

THE PICKET LINE

OCTOBER 2008



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.”

Officers (1 yr)

President

Dan Marsh 587.7578

Vice President

Jim Allbright 995.4441

Secretary

Amy Hathaway 282.6089

Treasurer

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 1yr

Alternate: Stacy Bragg 1yr

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Board Meeting - **Thursday, October 2 - 7p**

Dan Porter’s office 1745 So. 19th

General Meeting - **Thursday, October 16 - 7p**

Belgrade Alliance Church, Hoffman & Cameron Sts

Program

Joe Turner, horse trainer (and farrier)

See page 2 and 11 for information

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October Events

Thursday, October 2, 7p - Board Meeting, Dan Porter's office, 1745 So. 19th

Thursday, October 16, 7p - General Meeting and Program, Belgrade Alliance Church

Program: Joe Turner, horse trainer (and farrier) will speak to us on "Turner Natural Horsemanship: Willing Partnerships through Desired Leadership using gentle techniques rooted in horse psychology and herd behaviorisms. Listening to your horse and learning their non-verbal language is the best way to "earn" the partnership and respect that we and our horses all wish to obtain." Joe will first give you more of his background information and will be open to your questions after his presentation. See page 11

Jiffie, your editor, has finalized her email address and also finalized the very nasty laptop problems - they were bad!! I have gotten things up and running, but this made the mailings a bit late. It has not been easy with which I had "computer withdrawal symptoms" during the process and with the anxiety of it all —Yuck! Please make the change to jiffie@q.com (that's a **q** not a **g**). I do thank those of you that got frustrated with me during this switch as you probably thought I had/have Alzheimer's? I have not been diagnosed with that! Maybe some other name?

Catherine Nelson also has an email address change to- cnhobbit@gmail.com



This is Little Cottonwood Creek in the Crazy Mountain Range submitted by Stacy Bragg

Check with Stacy about that range for riding. It's tough going, but he does it—just ask him!

I am not sure if this is the West or the East side. Ask him that, also! He told me - I forgot!

Go into our web site to view this in color in the Oct issue.

<http://www.bchmt.org/gvbch/newsletters.htm>

President's Report for September 2008

I want to express my sincerest apologies again for missing the general meeting in September. I had planned my trip to Northern Alberta to hunt geese for the next week in September but the people that we stay with had a change of plans and needed to move our trip up a week. As such I was scrambling to get everything lined out before I left and forgot to make sure someone would be there to open the church. I want to give my thanks again to Jim Albright for taking over the meeting for me and thanks to Dennis for presenting his program on weeds in the great outdoors.

Dan Porter and Ken Yankelevitz are looking into a project where the Back Country Horsemen may be able to help Eagle Mount in building them a new loafing barn for their equestrian program. Dan and Ken will get us more details in the next few weeks and the details will be presented to the club later. The club previously donated \$500 to Eagle Mount that included the 50/50 prize money won by Joe Phelps at our Poker Ride. This money along with another kind donation being considered by Ken for use in rebuilding the existing dilapidated structure will be used to build them a new structure for the horses.

I received the trail reports from Larry but I still need to collect the volunteer hours for trail work done by the Bridger crew. I will compile a summary of the trail work done by our chapter and Stacy Bragg will take this information and send a publicity announcement of our accomplishments to the news media. I would also encourage any of you that have individually done any trail work or other volunteer work to let me know what the project was and the time you spent on the project so I can include it in the report. Our trail crews have done a terrific job of clearing trails this year and they have been getting positive feedback from people they meet on the trail that thank them and the Back Country Horsemen for their hard work.

Janice Cartwright is looking for someone to do the November presentation, so if you have any ideas please contact her with the information. Janice has some entertainment planned for

the December general meeting where we will take care of the election of officers for the next year. We will have a potluck and ice cream social in addition to the voting for our December meeting. Plans are still being finalized for our multi-club Christmas Party to be held at Lee Hart's barn on December 6th with the Old Time Players for musical entertainment featuring our very own Jim Albright on bass. If you have any ideas or comments on the party please bring them up at the October and November meetings or contact one of the board members.

