

The Picket Line

November 2009

Officers (1 year)

<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

<u>2 years</u>	
Marianne Meyer	388.2676
Sandy Kypfer	600.4737
Rich Inman	388.1564
<u>1 year</u>	
Stacy Bragg	222.0077
Dan Porter	388.0290
Larry Thomas	586.6878

State Board Directors

Rich Inman	2 years
Jim Allbright	1 year
Alt: Stacy Bragg	1 year

Membership

Marianne Meyer	388.2676
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Newsletter Editor

Margaret Burns Vap	587.2390
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BCH Webmaster

Dan Marsh	587.7578
dmarsh@montana.edu	

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 roadless 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, November 5 @ 7 pm**
Dan Porter's Office, 1745 S. 19th

General Meeting – **Thurs, November 19 @ 7 pm**
Belgrade Alliance Church

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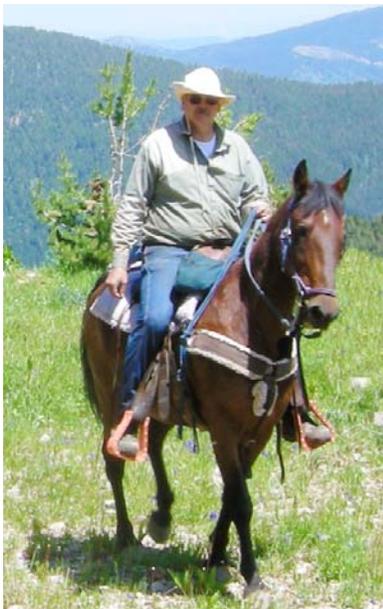


President's Report November 2009

The meeting attendance seems to be getting smaller each month. We have had some great programs and it is a shame that we don't have more participation. The October program was a video presentation by Deborah Derr who founded the United in Light draft horse retirement sanctuary. Please see the general meeting notes for more information on her wonderful organization. One good thing about the low turnout was the board decided to hand out the unclaimed prizes from the Poker Ride at the general meeting so everyone present got a prize.

In the interest of keeping the newsletter smaller and the fact that I am heading out big game hunting in the morning and want to get some sleep tonight I will keep this letter short.

We have a number of issues that you should be kept aware of. The Big Sky trails committee is trying to add another access to the Yellow Mules area but there are a number of obstacles to overcome before anything will happen. They need to get permission from the private landowners and it has to be at the landowner's expense to build this trailhead. The landowners wanted to put in a trailhead that would only hold two horse trailers which we and the Forest Service say would not be adequate. We would like to see a trailhead that could support at least 10 to 15 rigs. We also do not want to give up access to Ousel Falls until everything is built and easements have been granted to the new trailhead.



The other issue in the Yellow Mules is the landowners want the Forest Service to move the existing Second Yellow Mule trail from the ridge where it has historically been down into an area that would make the trail much steeper and harder to maintain. We have asked to be kept in the loop as they plan the new route. We were asked to attend a public meeting with the Forest Service on a proposed conservation easement and permanent right of way into North Cottonwood Creek. The existing access is at the landowner's discretion and only allowed for hunting access so they are interested in getting documented permanent access.

President's Report October 2009

The other main reason for the conservation easement is to preserve winter mule deer habitat and that also causes a problem with routing a new trail without disturbing the deer. The current proposal is to run a very steep trail out of site of the deer that would not be able to support horse use. We will be working with Jose and Jonathan to see if there is another alternative. Overall the proposal is a good deal for getting permanent public access to a big chunk of Forest Service land. I also attended a public meeting with the Gallatin County trails and parks people to discuss ways to improve trails and parks. This meeting was a follow-up to the Gallatin Interconnect Challenge we participated in earlier this year. I will give you more information when they compile all of the information that was presented at the meeting.

