

GALLATIN VALLEY BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN
POB 3232, BOZEMAN, MT 59772-3232
WWW.BCHMT.ORG

THE PICKET LINE

October 2004



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 yr

Wally Becker 587-9607

Dave Read 388-1154

Amy Waring 585-2785

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 Oct., 6th 7pm

at Sharon Lowry's 587-4013

General Meeting & Program

Thursday, October 21st, 7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church

Cameron & Hoffman Sts.

Program

Eagle Mount

Presented by Cheryl Christman

Riding Program Director

On opportunities for special people in

Southwest Montana

New members:/change of address

Sandra Rose, 61 Cow Trail, Livingston, MT 59047 222-0064 BSMMontana@starband.net

Brent R. Stewart, 90 W. Madison #E194, Belgrade, MT 59714 994-0074 ahdiver@pocketmail.com

Kari Swenson, 4969 Durston Rd., Bozeman, MT 59718 586-0207 kasdogdoc@msn.com

New address:: Cinda Eichenfels, 402 Quarter Circle Rd., Helena, MT 59601 227-6508

Program information

Our program for Thursday, October 21st will be very informative on Eagle Mount. Cheryl Christman, Riding Program Director will first show us a brief 10 min. film on the various aspects of Eagle Mount and just what it can do for the handicap , disabled and special people in our area and beyond. She will explain how the riding program helps their muscles , balance, coordination and building confidence. Also, and quite important is the wonderful satisfaction that the many volunteers gain in helping those people. She will be glad to answer all your questions.

From the Adolescent Resource Center

Chick Hale has received a letter from the ARC and it quotes, "We would like to thank you for partnering with our community service work program in an effort to help the youth in our community. Your participation in our program has been very beneficial and a great learning experience to the adolescents involved. We would be happy to work with you again, please keep us in mind for any winter projects you might have. We are available on Wednesday ,Thursday and Friday afternoons as well as all day Saturday.

Thank you for giving back to your community."

Tammy Matthews,

Community Service Coordinator

Horse for Sale

Our member and director Amy Waring has her horse for sale: 7 yr old reg. QH mare. 15.1 hands. "Cassie" is very friendly. She is a great trail horse, a bit reluctant to cross water as the lead horse, but just needs some encouragement. Cassie

would be best suited for an intermediate or advanced rider. I have been riding her Western for 2 years on trail and schooling her English in the



arena. View Cassie at www.eponaequine.com She is listed in the sale barn. \$2,500. Call Amy @ 579-5041

BRIDGER FEEDS	
	<i>MANAGER</i>
	ROBBY MOCK
	PHONE: 406-586-3026
	<i>OWNER</i>
MARCIA S. ANDERSON	

After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him.

The moral:

When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

Or so they tell me!

The ride was long! 20 miles. Or so they tell me. On September 11th the yearly Elk Bugle Ride consisted of Wally, the fearless leader, RJ Conti and Chick Hale. The trio set out at 10:30am from the Sage Creek campground having changed the ride location from Bacon Rind so horses did not have to have Coggins and health certificates as needed in the Park. If you have ever ridden from this trailhead you know you open and close lots of gates in the beginning. RJ said, "I recognized Sphinx Mountain, Lone Mountain, Ramshorn, and the Spanish Peaks from way up high and even a slight outline of the Teton's when we rode a little bit further to look down into Bacon Rind. The views were magnificent to say the least. We had vast open panoramic vistas in all directions on a perfect weather day, with some cool stiff winds up high on the exposed ridges blowing hard enough to make the horses tails swing right around their butts. That gave you a hint the seasons are changing. Met a few people on the lower part of the trail that were packing in for bow season. It was a



good 8 hours in the saddle, not for those who don't like long rides up steep and narrow climbs on sheer rock at times. Over all a great day spent with two great fellow horsemen."

However, Chick says, "The trails were good with no exposed areas such as cliffs, steep terrain or overhangs and much of the trail followed gentle ridge lines giving

360° views. No elk were seen or heard as Wally believes wolves crossed their trail and since Wally was in the lead he was the only one who saw them. The wind blew strong in the higher elevations, the sky was cloudless and scenes were beautiful."