The nominating committee consisting of the three outgoing directors is in charge of coming up with a slate of officers for next year. If you are interested in helping the committee or would like to run for an office please let one of the board members know. It would be great to get some of the newer members involved as an officer or director and I am always looking for committee chairmen for our standing committees. We will also need a lot of help putting together the convention that we will host in 2010. On September 23rd the House Judiciary Committee approved the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008 (H.R.6598). The bill was introduced in July by Representative John Conyers (D-MI). Mr. Conyers just happens to also be the chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Since the bill also deals with the slaughter of livestock, an activity generally under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Committee, it will be up to the House Parliamentarian to decide if the legislation is also within the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Committee. If it is, the bill will go to that committee for consideration. If not, it will be available to be placed on the House calendar for a vote by the full House. It will then be voted on in the Senate. The bill would criminalize the possession, transport, sale, delivery, or receiving in interstate or foreign commerce of a horse or horse meat with the intent that it be used for human consumption. Please write to your representatives and express your concerns over this bill.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Marsh

Program for August, 2008, by Amy Hathaway, sec

This write up is a month late due to your editor's neglect, but also I did not have the room!

Larry Feight with High Country Ag Marketing, Inc. of Whitehall presented a fantastic program on electric fencing uses.

Larry and High Country Ag. are consultants for fencing options. Larry has been in the fencing business for over 24 years. Since 1982, the focus has been on electric conversions; since 1984, he has promoted Gallagher fences after several comparisons proved it to offer the best power.

When choosing fencing options, one must consider the animal being fenced in or out, how large of an area is being fenced, and what is the power source. Voltage is the ability of a fence to deliver power shocks—compare it to RPMs in vehicles. Joules is the amount of shock delivered—compare it to horsepower. Buy Joules, Not Voltage when looking for a shock delivering system.

Proper installation may be the key to making your fence system function properly. Proper grounding with galvanized ground rods in a damp site is best. Larry said to never use copper ground rods. Choose your grounding system. All Hot systems are not recommended

for standing fences. Three wire fences should have hot, grounded, hot systems. (Larry can offer consulting on your fencing needs and save money and grief.)

Training your livestock always pays off. Once the animal learns to respect the electric fencing system, one can take portable electric fences to the hills without much problem.

Several uses for fences include safety from bears, garbage, feed, tack, meet, and personal protection. Larry showed several slides of hunting camps having electric fencing protection. Anything less than .5 Joules will not provide safety from bears. Don't expect your portable horse fence to provide bear protection. Buy the right product to meet your needs. For bear uses, the Gallagher B80 with aluminum wire is suggested. For portable horse fence, the Gallagher B11 may be used with the stakes provided or screw in insulators for even less weight.

For design assistance, hands on clinics, of after sales support, contact Larry Feight at High Country Ag Marketing, Inc. at 1-800-777-9960 or visit his website www.hcam.net and also, visit Gallagher's site at www.gallagherusa.com

Sat., Aug. 30, Men's club ride of the season, by Dan Porter

Editor's note: This ride was past the time the Sept. issue was mailed - therefore inserted here.

My report on our ride to Mystic Lake with five riders: Larry Thomas, Walt Becker, Ron Rassley, Kent Knatterud and myself with five saddle horses all piled into Larry's rig on Saturday 8/30/08 for a full day of riding to Mystic Lake. We parked at the Lick Creek trailhead in Hyalite Canyon and starting at about 9:45 we rode from there up through Wildhorse and over into the South Fork of Bozeman Creek. From there we looped around to the south and then east and north - bushwhacking a few times and clearing trail when time allowed. We started with 5 horses - 3 sorrels, one bay, and my Appy. Three quarters of the way through the ride Larry picked up a second horse...a Charlie horse! But he had required there be no whining due to the long ride. He said he was merely making a statement of fact, not whining. My horse provided the rest of the entertainment by balking at the first trickle crossing, crow-hopping to dislodge a horsefly on his belly and diving into a pool of water the size and depth of a ten person hot tub! He started to take the lead on the trail home, but nearly did a 180 when two bull moose crossed the trail just 75 yards ahead of us. We noted the tracks of a four wheeler in Bozeman

Creek, a restricted area and off limits to motorized use! However, we didn't encounter or even hear one of the pesky critters all day. The weather was perfect with a slight breeze at times, a quick light shower, but lots of sun. Larry told us about all the elk he had shot in the area - then we wondered why there aren't as many as there used to be? Go figure. We ate lunch in a stand of pine and fir and noticed the pitch holes from fresh pine bark beetle infestation. Spruce bud worm evidence was also plentiful. We arrived back at the trailhead around 6pm. Walt estimated we had ridden either a long 23 miles or a short 24....? Not sure what the difference is.

