

The picket line

NOVEMBER 2007



Officers (1 yr)

<u>President</u>	
Dan Marsh	587-7578
<u>Vice President</u>	
Bob Steinman	282-7166
<u>Secretary</u>	
Nanci Winget	582-5795
<u>Treasurer</u>	
Brenda Kessler	763-4241

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.”

Directors

2 yr	
Jim Albright	995-4441
Janice Cartwright	579-3445
Rich Winget	582-5795

1 yr	
Wally Becker	587-9607
Dan Porter	388-0290
Larry Thomas	586-6878

State Board Members

Rich Inman	2 yr
Dan Marsh	1 yr
Alternate: Jan Elpel	1 yr

Newsletter Editor

Jiffie Hale	763-4105
Mobile	580-0774
jhale@littleappletech.com	

BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh	587-7578
dmarsh@montana.edu	

Board Meeting - Thursday, November 1st @ 7pm

Dan Porter’s office, 1745 So. 19th

General Meeting - Thursday, November 15th @ 7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church, Cameron & Hoffman Sts

Darla Nassif, speaker

Director of Training at Mountain Magic Ranch

November 26th - DEADLINE for Christmas party

RSVP—Dan 587-7578 - Jiffie 580-0774

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NOVEMBER EVENTS

Thursday November 1st 7p BCH Board Meeting, Dan Porter's office - 1745 So 19th

Thursday, November 15th, 7 p Program and General Meeting with floor nominations for the elections at the Christmas party

Program: Darla Nassif, director of training at the Mountain Magic Ranch and home to the largest herd of Rocky Mountain Horses in the world, plans to open with a DVD on the ranch and their training program after which she will speak and introduce her trainers. The trainers will give a short talk on how they feel about training the Rocky Mountain horses. Darla and her trainers will then have a question and answer period.

Who is Darla Nassif? Darla is a professional clinician known as the *GaitTrainer* in the gaited horse world who has over 40 years of horse training experience. She has attended clinics by every well known clinician and many that are not so well known. Darla says, "I always find something in every clinic that I will remember, or try to forget! There is no substitute for experience, but education plays a large roll in that. I never grow tired of learning from my students both equine and human and yes, my training is as natural as I can make it without leaving the horse alone in the wild completely. I also believe that the key to training horses that actually want to serve us is to be accepted as their leader without force. I say this all the time, but never enough: *Do you really want to get up on the back of an animal that outweighs you by maybe a thousand pounds and have him or her not like or trust you at all?* People get hurt all the time with exactly that scenario." As of today Darla has trained and started about 427 horses, ponies, and mules — and even more owners and trainers. Of those horses, over 150 are Rocky and Kentucky Mountain Horses. Like some of her trainer friends, she used to say, "I like horses better than people, but now I know and feel differently. People are as much fun to train as the horses, but the big difference I find is that people want to make things too complicated. My goals are to get as many people as possible up on one of these very special horses and to be remembered as a lady that loves the Rocky and was still trail riding when she was 90 years old."

Saturday, December 1st, 6pm - Annual Christmas Party

Our party this year will be held at Lee Hart's Broken Hart Ranch on 191 So of Gallatin Gateway. Lee has been generous in offering his large beautiful barn for us to use. The Gallatin Saddle and Harness Club and The Appaloosa Club have been invited to join us in sharing the evening's festivities. The meal will be a buffet of an excellent choice of beef, a potato dish, western beans, choice salads, dessert, and coffee. Our cost is \$20. BYOB and your appetizer if desired. We will have a band for dancing and entertainment. We will hold our annual elections this night. **RSVP sooner rather than later -**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26th DEADLINE

Dan Marsh 587.7578 or Jiffie Hale 580.0774



Presidents Report November 2007

I got back from a fun but exhausting Pheasant hunt in Eastern Montana in time to attend the Gallatin Forest Time Share meeting on Wednesday; the BCH general membership meeting on Thursday; took stats at the Volleyball game on Friday; then worked on the Live Stats for the MSU football game on Saturday which was followed up by taking stats at the Lady Cats volleyball game that evening. That as it turns out was one of my lighter work weeks.