Now that the trail clearing and rides have come to a close it is time to start focusing on the 2010 State BCH Convention. If you can help at all please give Amy Hathaway a call and offer her your support. Another thing to start thinking about is the elections coming up in December. We need to have a nominating committee and a slate of officers by the November general meeting. I have reached my term limit of three years and you need to elect a new slate of officers. We will also need to replace three board members. If you are interested in helping with the nominating committee or if you are interested in running for any of the positions please let me know.



Respectfully submitted,
Dan Marsh
President GVBCH

*The hard-working Sage Creek
Corral gang, see page 10 for the
full story*

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen Board Meeting October 1, 2009

President Dan Marsh opened the Board meeting October 1st at 7: p.m. at the office of Dan Porter. Present were Jim and Brenda Albright, Rich Inman, Larry Thomas, Stacy Bragg, Dan Porter, Sonja Berg, Sandy Kypfer and Jan Elpel. Absent was Amy Hathaway.

Minutes of the September Board meeting were accepted as presented in the newsletter, so moved by Jim and seconded by Stacy.

New bills presented included \$69.90 for mileage to the State Board meeting in Deer Lodge, \$205. to Stacy for expenses for the Sage Creek project, and \$17.19 for Insty Prints for September newsletter. Stacy made motion that bills be approved and paid and it was seconded by Larry.

Dan Marsh reported on correspondence concerning the agenda for the next Gallatin Valley Planning Board regarding a secondary trailhead in the Yellow Mule area. BCH interest is in keeping the Ousel Falls trail open until a secondary trail and a new trailhead is secure and developed to accommodate 10-12 rigs. A September motion had been made to support this resolution with a letter, but the subsequent meeting was postponed. This time Jim and Rich agreed to represent GVBCH at the meeting Oct. 8th at the Courthouse.

Other correspondence was received from the National Horse Council regarding HB1912 concerning completion of the American Great Trails system including the Continental Divide Trail. The bill would increase funding to encourage landowners to open and expand more trails.

New Business: October 6th is the followup meeting with the County regarding the Interconnect trail and recreation in Gallatin County. They request feedback from users concerning what improvements are needed, how the county can best address user concerns, and what BCH would be willing to do to help find solutions. The Board discussed the BCH mission to keep equestrian trails open and accessible on public lands. In addition, the Board expressed the need to have more local control and input on maintaining trails and trailheads, to encourage the county to improve county roads to trailheads, and to have a BCH representative at planning meetings to promote equestrian issues. Rich will attend the Oct. 6th meeting.

Publicity: An article on the Sage Creek corral project will be submitted by Marianne or Bonnie for the next newsletter.

Trail Crews: Crews report they are about finished for the year.

Program: United in Light Draft Horse Sanctuary will be the program or the Oct 15th general meeting. Brenda will put a notice in the Sunday Chronicle and Stacy will put out a PSA in an effort to increase attendance at the general meetings.

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen Board Meeting October 1, 2009

Sage Creek Project Report: Larry Thomas reported the work went unbelievably quickly as rails were cut, holes drilled, and crew had a short day Friday so that everyone could finish up on Saturday. Crews are now inspired to do corrals at Spanish Creek using the extra dollars from the Volney Steele fund. Rich may initiate a meeting with the Forest Service to start the process.

A plaque honoring Dr. Volney Steele and recognizing GVBCCH has been ordered. Rich made a motion that the club pay the \$120 for the plaque. Jim seconded and the motion was carried.

State Board Meeting Report: An issue of primary concern was the classification of the majority of trails as Class 1 Trails. This classification threatens use by equestrians, especially with pack stock. GVBCCH Board discussed the need to notify the Forest Service that BCH wants to be involved in the early process of establishing trail management objectives, and also to be alert to emphasis on allowed use that may indicate single user only.

Rich suggested an article on the 2010 Convention in the National BCH newsletter.