Just for fun, *by Kay Tate*

On Friday, Sept 5 at 9 am Billie and I dropped Ron, Larry and Wally off at the Old Indian Trail by Ennis dam and they headed for Spanish Creek via Cowboy Heaven, Cherry Creek cabin, Cherry Lake and Placer Creek. The lessees have built a new cabin for the grazers over there and put it where the old tent camp was, about 5 miles up. Cherry Creek Cabin had been repaired after the break in (bear or human) and seemed sound. The grass was knee deep in the cabin meadow. They rode down to Cherry Lake on a steep and very rocky trail just to see the lake, then returned south to pick up the 413 trail to the Placer Creek jct. The Forest Service had cleared 2/3 of the way on the Placer Creek trail and they could get around everything but one that they cut out. They saw 3 elk, 2 moose and some deer. They got snowed on lightly but the rest of the day was great weather. The most amazing sight was the Placer Creek trail itself. Nearly every tree has toppled, pine needle duff is deep and the fire hazard is extraordinary. Ron was shocked. Elk couldn't even get through there anymore. The guys got to their truck and trailer (that Billie and I had left there) @ 7:30 and home in the dark. We guess it became a 28 mile ride in 10 1/2 hours. It had been many years since Ron had done this big ride and may never again. Trail # 413 from above the Cherry Creek Cabin to Cherry Lake is not recommended for horses. It is dangerously rocky. The trail over the top that they took is much better.

September Trail ride on Mt. Ellis, *by Sandy Kypfer*

Despite that there was only one other rider for our scheduled BCH trail ride, Sandy Smith and I set off from the Eagle Rock barn at 10am. It was a beautiful clear day and a perfect riding temperature. The two of us cantered across the hay fields up to the one gate and went onto state land. From there we followed a trail through the trees and out into a clearing before crossing over and down onto an old logging road. We followed that high up onto Little Mt. Ellis and gained almost panoramic views looking down into Bear Canyon, Frog Rock, Bozeman Pass and the eastern end of the Bridger's. We went back the same trail at a brisk pace, but were able to keep up our friendly conversation. Back at the barn the horses enjoyed a long well-deserved drink. By half past 12p Sandy and Dulsie were ready to load up and head back home.

Dan Porter wrote, "This morning on Friday, September 26, 2008 I went on the first charity ride for St Jude's Children's Home held at the Thunderbolt Ranch. It was not well advertised as I think they wanted to keep the first one small. Seven riders had a nice gentle 3 hour ride at the base of Mount Ellis. The charge (donation) was \$35. And I think the idea was supposed to be to get sponsors for each rider although nobody told me that. I was the only guy and learned about it from Marianne of Gallep. We saw no game, but rode thru a herd of black cows and had a nice gentle ride with no steep drop offs, down trees, or bog holes. "

September program, *by Amy Hathaway, Sec.*

Dennis Hengel of the Gallatin County Weed District presented outside the Alliance Church circled by chairs hauled from trucks and people sitting on pavement. The setting sun

and evening crisp air was perfect. The Church was locked, but the outdoor setting seemed to fit the Noxious weed presentation.

Gallatin County has about six major weed issues being Spotted Knapweed, Canadian Thistle, Oxeye Daisy, Musk Thistle, and Hounds Tongue. Other weeds are also present.

In the 1960's State legislatures prompted by Ag Producers created the first laws on weed control. Why should we care about these English Ornamentals turned Noxious Weeds? These weeds displace our native vegetation and have no natural diseases or insects to control them. They devalue our land by reducing productivity. They have negative value for wildlife nutrition. They have negative value on our pocket books trying to control them. State law requires disclosure of knowledge of weeds on land sales.

In Montana, just Spotted Knapweed alone, has a negative impact to the figure of \$45,000,000. Control of these plants needs to be a coordinated effort of all. Gallatin County actually has a spread of weeds from the sprawling suburbs outward to the native landscapes. Development disturbs soils and time is needed for disturbed areas to be developed into lawns, pastures, etc.