I'm reminded of a dearly departed Boy Scout leader Ken Marcott who had over 50 years of volunteering for the Scouts that I worked with in the past who said "If you need someone to help you, ask a busy person. No one else has the time." I know what some of you are thinking "Do you want a medal or a chest to pin it on?" The reason I brought this up was after making my obligatory phone calls for the nominating committee, I was frustrated by the number of people that were just way too busy to be able to take on anything more. Thankfully a number of "busy" people have agreed to help out with our list of nominees for officers and directors. I am still hopeful someone else would be available to take on the role of President. I reluctantly stepped in last year because we were having a tough time finding someone even though I knew I would not have the free time necessary to do the position justice. Please consider taking on a little more and fill one of our open positions. We have a need for not only officers, directors, and delegates, but we also need to fill a number of committee chair positions. **If you feel you don't have time to take on the chairperson of a committee please consider helping that person so their load would be lighter.**

I want to thank Duane Wiltse for his presentation on how to get into writing the great American novel and his fascinating life as an outfitter along

the Yellowstone Park boundary in Cody Wyoming. Duane sold and signed his latest novel, *Gittin' Western*, of which I bought a copy and have already read it cover to cover. It is a great read of the hardships and joys of Duane's life from Michigan to his dream of guiding in the Northern Rockies. The bear and mule stories alone are worth the price of the book not to mention the numerous horse wrecks he survived.

Our Christmas party planning is moving along slowly but surely. Thanks to Lee Hart's donation of his barn and his generous offer of the meal at his cost, we will be having our annual Christmas party at his ranch on December 1st. The Gallatin Saddle and Harness club along with the Appaloosa club will be joining us for the festivities. We will have more details as we get them. So far the cost will be \$20 per person and all you need to bring is your favorite beverage and an appetizer if you want one. Coffee and a desert will also be served. We are still finalizing the entertainment, but we will have a band for your listening and dancing pleasure.

In case you have missed the recent articles in the newspapers we have had a couple of deaths lately in Montana caused by horse accidents. Jody B. Menge (47) of Hilger an MSU graduate died Friday October 19th of injuries sustained in a horseback riding accident north of Winifred when her horse spooked and bucked her off. Frederick C. Bayer (53) of Helena died of internal injuries returning from a pack trip in the Scapegoat Wilderness when he was pushed into a tree after something spooked his horse. Please be safe on the trail and take a little extra time to check your tack, sack out your horse in a safe environment to de-spook him, and try to avoid dangerous situations on the trail.

Happy hunting and have a joyous and safe holiday season.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Marsh

A warm welcome to our newest member. Pete said he attended our October general meeting to check us out! We passed! Pete Naclerio, Box 444, Immigrant, MT

I lost'em!

Fun rides, de-spook, cow stuff, and one "stinky" that missed the October issue

All submissions and photos from Janice, but "mislaid" by your editor.

On October 18th a group of us gathered at the Cottonwood trailhead to take a mid week ride. The ride was requested by the Thompson family who are new members. Bob and Nancy bought a house on Cottonwood and wanted to be familiar with this trail so close to their home. Also, it was Kyle's (their son) first trail ride on his new horse, Comanche. Another new member, Vi Huffman, rode with us along with Jiffie & Chick, Diane Fuhrman, Ken Yankelevitz and myself. Jiffie worked with her horse on his leg yielding during the "drop off" part of the trail. Rain threatened but held off until we were done.



In preparation for the Belgrade Parade participation, Diane Fuhrman came over to "de-spook" Bridger, her mount for the event. I joined her with Cody. Various "spooky" things were scattered around the arena and tied onto us and the horses. We look more like we were preparing for Halloween! (Look for some of these sessions in the early spring in preparation for riding season to begin.)