Convention: Efforts are moving along to purchase a rifle for the raffle and a wall tent from Montana Canvas. Dan M. has arranged for ROTC and Montana National Guard for presentation of the colors on two days. Jim reported on contract negotiations with Claudia Williams of the Montana Rose band. A deposit of one-half the fee, \$1250, is required upfront. Jim moved that the deposit be paid contingent upon set-up needs of the band and that they can come to an agreement with the needs of the convention. Brenda seconded and payment was approved.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Elpel, BCH member

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen General Meeting Minutes October 15, 2009

The meeting was attended by Dan Marsh, Jim Allbright, Larry Thomas, Rich Inman, Brenda Kessler, Marianne Meyer and a small number of other members.

Program: The program was presented By Deborah Derr a Chiropractor for both equine and people. Deborah started the Non-Profit organization United in Light which is a Draft Horse retirement sanctuary. She is now located behind the Albertsons in Livingston. They only have enough acreage to care for nine horses at the moment but they are looking to purchase more acres so they can adopt more horses. The organization offers educational programs using the horses to teach people how to care for draft horses and learn socialization. For more information go to their web site at <http://www.draffhorserescue.com> a video is available at <http://www.youtube.com/draftsanctuary>. You can contact Deborah if you are interested in donating or helping her with her program by email at unitedinlight@mac.com or phone her at 406-222-7982.

Minutes: Minutes from the September 17th meeting were approved as written in the September newsletter. (Motion made by Jim, second by Charlie, all in favor.)

Treasurer's Report: Brenda Kessler reported a checking account balance of \$7,609.55. The CD had \$6,044.45.

New Bills: No new bills were presented.

Correspondence: We received a newsletter from the Mission Valley BCH and a newsletter from Eagle Mount. We also received a thank you card from the Gallatin Saddle and Harness secretary Carrie Hargis thanking us for the wonderful Steak Ride. Carrie also sent information on the Christmas party that they will be hosting this year on December 5th.

Issues: Rich Inman and Jim Albright attended a meeting of the Gallatin Zoning Board to discuss the proposed new trail access to the Yellow Mules in Big Sky. They are also considering moving the second Yellow Mule trail to a different location from the ridge it is on now down into the valley because it is currently on prime real estate wanted by the developers. The stipulation we wanted was to not lose access to the existing Ousel Falls trail and to make the new trail head large enough to accommodate at least 10 horse trailers. Dan Marsh, Connie Lein, and Sandy Kypfer attended a public meeting asking for input on what improvements we would like to see the county make on trails and recreation. Our request was to improve county roads to trail heads, improve parking for stock trailers at trail heads owned by the county, and improve the fairgrounds.

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen General Meeting Minutes (continued) October 15, 2009

Membership: Marianne reported a membership application sent in for Andrea Soheily from Monaco but Brenda and Marianne reported they have not received a check for the membership.

Publicity: Stacy had said he was going to send out a PSA on the general meeting when we have a program to see if we could get more people to show up. No one had seen an announcement for this months meeting.

Newsletter: The newsletters continue to get rave reviews but Jan Elpel was concerned about the size and cost of printing. It was mentioned that since we only print 20 copies we can afford to have a few more pages.

Trail Crews: Larry requested more volunteer work forms and said the trail clearing is done for the year.

Old Business:

- Rich Inman and Jim Albright reported on the State Board meeting they attended in September. Rich said to keep an eye on the TMO'S (Trail Management Objectives) that the Forest Service is working on currently. The TMO's determine what level of trail classification to assign to the trails. A Level 1 for instance would only be cleared for foot traffic only and would not be useable for stock use. There was a fear the Forest Service may set all wilderness trails to a level 1 and not clear them for stock use. Brian McNeil has assured us he would classify the wilderness trails as at least a Level 2 or 3. Rich was going to help Dan Marsh construct a letter to the District with our concerns over the trail classification and the other chapters were supposed to also contact their district offices. We were also requested to write an article about the 2010 convention for the state newsletter. Rich also pointed out that we have a new Regional Forester that he had worked with in the past and said she was a good people person. Rich also mentioned that we have a new chapter that has formed up in Eureka.
- The Sage Creek project was a great success and it cost us about \$1,010 for the four corrals.
- Sonja Bergh reported that the Belgrade Fall Festival was represented well by our entry in the parade.