As horse owners, there is a need to be aware of the toxicity of some of these plants. *Hounds Tongue* is very toxic to the liver. As most horses don't find it palatable, it is most dangerous when found in hay. *Common Tansy* is also quite toxic to liver function. *Leafy Spurge* is tolerated by sheep, but not horses. *Hoary Allysum* can cause stocking up. This plant has just been added to the noxious weed list. (As a side note, I have been having problems with a horse filling in the hind legs and haven't found a reason...I went home after this meeting and pulled several of these little white flowered plants from around my drylot—it came in a batch of bad hay last year. I will see if my horse's legs improve). Yellow Starthistle (looks like yellow knapweed) is very toxic to horses, but is presently not in Montana. It is in Idaho and California. It causes Chewing Disease in horses. The county will pay a \$100 reward for anyone who finds this plant in our county.

Some of our native plant species, Larkspur, Lupine, and Tall Buttercup are also toxic to horses.

What makes a plant make our Noxious Weed list? Environmental and Economic effects of the plant. There is an enforcement program to insure that weeds are taken care of. If someone has been warned and does not control their problem, the county can come in and spray. The cost will be added to the landowners county taxes.

Cheat grass has spread due to the drought conditions of recent. Dennis suggested using *Plateau* after the first freeze while the other grasses are dormant.

Jen Mohler offers pasture management classes. Dennis urged people to take advantage of this fantastic resource.

Handouts were given for proper herbicide use, weed identification, and toxic plants. This was a great presentation. Dennis has an office in the Gallatin County Fairgrounds office building. .

Wally Becker is not sure if the club has all their maroon **BCH Vests**. If you think you may have one, he would appreciate you giving him a call - 587-9607. One or two may be unaccounted for. He thanks you.





JUST WHAT HAS JANICE CARTWRIGHT BEEN UP TO?

Just look - see her stories and pictures

This month's HORSECAMP report is dedicated to Jim Hamilton and Smokin' Harley. Jim and his mustang joined us recently for one of our Horsecamp Sessions. After some work in the round pen with Chick assisting, we headed out into the fields for trail practice. Creek crossing was on the agenda and both rider and horse completed the "course." Pat Fritsche also joined in with Sugar along with some of the kids. We've been covering many different aspects of horsemanship on these days. Remember, everyone is invited to join us.



Tuesday, September 16th Chick and I met up at Camp Creek Farms with some of my students on a "Horse Camp" day. There, our horses were exposed to various animals like goats, pigs, cows, chickens, turkeys, sheep and the dreaded LLAMAS! What a good place to deal with them rather than on a steep and narrow trail. So our de-spooking sessions continue. After riding around the farm we headed over to Axtel Anceny Road and spent 1 1/2 hours working on gaiting and control and leg yielding with the girls. They mostly worked on cantering and cantering and cantering. Youth! Janice rode one of the farm's horses, a Haflinger named Henry. She also went to the chiropractor the next day. Yikes, but he was wide!



GVBCH had a successful ride in this year's Sweet Pea Parade. Ken, Pat, Sammylu and Janice were club representatives. Our float had the GVBCH banner and the kids on the trailer



were dressed like "trail clearers" with chain saws and various tools of our trade. Comments heard were, "Look, they have kids riding." "What calm horses." "Thanks for wearing your hel-



mets.” (Ken’s was bright PINK!) “They’re having fun.” And we were. (The most fun was riding back to my house through town. Everyone was at the Festival so the roads were empty.) All of our sessions to prepare paid off - the riders were calm. Ken even got his own comment. His “ex trainer” saw him and exclaimed, “Ken, is that you? I can’t believe you are riding in a parade!” Made his day. Now...off to the Belgrade Parade this Saturday.

