

THE PICKET LINE

March 2005



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."

Officers

President

Rich Inman 388-1564

Vice President

Janet Castro 388-0966

Secretary

Trina Fredrickson 522-9315

Treasurer

Cinda Eichenfels 227-6508

Directors

2 yr

Lori Brockway 587-7198

Joellyn Howell 388-4493

John McIlhattan 586-9094

1 yr

Wally Becker 587-9607

Donna McGeein 587-5645

Beth Merrick 388-4047

State Board Members

Brown Parsons 2 yr

Dan Marsh 1 yr

Alternate: Linda Kelly 1yr

Newsletter Editor

Jiffie Hale 763-4105

cell 580-6455

jhale@littleappletech.com

BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh 587-7578

dmarsh@montana.edu

Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 2nd @ 7pm

At Janet Castro's 388-0966

990 Bulltail Rd, Belgrade

General Meeting

Thursday, March 17th @ 7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church

Cameron & Hoffman Sts.

Program

Dan Aadland, author, trainer, rancher

on

Trail horses: choosing, training, riding

and more—page 2

Hello Fellow Horsemen/women.

Here we are already in the second month of 2005 and moving quickly onward. I hope you all have taken advantage of this mild weather to ride your horses and do some conditioning. Our Copper City trail ride, the first of the 2005 rides, is only a couple months away. Remember that ride is rocky and you should have shoes on your horse.

I want to thank the 20+ people who came to the January meeting and helped plan our schedule of activities for 2005. It looks to be a fun schedule with something for everyone. Ride days and work days on our adopted trail (Spanish Creek) look more balanced this year. Thank you Jose Castro for facilitating this session. I also want to thank Donna McGeein and Jiffie Hale for taking charge of the programs for our general meetings. They have already lined up a great variety of educational/informational topics. I invite you to come join us at 7:00pm on the third Thursday evening of each month at Belgrade Alliance Church.

I want to call your attention to a couple of things that we all need to track. First is the Defensive Horsemanship training that will be offered in the

next few months. The crew is firming up the agenda and will offer the training probably on a Saturday. It would be great for all of us to take this training and it is mandatory if you are going to volunteer for Forest Service projects. It is just plain good horse safety training for all.

Second is the Gallatin National Forest Travel Plan which was released this week. I ask that all of us keep informed as to what we hear about this plan and what it proposes that may affect our traditional horse heritage. Contact one of your directors and share what you hear or know. The directors will be taking a close look at especially alternative 7 and develop our recommended position. This position will be brought to the general membership for approval, then sent to the Forest Service as our official position. This is the number one issue we want to stay on top of this year so give us a hand.

If you have paid your dues, thank you. If not, please do so. I look forward to another great year in our great out-of-doors.

Rich Inman, president

Dan Aadland will be our guest speaker and will do a book signing for the March program

Dan will speak to us on choosing a trail horse, trail riding, training and much more. He plans to answer any questions you may have and will be available for a book signing on his latest book, "The Complete Trail Horse: selecting, training and enjoying your horse in the backcountry."


Dan and his family live on their ranch in Absarokee, Montana where they raise Tennessee Walking Horses. Dan gives two-day clinics at their ranch on how to prepare horses and riders for advanced trail and backcountry challenges, basic survival horsemanship, handling trail obstacles, leg cues, the essential neck rein, improving the walk, carrying gear on your saddle horse in a safe manner, a packing primer, cattle, safe hunting on horseback, ponying, horse restraint and more. Information on his clinics may be found on his web site: <http://my.montana.net/draa/>

Dan has a PhD in America Studies and Creative Writing and is author of: *Treading Lightly with Pack Animals: A Guide to Low-Impact Travel in the Backcountry*; *Horseback Adventures*; *Sketches from the Ranch: A Montana Memoir*; *Women and Warriors of the Plains: Pioneer Photography of Julia E. Tuell*. His numerous articles have been published in *Western Horsemen*, *Equus*, *Horse and Rider* and others. He has served as a national director of NWA, International Director of TWHBEA, a western consultant for *Equus* magazine, is an advisory board member for Rocky Mountain College equestrian program and has just stepped down as president of the Beartooth BCH.

FOR SALE

2 full breechings for saddle horse or mule. Hooks right onto your saddle and cinch for mountain riding. Keeps saddle from sliding forward in downhill terrain. Both are almost new. \$60 for the leather one and \$40 for the canvas/felt one. Anyone interested please call Rich Inman at 388-1564.

BRIDGER FEEDS



MANAGER
ROBBY MOCK

PHONE: 406-586-3026

OWNER
MARCIA S. ANDERSON

Last December at our annual Christmas party and elections Dan Marsh and Jiffie Hale received the president's trophy for 2004. Well you know what I. do, your editor, but you do not know what Dan does. Read on...

Back Country Horsemen of Montana Web Site

<http://www.bchmt.org>

*Submitted by Dan Marsh Web Committee Chairman
webmaster@bchmt.org*

You have heard of the Information Super Highway taking a dirt road? Well not only did it take a dirt road, but it took a seldom used back country horse trail straight up a mountain. The Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen decided to get into the computer age and wanted to create a web site that we could use to distribute information and perhaps increase our membership with some online presence. I decided to ask around and see if we could add our site to either the Back Country Horsemen of America organization or use the East Slope BCH site that also had a page available for the BCH of Montana hosted by Paul Gullikson on his internet provider's site. None of the people I talked to were willing to add other chapters to their existing sites. I made a proposal to the Gallatin Valley board of directors to establish a web site with the hopes of getting the Back Country Horsemen of Montana organization to take over the funding for a site that would include all of the Montana chapters.



The proposal was accepted, and for the initial cost of \$102.19 for the first year a domain name of [bchmt.org](http://www.bchmt.org) was purchased and a host site was set up to hold the chapters information. A bare bones web site was created that had our meeting site and time along with a membership form, a calendar of events, a contact list, along with a few pictures.

In March of 2002 I attended the pre-convention board meeting and proposed that the State create a site available for all chapters to establish a web presence. After an experience not unlike running head on into a buzz saw, a committee was formed to look into the feasibility of establishing a Back Country Horsemen of Montana web site consisting of Merlyn Huso, Ed Blackler, and myself. The proposal was eventually accepted and a budget was approved to develop the web site. A web committee was formed consisting of Dan Marsh, Ed Quigley, Cheryl Wag-

ner, Jason Newton and Linda Roffe. The work began on a design for the site and a basic layout for each of the chapters. Cheryl Wagner did an exceptional job on authoring an acceptable use policy for the web site. Linda Roffe, a graphics artist by trade, provided the art work and layout. I agreed to help the chapters set up their initial web site if they provided me with the content. Jason Newton agreed to help chapters customize their site at a reduced fee, and then work for a small per modification charge after that. Everyone provided feedback and the web site evolved to what it is today. I chose to use Microsoft FrontPage to manage the navigation, making it fast to add pages and sites without a lot of graphics work. The default main page is the exception and does not use FrontPage navigation; the links are hard coded into the pages.

There is still a lot of work to be done. We are looking to revamp the overall appearance and we are still waiting for chapters to give us information to post on the web. We now have 7 of the 16 chapters represented on the web site. I have set up FTP accounts for the people that are actively developing their web sites. This allows them to connect directly to their area and this also adds a margin of safety to the main web site from accidental deleting or overwriting of files. I try to periodically back up the web server on my hard drive in case something was to happen to the site. The web host also provides back-ups if needed. We had planned on creating an administration page that would allow chapters to manage their own site, but that has been put on hold until we have more interest generated on the web site.

For the Techies out there that are interested in more web site information, I have provided this short summary. Our domain name of [mhgdc.org](http://www.mhgdc.org) is registered with <http://www.GoDaddy.com> at a price of \$8.95 per year. This price can be lowered if purchased for a 10 year period. Our site is hosted by <http://www.powweb.com> at a cost of \$93.24 per year. This includes 1GB space, 5GB of traffic per day, and a convenient resource center. We have currently used 67.55 MB of disk space and have 2856 files on the site. We are allowed a total of 10 FTP accounts and 650 POP web based email accounts that can have a total of 50MB of storage each. We have a web statistics page that shows the detailed use at <http://bchmt.org/webstats/>. We have gone from 237 hits per day in April 2003 to 1112 hits per day in March 2004. If you are interested in developing your own site please contact me and I will set you up with an account. I am also in need of more Web Committee members.

GVBCH Board Meeting Minutes, February 2, 2005

Pres. Rich Inman called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Attending: Rich Inman, Janet Castro, Cinda Eichenfels, Jiffie Hale (proxy for Trina Frederickson, sec.), Beth Merrick, Wally Becker, Donna McGeein, John McIlhattan, Joellyn Howell, Dan Marsh, Brown Parsons, Chick Hale. Absent: Lori Brockway.

Minutes of Jan. 5, 2005 were accepted and approved. Beth motion/Wally 2nd.

Treasurer's report for February 2, 2005 was accepted and approved. Jolley motion/Janet 2nd

It was approved to pay \$810 to the state for our membership dues for year 2004. Beth motion/Joellyn 2nd

Dan spoke about the state convention held in April at the Heritage Inn, Great Falls. We had no resolutions this year, but will for next year.

Rich mentioned the club needs to compile year end work/activities to be sent to the state via Chuck Miller. Rich and Jiffie will compile about a page and half for them.

Standing Committee: short discussion on membership and travel plan..

Old Business: Chick spoke of the organizational meeting the committee had for the Defensive Horsemanship program. Second meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 7th at Chick's house. It is noted that this not for certification, but for safety and all work crews must have this course in order to be a volunteer for the Forest Service. Discussion on DH being handled in a one day session between now and the end of April was suggested.

