition time with some growing pains. I appreciate everyone's patience and respect as you get used to my management style. I want us to have fun but also want us to stay focused on the agenda to accomplish what needs to be done. Our monthly meetings are from 7-9pm on the third Thursday in the month and I would like us to do business and socialize within that 2 hours.

I really want to encourage each of you to come to the general meetings. Joyce and Jiffie have lined up a great slate of monthly programs that will be both educational and entertaining. The program will be first at our monthly meeting and the business part second. This is a great volunteer organization and I am asking you to get involved and participate in the various opportunities offered.

At our last Board meeting I asked each director to take the lead in at least one of our major events and they willingly did. I believe this is the type of participative leadership we need and I thank each director for their involvement. This is shaping up to be a great year so let's all get on board and enjoy the fruits of our efforts.

Your Coach and President, Rich Inman

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### **General Meeting Program**

Program for February General Meeting will be a wonderful PowerPoint presentation given by Will Shoutis, Bozeman Ranger District Trails Supervisor, showing and describing a bridge building project over the Spanish Creek in the Wilderness Area in the Spanish Peaks. Our club helped in this project and some pictures will be shown of our members along with the FS crew. Also at this time Brian McNeil will be present to brief our BCH volunteers on this summer's work projects, certifications, answer some questions and give the club their sign up sheets for each individual volunteer. You need to be there if you plan to work on trails this summer.

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### **DUES are DUE**

How about you folks getting your checks to the club for the year 2004?

We have a great year planned for programs, trail riding and some interesting trail work, packing and just plain getting your hands dirty and making those trails looking BEAUTIFUL!

If you received an application in this newsletter then that means you need to get busy and write your check to the GVBCH for \$32 family or \$22 individual.

**Your last newsletter will be the MARCH issue**

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*“Not everything that counts can be counted,  
and not everything that can be counted counts.”*

## GV Backcountry Horsemen 2001 Noxious Weed Adopt -A –Trail Grant

By Reggie Clark,  
Adopt a Trail USFS Contact

The Noxious Weed Adopt –A -Trail Grant was a cooperative project between the Gallatin Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of America, the US Forest Service, and the Gallatin County Weed District with funding being provided by the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund. Invasive plants, particularly those identified as noxious weeds, are recognized internationally as a threat to native plants and plant communities. A Big Thank You! goes out to the BCH for helping with this important problem.



Goals of the grant included; alerting backcountry user groups and the general public about the noxious weed problem; identifying and managing existing weed infestations; preventing the introduction new weeds; and, keeping native plant communities from being displaced by noxious weeds.

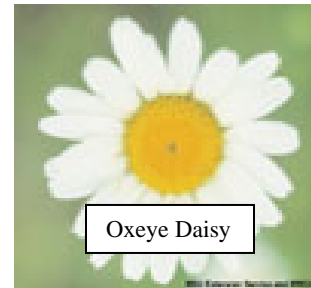
Backcountry areas are recognized as intact havens for wildlife and provide us with solitude from our busy lifestyles. It is critical these areas be protected from noxious weeds. Trailheads are particularly important since they are a source of noxious weed establishment and dispersal.

Therefore, the Spanish Creek and Hyalite trailheads and their associated trail systems were the targets of the project.

Tom Griffith coordinated the project on the ground. Tom purchased two Garmin e-trex Legend GPS units and mapping software, a digital camera, and a horse mounted weed sprayer with the grant money. He then figured out how to make the equipment work. The grant also supplied money for weed pulling equipment and educational materials.

Tom set up GPS and noxious weed identification training in Hyalite Canyon in June 2002. This was well attended by club members.

Club members collected weed data with the GPS units in June, August and September of 2002. The digital camera was used to photograph weed species and weed locations. Luckily, not many weeds were found in the backcountry along the Spanish Creek and Hyalite Lake trail. Most noxious weeds were found at the trailheads or within the first few miles of the trailheads. Small patches of spotted knapweed, musk thistle, whitetop and houndstongue were found at the Spanish Creek trailhead. A patch of oxeye daisy was found along the Hyalite Lake trail.



**This important** information about weeds gathered by the BCH club was added to the Forest Service's computerized weeds data base. This new information will be an important component of weed management on the Bozeman Ranger District.