Belgrade Fall Festival Parade, Sat., Sept 20th Well... for only having a handful of participants, we went to 11 riders and 3 floaters the morning of the parade! Riders were Chick Hale, Ed and Brenda Long, Wally (I don’t do parades anymore) Becker, Sonja Berg, Sammylu Parson, Vi Huffman, Lily and Emma Wise-Treut (parade newbies), Ken Yankelevitz (parade veteran status earned) and myself. Floaters were Bettye White and Jeannine Hardman on the float and Jack Hardman driving. Jim and Brenda showed up to help. (We all know that Jim showed up to see what trouble I was in and he even admitted it!) We were awesome! Our entry had lots of seniors and 2 seniors in training, Lily -12 and Emma -15, so we fit right



with the theme of honoring our seniors. Sonja, Wally, Bettye were all recognized by many of the parade attendees. The horses and one mule went down the road like veteran performers, for the most part. Wally’s appy was concerned about the transition from grass to pavement. Ken’s horse, Ollie, did not like Mr. Mule on his rear so he did get in one kick. Some horses had to get used to the lines painted on the asphalt. Pete carried the flag unbothered until we hit the last 2 blocks. Then he saw everyone crowded in between those taller buildings, the noise, the kids all over the street, so Chick rolled up the flag and moved to second post. RC and I picked up the flag and continued on leading, greeting and clearing the streets from all of those toes sticking out before we would pass. Vi is the Belgrade Band Director. She lead the parade and then raced back to her horse that we ponied. At the end of the parade, Sonja vaulted off of Rocky and got in the barbecue line so Rocky was ponied back. Sammylu smiled some during this parade so I am assuming that she liked this one better than Sweet Pea. Bettye’s comment was that riding on the float was way easier than loading up her horse this morning. OF course, with this group, everyone had great advice that they were not shy about telling me to take. Imagine that! I would like to explain to all riders and future riders with me that if I am Parade Person or Trail Boss or Horse Safety Clinic Organizer that I have to be in charge to make decisions and get it done. I apologize if I offended anyone with my decisions, but this is the only way that I



know how to keep things safe and orderly and on time or please feel free to be the one in charge next time.

First time “paraderees” were: Mr. Mule, Wally’s Appy, Tango, Emma, and Jack and Jeannine Hardman, my parents.

Our horses performed very well, helmets were worn, we had young riders with us, parade watchers were invited to help us clear trails and we exercised safety and common sense during the

ride. GVBCH club had good representation and public awareness. **Thanks to all who helped make it that way.**

Submitted by Janice - “She Who Takes Charge,” is my Indian name! Talk to Ron about that one!

P.S. Brown must have had a senior moment since he forgot to show up for the parade!



9.4.08 Board Mtg minutes, by Janice Cartwright, who said, “I walked in late and I was quickly assigned to take the minutes! I am a horrible secretary!” —Never fear Janice, I, your trusted editor, did edit to make it readable and understandable!

Called to order by our President Dan. Present were: Jim A, Stacy, Dan P, Rich I, Brenda, Larry, Janice, guests: Wally and Sonja.

August minutes: Motion by Jim; Larry Second. Approved.

Treasurer’s report: Newsletter \$58.41 NL; \$43.68 stamps. (\$102.09)

Issues: Articles of Amendment were officially changed. Public Benefit status is now Mutual Benefit. This will be discussed at the Deer Lodge Delegate Meeting on the 27th of September.

Jim brought up membership packets. Marianne was absent and this was set aside.

Travel Plan: The Beartooth BCH Chapter is appealing the travel plan along with other organizations. Stacy advised that we watch out for the Forest Service Plan and horse use after the travel plan is finished. Concerns are that the Travel Plan may allow horses on trails and the Forest Travel Plan may change what is already thought to be in place for horse use.

2009 Forest Service Funds have been drastically cut due to present Firefighting costs this season.

National Public Lands Day is 9/27. Is anyone, club or individual, doing something for this day that might like recognition for their efforts? This request comes from the “higher-ups.” Dan P suggested water bars be installed on trails @ Bridger Bowl. This came from a request from a Randy.

Dan M will check on details for implementation.

Recreation Trails and Recreation Enhancement Program - do we have a trail project to bring to their attention? Jim A asked Brenda, treas., if state money is sent to BCHMT in December. Brenda said it is sent in November.

Stacy B suggests a summary article be submitted to the press to make the public aware of our efforts this year. Dan M will compile a summary of our work and get it to Stacy to submit.

Trail Crews: Larry reported work is basically finished for ‘08. Sherrie W. had previously suggested that we buy a chain saw for each sawyer to replace the member’s using their personal saws in 2008. Larry made a motion to get 4 gift certificates to Matt’s Saw Shop for \$25 each to be given to Dick Grover, Dick Haines, Jim Nelson and Ron Rassley. Dan P seconded. All agreed. Janice will get the gift certificates and bring to the next meeting.

