

The picket line

JANUARY 2008



Officers (1 yr)

<u>President</u>	
Dan Marsh	587.7578
<u>Vice President</u>	
Jim Allbright	995.4441
<u>Secretary</u>	
Amy Hathaway	282.6089
<u>Treasurer</u>	
Brenda Kessler	763.4241

Directors

2 yr	
Stacy Bragg	222.0077
Dan Porter	388.0290
Larry Thomas	586.6878
1 yr	
Janice Cartwright	579.3445
Duane Wiltse	586.3597
Rich Winget	579.9866

State Board Delegates

Jim Allbright	2 yr
Rich Inman - 388.1564	1 yr
Alternate: Stacy Bragg	1 yr

Newsletter Editor

Jiffie Hale	763-4105
Mobile	580-0774
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.”

Board Meeting Thursday, January 3rd - 7pm

Dan Porter’s office 1745 So. 19th

General Meeting - Thursday, January 17th - 7pm
Belgrade Alliance Church, Hoffman & Cameron Sts
Planning our 2008 schedule of events
Please try to attend

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Thursday, January 17th, 7pm at the Belgrade Alliance Church

Come - bring your ideas

We will have goodies and coffee for you and lots of camaraderie

We will also have a brief talk on GALLEP, by Jennifer Mohler, BCH member (see pg 8)
Our January general meeting is important. It is your opportunity to bring and express your ideas. Would you like to lead a trail ride on one of your favorite trails or participate with one of the trail crews on a chosen trail? We will be scheduling the 2008 events and dates for the annual Poker Ride, Defensive Horsemanship Clinic, trail maintenance, trail rides, indoor winter riding, various committees and ideas on monthly programs. We are an active club - interesting and exciting. Let's make '08 an even better year.

Congratulations

To Gallatin National Forest District Ranger, Jose Castro, and his family

“Hi all, it is with great honor I announce Daniel James Castro received a Congressional nomination to the US Air Force Academy. He already had received an appointment from USAFA and this was the last step.

We are extremely happy he will be joining his "big bro" Joe (Class of 2009) there, next year, as a member of the Class of 2012. This was a great Xmas gift from Montana Congressman Denny Rehberg.” *Jose*

New members:

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BackpackPA@aol.com

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Address and email change

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Bozeman, MT 59772
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George Zanck
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WHAT A DIFFERENCE A WEEK OR TWO MAKES, by Janice Cartwright

Remember the calf shipping day a few weeks ago ? It was gale force winds, freezing rain, and a white-out snow storm. Well, this day made up for it. First of all, we started an hour later. That's always better, but then the temperature was 40 degrees with sun instead of 25 degrees and no visibility, even though the winds were at



half gale force. Cows move much easier with the calves out of the picture. Cows move easily when they've already made the trip to the corrals a few times! All of this "easy" allowed us to enjoy the ride and the early morning scenery. Diane Fuhrman helped me haul my two loads of bovines to Belgrade from Axtel Anceny area. In case you didn't know, cows are much denser than horses

and really load down a trailer. By the way, Diane and I are available for ranch hand work if anyone needs us. You know, "Will Work For Food." Is anyone else still riding out there?

Wanted:

Does anyone know who made that Artichoke & Sundried Tomato – the hot appetizer at the Christmas party?? I loved it and would like to have the recipe. Thanks,

Jan Wiltse, 586.3597 duanewiltse@yahoo.com

Natural Horsemanship Explained – from Heart to Hands, by Robert Miller, DVM.

Dr. Miller's book is not a "how to book." Instead, Dr. Miller draws on his examples of years of observation and experimentation. He shares his reasons why certain behaviors cause fear in horses and how he proves that conditioning, desensitizing, rewards, and timing help horses overcome such instincts – and on the animal's own terms. A good read.

New book - copyright 2007 – The Lyons Press - \$24.95

MEMBERSHIP DUES - R - due

Members - you have done well renewing your memberships for 2008. We thank you. However, there are some that need a little reminder. Next month, February, may be your last issue and I thought you might like to know. An application was sent to all members in Oct. Maybe you lost or misplaced it? If so, you can download and print one from our web site - <http://www.bchmt.org/gvbch/default.htm> or I will have applications on hand at the January General Meeting, Thursday, January 17th for our 2008 scheduling of events - which you may not want to miss! Thanks from Jiffie

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Presidents Report for January 2008

Happy New Year! I was hoping someone else would be writing the President's letter this year, but you are stuck with me for another year.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers and directors. I would like to welcome Jim Albright as our new Vice President and Amy Hathaway as our new Secretary. I would also like to welcome our new and returning directors - Dan Porter, Larry Thomas, Stacy Bragg. Duane Wiltse was elected by our Board of Directors at the December meeting to fill out the rest of Jim's term since a Director can't also be an Officer. Jim Albright will also be our State Director and Stacy Bragg will be our Alternate State Director. I want to thank our outgoing Secretary Nancy Winget for her great work the past year. I also want to thank Bob Steinman for his past year as Vice President and taking on the chair of the Poker Ride. I want to also thank Brenda Kessler for returning as our Treasurer for another year.

I am going to present the MVP award at the January meeting because the awardee was not able to make it to the December party. The same person was also the winner of the silver belt buckle for getting the most new members for our club last year. If you haven't guessed who that person is yet meet the multi talented Janice Cartwright. Janice has always been there when I needed someone to take on a project. I started with Janice stepping in for Dan Alderman when he had to step down as director. Janice then put on the Horse Safety Clinic and opened it up to the public and if that wasn't enough she also put on a tack sale at the same time. Janice has been holding riding clinics for new and old members along with being the trail boss for several rides. Janice also helped out immensely with our Poker Ride in getting the trail marked among many other duties. Thank you Janice for all the good work you do for the Back Country Horsemen.

I want to also thank some individuals who have helped make last year such a great success. I want to thank our new member Sherrie White for all of her work on the Poker Ride and also for getting the posters done for the Horse Safety Clinic and her work on the trail crews with her husband Ron. I want to especially thank Jiffie Hale for her work as the newsletter editor and taking on the additional duty in keeping the membership records and getting the packets and word out to our members. The trail crew leaders Larry Thomas, Chick Hale, Wally Becker and Ron Rassley did a wonderful job keeping our trails cleared this year and I want to thank all of the folks that participated in the work crews. If you can spare a day or two next year you should consider helping one of these fine gentlemen on a trail project. You will be glad you did. I want to thank Kay Tate for her work on the trail crews and for taking pictures and putting together a write-up on each ride so people know what we do for the trails. I also want to thank Dan Porter and Wally Becker for taking on the Steak Ride which we invited the Gallatin Saddle & Harness club to this year. The steaks were excellent as always!

The Christmas party was huge success thanks to Jiffie for all of her hard work in lining up the barn and the band. I want to especially thank Lee Hart for his generous donation of his amazing Barn for the party. I also want to thank Bonnie Hammer, Bettye White, and Brenda Kessler for working the registration table. The Pretty Good String Band should be renamed the Darn Good String Band as they kept everyone entertained and on their feet. We had 134 people at the combined party and I heard nothing but good comments from everyone there.

I got the volunteer hours put together and we put in at least 1645.5 total hours of time in education and trail clearing. This included 4858 miles of personal vehicle use to do those volunteer hours and 244 stock days.

Be sure to come to our January meeting with your ideas to make the coming year even better.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Marsh, GVBCH President

A PIECE OF HISTORY, by Sonja Berg

My late husband, Russell, worked very hard getting the Lincoln Scapegoat area included in the Wilderness Act of 1964. His contacts with Tommy Edwards of Whitetail Ranch and along with some people in the Lincoln area (such as Cecil Garland), plus old timers from the Flathead made us aware of The Backcountry Horsemen. A wonderful little pocket sized first edition of the "*Backcountry Horseman Guidebook*" is still at my fingertips on the bookshelf in my living room. This little book is good for a lot of humor and laughs, but it also tells that The Backcountry Horsemen of Montana was formed January 7, 1973 in northwestern Montana.

Russell invited two men from Kalispell to our Gallatin Saddle Club meetings in the mid 70's with the idea of forming a local chapter of BCH. The presentation was interesting. However, this did not fit in with the Gallatin Saddle Club's activities. Their interest lay in their schedules, their Horse Shows and their Playday activities. Eventually the BCH in the Gallatin Valley was put on the back burner as cancer consumed and eventually took Russell's life - in 1984.

Meanwhile, Bob Miller wrote "*Mountain Manners*" with BCH agreeing to publish and distribute them. We used it when Russell performed packing demonstrations and clinics. This book also graces my bookshelves today.

In the spring of 1984 I arrived home from Seattle in my sorrow to plan Russell's funeral arrangements and found that friends had gotten the ball rolling on a Gallatin Valley Chapter of BCH. It was underway. I own tapes of those early meetings as in those days all meetings were taped."



Editor's note - Maybe one day we could hear a piece of history in these tapes?

Picture, circa 1968, shows Russell on 'Troika' out of a mare owned by Wally Becker's father - which Wally says there are many generations of his father's horses still in the valley. This foal was sold to Professor Hugo Eck which was later purchased by Russell. Both Russell and Sonja enjoyed riding this horse as did 4 H members.

FLOW by Don Funke

How does one know when they are on the right track? How does it feel when the surge of creativity wells up and starts to bubble over into fruitful enterprise? There has been a considerable body of writing recently dedicated to the concept of "flow." After over 25 years of research, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi describes flow as "...the state in which people are so involved in an activity that nothing else seems to matter; the experience itself is so enjoyable that nothing else seems to matter; the experience itself is so enjoyable that people will do it even at great cost, for the sheer sake of doing it." Often thought of as the rarified domain of artists, this concept is important to anyone dedicated to the art of living well.

Flow is when we are so engrossed in what we are doing that we lose track of time; that experience of bliss that over-shadows the demands of the temporal world. For each person it could be a different activity that leads to flow. My mother experiences it in her quilting room as she spends endless hours designing her next creation. My wife experiences it during a long morning run when she becomes exhausted enough to forget about daily commitments and connects with life's ultimate truths. My father feels flow as he manipulates the controls of his airplane, flying over a beautiful landscape. I experience flow when I ride a good horse.

This experience requires a "good" horse. A mediocre horse will simply not produce the same effect. A good horse has a certain inherent "lightness." When one sits on such a horse there is a feeling of being grounded, yet suspended on a cloud; a feeling of tenuous synergy that catapults the rider into a kind of joyful dance; a heightened awareness as every movement of the rider produces a reciprocal movement of the horse. This can be a dream-like consciousness as the rider and the horse engage in a kinetic conversation as they begin to "finish" each other's sentences. After the ride, there is a feeling of thankfulness and endearment to have been a partner to a great

dancer.

Where, when and how we experience flow will tell us a lot about ourselves. Flow is what life is all about. We were made to experience flow. For it is within that flow that we will experience our greatest potential, produce our greatest work, and fulfill the greatest destiny. Once this feeling is experienced our life seems to improve effortlessly. Flow produces joy. Where there is joy, our greatest potential will be realized.

It is not necessary to be employed in the activity that produces the greatest amount of flow in your life, but it helps. Some of the world's greatest scientists, most gifted surgeons and most acclaimed philosophers experience flow in their work - as do farmers, factory workers, and accountants. It is not what you are doing that is the important component of flow. It is how you think of your work that produces flow. It is how you perceive the activity that matters. If you experience intervals of timelessness while "working" and feelings of fulfillment and contentment when the task is complete, chances are you are experiencing flow.

During the next week take careful notes about when you experience flow. The better you become at recognizing the signs of flow, the more adept you will become at producing it. You may be surprised by the activities that produce this state. Take notice of the activities you especially enjoy. What you enjoy doing most is often a clue. Some authorities abide by the 80/20 rule. You will achieve 80% of your success while performing 20% of your tasks. Your goal is to identify that 20%. More than likely your flow resides somewhere in that 20%. Once you have identified what activities produce the most flow it is imperative to grow them into a vocation.

Don Funke trains horses, teaches clinics and practices both animal and human chiropractic in the Gallatin Valley. For more information log onto www.divineequine.net or call (406)209-3585.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 1, 2007, by Duane Wiltse

This year the Back Country Horseman's Christmas party was the perfect way to kick off the **H**olidays and will certainly be one of the Season's highlights for me.

There are a number of words that could be used to describe the event. "GREAT" comes to mind when you think of the facility at the Broken Hart Ranch. The combined attendance of the Appaloosa Horse Club, Saddle & Harness Club, and BCH was well over 130 people, yet we all had plenty of room to sit, eat, mingle and visit. Yes -- GREAT is a good word here!

Now "DELICIOUS" would be the word for our dinner. Beginning with the appetizers that everyone contributed to and shared by all. Our main course of NY strip steak, cowboy beans (my favorite), potatoes boiled with skins on (my other favorite), pasta salad, cabbage slaw, and ambrosia (another favorite); all topped off with pumpkin pie and whipped cream (my long-time big-time favorite). All served fresh and on time. What could have been better than that?

During the evening there were the toe-tapping songs performed perfectly by The Pretty Good String Band, which by the way, is a darn sight better than 'pretty good'. The word 'awesome' is often overused in our society today though I seldom use it. However, AWESOME is a good word to tag those boys with, especially the fiddler, Bob Fisby.

The Band set the mood for an old time good time of sharing stories with one another and easy visiting between the old and new acquaintances alike. There were smiling faces of all ages as people sang and danced around the room, and that was before the Contra dances even began!! Once the caller began, the dancing really started happening.



A most enjoyable evening was had by all. Of course, these kinds of events don't just happen. A special word of appreciation and thanks are due to Jiffie Hale, Dan Marsh and our Board of Directors who pulled this whole she-bang together.

I don't know about you, but Jan and I are going to send our personal thanks to Lee Hart via a Christmas card and note this year as well.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL !!!!!

Keepin' it western, Duane Wiltse



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BCH Board Minutes January 6, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7 PM by President Dan Marsh. In attendance: Dan Porter, Brenda Kessler, Janice Cartwright, Stacy Bragg, Jim Allbright, Wally Becker, Dan Marsh, Larry Thomas, Rich and Nancy Winget, Chick and Jiffie Hale, Amy Hathaway, and Sonja Berg

Minutes of November 1st Board Meeting approved as printed in the newsletter

New Bills: Dan presented a bill for the belt buckle presented to Janice for most new members. Jiffie presented a bill for \$82.00 for newsletter postage - Nov/Dec issues.

Correspondence: An email from Colonel Ernie Rajala, honorary member, was read by Jiffie

Membership: Jiffie reported 3 new members and 3 renewed members at the Christmas party.

Issues: Larry Conner, long time GVBCCH member, passed away. Jiffie will make up a sympathy card — members can sign at January Meeting

GalleP (Gallatin Equestrian Partnership) - Amy reported that this is a group being formed primarily by Jennifer Mohler, GVBCCH member, and Mary Ann Amsten. They hope to receive a donation to buy land for an Equestrian Park. Feb. 20th will be the group's first public meeting to be held at the library. Jennifer will send an article to Jiffie for the next newsletter. We will invite Jennifer to give a short presentation at the January meeting.

2007 Master Educators - This group is responsible for "leave no trace" training, and would like a club member to attend the training. Jim Allbright is interested in attending the training and becoming a trainer for the club. He will be sponsored by the MTBCH.

4th Annual Trail Rider Conference - will be held March 14 - 16 in Denver, CO. More information can be found by calling 303 292-4981 or visiting www.rockymountainhorseexpo.com

Preserving our Equine Heritage on Public Lands Act SB2283 - this is the bill previously known as Right to Ride. Club members are urged to write letters to our senators to support/sponsor the bill. Dan has posted sample letters on our web site.

Publicity: Dan presented a digital sample of the brochure created by Maggie. The brochure is ready to go to the printers. The majority of printing costs will come from the \$500 grant from Insty Prints.

Trail Crews : Dan advised that he is completing the report to MBCH documenting the hours spent on trail work.

Program: The January meeting will be utilized to create the calendar for 2008.

Christmas Party: The Board agreed that the party was a huge success!

New Business: Fill remaining 1 year Director position for Jim Allbright. Since Jim was elected to the position of Vice Present, he must resign his position as Director. After discussion and nominations Duane Wiltse was elected to fill the Director position. Congratulations to Duane

President's trophy: Janice Cartwright was elected as the MVP for 2007 and will receive the traveling trophy at the next meeting. Congratulations to Janice!

New Member Contest: Janice Cartwright won the new member contest and the silver MTBCH belt buckle. Double Congratulations to Janice!!

Chainsaw donation to GVBCCH @ Matts Saw Shop: A MS270 C_B chainsaw was awarded to the club as a result of a CBU (Citizens for Balanced Use) trails stewardship award. Dan will accept the donation on Monday on behalf of the club. Stacy will make an aluminum pack for the chainsaw.

Club Emblems: Rich W advised that a Belgrade company is interested in creating our emblem for shirts/hats/coats, etc. Dan advised that Rocky Mtn. Embroidery, off Gold Lane, has the digitized image. Dan Cook is the contact. Rich will contact them regarding creating items to be used for fund raising.

Sonja reported that our new brochures will be available to the public at the Wild West Winterfest.

Rich W gave a report on the Gallatin County Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) which is a group of organizations interested in helping during disasters. He asked that GVBCH agree to join VOAD. He will represent the club at meetings. Any participation in actions is voluntary. Janice moved that we join VOAD. Larry seconded - motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted Nancy Winget, Secretary



www.gallatinvalleyhorseresource.com Gallatin Valley Horse Resource hopes to increase communications among the various horse and pony communities and provide for progressive management practices to better ourselves as horsemen and our equine partners. We hope to offer the best in local riding event scheduling, organizational contacts, products, sales and services. We offer a great place to post your services, horses, etc. at a minimal cost and we do the advertising and leg work. You Ride, We'll Organize. Come and check out the site, all feedback is welcome!
Submitted by Amy Hathaway, owner, manager



GalleP – Gallatin Equestrian Partnership is just 2 months old as a new future 501C nonprofit organization that is working to bring an equestrian park to Gallatin Valley and promote equestrian trails. They are collecting signatures of support from various businesses and equine groups to promote their cause. (See minutes pg 8). Jennifer Mohler, BCH member will speak briefly on GalleP at our January General Meeting on the 17th.

The Christmas “wrap-up,” by Susan DesJandins and Janice Cartwright

A big thanks to Cindy DeBethizy, Vi Huffman, Diane Yenkelevitz, Krista Cartwright, & Sandy Kypfer for showing up for our first gift wrap session. We only had 4 presents to wrap the entire evening but we did man the booth and that was important.

Our second volunteer effort was more productive. Chick & Jiffie Hale, Jessica & Krista Cartwright and Susan DesJardines made up the crew. We wrapped numerous presents and wore our BCH vests proudly while doing it. Chick was even mistaken for Santa.



GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDETTED 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
Hardaway Vet Clinic*

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Montana Harvest
Montana Horse Sense
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Way Out West

*Members -
Andreassi Custom Homes
Care For You, Denise Aumann
Janice Cartwright
RJ Conti
Cindy deBethizy
Jan Elpel
Bonnie Hammer
Anna Holstrom
Laura Hanks
Rich Inman
Linda Kelly
Sandy McManus
Alice Pilgeron
Dan Porter
Tom Reed
Kay Tate
Ken Yankelevitz
George Zanck*

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