

# THE PICKET LINE

Back country Horsemen of GALLATIN VALLEY  
P. O. Box 3232 , BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59772-3232

MAY, 2011  
Newsletter

<http://qvbch.bchmt.org>

## Officers (1 year)

### President

Jim Allbright 599.4620

### Vice President

Rich Inman 388.1564

### Secretary

Marianne Meyer 388.2676

### Treasurer

Charley Smith 547.3459

## Directors

### 2 year

Clark Kinney 388.1505

Michel Harney 586.3571

Mike Haugan 539.0538

### 1 years

Stacy Bragg 222.0077

Henry Glenn 578.2084

Brenda Kessler 763.4241

## State Board Directors

Rich Inman 2 years

Jim Allbright 1 year

Alt: Stacy Bragg 1 year

## Membership

Marianne Meyer 388.2676

## Newsletter Editor

Brenda Kessler 763.4241

## BCH Webmaster

Dan Marsh 587.7578

webmaster@bchmt.org

<http://qvbch.bchmt.org>

## **OUR PURPOSE:**

*To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use. To assist various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands and. To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustained use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public, commensurate with our heritage. Foster and encourage formation of new Back Country Horsemen organizations.*

## **Upcoming Events**

### **May 14: Horse Safety Clinic: at the Circle L Arena (heated)**

4350 Spain Bridge Road , Belgrade

### **May 19: General Meeting**

Program :our July Poker Ride Sherrie White  
Belgrade Alliance Church, 205 West Cameron

### **May 21: Copper City Trail clean up**

(look for more details-meeting place-weather permitting)

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## President's report May 10, 2011

Hello again GVBCH,

Well, its been a very busy month. The IRS is driving us nuts. I have requested the help of Rich, Henry and Dan and have received their 'up most' attention in this matter. I am talking about our 501 (c) 3 for tax exemption. It's going very slow but I think we are progressing.

I want to say thank you all for the help. This is the way we keep our great club strong by having everyone kick in and help.

Talking with Larry and Rich, it looks like its going to be a few more weeks before we can get into the mountains to do work. Snow and more snow.

Brenda has been working hard on getting out the Newsletter but guess what? Yep, a good old computer crash. So, off to Staples we went, and bought her a new one and it is taking her a few days to set up. Then we will send the letter out to Dan and he will edit it and put it on the web.

Next Saturday is the Safety Clinic & the Saturday after that is Copper City trail clean up. Stay in touch as to the weather and mud. Not much to add this month so hope to see everyone at the general meeting. Hope Larry and Dick can give us word when we can start trail work.

May God bless and see you soon



HERE IS Hope: Winter is over

## Board Meeting Minutes April 7, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Jim Allbright, President.

Officers and directors present were: Jim, Rich Inman, Dan Marsh, Stacy Bragg, Brenda Kessler, Mike Haugan, Larry Thomas as proxy for Clark Kinney, Henry Glenn, Michael Harney and Marianne Meyer. Also present was member Sonya Berg.

Jim A. asked for a motion to approve the minutes from March 3 board meeting. Stacy Bragg made the motion, Mike Haugan seconded and the motion passed.

### Bills

New bills presented were from Insty-Prints (newsletter printing) for \$25.78 and convention expense vouchers for \$160, \$107, \$101, \$201, and \$198. Motion to approve the bills was made by Henry G. and seconded by Stacy Bragg. The motion was passed.

### Membership

Marianne reported that 66 memberships are paid for 2011.

### Issues

Cherry Creek Road: The PLPW is trying to get permanent easement to public lands across private land and is asking for endorsement of a letter to be sent to Baucus and Rehberg.

Rich Inman motioned that we sign on to support the FS in their quest for permanent access at Cherry Creek near Big Timber. Michael Harney seconded, the motion was passed.

### Publicity

Stacy has been in touch with Janice regarding the

Safety Clinic. Discussion followed on how much we want to spend on advertising the clinic. Stacy had a quote from the Mini Nickel for a 3x4 b&w ad in the amount of \$66. It was decided that we would not do any paid advertising. There will be an email blast to all members prior to the event, the flyer will be included as a full page in the May newsletter, and Stacy will submit it to all PSA avenues.

Other options for the safety clinic were discussed. Do we need one every year? Can we make it an in-house project? There is information available such as the "green book" and video. We will revisit the topic after this year's clinic is over.

### Newsletter

Brenda has the April newsletter on-line.

### Trail Crews

Clark reports through his proxy Larry that he is still working with Gardiner on fixing cabins.

Rich reported that he accepted an award from Shannon Freix on behalf of Henry Glenn for work he has done in support of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. (At the convention). He handed the award to Henry.

### Programs

April 21 program will be Larry's presentation on "Safety & saws".

### Business

Transportation Reauthorization Bill: Stacy made a motion to support, Dan Marsh seconded, the motion was passed. Jim Allbright said he would send the letter.

Stacy made a motion to send a letter in opposition of SB421. Rich seconded and the motion was passed. Jim

(Continued next page)

*board minutes continued from previous page)*

Allbright said he would make the call.

Stacy also reported that the Park County RAC was approved and is now available for grants. He will keep the GVBCB informed.

Sherrie White's email spells out what is still needed for the Poker Ride. Same information was in the last newsletter.

Business of the 501c3: IRS employee Linda Daniels had requested more information to process our application. Several directors and Jim Allbright have been working with the offices of Baucus, Tester, and Rehberg to get their help with our application and they are working on it! Jim and Mabel put together another packet of info and returned it to Linda by the deadline. We are now waiting for her response and Marianne was asked to check the P.O. Box often.

Janice Cartwright gave a nice presentation on behalf of the GVBCB at the GallEp club summit on March 29<sup>th</sup>. SWMT Conference (Southwest Montana Trails Conference) will be held on 4/20 + 21 at the Chamber of Commerce. Rich will go on our behalf and report back.

Finally, Jim gave a quick report on the convention which lead to a discussion of the need that our chapter report education hours better. We provide a lot of education but do not report it correctly on the form that gets sent in to state. We also need to be more diligent about reporting hours to Dan Marsh. Trail bosses handle this for volunteers on work days, but we also need to report other volunteer time donated to the club.

Jim asked for a motion to close the meeting. The motion was made by Stacy and seconded by Mike Haugan. The motion was passed.

Submitted by Marianne Meyer, Secretary.

## General Meeting Minutes April 21, 2011

Officer and directors present were: Jim Allbright, Rich Inman, Charley Smith, Marianne Meyer, ex-officio Dan Marsh, Mike Haugan, and Clark Kinney.

Guest present: Jo Wiersma who recently moved to the valley from Jackson.

Larry Thomas presented a program on chainsaw safety, crosscut safety, and tips for those trail workers who are not sawyers but working nearby. *(Report on program follows.)*

Meeting was called to order by Jim Allbright, President. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March general meeting. Dan Marsh made the motion, Beth Merrick seconded and the motion was passed.

(Continued; next column)

Clark handed out the trail tickler card to those present. Marianne will include them from now on in new member packets.

### **Bills**

New bills were presented: Insty-Prints bill for printing/laminating tickler cards \$53.76. Marianne turned in a bill for postage (mailing renewal reminders, new member packets, extra stamps) \$42.76. Janice turned in a bill for last year's ice cream social \$44.16. Marianne also requested approval for buying BCHA Guidebooks at 50cents. Jim suggested the purchase of 50 units and asked for a motion to approve all bills presented. Clark made the motion, Larry seconded and the motion was passed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Charley reported \$2882.32 in checking, \$15,000 in savings. Janice made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Clark seconded. The motion carried.

### **Correspondence**

Response from the IRS regarding the 501c3 came in. Jim to follow up.

### **Issues**

The BCHA has proposed and Executive Committee that would act on behalf of the entire BCHA. This is an issue to stay informed on.

### **Publicity**

Jo Wiersma saw the announcement for the general meeting in the Chronicle and decided to come check us out. She has two horses, a Quarter horse and an Arab.

### **Newsletter**

Brenda has no comments other than "send articles".

### **Trail Crews**

Larry now has a tentative trail list put together but CALL HIM FIRST – don't just go. Plans are always tentative and may change due to weather.

Rich spoke with Brian at FS and found out that there is a possibility that Brian will have no budget at all for trail crews.

### **Programs**

Janice does not have a program booked for May so that the time can be used for the Poker Ride preparation & planning.

### **Business**

Poker Ride: Beth needs to have prize commitments by May 3<sup>rd</sup> so the poster can reflect donors. Prizes don't have to be gathered up yet, she just needs to know if there is a commitment and for what.

Safety Clinic: Janice asked for help with the posters and also getting more volunteers to help the day of.

Rich attended the SWMT Trails conference on 4/20 and gave a report. He also talked about the TMO.

IRS letter. Jim read the main points of the letter to the group. More work has to be done on our 501c3 application. Jim will reply to this letter.

Betty White brought a poster for the Clarkston Poker Ride and golf game to share with all.

A motion was made by Beth to close the meeting and seconded by Betty White. The motion was passed.

Submitted by Marianne Meyer, Secretary.

## General Meeting Presentation, April 21

(Pictures and write up by Janice Cartwright)

At the General Meeting, Larry Thomas gave a presentation on Chain Saw Sense & Safety.

The club members were instructed and/or reminded about how to work with the sawyers, how to stay out of the way and how to operate the equipment. Thorough, as always, Larry threw in an axe and other safety equipment that could be used when saws are being operated.

Next in line for summer safety is our Defensive Horsemanship Clinic on May 14th. *(See the inserted flyer for more safety training)*

By the time this snow melts, we'll have had ample time to cover all safety concerns associated with trail clearing and riding.



# FREE

(Donations welcome to defray expenses)

## Horse Safety Clinic

Circle L Arena (heated)  
4350 Spain Bridge Rd., Belgrade  
Presented by Gallatin Valley  
Back Country Horsemen

### Sat., May 14

9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sign-in 8:30-9 a.m.

Registration required by Friday, May 13

Janice Cartwright, **579-3445** or  
[montanahorsesense@mac.com](mailto:montanahorsesense@mac.com)

### Sessions include:

- Packing for the Backcountry by Shane McClaffin of Sunrise Pack Station
- Tack for the Trail: Presented by Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen
- Be Prepared for the Trail: Joe Turner, Turner Natural Horsemanship
- Trail Talk (Safety, Know How and Courtesy): Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen
- And More!

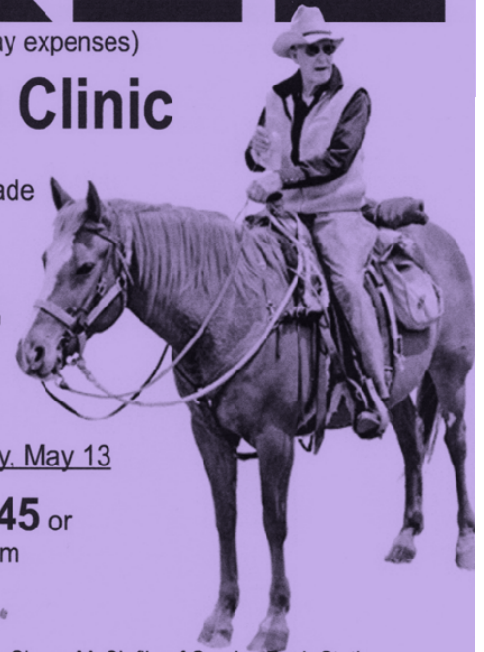
**Working Lunch Break (noon-1 p.m.)**

**Pack a Lunch! First Aid on the Trail:**

Gordon Hardaway, DVM

**Brand inspector** available throughout the day to answer questions and inspect horses. Know the law. Is your inspection current?

**Informational Booths**



### Tack Swap/Sale

Free to registered participants and members; \$10 for walk-ins. Buy, sell, swap! If you have tack to sell, bring it by 8:15. Make sure it is clearly marked with your name, phone and price. Consider donating unsold tack to Eagle Mount. Call Janice to participate, 579-3445.

## GVBCH at the MWA Annual Gathering

The Montana Wilderness Association held their Annual Gathering at the Gallatin Gateway Inn on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 175 members from around the state attended. Henry Glenn and Marianne Meyer set up a BCH information booth for the afternoon and thanks in part to a basket full of colorful Easter chocolates and



large photos the booth had frequent visitors.

At 3:30 it was time for the Panel Discussion from four different interest groups. Represented were Gallatin Alpine Sports from Big Sky, BCH, BWAGS, and Ben Donatelle with the Wilderness and Recreation Partnership. Each person had 15 minutes to present their perspective.

Henry had prepared a speech that focused on Back Country Horsemen's beginning, history, work and mission. Most impressive was the hours accumulated by the Back Country Horsemen working to clear and maintain trails. It was very well received and when it came time for Q&A no questions were raised regarding horse or

stock use.

Another speaker expressed thanks to the BCH for the work they do keeping the trails cleared and open for everyone's enjoyment before starting her own speech. **We received thanks from other folks throughout the afternoon as we were visiting and mingling.**

*(Photographs & report by Marianne Meyer)*

## 2011 Trail Clearing Information

By Dick Haines

The Monday trail clearing group will again be led this year by Dick Haines. The trails they will be clearing will include those from Shafthouse in the Bridgers to Porcupine at Big Sky. If you would like more information, please **contact Dick at [barbwire2@earthlink.net](mailto:barbwire2@earthlink.net) or call 406-586-3335**. Below is some general information that will be useful in knowing what a trail clearing day is like.

With all of the recent snow, it is hard to believe that we will actually be able to ride in the mountains this summer. But I am sure we will.

First, let me thank all of you, who participated last year and helped keep many of our trails open to horse use. Secondly, this is an introduction to folks who might be interested in joining our efforts. Hopefully, this will provide the needed information on what we do.

In the early 2000's, the group was called the Bridger trail clearing group. our first leader, Bill Shields, lived in the Bridger's and concentrated the majority of his efforts there. When Kay Tate and Ron Rassley expanded out to territory further South to the park boundary, the name morphed to the Monday trail clearing group.

I have no idea what we will call the crew this year, as I have the opportunity to do two "bucket list" trips this year. The first is eight days through the Yellowstone thoroughfare and the other is 6 days into the middle of the Bob Marshall. Consequently, I sat down with Larry Thomas and discussed someone else taking over the Monday group altogether or someone leading the Mondays when I would be gone. He thought that the best solution this year would be for us to get done the trails that we normally do on whatever days we could. That is the reason, the schedule is so "discombobulated".

### What We Do:

The group leaves the designated trail head at 9:00 promptly. A person needs to bring rain gear, lunch, a way to tie your horse, gloves, protective eye wear, good boots and a fit horse. Some members of the group bring a pack horse with chain saws, while others bring hand held loppers. We clear the trail of downed logs or overhanging limbs. Although we stay relatively close together, we sometimes break down into groups of 4 or 5 members. Then, we hop scotch around each other to cover more ground. Some members use saws, while others remove the downed logs from the trail, some hold horses and some do the small hand-held sawing. There is absolutely no gender bias in this operation. Over 50% of our volunteers last year were female. On two very big days last year, I was the only male participant. *"love that part of the job!"*

We usually get back to the trailhead between 3:00 and 5:00. We often cover 20 miles, and we walk at a fairly brisk pace. Thus, it behooves all of us to have a well conditioned horse capable of putting in these kind of days.

### Safety:

We have had very few accidents and we sure want that record to continue. The Forest Service requires us to annually attend the Defensive Horsemanship clinic that Janice Cartwright puts on for us each spring. Also, Clark Kinney has completed working on a trail riding etiquette

"hand out" that will be valuable.

In addition, to the gear mentioned above, the forest service requires us to wear hard hats. For those new volunteers that wish to join us, let me know in advance and I will pair you up with one of our veterans for the first ride. This way, hopefully, you will feel more comfortable. Also, you should get any safety questions answered as the day goes on.

I do want to address one particular area that we need to improve upon. We have a lot of eager and "gung ho" workers and the minute the sawyer starts cutting limbs or trees, they jump in and start dragging them off the trail. This could create an unsafe environment for everyone. The solution for this would be: to let the sawyer saw for a minute or two (depending upon the size of the deadfall.) and during this time, the "buckers" ( people removing the debris) will stand at least 5 feet back from the sawyer. Then, the sawyer will then take a break and engage his chain break and step back from the tree. At that point, the buckers can jump in. This may involve changing our habits a little but it's worthwhile.

As a reminder to some of you that may not be aware, the BCH of Gallatin County has a policy of not allowing dogs on any club related ride.

### Overnights:

Bill Shields instituted one over night stay and two day clearing several years ago. I have expanded the number of those trips for a couple of reasons. Our members are more spread out geographically and fuel has doubled. More members have camping rigs and we just downright enjoy it. If you do not have a camping rig, please do not feel excluded. You can come either or both of the days so you have more opportunities to participate.

### Coggins:

As many of you know, horses in the valley have tested positive for this disease. it is totally unpreventable, incurable, deadly and easily spread from one horse to another by flies. I have no official jurisdiction to require or enforce that you have a Coggins test before participating in one of our clearing rides. However, I am asking you to have your horse tested in consideration of your fellow riders and their horses.

### Wednesday Group:

If your schedule or riding habits do not permit you joining our Monday group or if you just want to put in more clearing hours, I encourage you to join Larry Thomas' Wednesday group. he can be reached at 586-6878

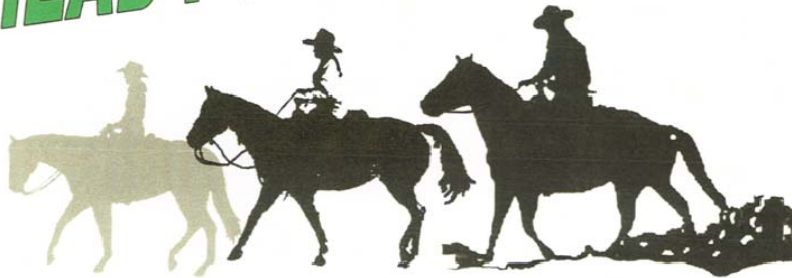
### Questions:

Please feel free to contact me at any time with your thoughts, suggestions, complaints or accolades. changes have been made over the years to our system and hope that we will continue to evolve in a positive way. know that the work that we do is important and that your efforts are very much appreciated. **Together, we make a difference.**

*\*\* (By Next month, weather permitting, the trail work schedules should be more reliable, and newsworthy. So look for these schedules in next month's Newsletter.)*

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# JUNE 11 "HEAD FOR THE HILLS"



## Northeast of Three Forks

Negative Coggins  
within 12 months of ride

Contact Pat 285-6949  
[greenrrg@aol.com](mailto:greenrrg@aol.com)

Bobcat Rodeo Boosters, High School Rodeo, Hearts and Homes, Montana Cattlewomen and Broadwater County 4-H as well as Gallatin and Montana Associations of Realtors. This is an opportunity to give back to Michele and help her as she has helped countless children and families in and around the Gallatin Valley.

The Clarkston Road will be paved this year. Hurray! The ride will be approximately 10 to 12 miles long with a short cut route for those not yet ready for the longer trail. The terrain is hilly but not steep with the exception of one short climb. For those of you who braved the weather last year, the trail will be the same. For more information call Pat Green at 285-6949 or e-mail [heratgreenrrg@aol.com](mailto:heratgreenrrg@aol.com).  
(Submitted by Pat Green)

Hi everyone!

"Head for the Hills Poker Ride" will be June 11 at the Green Ranch in the Horseshoe Hills. This year the ride will be a benefit for Michele Reiser.

Michele suffered a cerebral hemorrhage January 13th at age 47 and has been recovering in the hospital since then. Currently she is at Craig Hospital in Denver. Michele has dedicated her entire adult life to helping others. Her service to her community has been outstanding, supporting causes such as Toys for Tots, MSU

ANOTHER RIDE AS SUGGESTED BY "our" Bettye White: see below



# Join us for a FUN FILLED Weekend!

## June 18 & 19, 2011

(FATHERS DAY WEEKEND)

### SWING

PGA Tournament N  
Pasture Golf Association

### SADDLE

### Horseback Poker Ride

Games, drawings, prizes & 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place awards issued.

Single Event Pre-Registration **SAVE 10%**



Tee Time at NOON  
(Golf Clubs & Balls Provided)

Vittles served FREE with entry fee both days!



Ride Begins at NOON  
2 Hour Ride

For a fun night bring your tee pee, tents or trailers spend the night. Bring your banjo, guitar, fiddle or voice for a night of singing and dancing. DINNER around the campfire BYOF. Pony Bar onsite drinks available from Noon till Evening!

Please RSVP or to PRE-REGISTER contact HABITAT FOR HUMANITY 388-2851 or 388-8225 or 580-2708 or by email [mike@habitatbozeman.org](mailto:mike@habitatbozeman.org)

**GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2010 POKER RIDE**

Ag Depot  
All West Veterinary  
Ardesson Boots and Shoes  
Barnett's MT Gourmet Honey  
Biggerstaff Construction  
Big Sky Yoga Retreats  
Bob Steinman & Assoc. Real Estate  
Bozeman Saddle Outlet  
Bridger Feeds  
Bridger Glass & Windows  
Bunkhouse Originals  
CBU (Citizens for Balanced Use)  
C'est la Vie Salon  
Chalet Market  
Cole Custom Saddles  
Damasco's Restaurant  
DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service  
Double Diamond Halter Co.  
Equine Solutions  
Four Corners Saddlery

Freeway Enterprises  
Gold's Gym/Jim Albrook:  
Greater Yellowstone Flyfisher  
Hardaway Vet Clinic  
Harrington's: Beverages  
Kountry Corner Cafe  
Lee & Dad's  
Mama Mac's  
Matt's Saw Shop  
Montana Canvas  
Montana Equine Medical & Surgical  
Center:  
Montana Harvest  
Montana Horse Sanctuary  
Montana Horse Sense  
Murdoch's Ranch & Home  
Owenhouse Ace Hardware.  
Rapid Tech  
R.O. Brooks Custom Leather  
Rocky Mountain Hat Company

Rocky Mountain Horseman (Joe  
Turner)  
Rocky Mountain Supply  
Rocky Mountain Truck Center  
Sandra J. McManus Jewelry Designs  
Tri-Animals  
Western Pines

Member Sponsors:  
Don Drake  
Jan Elpel  
Vi Huffman  
Rich Inman  
Linda Kelly  
Alice Pilgeram  
Dan Porter  
Ron & Sherrie White

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