Programs: Janice reported this month’s program is from the State Weed Control Department. She is working on October and November.

The board decided that our December meeting will be a potluck/ ice cream social. We will have the elections and Janice will provide a short segment of entertainment.....HORSEPLAY. “Trust me on this one, Jim.” The evening will be open to families and spouses with fun for all. We’ll keep it short and sweet.

Non-Profit status: Jim A is still working on the paperwork with the 501C3 - public or private?

Steak Ride: Dan P reported they made a profit due to the 48+/- participants this year and the reduced price of the steaks. The Battle Ridge Site worked well and will be considered again for next year. This was not an intent to make a profit!

Belgrade Parade/Fall Festival: The date is Sept 20. Janice has 5-6 BCH members and a few guests to join her in our entry.

Christmas Party: Plans are similar to last year, but minus elections. The date is Dec. 6th @ BrokenHart Ranch. Old Time Players are secured for \$400, featuring Jim A on bass. Saddle & Harness Club and Appy Club will be joining us. Janice made motion to accept Old Time Players for our music for the Christmas Party. Dan P second; Accepted.

2010 state BCH convention: We need a chairman! A site needs to be secured for 200-250 people.

Eagle Mount Donation Letter: This letter, written from our 50/50 Poker Ride winner. was read. Jim motion to accept as written. Larry seconded. Approved. Ken Yankelevitz had a discussion on what GVBCH could offer Eagle Mount regarding a run-in and a run-down shed that needs to be removed. Ken will make a presentation at the next board meeting for what is needed to be done and the manpower involved.

Rich I spoke with Brian McNeil at the **Forest Service about projects** that we are funding and volunteering the workers. Rich expects to meet with Brian in October to discuss.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by Janice Cartwright, in Amy's absence

"Amy, please never miss another meeting again! You are great at this note taking thing," said Janice.

General Meeting Minutes September 18, 2008

Following Dennis Hengel's Noxious weeds program, Vice President, Jim Allbright, called the meeting to order. Board members in attendance were Jim Allbright, Brenda Kessler, Janice Cartwright and Amy Hathaway.

Guests: Two guest joined the meeting, Beth Schneider and Sue Hayes.

Minutes: Sonja Berg made a motion to accept minutes as printed in the newsletter; Janice seconded; approved.

Treasurer's report: Brenda Kessler reported a balance of \$5,202.14 in the checking; \$6,044.85 in CD; and \$2,219.71 in a Franklin Templeton money market account. Total account balances are \$13,466.70. No new bills were presented.

Correspondence: Letters had been returned that were sent out by Sherrie for the Poker Ride. *Hoofbeats*, from the Columbia Falls Chapter, and a Public Lands Water Access Association letter were received.

Membership: No new members last month.

Issues: Please look into the Equine Cruelty issue HR6598. This has to do with the transport of horses to Canada for slaughter.

Trail Crews: After a busy work year, the trail crews are done for this season. Maryanne is taking a ride up North Cottonwood to remove rocks from the trail if anyone would like to join her.

Program: Janice is open to suggestions for the November program.

Old Business: Dan Porter was not present to do the wrap up on the Steak Ride. Jim reported that some of the steaks were sold and the price for the ride may be reduced next year.

New Business: Belgrade Fall Festival Parade is September 20th. Betty, Chick, Wally, Brown, Sonja, Vi and Janice's group will all be riding horses or otherwise. The theme of the parade is *Salute to Seniors*. Thanks to all of you for getting out and presenting for the Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen. Ken Yankelevitz and Dan Porter have taken on the Eagle Mount project. Ken presented photos of the old shed in need of tearing down. He will present to the board meeting next month for further discussion.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Hathaway, sec.

Reminder

2009 membership dues begin October 1st Marianne Meyer, chrm, will have applications on hand at the meetings or you can download from: <http://www.bchmt.org/gvbch/default.htm>

Hello, I am Joe Turner, the Rocky Mountain Horseman.