RJ went on to say, "Wally saw a big dark wolf on the way in, and his horse played real well with this Bossy mamma cow on the way out. I tried mine, but he wasn't as "cowy" as Wally's."



The three tired men arrived back at the trailhead about 6:30pm. Had there been more riders the fearless leader would have shortened the ride, or so they tell me! Oh, and by the way, who do you believe?

The editor

Belgrade Fall Festival 2004 *by Janet Castro VP*

Fall was definitely in the air. It was a beautiful, crisp morning as we saddled up the horses to get ready to ride in the big parade.

We only had seven members represent the club but we did have a huge age spread. It was one of our youngest member's first parade. My daughter, Gabriella at the tender age of 7 years, was a very proud rider. The smile on her face was infectious as she rode down main street doing her little princess wave. I think she is hooked and will



be a regular rider. Other members included Wally, Chick, Betty, Ellie, Rich, and myself. Rich lead the group with one of his pack mules in tow. The crowd always seems to get a kick out of the pack mules. The parade looked like a big success. There were a lot of entries, and a lot of spectators. Everyone had fun!

Every year the state asks each chapter to write an article for the state newsletter: this is ours.

If it's ho-hum , what's next?

by Chick Hale of the Gallatin Valley Chapter

I thought that this was kind of a ho – hum year for the Gallatin Valley Chapter, but now I'm not so sure. It's true that our pleasure rides were trails that we had traveled before; our local Sweet Pea Parade was as slow as ever; our Poker Ride in the Bridger Mountains was blessed with good weather–182 people paid the entrance fee; we helped build and pack in for two horse bridges over creeks in the Spanish Peaks. In addition, we seem to be the only ones who showed a TV film at the state convention in Dillon. Our club produced a feature film showing 'light on the land.' We presented our trail construction along with pictures of club activities on two laptops, which were shown continuously. We are up to date!

Then a rough check showed that 9,287 feet of trail tread was re-dug as we removed rock and debris and finished with pruning and water bars. We were helped for the first time by persons 'off the street,' i.e., hikers and often horse people and some days the Forest Service showed up with their trail crew to help us with the heavy work.

Continued on page 5...

However, what really sticks in my mind is the conversion of an old roto-tiller. We found wheels could replace the tines and the machine could be driven to the work site. Once there, any of four tines could be installed in order to loosen soil in the appropriate area of the trail.



I wouldn't have been so excited about this but for the Forest Service saying it would not work and other people turning their backs on me and snickering. Well, can you believe it worked? That's how three men, a nucleus totaling about 216 years in age, and along with other help completed a mile and three quarters of trail.

But I guess that is small potatoes compared to the next brainstorm: I read in the local paper that an organization was going to help find work for kids 14 to 18 years old to satisfy their sentence by the local judge rather than incarceration for misdemeanors. Always looking for someone else to help in our work, a light was lit and bells jingled. It just might be that we could get young people to see what goes into

our forests; we could show them that trails just don't grow there and it takes thought, skill and most of all effort to make travel in the back woods possible. Would young people be able to relate to us 'old duffers'? Such a scary thought. We made fruitful contact with the local Adolescent Resource Center. Over the winter such problems as workmen's compensation, who directs whom, etc., were worked out with the help of our president and some directors. The end result was a group of young people, mostly in clean white sneakers, T shirts, shorts with bare belly-buttons and an expanse of exposed rear end, yet having their very acceptable supervisor work with us. This crew or their replacements appeared each Tuesday throughout the summer at the designated trail head ready and willing with their own Pulaski's, McClouds, pruners, etc. We kept the work site within a mile of the trail head in order to leave enough energy for working. We did not know what would happen. With our capable supervisor and white haired or hairless deputies we started work, showed the kids what we wanted and worked alongside them. Believe me, the first fifty feet looked like hell, but before long things just fell into place and progressed to the point that a nice easy pace developed. Eventually I could hear a chuckle here and there from them. You could also notice that those kids with the 'chips on their shoulders' soon fell off. We soon became a family. Some worked too hard, some not enough, but at the end of the day the addition of those seven, plus or minus, young men and women made a big difference. We had to fix the beginning of each day's work and some of the young people would come back, maybe three times, so we placed them in charge and depended on them. They noticed they were appreciated. Most important to me was the positive attitude and their feeling of accomplishment at the end of the day.