Poker Ride: Janet passed handouts for volunteering in various categories. The next meeting the club will be organizing the ride responsibilities.

Discussion on 2005 schedule and handouts were passed out by Janet. Changes and additions were made. It will be placed on the web site and sent out with our newsletter.

Rich reported he has written the report to the Dept of Revenue regarding our 501c4 tax exempt status.

The club trailer has been taken to Big Sky RV for repairs. The club thanks Wayne and Trina Frederickson for donating the necessary repairs.

Rich wants a director to take on the job of 'issues' and Joellyn and John volunteered.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm

Respectfully submitted by Jiffie Hale, proxy for Trina Frederickson, sec

GVBCH General Meeting, February 17, 2005

Meeting was called to order at 7:15pm with board members in attendance of Rich Inman, Janet Castro, Trina Frederickson, Donna McGeein, Beth Merrick, Wally Becker, John McIlhattan, Joellyn Howell, Lori Brockway, absent Cinda Eichenfels, treas.

Guest speakers, Dr. Jacy Cook, DVM, and Roy Lewis of Cell Management Associates, Inc. gave an excellent presentation on their success in using Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) for the treatment of soft tissue wounds to horses. He provided photos of three horses that had received injuries due to wire fencing (both smooth wire and barbed), as well as one horse that had received its injury from unknown cause. The photos chronicled each horse's individual injury before, during and after treatment with PRP. The PRP actually aides in stopping blood loss, enticing bone growth and during the healing this encourages good blood flow to the injury site. Good blood flow fights to the injury site and helps to fight infection due to the increase in white blood cells. This technology is only five years old. It uses approximately 200ml of the horses own blood to aid in the process and the cost of each treatment is approximately \$150-\$200.

Minutes of January 20, 2005 were accepted; motion Janet Castro/second Chick Hale.

Janet Castro provided the financial report in Cinda Eichenfel's absence. The only bill outstanding is the one for the post office box in the amount of \$48.00. Motion by Joellyn Howell/second Beth Merrick to pay this bill.

Treasurer's report by Cinda Eichenfels,, February 17, 2005

Checking a/c balance 1/20/05	<u>\$3,733.97</u>
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Deposits:

Dues	\$82.00		
(Bridger Feed NL Ad) 20.00			
Dues	<u>148.00</u>	<u>\$230.00</u>	<u>\$3,963.97</u>

Bills paid:

Kinko's	\$29.11		
Sec. of State	15.00		
State Dues	<u>\$810.00</u>	<u>\$854.11</u>	

Other Debits

Reimburse Donna McGeein for club cards (taken from petty cash)	<u>5.00</u>		
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Checking A/C Balance as of February 17, 2005	<u>\$3,109.86</u>
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Other Assets:

Petty cash(+ \$20.00—\$5.00)	\$55.96		
Money Mkt Fund	1,943.41		
3 Mo CD (VS fund)	<u>3,111.90</u>	<u>\$5,111.27</u>	

Correspondence: we've received newsletters from some of the other riding clubs and a CD with the Travel Plan from the Forest Service. Dan Marsh will post it to the website.

Dan Marsh gave the report from the State Director. A number of effected groups have started their own website in response to the proposed changes to the Travel Plan. The proposed new Resolutions and Constitution have been posted on the website & will be gone over by the State Board Members. Please provide any constructive comments and suggestions to either Dan Marsh or Brown Parsons.

Regarding the Travel Plan, Rich maintains that our plan remains the same; wait and see what Alternative 7 is and how it affects the Back Country Horsemen. We don't want to get involved in the emotions of other parties and organizations. The Forest Service's first public meeting to discuss Alternative 7 will be February 24th at the Holiday in from 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm.

The State BCH Convention is going to be held on April 1 & 2, 2005 in Great Falls. Rich is working on a summary of our club's activities, etc. to be added to a book being compiled of all the BCH chapters and their projects and activities.

Chick reported that the trail crews have done some recruiting and expect to have some more help this year with the various projects they've got on their agenda for 2005.

The Defensive Horsemanship group has met twice so far and covered a lot of ground surrounding training. The training is a Forest Service requirement for volunteers working on trails and with horses. The group is trying to formulate a one-day course for interested parties to attend. We're hoping to have some assistance in presenting the course from the Beartooth club. No date has yet been set for this course.

Janet Castro gathered (coerced) volunteers for the Poker Ride, which is taking place on July 9th. If you're able to help out, please give Janet a call... the more the merrier!

The 2005 Event schedule has now been completed. The only additions since our last meeting were a couple of "trail work" days (one in each month) and the date for the Christmas Party has been scheduled for December 9, 2005.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:07 pm

Respectfully submitted, Trina Frederickson, Sec..

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

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Club Members::

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Beth Merrick

Dave & Lisa Reed

Linda Roffe

Kay Tate



Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

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