My wife, daughter, and I relocated to the Bozeman area in the summer of 2007 from the central Sierra's in California. In tow were 3 dogs and 4 (now 7) horses. My love for the Rockies where I spent a decade in Wyoming and Colorado, brought us back from a short stint in California where I established my Horsemanship company and a Non-Profit Equine Rescue. My clients included the complete novice rider/owner to the President of the Arabian Association, The Central San Joaquin Valley chapter, as well as Lesley Lovelace, International Eventing Champion, and many ranches throughout the San Joaquin Valley. I helped develop an equestrian facility and curriculum for Yosemite High School and was on their board. I teach Natural Horsemanship to horse and rider, horse psychology, colt starting, private/group lessons and clinics and also shoe horses when needed. I am located between Three Forks and Cardwell with easy Interstate access, just off of the Milligan Canyon exit, but I am happy to come to your location as well. I am proud to be working with the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horseman and excited to be writing a monthly column and doing some clinics for events and functions. This column will be an instructional forum regarding training techniques, tips on tack, training and behaviorisms as well as answering your questions regarding all aspects of the horse world. You have the questions, I have answers! Just drop me your question at joe@rockymountainhorsesman.com and we will take care of you and your desires. Due to this being an introduction to myself and this column, today's tip will be brief.

Hunting season is upon us and the hot summer days are coming to an end as many of us find ourselves soaking up the last riding of the season. This is an important time to re-check your equipment by checking wear and tear from the summer riding or if just going out for the first time. Check to make sure no critters have gnawed on your equipment or that something is missing, torn or loose. Replace any cracked leather or tack that looks questionable. Out on the trail is no place to find that you are set up for a big wreck or even end up in one. Learn your own equipment! Don't let others set up your gear and tack, get to know your own program and always triple check your tack before getting on your horse. Accidents happen and that is a fact of life, but we can sure do our best to prevent them and keep them at a minimum for the safety and confidence of us and our horses. Until next time Happy Trails!

Joe Turner, 133 Cottonwood Rd., Cardwell, MT 59721 406-579-6622

joe@rockymountainhorseman.com www.rockymountainhorseman.com

Old friends renewed

Recently Chick and I were invited to attend church with Jean and Tom Griffith at their Springhill Presbyterian Church on a recent Sunday. They are both lay pastors. For those members who knew them from past years – Tom had long retired from the Forest Service in 1990 and both had been past members of GVBCH, Tom having been a past president. The two of them are enjoying their days still living at their same location in Belgrade with their two mules and one horse and still enjoy riding. Jean has had her other shoulder replaced while Tom is presently preparing for a knee replacement on Monday, Sept. 29th.

They are not listed in the phone book, but you can reach Tom 589.4547 or Jean 209-7673 or sisnoopy@littleappletech.com

GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2008 POKER RIDE - THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

Ag Depot
 All West Veterinary
 Ardesson Boots and Shoes
 Biggerstaff Construction
 Big Sky RV
 Bozeman Fence
 Bozeman Saddle Outlet
 Bridger Feeds
 Bumblebean Coffee Shop
 Bunkhouse Originals
 CBU
 C'est la Vie Salon
 Chalet Market
 Chalet Sports
 Concrete Construction
 DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service
 Dr. Phil Aumann
 Don Funke Divine Equine
 Double Diamond Halters
 Equine Solutions
 Four Corners Saddlery
 Freeway Enterprises
 Gallatin Valley Horse Resource

Gourmet Gas Station
 Greater Yellowstone Flyfisher
 Hardaway Vet Clinic
 Harrington's Pepsi Cola
 Insty Prints
 Kountry Korner Café
 Lee & Dad's
 Madison House
 Mail 'n More
 Mountain Magic Ranch
 Momma Mac's
 Montana Canvas
 MT Equine Medical and Surgical Center
 Montana Harvest
 Montana Horse Sense
 Murdoch's Ranch & Home
 Owenhouse Ace Hardware
 Paula's Pepper Jellies
 Rapid Tech
 Rocky Mountain Hat Compcny
 Rocky Mountain Supply
 R O Brooks Custom Leather

Root 66 Salon
 Sandy McManus Jewelry Designs
 Second Self
 Steer In Trailer Sales
 This and That
 Three Forks Saddlery
 Tire World
 Way Out West
 Western Pines
Members
 Sonja Berg
 Janice Cartwright
 Jan Elpel
 Bob Furu
 Laura Hanks
 Bonnie Hammer
 Rich Inman
 Marianne Meyer
 Brown & SammyLu Parsons
 Alice Pilgeram
 Dan Porter
 Tom & Amanda Steele
 Ron & Sherrie White

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

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