Gallatin Back Country Horsemen General Meeting Minutes (continued) October 15, 2009

New Business:

- We had unclaimed prizes left over from the Poker Ride so everyone put their name in a hat and we drew for the prizes.
- A plaque is being made to commemorate the Sage Creek corrals with Volney Steele's name, as it was paid for by his donation. It was voted at the last board meeting to pay for the plaque which was estimated at \$125 for the aluminum version.
- The Christmas party will be held on December 5th at Lee Harts barn and the cost will be \$20 with the entertainment provided by Open Range.
- Jose Catro requested that we have someone attend a meeting on October 20th to discuss a proposed permanent easement into North Cottonwood creek.
- Dan reported that we have all of the raffle prizes lined up for the 2010 State BCH Convention and we need to have packets ready with raffle tickets for the December state board meeting. Dan Porter informed Dan Marsh that Jehnet Carlson is willing to donate a mule to the convention. She would like to be able to take a tax write off so we are going to see if we can get 501C-3 status to be able to help her out.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Marsh.



An overview of the Sage Creek corrals as they began to take shape.

Tales from the Trail (make that Horsecamp!)

Trail Riding plans were cut short by the early arrival of snow starting Oct 1, so we played at Janice Cartwright's Horsecamp quite a bit in following weeks.

Gaited Horse Day, October 17

Janice Cartwright

We had an interesting Saturday at Horsecamp recently. Connie Myslik, Ron and Sherrie White, Margaret Burns Vap and Vi Huffman all came over to play with an assortment of gaited horses. Connie is still getting to know her new horse, Toby, who recently arrived recently from Missouri. Toby is a 14 yr. old, 14.1 H Rocky Mountain Horse. Ron and Sherrie are trying out a Paint TWH named Flash and a Rocky Mountain Horse named Mocha. They are both green 7 yr. olds, quite a bit smaller than Snickers and Willie. Margaret joined in on Ollie (TWH) and Vi chose Dude Boy (part Montana Traveler). Janice held a lesson for all on rearranging saddles, pads, bits and headstalls to work on Flash and Mocha with tack that was usually used on Snickers and Willie. Lots of changes and adjustments were needed and the differences explained. Then we headed to the ring where Ron and Sherrie had some of their riding positions tweaked while understanding how to communicate with inexperienced horses.

After the lesson, Margaret, Vi and Janice went out into the fields and let loose a bit (this means that Janice tore up the hill on Bridger – full out gallop and asking for more - while Margaret kept Tango on a shorter rein – hand gallop – and Vi kept Dude Boy in a very nice cantering frame – very slow lope with lots of collection) and meandered through the cows, thoroughly enjoying the balmy weather. After having taught 2 days straight of Girl Scout Troops and children off from school, this adults-only day was a nice change. Especially with more GS Troops coming on Sunday.



Sage Creek Corral 2009

Sherrie White

Sage Creek Corrals, completed in September 2009, will soon bear a plaque that states: *Built by Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen and the Forest Service–September 2009. Dedicated to Dr. Volney Steele.* This project was made possible by a generous donation made by Dr. Steele in 2003. At that time, Dr. Steele gave the GVBCH his horse along with a pair of chaps and some tack, including a saddle, saddle bags and breast collar. Sale of those items brought the club over \$3,000 and Dr. Steele requested that the money be used for ground projects.

Flash forward to 2009 when the GVBCH group decided that corrals at Sage Creek would be appropriate use of some of those funds. Rich Inman and Larry Thomas, project coordinators, approached the Forest Service with a proposal and an invitation for them to participate in the project. The proposal was approved by the Forest Service and they offered to provide a bobcat, timber for rails and manpower as well.