September 19 and another Cow Day was upon us so Ron and I "roped" Diane Fuhrman and Susan DesJardins into joining us for some gathering up at Jackson Creek. We had some beautiful views and were able to push all of the herd into the front pasture for moving later in the week. Diane rode her horse, Bud, and they managed their task very smoothly. Susan's horse, Lady, was great also.

After the work was done, we were able to "loungue" around on top of the mountain for a delightful lunch.



And finally to the “stinky”...

Now that hunting season is upon us...thought you might like to see what Ron's been hunting lately...a family of skunks living in the loafing shed at the ranch!



(Where's his orange?)



Training tid bits...

and consideration for others means safety at all times.

► Lateral flexing. What is lateral flexing and what is the benefit? Upon bringing home my new 3 yr old colt, Nugget (back to his original name), we went riding up the road when three horses began galloping towards us in their pasture. Nugget's ears pricked, He was ready to run with them, but I began to do lateral flexing. He settled down and we rode on. Simple, nothing to it! Again, we had to do lateral flexing riding by a fenced area with two dogs running back and forth, barking wildly and half hidden under big dark trees. Again, Nugget's ears pricked, a bit upset. Lateral flexing again. Simple, nothing to it! This also can be used when big trucks or motorcycles are going to pass you.

► Darla Nassif will tell you about lateral flexing and how to do it at our November program.

► Trail riding and consideration for safety. When someone in your riding group gets off their horse to open or close gates – all riders must wait till that rider mounts. Never leave until the rider is mounted safely! This also applies to riders leaving the trailhead together for the ride. At the end of the ride always wait to make sure everybody is safe and that horses are in trailers and people can start their truck. They may need your help. If you respect others by your consideration - that is safety.

► Do you have a tip that has worked for you and you would like to share with others? Let me know - Jiffie @ 580-0774

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***Happiness keeps You Sweet, Trials keep You Strong, Sorrows keep You Human,
Failures keep You Humble, Success keeps You Glowing,
But Only **CHALLENGE** keeps You Going!
Join a committee or offer to help on one***

At our November general meeting we will have nominations from the floor for our yearly elections. The final election will be held at our Christmas party, December 1,

The following members have volunteered to serve for 2008. We are grateful to you all.

Stacy Bragg will run for any position except president. **Amy Hathaway** would like to run for secretary. **Brenda Kessler** will run for a second term as treasurer. **Jim Albright** has one year remaining as director, but will run for state delegate - it's legal. **Cinda deBethizy** has offered to run. **Vi Huffman** has offered to run. **Rich Inman** has offered to run. **Duane Wiltse** has offered to run. Thank you all for your offer.

The front page of the newsletter will tell you the length of time members serve a position. We hope you will consider volunteering. It is a great way to learn about the club.

Who will win the BCH silver buckle?

To date we have a member that has sponsored **X** new members in 2007. Is there a member that can go higher? You could be the winner of the \$90 BCH silver buckle. Do remember that a family is considered as 1 member. Please contact Jiffie - 580-0774 or jhale@littleappletech.com You must contact me in order to participate for your chance to win - even if you did let me know earlier– please do it again.

DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 26

(SAME FOR RSVP ON CHRISTMAS DINNER)

Free to good home

Dan Porter has come into possession of a pony cart and a 1920'S era training sulky for a standard bred. Both need restoring. If anyone in the club knows someone who would be interested they could contact Dan. They are free to a good home, but Dan prefers them not be used as a lawn ornament 388.0290

Duane's "Gittin' Western"

His life long friend asked when he was going to write his life story by saying, "If you do not write your book - your family will lose." Duane Wiltse, author and GVBCH member, gave us his reasons when speaking at our October program why he wrote his newest book, *Gittin' Western*, the story of his life. Duane writes with honesty, but said, "I had to be careful there!" He writes about issues through his life, struggles he had trouble understanding or to accept. Duane found that when writing his book he was able to make closure on those issues. This book is his story while at the same time it is an opportunity to educate people to the life of the West. It is a book you will not want to put down till you finish it.