The horse mounted weed sprayer was purchased with the last of the grant money in the spring of 2003. We tried it out at the Spanish Creek trailhead in June and it worked well. This sprayer along with all the other equipment was turned over to the Gallatin County Weed District after the grant was finished. If club members would like to borrow GPS units and/or the digital camera to map weed sites on trail rides in the future, the equipment is available to be checked out from the county at no charge. Contact the Gallatin County Weed Control office at 582-3265. The Forest Service can provide training, licensing and chemicals if individuals wish to treat weed sites in the backcountry with the horse mounted weed sprayer available also from the county free of charge. I am available to help with weed identification and GPS training if club members are interested.

This grant was successful because it increased BCH club members' knowledge of noxious weeds and it helped the Forest Service inventory acres that would not have been inventoried without their help. I hope that club members will continue to be on the lookout for

noxious weeds during their travels in the backcountry and report any noxious weeds they find to the land managers. Thanks again to all of you who helped with this important project. See you on the trails!

*Reggie is a regular member of our GVBCH.  
She is the Range Management Specialist with the  
Gallatin National Forest, Bozeman District  
You may contact her at 522-2542*



Tom Griffith is shown demonstrating the weedsprayer on an area of the forest and the perimeter of a trailhead.

Tom is also one of the recipients who received the president's trophy presented at our 2003 Christmas party.

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### **MWA State conference includes Backcountry Horseman**

*By José Castro*

The annual Montana Wilderness Association meeting in Bozeman included a strong contingent from our own horseman club. Tom Griffith was part of a panel that presented different trail user perspectives; Tom of course did an awesome and humorous job telling the pack & stock user story and that as horseman we tend to get along just fine with most users. The other trail users on the panel represented hikers and mountain bikers, they both said they felt that most of them pay attention and yield to stock as they pass on the trail.

The BCHM had an excellent display booth that had quite a few visitors from the MWA folks that is sure to continue the strong relationship that has been forged by all of you in the group. Chick, Jiffie, Tom & others assisted in staffing the booth for the two-day meeting in December. The conference emphasized "keeping it wild," and there were lots of colorful discussions on conflicts with motorized users.

The highlight was when keynote speaker and former Chief of the Forest Service, Mike Dombeck shared his love for the land that started as a young lad in northern Wisconsin and continued throughout his distinguished federal service. He talked about the need to protect our backcountry and wilderness and his message was well received. He also emphasized the need to protect these lands for their value as fresh water aquifers for future generations. The entire session benefited from the BCHM involvement and was an excellent public relations tool.

*José is the Gallatin National Forest District Ranger and  
Member of our Gallatin Valley BCH*

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**"Never swap horses crossing a stream."**

*American Proverb, traced to c.1840*

*Submitted by José*

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Poker Ride - July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Here we go again with the planning stage for our one large money maker for the club. First I want to thank Janet Castro, who graciously volunteered to be Co-chairperson with Beth and myself. I want to thank Beth as well. Without her expertise in the poster making and all the paper work, which is considerable, we would be in dire straits.

I am going to list some of the jobs that need to be filled, and if you would please volunteer for whatever you think you can do, it will make the whole process much easier. Let any one of the three of us know and we will record who is doing what. I am going to ask each member to be responsible for getting at least one prize. You can donate one, make one, or ask one of our contributors for one. These prizes are what bring in the large crowds to the Poker Ride. Let us know when you get a prize as well. At the next meeting we will list some of the past contributors. One of the jobs to fill, is someone to volunteer to take charge of the prizes as they are received and get them to the Poker Ride.

### **Jobs:**

Breakfast - A cook and crew. Buy the food and plan the menu. (We will help the committee)

Lunch. A cook and crew. Buy the food and plan the menu. Joyce Haner has excellent records and advice for this job.

**Registration Three to four people.**

Trailer Bring the trailer and take it back.

Set up stoves and the propane bottles. (fill bottles)

Trail development boss

Flagging and taking down the flags.

Letter asking permission from Bridger Bowl.

Insurance authorization - Treasurer usually does this.

First aid person, horse and human

Set up road signs.

Ice and ice chests.

Pop stop 1

Pop stop 2

Pop stop 3

Advance rider

Sweep rider

Generator This will depend on what the menu is and how we serve it.

**Sanitary Engineer**

Porta potties ordered

Master of ceremonies

Extra hand person

Crew for Friday night set-up

Someone to organize a small meal for the set-up crew.

Money box and change Treasurer usually does. Need it by 7:00 AM

When posters are ready we need everyone to post them around the valley, near by towns and around the state. (If going out of town).

Sharon 587-4013 email- [lowry@180com.net](mailto:lowry@180com.net) , Beth 388-4047 email - [bmerrick1@aol.com](mailto:bmerrick1@aol.com) , Janet 388-0966 email - [castro@montana.edu](mailto:castro@montana.edu)

**GVBCH Board Mtg. Minutes Jan. 7 '04**

Attendance: Rich Inman, Bettye White, Jim Nelson, Aaron Linton, Janet Castro, Wally Becker, Cinda Eichenfels, Brown Parson, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Amy Waring, Joyce Haner, Sharon Lowry, Dan Marsh, Dave Read absent, Linda Roffe excused, & Joan Holborn.

Minutes: Brown indicates correction (addition) to minutes to note presidents award given to Tom Griffith & Bettye White. Additionally, that Brown rec'd a 2 yr. pin for service.

**No change from the Treasurer's Report given at the December Board Meeting prepared by Bettye White. (the following edited by Cinda Eichenfels, treas.)**

**Checking account balance November 20, 2003 \$1349.60**

<b>+Deposits:</b>	
12/4 Tack Auction	\$1576.00
12/23 Christmas Dinner	667.00
12/23 Dues	368.00
1/7 Dues	<u>164.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2775.00</b>

**Checking Account Balance 1/7/04 \$4124.60**

<b><u>-Bills Paid:</u></b>	
12/4 Muhmillan Videos	\$ 60.00
12/4 B. White Engrave	10.00
12/4 State Dues	990.00
12/4 US Post Office	37.00
12/18 Kinkos (newsletter)	<u>96.31</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1193.81</b>

**Checking Account Balance to date \$2930.79**

<b><u>+Other:</u></b>	
Petty Cash + \$5.00 for one video	\$ 27.29
Money Market	1930.46
Three (3) Month CD	<u>1503.35</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3462.10</b>

**Outstanding Bills: (authorized for payment at 1/7/04 Board Meeting)**

**Motion: Jim moves, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wally, to pay the following bills:**

Western State Ins.	Bal.	92.00
Kountry Korner	Dinner	667.00

Transition of office: Kinkos card from Brown given to Rich. Post Office key from Bettye given to Janet Castro. Original CD held in Bettye White safety deposit box.

Chick asks board to consider purchase of gravel bunks at @ \$200.00/pr, Rich states possibility of getting used or discounted ones from Holverson (?).

Poker Ride Chairmen this year will be Sharon Lowry and Janet Castro.

Steak Ride Chairman this year will be Jim Nelson. Thanks Volunteers!!!

Dan reports status of state convention, raffle tickets available, requesting entries for photo contest. Dan will contact Larry about agenda for convention. Joan reminded board of cost (\$966.00) to club to attend last year's convention with little in return.

Many Thanks to Sharon for providing the warmth & comfort of her home for our mtg.

Thanks Bonnie for providing us with planning calendar, best wishes in your recuperation.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, sec

### **GVBCH General Mtg. Minutes January 15, '04**

Attendance: Rich Inman, Janet Castro, CindaEichenfels, Bettye White, Reggie Clark, Tom & Jean Griffith, Linda Roffe, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Dave, Lisa, Brandon & Jessica Read, Kay Tate, Larry & Billie Thomas, Wally Becker, Jehnet Carlson, Joyce Haner, Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Amy Waring, Anna Holstrom, Sonja Berg, & Joan Holborn. Treasurer Report unchanged from Dec. report/ Cinda. Rich states planned audit 1-16.

No changes to minutes

Amy facilitated the remainder of meeting.

The calendar of events for club activities began with program suggestions given by Joyce & Jiffie, additional requests taken from members. A show of hands for each topic ranked interest and will be scheduled accordingly. Chick & Wally presented trail maintenance schedule. The trail ride schedule was open to all suggestions with the requirement that it would need a date & a trail boss in order to be put on the calendar. The board will review the final calendar for any conflicts, corrections, or additions.

Thanks everyone for your attendance and participation.

Janet has raffle tickets for purchase for state convention. Linda has a seat open to ride to convention.

Many thanks to the member providing our refreshment of home baked brownies.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, sec.

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### **An eventful January general meeting.**

The general meeting in January was very eventful. We had a large turnout of members who all participated by voicing their opinions and giving their ideas for programs, trail rides and trail maintenance. Bonnie Hammer got us started with handouts of her calendar containing fixed events. Amy Waring was the facilitator and ran the event very timely. The procedure was the first that I can remember where we did not separate into three tables. All members present had a say in each category.

Your program chairman, Joyce Haner read off suggestions she and I compiled and club members contributed additions. Votes were taken for choice selections. It will then be taken to the board and again to the February general meeting. Since the Feb, March, June and Dec. programs have been scheduled, we need seven to fill for 2004.