Things got rolling bright and early Friday morning, Sept. 11 when members of the club split into two groups: First group left the trailhead at 7:30 am bound for Teepee Ridge where they met up with a crew from the Forest Service. Sawyers cut approximately 80 trees to provide enough rails for four 24x24 corrals and GVBCH members pulled out the timbers and loaded them on a flatbed. Timber crew had harvested enough by 10:30 to return to the trailhead and start on the next phase.

Back at the trailhead, the timber crew merged with the other crew. It was a beehive of activity as GVBCH, Forest Service and a few others worked to dig holes for posts, peeled bark from timbers using a draw knife and began to set the rails. Rich Inman sounded the whistle to signal an end to the workday at 4:30. Some volunteers stayed to spend the night and that group met over a potluck dinner and several adult beverages.

The group was up and at 'em the next morning, joined by a couple of other members for the Saturday completion of the project. By 10:30, final touches had been put on the corrals and the group paused for a cold drink and talk of future projects.



Right: Brenda Kessler and Catherine Nelson can add "log peeling" to their resume.

Sage Creek Corral

Thanks to Dr. Steele and his generosity, these corrals will be used and enjoyed by club members, outfitters and the general public for years to come...not only at Sage Creek, but at Spanish Creek as well. The Sage Creek project cost approximately \$1,200; \$250 was used for a past safety clinic; that leaves approximately \$1,550 for future projects. The club should have ample funds from Dr. Steele's donation to complete a project at Spanish Creek and Rich Inman has started the ball rolling on that project with a target date of May 2010.

A dedication ceremony for Sage Creek will be held at a future date, and the plaque will be mounted.

Notes of appreciation to . . .

Dr. Volney Steele for making this all possible.

Super crew of GVBCH members and friends of GVBCH:

*Henry Glenn
Colleen Carnine
Dick Haines
Bonnie Hammer
Kari Swenson
Marianne Meyer
Dan Porter
Dan Marsh
Larry Thomas
Billie Thomas
Rich Inmann
Jim Allbright
Brenda Kessler
Stacy Bragg
Catherine Nelson
Wally Becker
Ron White
Sherrie White
Esther Fishbaugh
Nick Schrauger
Betty McCoy*



1st rail put in place by Rich Inman and Dan Marsh

The Forest Service for their role in completing the Sage Creek project. Forest Service manpower and use of a bobcat were instrumental in getting this project done within two days. Heart thanks go to Forest Service members Rob Davies, Todd Stiles, Tim Campbell, Ryan Linhart, Rudy Schlegel, and Dutch Weeks.

**GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING
BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2009 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
Bunkhouse Originals
CBU
C'est la Vie Salon
Chalet Market
Chalet Sports
Cole's Custom Saddlery
Concrete Construction
Divine Equine &
Three Forks Chiropractic
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

Gold's Gym/Jim Albrook
Gourmet Gas Station
Greater Yellowstone Flyfisher
Hardaway Vet Clinic
Harrington's Pepsi Cola
Kountry Korner Café
Lee & Dad's
Madison House
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 Company
Rocky Mountain Horseman
Rocky Mountain Supply
R O Brooks Custom Leather
Sandra J. McManus Jewelry
Designs
Second Self
Bob Steinman & Assoc. Real Estate
Three Forks Saddlery

Tri-Animals
Way Out West
Western Pines

Member Donations

Janice Cartwright
Jan Elpel
Bob Furu
Bonnie Hammer
Laura Hanks
Jane Huffine
Rich Inman
Sandy McManus
Brown & SammyLu
Parsons
Alice Pilgeram
Dan Porter
Ron & Sherrie White

Other Sponsors

We'd like to acknowledge
several anonymous
donors for providing
prize and cash donations
for this year's event.

Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen