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Board Meeting Minutes, October 4, 2007

President Dan Marsh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Dan M., Brenda K., Dan P. Jim A., Wally B., Jiffie H., Rich I., Chick H., Larry T., Janice C., guest Stacy Bragg, Sonja Berg and Amy Hathaway proxy for Nancy Winget.

Minutes of September 6 Board Meeting were read. Larry T. motioned to accept; Chick seconded; approved.

Treasurer's report: Some bills remained requiring Dan to sign from previous meeting. Jiffie H. had bill of \$41.00 for postage later approved for this months billing.

Poker Ride: Janice C. offered suggestions to trail markings for future rides. Bob S. suggested training new members for managing poker rides. Prize donations must be only new items for future rides, any used item can be used at the Tack Swap. Brenda reported \$1,851.59 of income from the Poker Ride.

Correspondence: Dan M. shared letter of Gallatin National Forest, RFA summer. Link provided to website www.fs.fed.us.sopa/.

Membership: Jiffie reminded all of dues coming up. Seven new members were gained the previous month.

Issues: Rich Inman had attended Recreational Services Analysis Forest Service meeting. The summary being that the Forest Service was to device a 5 year plan to complete maintenance backlog. A dollar figure of \$250,000 was mentioned as being the dollar amount needed to complete these projects. If completion is not done within that five years, remaining maintenance issues would not be addressed. At this point, it appears as though no trailheads will be affected, but the Fox Creek Cabin will not be maintained and will no longer be used. Minimal impact overall, facilities maintenance is the issue, trails are not included.

Lewis and Clark Travel plan is out. Some trails around lakes are to be closed to stock. Keep an eye out for the Final EIS. Stacey Bragg has been attending time-share meetings and spoke out against the Lake Fork closure. Meetings next week will require majority consensus.

Trail Crews: Larry Thomas opened discussion. Rich Inman mentioned multiple forks being created off the existing trails from Elkhorn to Porcupine causing confusion as to actual trails. Mention was made of the state of New World Gulch Trail. The first section is a state section and would have to contact Craig Campbell and DNR to do project. Dan M. encouraged all Work Crew Reports to be completed to go in to the state.

Cost-share trail maintenance discussed. Chick mentioned cost of insurance, contracting to Forest Service. Time-materials, contracting--light discussion ensued by Jim A., Larry T., and Chick H.

Program: Program for General Meeting to be Duane Wiltse author of **Gittin' Western**.

New Business: PLAAI (Public Lands/Water Access Association, Inc.) raffle tickets. This organization may be reviewed at www.PLAAl.org and contacted PLAAI@imt.net. PLAAI looks for public land closure issues and combines attorneys, letter writing etc. to prevent public access closures.

Scott and Bonnie Keiser have put together the DVD highlighting Backcountry Horsemen. Discussion was made on how to distribute them for best use.

Election Committee—November at the General Meeting elections will be up for all officers, State Delegate and alternate, and 3 directors. Limit of term to be reviewed for directors' ability to vote. Dan M. divided up membership roster for contact as to nominations. The goal is to have an interim ballot to present at the General Meeting. Jiffie H. will sum up caller information by Monday the 8th. Jim A. urged to also mention the need for help with '09 convention, Poker Rider, Trail Crews, Lead Trail Rides, Program Committee, and Publicity.

Christmas party plans are still up in the air. The club is to join with Gallatin Saddle & Harness Club but there has been some confusion up to this point. The 1st of December is the tentative date. Location suggestions were collected and will be further investigated. Entertainment suggestions also were sought.

2008 Convention Raffle tickets were passed. The convention is in Great Falls in March, 8 delegates will be required to attend. Jim, Brenda, Bob, Rich, Dan, and Alice have volunteered. Two more delegates required.

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The 2009 Convention will be in Bozeman. A chairman and program committee will be needed. Any interested in these positions should make a point to attend the 2008 Convention.

Decals for Backcountry Horsemen were sought by local producer. Jiffie H. reported a cost of .72 each, 250 minimum, \$30.00 setup fee. Stacy Bragg suggested trying to get a quote also from Rainbow Signs.

Stacy Bragg, new GVBCH member, made a presentation on an upcoming CBU meeting. CBU stands for Citizens for Balanced Use. May be reviewed at www.citizensforbalanceduse.com or contacted at (406)-600-4CBU. This organization is a state wide union joining multiple land use interests to form a co-operative effort to take to legislative issues and gather ideas. Meeting to be held in Butte on Saturday October 13 and 14. Bob Steinman made motion to send representative, Rich I. seconded. Approved. Bob S. will attend, Rich may also attend.

Submitted by Amy Hathaway, proxy for Nancy Winget, sec

General Meeting Minutes October 18, 2007

President Dan Marsh called the meeting to order at 8:30pm after a very interesting program from member and author Duane Wiltse telling members about his book, *Gittin' Western*. The members were then shown a Power Point Slide Show with audio tracks saved to DVD on what are the Montana Back Country Horsemen. All the pictures were donated by various BCHMT clubs and put together with music by Scott & Bonnie Kiser of Mission Valley BCH.

Board members present: Dan Marsh, Rich Inman, Dan Porter, Wally Becker, Larry Thomas, Jim Albright, and Brenda Kessler. Absent were Bob Steinman, Janice Cartwright, and Nancy and Rich Winget. Stacy Bragg introduced himself as a new member and member of the Gallatin Forest Service Timeshare meeting. A guest introduced himself as a prospective member.

September 20th minutes were accepted as published in the October Newsletter from a Motion by Jim Albright and Seconded by Chick Hale.

Treasurer's report by Brenda – With a dues deposit of \$320 it brought our bank balance as of 10.18.07 to \$3,266.89. No new bills were submitted.

Correspondence and Issues: Dan said the draft is out on the Continental Divide Trial and he read a letter from Don Holman of the Flathead BCH giving his comments about the DEIS. Public comments to the FS are no longer being accepted.

Stacy Bragg will attend the Oct 23rd meeting on the Custer National Forest in Columbus.

Mention was made of a Helena rider who was killed in a riding accident.

Membership: Jiffie had turned in her resignation last August (Dan conveniently lost it!), but will stay until she is replaced or gets help. The club has gotten too large for one person to handle it all. We are looking for someone, preferably one who is computer literate, to take over the Membership committee.

Programs: Sabrina Hanan was complimented on the great job she had done for the club this year as program chairperson. She managed to fill all the months with good programs. Thanks goes out to Sabrina for the excellent job as the program chairperson the past year. Sabrina has asked to be replaced as the program chair and we are looking for someone to take over or at least help out on the committee.

Decals: Jiffie reported she had contacted Rainbow Signs, thanks to Stacy Bragg's recommendation, and that the club will receive their estimate at the next board meeting.

2009 Convention: Dan is asking for members to come forward to help our club in sponsoring the 2009 convention which will be held in Bozeman.

Nominations: The committee is working on finishing their calls and to date an especially good response has been noted by some new willing members. The nominee list will be in the November issue of the newsletter and the club will ask for further nominations from the floor at the November general meeting.

Christmas party: Our annual Christmas party will be held Saturday, December 1st. Lee Hart has generously offered his new barn for our use. We are grateful to you Lee. We will help to do setup and cleanup. It will be catered at \$20 per person with a good choice of beef, potatoes, western beans, different salads, dessert and coffee. You will be able to BYOB and your hors d'oeuvres'. We have invited the Gallatin Saddle and Harness and the Appaloosa Club to join us and they

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have accepted our offer. We still need to find entertainment and a number of members are making calls to get a band. The Gallatin BCH will not have a silent auction, but the Gallatin Saddle & Harness club can hold one if they wish. We will also plan to show the new DVD on BCHMT at the party.

Time Share: Weekly meetings are still being held on Wednesday evening at 9:00PM, but the group needs to come to a consensus by Thanksgiving. If you are interested please try to attend as a visitor. Call Dan Marsh for meeting information during the day at 994-5093. The group of six representatives of hikers, stock users, land owners, bicyclists, and the Forest Service are trying to come to some kind of consensus and agree on days for the groups to share the trails. Hikers and stock users will have full access as stated in the Record of Decision, but the shared use for bikes and motorbikes has yet to be finalized.

Ken Y will bring goodies for November meeting.

Submitted by Jiffie Hale in absence of Nancy, sec.

OPENING DAY, by Bob Furu (photo by Bob)



After one year of anxious waiting, elk season arrived on October 22, 2007 at the most unpleasant time of 4:30 a.m. My partner Tom, from Missoula, and I immediately dressed for a cold morning on horseback. Upon putting on the long underwear, fleece, wool and snow pacs, we ventured quickly outside to feed, water and saddle the horses. This year we used my horse "Duke" and Tom's horse "Page," both registered quarter-horses and well versed on our sometimes quirky way of hunting elk at the 8,500 foot elevation.

After the thirty minute work effort (in the dark), we proceeded back into my cabin for a hot cup of coffee and a cold blueberry bagel. Then we loaded the horses in the trailer and fifteen minutes later we were at our trail head. Quickly putting the bits in the horse's mouths, placing the rifles in the scabbards and double checking everything, off we went onto the trail in total darkness with the temperature somewhere around 15 degrees.

After dodging tree branches and sometimes smashing tree branches, we arrived at our start point at precisely one-half hour before daylight. We kept the horses moving until we heard shots behind us (dang-we must have rode right past them!) and shots ahead of us (dang-we must have been too slow!). We continued on until we saw a horseman waving at us frantically, we trotted, then cantered and finally galloped to his assistance. He said only one sentence, "Eight head went right and I'm going left!"

After following the horseman's instructions we veered right, rode about five hundred yards and tied up. Tom walked right and I walked left and we waited for the elk to start running in front of us. I never saw an elk, heard many crashing through the north-slope timber and could feel my pulse rate cruising at about 150 beats per minute. Tom and I reunited later, with him walking with his tail between his legs and minus his bubbly smile. He had seen his elk, while trying to be quiet he had loaded his bolt-action rifle and pulled the trigger only to hear a quiet "Click." It seems that when Tom loaded his cartridge, he did not pull back the bolt far enough back to engage or cock the bolt. We thus moved on to new territory and rode and rode and rode.

At approximately 9:00 a.m., while riding through some big "Doug" Fir, my hat got knocked off and so I decided to dismount for the first time that morning. As I lifted my right leg, a major muscle spasm hit my right hamstring. As I was trying to get off Duke, my left hamstring went into a spasm. I fell to the ground in soft snow, which I would term as my "Electrolyte moment" not being able to move as Duke seemed to delight on walking on my hat. After ten minutes of my pain and Tom's laughter we continued to hunt through the morning with no elk to be found.

This my friends was "Opening Day" and it was filled with adventure, disappointment, laughs and after consoling each other decided that the season of 2007 has "Only just begun." Good luck to you elk hunters and be safe.

GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2007 POKER RIDE - THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

Ag Depot
 All West Veterinary
 Ardesson Boots and Shoes
 Dr. Phil Aumann
 Big Sky RV
 Books Off Broadway
 Broadway Flying J Restaurant
 Bozeman Saddle Outlet
 Bridger Feeds
 Chalet Market
 Chalet Sports
 Concrete Construction
 Creekside Vet Hospital
 DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service
 Don Funke Divine Equine
 Double Diamond Halters
 Freeway Enterprises
 Gourmet Gas Station
 Greater Yellowstone Flyfisher
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Health Works Institute
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 Murdoch's Ranch & Home
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Way Out West

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 George Zanck

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