

The picket line

MAY 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

Back Country 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	
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

Board Meeting Thursday, May 1 - 7p

Dan Porter’s office 1745 So. 19th

General Meeting - Thursday, May 15 - 7p

Belgrade Alliance Church, Hoffman & Cameron Sts

Program -

Tuli Fisher, farrier, will speak on

basic hoof care at home and emergency care on the trail

State Board Delegates

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

Newsletter Editor

Membership

Jiffie Hale	763.4105
Mobile	580.0774
jhale@litttleappletech.com	

BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh	587.7578
dmarsh@montana.edu	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

May events/new members/Dr. Warren/assume”	2
President’s May report	3
Clinic report, <i>by Janice, chair</i>	4
Clinic article <i>by Amanda</i>	4
April program, <i>by Amanda</i>	5
My first Parelli experience <i>by Janice/For Sale items</i>	6
2008 Poker Ride Report	7
4.3.08 Board Minutes	8
4.17.08 General Mtg Minutes	9
CA Trail closed, <i>by Stacy Bragg/Arena Riding, by Janice</i>	11

MAY 2008

MAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 1 - 7p Board Meeting, Dan Porter's office 1745 So. 19th

Saturday, May 10 - 10am Spanish Peaks Trail Maintenance Work Day Trail Boss—Larry Thomas 586-6878

Tuesday, May 13 - 1:30 to 3:30 - Gallatin River Ranch ride. Trail bosses Rich Winget 579-9866 and Janice Cartwright 579-3445 This date has been changed. from the original May 3.

Thursday, May 15 - 7pm General Meeting and Program - Belgrade Alliance Church, Cameron and Hoffman Sts. Program speaker - Tuli Fisher, farrier – speaking on basic hoof care at home and emergency care on the trail.

Saturday, May 24 Virginia City Poker Ride

Thursday, May 29 - 6p Jehnet Carlson's ranch - Potluck and Steve Edwards' Packing Clinic. This event had to be moved up from June to May. It has been a yearly event. Bring your casserole and plan on a fun evening. Directions, call Jehnet 388-7463 or 581-7443 or djbar@littleappletech.com Our June program will be rescheduled. For info on clinic: go to <http://www.djbarranch.com/clinic.htm> for more information

Short note from **Dr. Rod Warren, VMD** of Hardaway Veterinarian Hospital, Jackrabbit La, Belgrade

“The pertinent parts are:

1. Most foundered horses in today's society have a version of ‘Equine Metabolic Syndrome’ and are not classically overfed. The problem is not feed, but the lack of the ability to properly metabolize feed.
2. Regular exercise and persistent quality hoof care significantly decreases the odds of a horse getting laminitis or founder.
3. Many people are unaware that their horses are lame. The question becomes...

Could your horse perform better if there were no lameness issues?

and

Do you know if your horse has a lameness issue?"

A word of wisdom: "Assume" is three little words - ass - u - me in one. To be a good horseman, do not assume. Some day your horse will make an ass out of u or me. Teach your horse not to assume. Change your routine

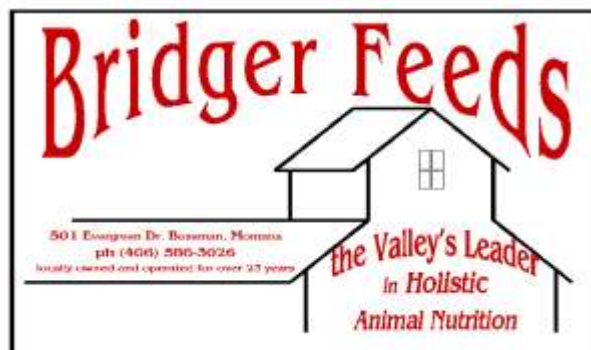
Welcome new member/email changes

Margie Hansen, 365 W. Cameron Br. Rd. Bozeman
388-4932 margaret_h@erc.montana.edu

Lee Hart email address change to -

brokenhartranch@peoplepc.com

Don Funke to drdon@donfunkehorseworks.com



President's Report for May 2008

The April general meeting was well attended and Jerry Kawasaki gave an interesting presentation on bear resistant containers. The Gallatin National Forest has been under a food storage rule for a while now which requires folks to have all food items stored in hard sided vehicles, trailers, or approved bear resistant containers whenever they are not at their campsites in the forest. Food can still be stored by being hauled into the air ten feet high and at least four feet away from a tree. The program was concluded with stretching exercises presented by members Don Funke and Janice Cartwright. Rich and Sherrie have the Poker Ride well in hand but let them know if you can help out.

Janice put on another successful Defensive Horse Safety Course on April 5th and I want to thank everyone that pitched in to help and presented at the event. It was a cold miserable day but we still had around 80 folks that participated. Janice has plans for expanding the event next year to draw more people and spread the word about what Back Country Horsemen do for the community. Thanks to donations from people that attended we won't have much of a bill to pay the fairgrounds for the facilities. If you have any suggestions on what you liked or would like to see changed please contact Janice and let her know your thoughts.

The Back Country Horsemen state convention in Great Falls was held at the end of March and the seven delegates that represented the Gallatin Valley chapter were Dan Marsh, Alice Pilgeram, Rich Inman, Rich & Nancy Winget, Jim Albright, and Brenda Kessler. The next state convention will be hosted by the Last Chance chapter in 2009 and the Gallatin Valley chapter will host it the following year in 2010. We need to start working on the convention now so we don't have such a workload when the time comes. I need people that are willing to take on some of the duties such as finding vendors, speakers for the convention, entertainment, prizes to the raffle, silent and live auction items, people for workshops, a slide presentation of the Gallatin Valley, photo contest judge, and decorations. It sounds like a lot of work

but it can really show off our chapter and the Gallatin Valley and make us some money for needed trail or educational projects. If you have any talents or connections in any of these areas please contact me so we can get started on this now. Rich Inman provided a write-up of the convention so I won't repeat it here. You should consider attending the 2009 convention if you haven't been to one so you get an idea of what to expect and mingle with other like minded back country horsemen. I also want to congratulate Janice Cartwright and Bonnie Hammer on their second place awards for their photographs entered in the convention photo contest.

One thing that came out of the convention was a problem the East Slope chapter had with one individual that wouldn't take "no" for an answer and threatened another member and her horse. The board of directors tried to remove the person from the club, but he filed a law suite when they asked him to leave after refunding his dues. After a couple of thousand dollars in legal fees, that were mostly donated, the chapter won their lawsuit but it was a painful learning experience. They have modified their by laws to include a way to remove a member that is causing trouble and they also modified their business type from a public benefit non profit organization to a mutual benefit non profit organization. The board is working on the necessary paperwork to amend our status. If you have any experience with this please contact me and let me know if you have any suggestions. Hopefully we will never experience this in our chapter, but it is better to be prepared and avoid an ugly situation.

I will be away on business during the May board meeting and Jim Albright has agreed to run the program in my absence. I want to also congratulate Jim on getting a scholarship to take the Leave No Trace Master Trainer week long course at Nine Mile in Missoula this spring. I will be sending an email soon to the people that signed up for the chainsaw and crosscut training that Brian McNeil will be holding in May. This training is for folks that will be actively using chainsaws on trail clearing crews. Most people helping clear won't need the certifications.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Marsh

Defensive Horsemanship Safety Clinic 2008, by Janice Cartwright, our clinic chairperson



This year's clinic had approximately 75 attendees. The blizzard like conditions at the start and once again at the conclusion of the clinic did not seem to deter our participants. From the feedback I have received the clinic was informative, well received, and appreciated by many. Don Funke, Brad Tank, Duane Wiltse with sidekick Laurence Van Dyke, Rod Warren and Terry and Larry Shore donated their time, talent and knowledge to make the day a whopping success. Wes Weickum and Nye Howie, brand inspectors, also spent time out of their busy schedules to do some inspections and be available for questions. Big THANK YOU to everyone that helped including all of you, the members that arrived in time to help me pack all the "accessories" in for set up, the registration table crew, the refreshment crew, the BCH trailer crew....I'd still be setting up without your help! At the end of the day, what a pleasant surprise to turn around from discussing some things with the guests and presenters to find my rig already loaded and waiting to head home.

With this year's event fresh in your mind, I'm open to suggestions and comments for how to proceed with next year's clinic. Interestingly enough, all of our presenters indicated that they enjoyed themselves and that they would return again. To me, that's a very good sign.

Safe Trails To All

2008 Horse Safety Clinic, impressions from a new member, by Amanda Steele

The 2008 Horse Safety Clinic at the Fairgrounds was a great way to start thinking of the riding season despite weather that was anything but encouraging. There was something for everyone and many things to see and do and learn about. The speakers and clinicians did a great job and gave us all a lot to think about.

Dr. Warren kicked things off by leading a lively discussion on what he believes to be the most important aspects of horse health: foot care and exercise. He shared his professional opinion on how a horse's foot is best balanced and encouraged that a horse be able to be a horse as much as possible, without shoes and with exercise! After his talk it was time to break into the groups and decide which speaker to hear first. Don Funke had the topic of trailering and all that it entails. This is one area where safety should never be compromised and he showed how to perform a safety-check on the vehicle and trailer followed by safe handling techniques for loading, tying and unloading. He then demonstrated effective techniques to load the "difficult to load" horse. Terry Shore spoke on gear and bits and how to decide which is best for you and your horse. She explained how the comfort of horse and rider results in a safer ride. She also stressed the importance of head protection with helmets being an obvious choice while pointing out that western hats provide protection from the elements in addition to a degree of injury protection. Duane Wiltse and his assistants took on horse packing, from preparing your packs by wrapping and protecting the cargo then balancing the loads



perfectly with the appropriate scales. When the panniers were balanced he packed the horse and offered several hitches and techniques for securing the entire load. **Brad Tank** seemed to cover every aspect of horsemanship from selecting the right horse to wrapping up a successful ride. With such a wide range of information to cover in his hour he did an excellent job of emphasizing safety, consideration for the horse, and answered all questions that came up during the hour.

Each clinician let the audience guide the discussion, answering questions and following the interests of the group as the hour unfolded. This allowed folks to get answers to their questions from a knowledgeable source during each consequently unique session. It also served to keep interest and energy high and the hour passed quickly. During breaks we had time to browse the vendor and demonstrator booths. **Larry and Terry Shore of WestTrends** brought their portable showroom and provided a variety of tack, gifts, and of course, an excellent selection of western hats and services. **Melody Nortrup** from American Flex saddles was on hand with a variety of models of their unique saddles to show how a flex tree can be beneficial for horse and rider. **Tri-Animals' developer Diana Lawson** gave a brief enthusiastic talk and convinced many to try her "all natural healing solution and insect repellent." As always, brand inspectors **West Weickum and Nye Howie** provided the important information that horse owners need to know regarding inspection papers and then performed inspections for a few folks. A selection of used and new tack was on hand for browsing and shopping. **Amy Hathaway of Gallatin Valley Horse Resource** supplied business cards, brochures and contact information for a wide range of equine services in the area.

All in all, it was a great learning experience and a much-needed reminder that spring is on the way and we'll be riding soon. We came home with several purchases and ready to update our gear, do training tune-ups, and practice our pack hitches so that when the snow finally stops we'll be ready to head for the mountains and ride!

April Program, by Amanda Steele

The program from the April 17, 2008, meeting had two interesting topics for us to think about as we head into the riding season. First, Jerry Kawasaki showed us his Bear-Resistant Panniers, emphasis on "resistant" since nothing is ever truly considered bear proof! His panniers are made from thick aluminum with unique designs to make them useful and able to resist a curious bear. The lid is recessed within the frame so that there is nothing to catch a claw on and the latches are designed to break before they can be used to pry open a lid. In the background of his presentation he ran a video of the grizzlies of West Yellowstone doing their best to get into one of his panniers and despite all their tricks it held up. His panniers have been successfully tested in California which has some of the strictest bear safety guidelines in the country. He's covered all the necessities of packing in the panniers he designed but more importantly, his panniers hold up to the bears. As the population in our area grows and changes, it's more important all the time to ensure that horseback riders in the backcountry have a minimal impact on the wildlife that live there. Bears are easily corrupted and once corrupted, very difficult to rehabilitate. These panniers help prevent a bear from ever sampling camp food and becoming a "problem bear". By keeping the bears out of our food supplies we help protect our rights and freedoms in the fu-



program ...from page 5

ture.

Next, Don Funke and Janice Cartwright got us up and moving in readiness for spring riding. Don explained that riding requires a continuous series of small intense movements and adjustments that can quickly have an effect on our joints and he emphasized four principles of fitness: balance, coordination, flexibility, and strength. People can become stiff and one-sided just as a horse can and it's important to work on our own physical fitness because it affects the horses we ride. Stretching is always a great way to get started, it helps warm up the muscles and increases the flexibility with the legs being an area of focus for most riders. Arm and shoulder exercises and stretches are important so that you remain relaxed and open in the upper body as you ride. The core area, from the rib cage to the hips, is the foundation for balance and strength and abdominal strength is key. Don pointed out that balance is developed in a different part of the brain and needs to be challenged to be improved upon. To do this, he and Janice showed us a variety of options all easily found and inexpensive. An exercise ball can substitute



as a chair and as you sit you can move and develop balance. Smaller balance balls, foam rollers, and a "whoopee cushion" inflatable pad can provide the same movements. Standing on one foot can develop balance as well as reveal any one-sidedness or issues you might have to work on. It's important to be as physically fit as possible to ride and practicing these simple effective methods is a great way to prepare for summer riding.

My first formal Parelli experience, by Janice

Last Thursday I chose to audit the first day of the Parelli clinic held by Dave Ellis, 5 star Parelli instructor, at Circle L Arena. It was a good choice. Over the past few years I have heard/seen/read various bits and pieces of this method of natural horsemanship. The clinic was a chance for me to understand more of the progression. This was made easier by Catherine Nelson's willingness to answer so many of my questions during the day as she was auditing also. Catherine is a Parelli level 2. Sandy Kypfer was there also and Diane Fuhrman joined us for the afternoon. Jiffie and Chick stopped by to check it out but opted for some warmer locations elsewhere - it was a bit chilly in the arena especially on those aluminum bleachers! They

have been familiar working Parelli for 10+ years having attended their first clinic held at Linda and Terry Threlkeld's arena. Linda is also at level 2.

Dave Ellis is a knowledgeable and competent instructor, in my opinion. Trina and Wayne Frederickson were participating in the clinic. After having ridden with them while on their same two horses for the past two Poker Ride pre-rides, it was interesting to see their progress. I consider the day a success. I have learned more about this technique, coined a few new teaching phrases and shared some ideas with Dave. Ron and I will be attending the Parelli Tour Show in Billings in May and I look forward to seeing Pat and Linda Parelli in action. Always open to new ideas...

For sale

***2 draft horses, Percheron mares with stars, 8 yrs and 11 yrs, dead broke! Asking \$5000 580-5590 or 580-1948 (Larry Thomas says these are wonderful mares)

***Nice western riding saddle, small 15" seat, small stirrups, 7/8 rigging, crupper ring. Price is practically a 'give-away.' Sonja Berg 388-6087 (leave message)

***Free - older gelding, gentle, rides in mountains, has smooth walk, Bob Steinman 282-7166

2008 Poker Ride Report *by Sherrie White*

Slated for Saturday, July 12, at Bridger Bowl, this year's ride will follow the southern route, approximately 10 miles. Our annual poker ride is the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen's primary fundraiser with all proceeds used for trail maintenance in the area. Our poker ride, on one of Montana's most scenic trails, has become one of the most popular in the state with riders coming from near and far. A pleasant ride, hearty meal and thousands of dollars in super prizes make this event a real crowd pleaser.

The club would like your help in making this year's event another successful one. You could help in one of three ways:

1. Volunteer to help

Many members have already stepped forward to volunteer. We thank you and appreciate your help.

If others would also like and lend a hand, please contact co-chairs listed below by phone or email.

Current work roster is posted below; we have several slots yet to fill.

2. Donate a prize

Each year many of our generous members donate cash or prizes for the poker ride.

Cash donations are used for poker ride expenses, helping to defray the club's out-of-pocket expenditures, or as cash prizes. We welcome cash donations in any amount, from \$5 to \$500. Please specify if you have a preference as to whether your cash donation is used for expenses or as a cash prize.

Prize donations from club members and area businesses have helped to make our poker ride one of the most popular in the state. Last year's member donations included items such as original artwork, gift certificates, services (vet and chiropractic care), books, T-shirts, posters, horse blankets, tack, boots, jewelry, 12-packs of pop and more. Let us know if you have something you'd like to donate. Note: items must be new, not used. All members or businesses making donations will be listed every month for a year in the club newsletter.

3. Come ride and tell your friends

If you are unable to work at the event, come show your support by participating in the poker ride on July 12. Tell all of your friends! It's a great day for fun, food, good company, and if you're lucky, you could go home with one of the many prizes. Last year we had thousands of dollars in prizes that were awarded.

Contact us to tell us how you would like to help.

Co-chairs:

Sherrie White, 686-9169, sherrie@mexico-villas.com

Rich Inman, 388-1564, rmules04@yahoo.com

Below is the work roster to date:

Friday, July 11

Flagging crew, 10am on Friday (bring water and lunch): Janice Cartwright, Sherrie and Ron White, Bob Steinman, Rich Inman, Dan Porter, Jim Hamilton, Stacy Bragg, Sue Robinson

Friday night, 5pm set up and potluck. Do come; the more the merrier! Sherrie and Ron White, Brenda Kessler and Jim Allbright, Chick and Jiffie Hale, Dan Porter, Rich Inman.

Trailer/signs delivered to Bridger Bowl: Wally Becker, Rich Inman

Saturday, July 12:

Food: Diane Fuhmann. **Servers:** Ron White (need one more server)

Registration: Set up begins at 7am: Sandy McManus, Bob Steinman, Mary Ann Meyer, Amanda Steele, Bob and Sherry Coffin

Pop Stands: Crews to be at Bridger by 8am Sat: Larry Thomas, Dan & Jamie Porter, Peter Naclerio, Brown and Sammylu Parsons

Advance riders depart at 8:30am Sat.: Janice Cartwright, Amy Hathaway

Sweep riders depart after last riders: Chick Hale, Rich Winget, Stacy Bragg

Master of Ceremonies: Dan and Alice

MAY 2008

Money box and change (\$300 in change):

Brenda Kessler

Sunday, July 13: De-flagging, 10 a.m. (bring water and lunch): Sherrie and Ron White, Amy Hathaway, Melanie Dyba, Tom Steele, Susan and Robert Waddle

OTHER DETAILS

Publicity: Stacy Bragg (Sherrie White will assist)

Posters and Signage: Sherrie White. First posters will be printed in May. Second printing in June. We need volunteers to distribute and display posters in Bozeman, Belgrade, Three Forks, Livingston, Manhattan, Big Sky, Gardner, area horse events and other poker rides (Virginia City, Pat Green).

Prize collection: Rich Inman will be collecting prizes; please get them to Rich ASAP. We need to have commitments from the major donors by May 10 so first posters can be distributed at the May 15 BCH meeting.

Set up prizes under tent: Alice and Dan

Sanitary Engineers: Chick Hale, Jim Al-

bright, Rich Winget

Porta Potties (2): Ron White will contact Big John's

Transporting trailer to site: Wally Becker and Rich Inman

Set up stoves and propane bottles: Rich Inman

Ice Chests: Need 10 large chests, clearly marked with owner's name, **delivered to Big Sky RV before Saturday morning.** Lee and Dad's usually donates ice.

Dan Marsh: 1 large, 1 medium, 3 small

Bettye White: 2 medium

Jim Hamilton: 1 medium

Stacy Bragg: 1 medium

Tables: Need 10; 4 are in trailer.

Dan Marsh 1 - Sonja Berg 1 - Need a few more tables

Note to members: members should bring their own chairs on Sat., July 12. Extra card tables, picnic tables, etc. are always welcome.

Board Meeting Minutes, April, 2008

President Dan Marsh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Dan Marsh, Jim Allbright, Brenda Kessler, Dan Porter, Rich Inman, Rich Winget, Duane Wiltse, Larry Thomas, Amy Hathaway, Stacy Bragg, Janice Cartwright, Jiffie and Chick Hale, and Sonja Berg guest.

Minutes of March Board Meeting were in the newsletter. Jim motioned to accept; Larry seconded; approved.

New Bills: New bills from Jiffie were Newsletter printing, roster printing, and packet printing totaling \$67.00; and \$46.40 for stamps. The collective bills for convention reimbursement were \$948.77. Jim motioned to accept these bills, Janice seconded, approved.

Correspondence: A letter from Max Baccus in regards to S2283 was basically the same letter as had been received from Testor. It stated that he understood our position and would keep that in mind. No support or sponsorship. A letter was received from the insurance company stating that it didn't cover the tack swap, but it hadn't been assumed to have done that anyway. Charlie Russell and Feed Bag (Missoula) Chapters sent newsletters.

Membership: 79 memberships (includes family & individual memberships). We have several new members join in the last month.

Issues: *Public Lands Act S2283, Preserving our Equine Heritage on Public Land.* Wyoming Senator Barasso is co-sponsoring this bill, but it is still sitting in committee and doesn't appear to be going anywhere. To contact Senators and Representatives links can be found on the website, as well as mailing addresses.

The Beaverhead Deerlodge Forest Service Plan comment period has been extended until April 30th. It doesn't seem to have any trail closures to livestock. It is important to know whether or not the *Travel Plan* is part of this overall plan. Stacy Bragg will check on this matter.

Publicity: Stacy Bragg has done a fantastic job in conjunction with Janice at spreading the word for the Horse Safety

MAY 2008

BOARD MINUTES from page 8...

Clinic. It has been on the television, radio, Mini Nickel, and other places.

Newsletter: Bridger Feeds has paid for a full year of advertising.

Trail Crews: Still no response from Brian with USFS in regards to chainsaw/crosscut classes. MSU will be sponsoring a wilderness first aid/CPR clinic if anyone is interested.

Program: Program for General Meeting in April is bear panniers designed by Jerry Kawaskaki as well as equestrian stretches by Janice Cartwright and Don Funke.

Old Business: The Horse Safety Clinic currently has 64 pre-registered attendees. Janice assigned volunteers to trailer setup, registration, and tack corner. Setup can begin at 7:30. An email will be sent out to complete any other questions.

New Business: Liability forms will be needed to be signed at the Horse Safety Clinic and Poker ride. This form was located and will be copied by Jiffie.

Convention was March 28. Photo entries had Bonnie Hammer taking a second place for the Animals entry with her photo of a mountain goat; and Janice Cartwright taking a second place for her entry of Rich's mule in BCH at Work.

Rich W. reviewed the convention. Resolutions were presented at the convention. A review of the resolutions may be seen in the March Board Meeting minutes. One resolution did not pass. It was the Third Resolution requesting earmarked funds for the Bob Marshall. The process for requesting earmarks did not allow this to be a valid resolution. All other resolutions were passed. There was some amending to the Fifth Resolution stating that the USFS must provide for required training certification at the convenience of the Back Country Horsemen organizations providing the trail maintenance.

Rich W. stated that he greatly enjoyed meeting members of other organizations and also thought that MWA did a fantastic slide show.

Dan Marsh stated that one of the convention issues brought out was the need for our organization to be listed as a Mutual Benefit organization and not a Public Benefit organization. There has been a lawsuit issue within another club showing the need for this paperwork change.

A new document designed by USFS for equestrian trailhead design may be ordered at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/trailpub.htm> or viewed at wo_mtdc_pubs@fs.fed.us.

Rich I. stressed the negative aspects of the NAIS (National Animal Identification System).

Jim Allbright has been accepted to attend the Leave No Trace master class. After completion he will be required to present two talks per year educating the public on low impact trail and camping uses. Congratulations on being accepted to the course Master Jim.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Hathaway, sec

General Meeting Minutes, April 17, 2008

Following the program, President, Dan Marsh, called the meeting to order. Board members in attendance were Dan Marsh, Jim Allbright, Brenda Kessler, Dan Porter, Rich Inman., Stacy Bragg, Janice Cartwright, Rich Winget, Amy Hathaway and Chick Hale as proxy for Larry Thomas.

Jim A. made a motion to accept minutes as printed in the newsletter; Chick seconded; approved.

Treasurer's report: Brenda Kessler reported a balance of \$1,703.81 in the checking; \$5,893.52 in CD; and \$2,201.10 in a Franklin Templeton money market account. Total account balances are \$9,798.43. No new bills were presented.

Correspondence: Mailings included a Mission Valley Back Country Newsletter, Montana Horse Sanctuary 2008 Workshop Calendar, and Bozeman Dressage & Combined Training schooling shows brochure. A newspaper article was shared and Parelli DVDs are available. All members of Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen may audit the current Parelli training with instructor, Dave Ellis, at Circle L Arena free for one day.

The Montana Horse Sanctuary dates are *4-H Horsemanship and Trail Skills Workshop* is May 2-4, 2008 in Choteau. For more information contact Tammy Townsend at 406-590-3394. *The All About Horse Workshop* is Saturday,

General Meeting - from pg 9

May 10 at Dunrovin Ranch in Lolo. Bryce Kawasaki, from our club, will be the farrier speaker. For more information on this workshop contact the Sanctuary office at 406-458-9722.

Membership: One new member for the month. There are now 80 individual and family memberships.

Issues: *Public Lands Act S2283, Preserving our Equine Heritage on Public Land* now has a co-sponsor from Wyoming, John Barrasso, it is standing in committee and appears to be going nowhere. No support from our Montana officials.

Custer Forest Plan has some closures and some added seasonal restrictions.

Beaverhead Forest Plan is open for comment until April 30th. No closures for horse use is apparent.

Some discussion was made in regards to the pictures of the California Trial Closure.

NAIS is mandatory in January 2009. This is the National Animal Identification System. More information can be gained from BCH state web site. A great amount of concern was expressed in the current standing of the NAIS. It has no funding, so chips and scanner equipment will come out of the pocket of livestock owners and veterinarians. A GPS location is required for your livestock and *any* movement of the animal requires reporting. Rich Inman will contact the Board of Livestock to seek their current position on this USDA regulation.

Publicity: Many comments were made to how well the Horse Safety Clinic had been advertised. Great Job!

Newsletter: Jiffie thanked Amanda Steele for becoming the program writer and for volunteering her services to the club, especially as a recent new member. Sonja Berg also thanked Jiffie for having such an incredible newsletter.

Trail Crews: Larry was unable to attend the meeting, but some discussion was opened up for National Trails Day in June. What trail do we want to do work on?

Program: Jehnet Carlson has moved from June to May 29th. The regular meeting will still be held the third Thursday, and the clinic at Jehnet's will be in addition.

Old Business: Defensive Horse Safety clinic was a great success. The weather was stormy, but we still had approximately 75 participants. Presenters were Dr. Warren, Don Funke, Terry Shore, and Brad Tank. Nye Howie and West Weickum presented for brand inspection questions. Response was great from attendants and advertising was fantastic. Donations totaled \$212.00. This should be approximately 2/3 of the cost of the facility rental. Janice suggested that next year we can add *Leave No Trace* presented by Jim Allbright.

The 2008 Convention report from attendees was that this convention was organized and ran very well. Discussion for Resolutions was efficient as all had previously viewed the Resolutions. The condensed version of the State Resolutions may be seen in the March minutes. The resolution requesting earmarked funds for the Bob Marshall did not pass. The process for requesting earmarks did not allow this to be a valid resolution. All other resolutions were passed. There was some amending to the Fifth Resolution stating that the USFS must provide for required training certification at the convenience of the Back Country Horsemen organizations providing the trail maintenance. State chairman need to be elected was also introduced and passed.

*Resolutions from the National level included a request from California that votes from delegates reflect the number of members of that organization. This was opposed. Missouri BCH had a resolution in opposition to NAIS. This passed.

*The club will be changing its organizational structure from a Public Benefit to a Mutual Benefit organization. More advice on the effects of such a change will be sought.

*Two club photos received second place awards for the Convention photo contest-- Janice Cartwright with an entry in *BCH at Work* and Bonnie Hammer with a wonderful photo of mountain sheep.

New Business: Chainsaw training has yet to be scheduled, but Brian is working for sometime in May, possibly a couple of weekday evenings.

Poker Ride -Sherrie White and Rich Inman are co-chairing the Poker Ride, they request volunteers to fill up the available slots. Many positions had volunteers commit, many more volunteers will still be sought, if you have any interest in these, please contact Rich or Sherrie.

*Prize collection will be handled by Rich Inman. Prizes may be turned in to him at anytime before the ride. If any-

MAY 2008

General Meeting - from pg 10

body needs assistance getting a prize to the ride, let him know.

*Advertising and posters are underway. The poster will hopefully be available by Mid-May. If any of your donation givers want listed on the flyer, get it in early.

*The letter from Bridger Bowl has been acknowledged. Still waiting on response from the USFS.

*The ride will be ten miles—no cut off routes this year.

The ride for Janice's place will be rescheduled. The Gallatin River Ranch ride has been moved to Tuesday, May 13 at 1:30. Contact Rich Winget for a release form.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Hathaway, sec

California trail closed, by Stacy Bragg

This is stuff we do not want to see happen here. We have to remain alert to anything that can get a foothold no matter how small the closure may be and if it is a resource issue at least let people in to fix a problem but closure should only be the last option not the first. This is the link to read the article written by Dennis Mayo.

<http://www.sharetrails.org/magazine/article.php?id=1573>

The author, Dennis Mayo, stands beside the sign that closed an area he had enjoyed for 50 years.



April's weather did not allow us to ride at the fairgrounds. Our last ride that Janice wrote came too late for the April issue. Here it is, more than a month later - still snowy, cold and muddy.

ARENA RIDING – Tuesday, March 25th, by Janice Cartwright

Another good day spent “tuning up”. Jiffie brought Nugget (with cane and recovering foot and all) and worked on Parelli techniques while sitting on the mounting block. Chick worked on Pete's recalcitrance towards loading lately. (He's been having some level 1 temper tantrums with his loading lessons.) Bob Furu and Duke came to town for their first catch, load and ride of the year. Ken rode Rocky around to get his “rear in gear” for his upcoming pack trip. Bob and Ken also took a few spins around the outside areas of the fairgrounds for a different view. Jiffie and Janice worked on retrofitting Jiffie's saddle to lighten it and make it more safe for her when she is able to ride. Janice brought 3 horses to work on bending and becoming more supple. It's always a mish-mash but it works! It also got fairly warm and the mud was mucky.

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
 Hardaway Vet Clinic

Health Works Institute
 Kountry Korner Café
 Lee & Dad's
 Madison House
 Main Street Over Easy
 Montana Canvas
 Montana Harvest
 Montana Horse Sense
 Montana Side Saddle
 Murdoch's Ranch & Home
 Owenhouse Ace Hardware
 Precision Fence Systems
 Rocky Mountain Hat Compny
 Rocky Mountain Supply
 Second Self
 Sportland Trailer
 Steer In Trailer Sales
 The Optimal Athletic
 Three Forks Saddlery
 Valley Trailer Sales

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

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

P. O. Box 3232

Bozeman MT 59772-3232