The members heard the proposal from Wally, director and Chick, his committee, on trail projects and suggestions. There seemed to be no objections, but some ideas were given for our Gallatin National Forest. Votes again were taken on this topic.

The trail rides for the year has a committee of **all BCH members** and ideas on rides, locations and trail bosses were suggested. Votes were also taken on this subject.

Some members were not able to attend this meeting. Please try to come for the next general meeting. It could be that you have suggestions, special desires, wonderful trails you have ridden, rides that you are willing to lead and problem trails that need work. What would you like the club to do for you? What would you like to do for the club?



# Difficult Horses: Where Do They Come From?

by Lydia Miller, DVM

*Lydia Miller, DVM, Owner Education Director, American Association of Equine Practitioners*

## Does your horse commit any of these unsocial behaviors?

- Rubs against you with its head
- Steps, pushes or leans on you
- Pulls on the lead rope to eat or won't keep up with you
- Is hard to load or catch
- Won't tie
- Is head or ear shy

According to Dr. Glenn Anderson, an equine veterinarian near Tulsa, Oklahoma, your relationship with your horse doesn't have to be that way. There is definitely something you can do (or not do) about equine misbehaviors. By taking the time to learn a new way to work with your horse, you'll soon enjoy a companion, show horse or working partner that is safer and more pleasant for you as well as others to be around. In addition, your veterinarian will appreciate a patient that remains calm during an examination or treatment.

Dr. Anderson remembers the day he decided there must be a better way to work with horses. He usually got along fine with most of equine clients and patients. The few that caused trouble were either muscled into submission, restrained with devices or sedated. But it wasn't one of his clients' horses that ultimately changed his life—it was his own, hard-to-catch mare that led him to seek out one of the master horse communicators, Ray Hunt. Applying Hunt's low resistance methods developed from a keen understanding of what makes horses react the way they do, Dr. Anderson learned to think more along the lines of "how to teach your horse to catch you." He was so impressed with the turnaround in his mare that he began to incorporate this philosophy and its training techniques into his equine practice.

Dr. Anderson feels that many of his clients, like himself, inadvertently teach their horses to misbehave by rewarding disobedience. Inconsistent signals on the part of the handler are another factor that can lead to equine misbehavior. When time, the type of procedure or an owner who's not interested in fixing their horse's behavior problems are involved, he uses chemical restraint to get the job done and move on to the next appointment. But when Dr. Anderson senses that an owner is willing to learn and improve themselves and their horse, he takes the time to show the horse and owner a better, easier way.

"Many times, I'm able to perform somewhat painful or frightening procedures with no tranquilizer at all, just by getting the horse to trust and listen to me," he says. He advises owners to start a conversation with their veterinarian.

"Let them know you've 'had enough' and are willing to objectively listen then put into practice their advice on handling your horse," says Dr. Anderson. He suggests that if your veterinarian is not comfortable addressing the topic, ask him or her to refer you to another local professional who is more of an expert in the area. Sometimes this referral may take the form of a video or audiotape or even hands-on clinic. But be cautious: all horsemen are not alike. Also keep in mind that, while rare, some horses are truly aggressive and dangerous. Pinning ears, charging humans and trying to bite or strike without provocation indicate the need for a professional.

However you decide to gain information and skills to improve the behavior of your horse, you'll appreciate a better relationship with your equine friend. And when it comes time for the spring check-up and vaccinations, hopefully it goes a little smoother than last year.

Article Posted: February, 2000 In the American Assoc. of Equine Practitioners

More information may be obtained from <http://www.myhorsematters.com/>



### ***MT BCH State Convention for 2004***

The Montana Back Country Horsemen of Montana 2004 State Convention will be held March 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at the University of Montana-Western, Lewis & Clark Rm., Dillon. It will be hosted by Three Rivers Chapter BCH and Co-Hosted by the University of Montana-Western Equestrian Team. The theme is "Preserving The Heritage." More information may be obtained from the web site [www.bchmt.org](http://www.bchmt.org)

Our VP Janet Castro has raffle tickets for: \$300 gift cert. donated by Back Country Horsemen valid through any Quality Supply Store in Dillon, Butte, Missoula & Hamilton, MT; Winston Fly Rod Boron II X Rod, 4 piece Weight 9 ft.; Custom Hat hand made by Montana Mad Hatters.  
6 tickets for \$5, 12 for \$10 or \$1 each ticket.

