

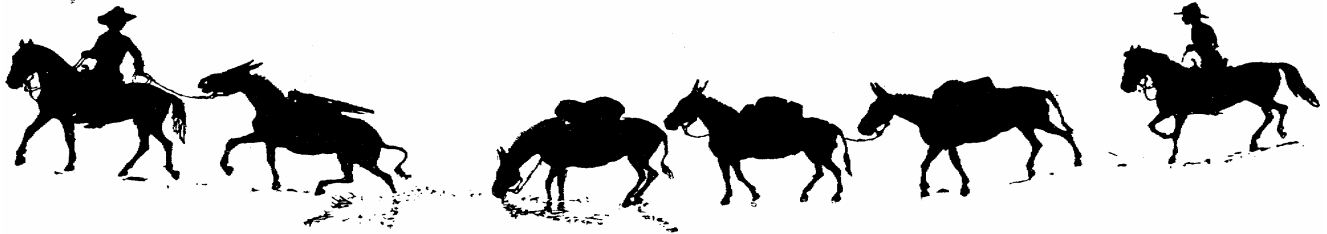
MARCH 2004

The Picket Line

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

Post Office Box 3232, Bozeman MT 59772-3232

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

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 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, March 3rd at 7pm

Sharon Lowry’s, 160 Lake Rd. 587-4013

General Meeting

Thursday, March 18th at 7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church

Hoffman & Cameron Rds

Program

“Light on the Land”

Presented by

Harry Boughton

**Party afterwards to honor charter member
Harry and Alice who are moving to Great Falls**

Powerful PowerPoint presentation from Will Shoutis

It took some time for the electronics to move in the right direction and while that was being scrutinized, Brian McNeil, Roads and Trails Supervisor, gave the members and our guests the information required for volunteer certifications with necessary forms to fill in and sign as needed by the FS. Then we were treated to a powerful presentation by Will, FS Trails Supervisor, at this Feb. general meeting. It was a large gathering of 40-50 members/guests present including reporter Nick Gevock from the Chronicle who was there to help us in our membership drive and gather information as to our club working with the FS on their bridge building in the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Area and other BCH projects. What was not mentioned, and I was witness to, was the fact that all the chips, saw dust, tree bark, etc. was completely scattered in the forest so that no sign of any disturbance was seen from their work efforts. Will is very supportive of the Wilderness Area.

We are a busy and active club always looking for more volunteers to work on trails. We ride them and support keeping the trails in as good a condition as our time and efforts will permit. We

are proud of our work. There was much enthusiasm shown by old and new members present. Many members renewed their memberships while we received new members. I know I handed out quite a few applications. Some members said it was by far one of our best meetings. Thanks Will and Brian for your great efforts.

Ed.

Addition to our back page 2003 Poker Ride sponsors

On our 2003 Poker Ride back page sponsors we inadvertently omitted Wayne Frederickson who generously donated an awning for our trailer similar to the ones on big motor homes. It rolls in and out on its own so we do not have to hang all those plastic tarps over the cooking area. It is installed and ready to go. We apologize to you Wayne for not including your name along with the other sponsors. We are grateful for your kind donation. Many thanks for saving our backs and making protection for the food.

“I used to work in a fire hydrant factory. You couldn’t park anywhere near the place.”

Steven Wright

GVBCH Board Mtg. Minutes Feb. 4, 2004

Attendance: Rich Inman, Janet Castro, Cinda Eichenfels, Dave Read, Sharon Lowry, Chick Hale-proxy for Jim Nelson, Jiffie Hale, Joyce Haner, Dan Marsh, Linda Roffe, Brown Parsons, Amy Waring, Wally Becker, Kay Tate, & Joan Holborn.

Motion by Sharon, 2nd by Joyce to accept minutes from January board & general mtg. as printed in N.L., passed by voice vote.

Rich reports he was at Nine Mile training center, he looked into 2nd hand gravel bunks for the club but none were available.

Poker Ride Sharon & Janet heading committee, volunteers sought, something for everyone, we need you.

Treasurer Report: Submitted by Cinda.

Motion by Sharon 2nd by Brown to remove funds, raised from Volney Steele tack sale, from the checking acct to be added to 3 month CD maturing on 2/11/04. voice vote, motion passes with one opposed.

Insurance: Janet reports on cancellation & takes on task to seek a new carrier.

Motion by Amy, 2nd by Janet to accept changes to planning calendars as discussed.

Audit: Rich reports that he, Jiffie & Cinda found treasurer books to be within ½ a dollar of correct balance, Thanks again Bettye for keeping accts in order.

State Convention in March. Attendance cost & benefit to club was discussed. Dan will look into agenda and report back. General consensus that Dan & Linda attend. Cost to send delegates to be discussed further.

Many thanks to Sharon for providing refreshments and our meeting place.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec.

GV BCH General Mtg. Minutes Feb. 19, 04

Attendance: Rich Inman, Janet & Jose Castro, Cinda Eichenfels, Amy Waring, Dave, Lisa, Jessica & Brandon Read, Sharon Lowry, Joyce Haner, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Tom & Jean Griffith, Bonnie Hammer, Kay Tate, Bill Sheilds, Dick Haines, Dan Marsh, Linda Roffe, Jehnet Carlson, Dan Porter, Wally Becker, Jim Nelson, Sonja Berg, Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Brenda Kessler, Lee Hart, Billie & Larry Thomas, Rich & Joan Holborn. Guests: Nick Gevock, Greg Galloway, Ron Meinard, Brett Stewart, Anna Holstrum, Pat Davis, Judy Smallet?, Gallatin National Forest Service employees: Brian McNeil & Will Shoutis.

Volunteer Applications were distributed by Brian for all those wishing to work on trails in 2004. Rich has a few extra applications. Volunteers need certification to use chainsaws, crosscut, & bear spray. One person on a crew needs First Aid/CPR certification. Brain asks that volunteers check in & out with him when working trails. He has radios for safety and use.

Program Will shared the GNFS powerpoint slide show of last seasons trail work showcasing trail work & bridge building by a host of volunteers including our own.

Treasurer Report by Cinda submitted:

<u>Audited Checking account balance as of 1/16/04</u>	\$2930.79
<u>+Deposits:</u>	
2/4 Dues	\$162.00
2/4 Western States refund ck.	300.00
2/8 Dues	194.00
2/11 Dues	<u>22.00</u>
Total	\$678.00

Checking Account Balance **\$3608.79**

<u>-Bills Paid:</u>	
2/4/04 Kinkos	\$54.30
2/4/04 Kountry Korner	<u>667.00</u>
Total	\$721.30

Checking Account Balance 2/19/04 **\$2887.49**
(includes \$1576.00 tack sale money)

<u>+Other:</u>	
Petty Cash	\$28.96
Money Market	1930.46
Three (3) Month CD	<u>\$1503.35</u> (Matures Feb 22, 2004)
Total	\$3462.77

<u>Outstanding Bills:</u>	
Jiffie Hale (Stamps Feb NL)	\$37.00
Jiffie Hale (Stamps March NL)	\$37.00
Kinkos (Feb NL)	<u>\$106.80</u>

Cinda reports the monies from the Volney Steele tack sale will be added to 3 month CD when matures on 2/22/04.

Motion by Chick, 2nd by Sonja, to approve outstanding bills, passed by voice vote.

Brown requests reimbursement for his \$10.00 engraving bill, Rich will take care of.

Poker Ride Janet reviewed list of needed volunteers for up coming fundraiser.

State Convention: Janet gives copies of resolutions to be voted on at convention in March. Rich encourages participation, club sponsored delegates will be decided on at next board mtg.

Video Library: Kay brought club video library to relinquish duty. Janet volunteers to manage.

Thanks Kay for your work.

Audit: Rich reports to members that a recent audit was finished with acct within \$0.42 of balance. Audits will occur qrtly. Thanks to Rich, Jiffie & Cinda for reviewing books.

Thank-you Dave & Lisa Read for providing cookies for all to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec

If in 2004 you have some money to invest, 3M will merge with Goodyear and issue forth as MMMGood. And also we hear FedEx is expected to join its major competitor, UPS and become FedUP! Got more to invest? Grey Poupon and Docker Pants are expected to become Poupon Pants.

Letter from Adolescent Resource Center

February 24, 2004

Dear members of the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen,

I am writing to you to express my excitement of working with you and to explain a bit about what it is exactly that I do. My name is Michelle Ratliff and I am the Community Service Coordinator at the Adolescent Resource Center (ARC) in Bozeman. At the ARC Community Service Program, we deal with youth that are in trouble, either with their parents, their school or law enforcement. These youth are unique, creative individuals with misdirected energy.

Just the thought of working with teenagers that are “mad at the world” has the capacity to send some adults to tears. *But not this organization!* We thrive on the fact that each of those upset beings has enormous power to do so much good in our community. Through community service we take frustrated, disconnected teens and focus their energies into positive experiences. Our goal is to provide a diverse environment for personal expression in order to encourage civic responsibility and community connectedness. So, When the opportunity to work with the GVBCH arose, I became very excited. What a wonderfully challenging experience for our youth to participate in! What a great opportunity for the members of the Back Country Horsemen to teach our youth something unique and worthwhile!

The majority of our youth have never volunteered anywhere before coming to our program and even though it seems strange many have never spent time along the fabulous trails that exist in this area. When I first meet one of “my kids” it is obvious that they are less than thrilled about being in our program. Then, when their first day is over they say things like “This wasn’t what I thought it would be at all” or, “I really had fun today” and they leave our van smiling, waving, and telling us to have a good night. Many times their bravado or “tough guy” image is there because it helps them get by without too many bruises or bumps from the world. If you take them out of their normal environment and create an atmosphere of acceptance they start to come out of their shells and you realize they are just kids that need our support, understanding and guidance.

I firmly believe that the desire to learn is an innate human need that we all share regardless of age and if given the chance to try, make mistakes, and succeed we all have the ability to rise above preconceived expectations. Here are quotes from some of our youth about their experiences with the community service program:

“I realize other people need more things in life and we should be more generous” - *a youth statement regarding Habitat for Humanity.*

“The most rewarding part of Community Service was shoveling snow for the woman who was very thankful” – *said in response to a day spent assisting members of the Bozeman Senior Center the week after Christmas.*

Although they act tough, our youth are really sensitive to their experiences on work crews and are capable of completing almost any task with the right encouragement and direction. Such encouragement can provide a youth with the proper self-esteem to complete the toughest tasks of life.

We think it a great opportunity to be involved with an organization full of such highly experienced trail builders and users such as you. Not only does trail maintenance provide great challenges to the youth, but also it allows you the opportunity to pass on your wealth of knowledge. We would like to instill the philosophies of conservation in our youth and feel that you are the ideal teachers.

I look forward to working by your side with “my kids” in our beautiful forests. If you would like anymore information or would like to speak with me personally about our program please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Sincerely,
Michelle Ratliff
Community Service Coordinator
Adolescent Resource Center
1450 W. Kagy
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 586-5908
(406) 586-6642 Fax

Mule Lameness

Excerpt from: Donkey and Mule Scenarios: When to Stop, Think, Read or Call

By: Tex Taylor, DVM, and Nora Matthews, DVM

Source: Presented during the 2002 AAEP (American Association of Equine Practitioners) Annual Convention, Orlando, FL

One of the most critical points is to realize that mules and donkeys have a markedly better tolerance for pain than do most horses. This is particularly significant in evaluating the musculoskeletal and gastrointestinal systems. Failure to recognize this can lead to an erroneous or delayed diagnosis, the results of which can sometimes be disastrous.

Everyone has heard the old tales about what donkeys and mules do or don't do, and about why they are or are not better than horses. Like most information we receive, some is correct, some is incorrect and some is not presented in the correct context. As an example, let's consider lameness in mules. They reportedly have fewer lamenesses than do horses. This view has been around for decades. It may or may not be true.

Before the 1960's, mules were working animals from draft-type mares and sired by draft-type jacks. They were doing the job draft horses did, and in some cases, were perhaps doing it better or more economically. They performed, generally, in a reasonably straight line or loose turn and at a walk and trot. Rarely were they ever required to work at greater speeds. Most of today's mules are produced from our saddle-type performance mares and sired by smaller, more refined jacks. We are asking the mules to duplicate the maneuvers of our racehorses, roping horses, reining horses, driving horses, cutting horses and others. We have changed our expectations of our mules as well as their pedigree. Our observations suggest that we are infusing all our lamenesses seen in horses. The idea that mules are less likely to become lame is at least in part because of the fact that many of the lamenesses will be much more advanced in the mule before the animals demonstrate sufficient lameness to be presented for examination and treatment.

To read more of these articles of the above/below go to: <http://www.myhorsematters.com>

The schedule insert...

Members please take note that the enclosed 2004 schedule is not set in stone and may be changed at anytime. Also, if you have a trail ride in mind or wish to be a trail boss, please notify Rich, Amy or Dan. We will add it to the schedule. And if you do not like what is there you can volunteer a ride location and be a trail boss. Don't be shy.

Web site

Have you checked out our web site? Dan has created a beautiful site with loads of information for you. He has worked long and hard and really deserves our praise...as does the BCHM in general. www.bchmt.org

Poker Ride update

Janet Castro would like to mention that you need to turn in the prizes that you have collected to her.

She also needs help with:

Breakfast

Lunch Crew-cooks and helpers

Registration

Trail development helpers

Pop Stop 3

Sweep riders

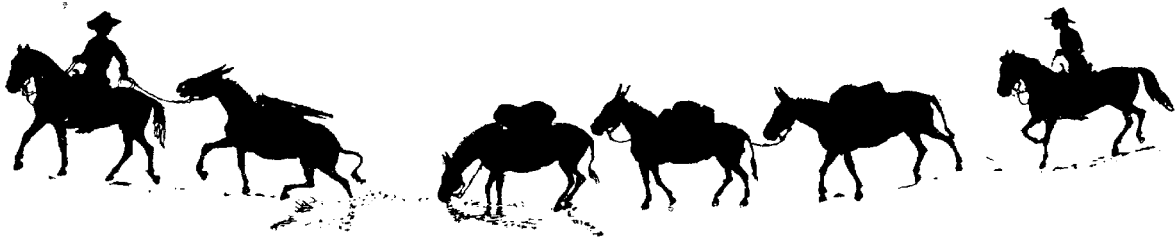
Extra hand person

**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN THANK THESE SPONSORS FOR
SUPPORTING OUR 2003 POKER RIDE**

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Ardesson Boots & Shoes
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Bozeman Saddle Outlet
Bridger Feeds
Billion Dodge
Bob Ward & Sons
Cashman Nursery
Century 21/Dan Porter
Concrete Construction
Costco
DJ Bar Ranch
Double Diamond Halters

Four Corners Saddlery
Freeway Enterprise
Gourmet Gas Station
Kawasaki Forge
Kountry Korner Café
Lee & Dad's
McIlhattan Veterinary
Montana Canvas
Montana Harvest
Owenhouse Ace Hdwe
Precision Fence System
Quality Landscape
Seeding

Rocky Mountain Hat Co.
Shear West/Diana Swan
Club Members:
Sonja Berg
RJ Conti
Wayne Frederickson
Jiffie & Chick Hale
Joyce Haner
Laura Hanks
Rich & Joan Holborn
Rich Inman
Jack Lowry
Beth Merrick



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