Glancing at our Backcountry Horsemen mission statement the club is proud that we fulfilled every aspect. I personally was thrilled to work with these young people. We all achieved a feeling of accomplishment in an almost spiritual way. The real reward was the positive report the Adolescent Resource Center made to us, "answer to a question posed to the young youth as to what best they did and what they had accomplished was, 'with the BCH working on trails!'" We plan to enlist their aid next year when we hope to again help some youth over a rough spot in their life.

GVBCH Board Mtg. Minutes Sept 1 ,2004

Attendance: Rich Inman, Janet Castro, Cinda Eichenfels, Sharon Lowry, Alice Marsh, Brown Parsons, Amy Waring, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Wally Becker, Joyce Haner, Sonja Berg, Jim Nelson, & Joan Holborn.

Motion by Sharon, 2nd by Wally to accept minutes as printed in the August newsletter, passed.

Treasurer report submitted by Cinda. **Motion** by Brown, 2nd by Joyce to approve bills submitted by Rich for payment, passed.

Grant- Janet reports 1st round with application not approved due to 2 small deficiencies, need public scooping or advertising x 12 months and no alternative in MEPA environmental checklist. She plans to pursue.

Volunteers: Eaglemount looking for help.

Club Trailer- Jim reports problems with hauling due to wiring, may need work.

Work Signs- Rich request crews to post signs to let public know BCH at work on trail.

Xmas Party- Discussion resulted in **Motion** by Jim, 2nd by Brown to set tentative date for Friday, Dec. 10th, passed by majority.

501C-4- Rich reports on progress and receives input from the board.

Many Thanks to Sharon for her hospitality.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Sec.

GVBCH General Mtg. Minutes September 16, 2004

ATTENDANCE: Rich Inman, Janet & Jose Castro, Wally Becker, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Betty White, Dan Marsh, Larry Thomas, Amy Waring, Donna McGeein, Joyce Haner, Linda Roffe.

Treasurer Report submitted by Jiffie for Cinda as of September 16, 2004.

Checking a/c balance 9/1/04 \$2,897.65

No Deposits**Bills Paid**

Postmaster (stamps) \$ 37.00

Checking Account Balance (9/16/04) \$2,860.65

Other Assets

Petty Cash +\$15.00	\$40.96
Money Market	\$1,935.90
Three (3) month CD	<u>\$3,084.71</u>
Total other assets	\$5,061.57

Motion by Dan, 2nd by Amy to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passes.

Steak ride, we had 28 paid people attend.

Sage creek ride last week only had 3 people attend, RJ, Chick and Wally.

Dan and Linda presented the issues from the state director's meetings which took place in Deer Lodge. Discussed briefly about getting in the Albertson's donation card program. Dan distributed the new horse safety manuals.

Rich said the 501 C-4 papers are ready to be mailed in.

Public Lands Access- Rich said the Back Country Horseman could be added to the list of supporters.

Christmas party is tentatively set for Friday the 10th of December at 4 Corners Café.

Gallatin Valley Agriculture Committee was our program presented by Duane Burkenpas, The purpose of the group is to promote agriculture in the Gallatin Valley through recognition of farmers, support students studying agriculture and education. Duane told us about their Farm Fair Program and how they presented it to the 4th grade classes (350 students) across the Valley. What an excellent education program, great work Duane. They are also looking for volunteers for next year's fair in May.

Thanks for the great brownies Donna, and the wonderful pumpkin bread Rich (Judy).

Respectfully submitted by Janet Castro, VP

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