Our club had been notified quite late pertaining to the entries for the photo contest, however we are asking for and mostly will receive an extension of time to submit. You need to submit your photos to the February board meeting for selection. The rules are:

- Photos to be taken and submitted by Backcountry Horsemen only.
- Amateur photographers only.
- 5" x 7" – no larger than 18" x 24"
- Photos can be any format, however must be **dry mounted or framed.**
- **Name, address, phone number** must be attached to back of photo in small envelope.
- Remember-**no visible autographs on front of photo, mat or frame.**
- Contestants may enter two photos in each category:  
Category 1 – wildlife, horses, pets, etc.  
Category 2 – scenery, rainbows, mountains, etc.  
Category 3 – people or things  
Category 4 – work projects

Awards will be given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each category. Grand prize (Peoples Choice) Combined Categories \$50.

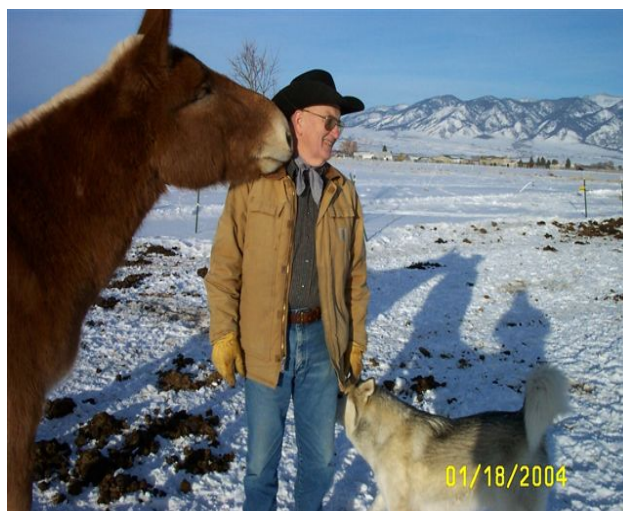
For more information contact

Larry Jordan, Photo Coordinator/phone 504-683-2065/email: [ljordan@bmt.net](mailto:ljordan@bmt.net)

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Bettye White is our 2003 recipient of the president's trophy awarded at our GVBCH annual Christmas party. Bettye is a charter member. She has been a past president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and director. Bettye is an avid horseback rider whether riding alone with her dog or with other riders no matter what the weather or distance. She rides with the BCH in all our local parades as shown above.



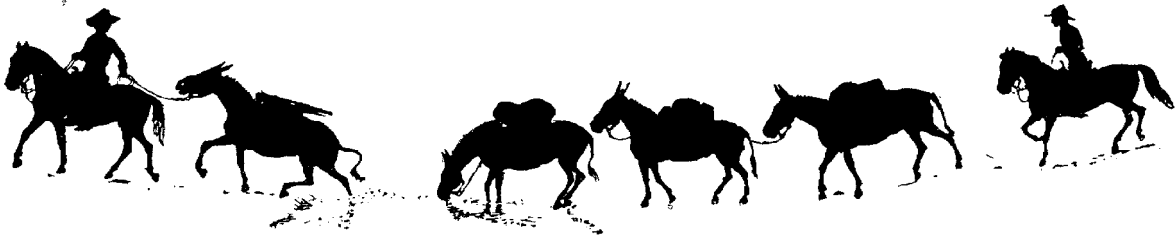
Tom Griffith is our other recipient of the president's trophy for 2003. Tom is a long standing member of the GVBCH. He is a retired Forest Service Staff Officer on the Dear Lodge NF. He has served the FS for 32 years, has been a rancher for 7 years and was a preacher for 5 years. Tom is our teacher and mentor for our noxious weed program. An avid mule lover and horseman, he and wife, Jean, have packed many miles for trail maintenance for our club.

**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN THANKS THESE SPONSORS FOR  
SUPPORTING OUR 2002 POKER RIDE**

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Barnyard Creations  
Bozeman Saddle Outlet  
Bridger Feeds  
Buffalo Station  
Cashman Nursery  
Century 21-Dan Porter  
Chalet Sports  
Colleen Sloan  
Concrete Construction  
Costco  
DJ Bar Ranch  
Double Diamond Halter

Four Corners Feed  
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Freeway Enterprisee\s  
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Owenhouse Ace Hdwe  
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Precision Fence  
Quality Landscape  
Seeding, Inc.  
Ranch & Home Supply  
Rocky Mountain Hat Co.  
Shear West  
Tally Oats  
Team Bozeman Polaris  
Club Members:  
Beth Merrick  
Jack Lowrey  
Jiffie & Chick Hale  
Kay Tate  
Laura Hanks  
RJ & Jacki Conti  
Volney Steele



Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen  
Box 3232  
Bozeman, MT 59772-3232

