

The Picket Line

Post Office Box 3232, Bozeman, Montana 59772-3232



Officers

President:

Brown Parsons.....586-9030

Vice President:

Ron Rassley.....388-4415

Secretary

Joan Holborn.....586-3306

Treasurer:

Bettye White.....586-2301

Directors

1 year term:

Bonnie Hammer.... 284-6822

Rich Inman 388-1564

Aaron Linton 585-3493

2 year term:

Joyce Haner.....388-4273

Sharon Lowrey..... 587-4013

Jim Nelson.....388-2201

State Board Members

Harry Boughton

Linda Roffe

Alternate: Ron Rassley

Newsletter Editor

Dan Marsh.....587-7578

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Jiffie Hale.....763-4105

Jhale@imt.net

State Web Site

www.bchmt.org

On The Calendar This Month

Club Meetings in January

January 7th Board of Directors

meeting

Reminder - If you cannot attend this meeting, won't you please get a proxy to stand in for you? Otherwise, there may not be a quorum to vote.

January 16th General Meeting 7pm at the Belgrade Alliance Church.

Important that as many members as possible attend....See below

January 7th, 2003 - Board of Directors Meeting 7pm-

Brown and Sammylu Parson's home. 516 North Willson - 586-9030. This is the change over meeting for newly elected Officers and Board of Directors. Therefore, past and newly elected office holders need to attend. We would hope to start the year with no absences!

Proxy anyone?

January 16th 2003 - General Meeting We will be organizing our schedule for the year, so please plan on attending with your ideas in mind for programs, rides you would like---suggestions for trail leaders, trail clearing ideas and other activities you would like to see the club involved in. This is a chance to easily participate and get the club moving in a direction you would like it to go. If you know of dates that are already scheduled in the community let us know about them to avoid conflicts. The one firm date we have is the **POKER RIDE July 12th.**

-----DUES ARE DUE-----

It's that time of year again. Please be sure to get your dues paid before March 1. Application enclosed.

**GVBCH Board
Mtg. December 3,
2002**

Attendance: Brown & Sammylu Parsons, Bonnie Hammer, Sharon Lowry, Chick & Jiffie Hale, Ron Rassley, Rich Inman, Sonja Berg, & Joan Holborn.

Treasurers Report
Unchanged from November report.

A motion by Rich & 2nd by Bettye to reimburse the cost of refreshments for the November general mtg passed, all in favor.

Discussion concerning absentee officers and board members at general and board meetings resulted in a motion by Brown and 2nd by Bettye to excuse only those members providing a person to act as proxy thus not jeopardizing their elected position.

Chick reports that he and Wally concluded trail clearing and packed out tools from the Hell roaring trail.

If you have a club video please return to Kay, a list of available videos will be printed.

Thanks to Sharon for opening her home to host the

meeting and providing refreshments.
Respectfully submitted by Joan Holborn, Secretary.

The New Year brings a change

This month begins a new slate of your newsletter editors. Both Dan Marsh and I will be taking on this responsibility from Sharon. She has done a superb job this past year and we cannot expect to reach her talent, but be patient, we will try to do our best. Both Dan and I have taken on this job in the past, each-alone, and are familiar with the ups and downs. However, since we are sharing this endeavor, we hope to diminish the problems a single editor endures. I will gather the information and give that to Dan who will be in charge of putting the information into newsletter format. That will be his sole responsibility and it is a major one. It will then be taken to the printer. Our committee (Bettye and her volunteers) will fold, staple, and stamp with Sharon doing the labels. Sharon will also be sending out any email notices.

We want and need you members to participate, share in the workings of our important source of communication and would appreciate volunteers to this worthy cause. Bettye needs help on her responsibility and I need members to write up on our programs, our rides and any articles of interest. You can be our reporter! I know you will come through for us. And many thanks. Jiffie

Two of a kind, by *Chick Hale*

I've had the same horse for a lot of years now.
The longer I have it the more it reminds me of my wife.
That is, it always knows what I want it to do, but it won't always do it.

It's beginning to show its age, but with a saddle and pad it ain't too bad.

When we're together we pretty much know what each other wants and thinks.

In the rough spots we somehow seem to come through and there's been a lot of bogs, blowdowns and slippery slopes along the way.

When I look at something newer, I always think of the training to bring it up to snuff.

So, what the hell, I guess I'll keep what I got, but I still look.

2003 Convention

This will be held in Hamilton, MT March 28th and 29th.

Theme:

Back Country Horsemen-Continuing the Lewis and Clark Experience, sponsored by Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen.

Photo contest: The

categories are: 1. Wildlife/Domestic Animals 2. Candid Camera 3. Back Country Horsemen at work.

Speakers: Brad Powell - US Forest Service and Chris Smith - Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

Workshops: *Smoke Elser*, packing with horses and mules. - *Pete Gorrell*, saddles and horse tack. *Harry June* - Outdoor photography. *Lonnie Bookbinder* - Lewis and Clark in Montana. *Lee Scharff* - survival in the outdoors. *Nine Mile Packers* - Demonstration.

Dinner Entertainment: Richie Doyle - Lewis and Clark Impersonator

Saturday Evening

Entertainment:
Dance at the Eagles.
[GVBCH Christmas Dinner Meeting by Jim Gould, 'The Picket Line' reporter

Bozeman—At approximately 7:30 o'clock, December 14, 2002, two-term President Brown Parsons convened the Christmas dinner meeting of the Gallatin Valley Back country Horsemen in a Kountry Corner Cafe' dining room full to the corners. And the evening ended as it began with the right people getting elected and *re*-elected, good down-home, homegrown entertainment, and immense credit and gratitude to the outstanding members who contributed so much to the mission and enjoyment of GVBCH.

With Jiffy Hale and Bettye White officiating the election of officers and board, Brown Parsons—yes, the same!—is elected President for his *third* term, with great thanks of the entire organization! Ron Rassley, equally applauded, is Vice President. Joan Holborn did too good a job in '02 as Secretary, which has earned her yet another term and opportunity to be part of the leadership team of GVBCH. And Bettye White, the real range rider of the club, is taking over as Treasurer from Sammylu Parsons, whose careful handling of finances is greatly appreciated.

The Board of Directors is now rounded out with Sharon Lowry (more about her later), Joyce Haner, and Jim Nelson—complemented by members continuing their terms on the board, Bonnie Hammer, Rich Inman and Aaron Linton. David Read, a write-in candidate, proclaimed in his nominating speech, "I really want to come to more meetings but what do I have to do?" He was also overheard complimenting Chick Hale that he had never seen him look—or smell—so good. Wally Becker later attributed the compliment to Read's better eyesight than sense of smell. In addition, Linda Roffe, Harry Boughton and Alternate Ron Rassley will once again ably represent GVBCH at the State Board.

The most notable GVBCH achievement of the year was honored by the presence once again this year of prominent leaders of the U.S. Forest Service and their families—Jose' Castro, District Ranger, Gallatin National Forest; Brian McNeil, Manager of Roads and Trails; and Will Shoutis, a new Trail Foreman in 2002. The service expressed their great appreciation and credit to all the GVBCH trail clearing and building crews for their tremendous effort and achievement this year, the most ever accomplished: 220 riding horses, 105 packhorses, and 1,980 hours of work for a total of 1,731 miles all producing more than 3,000' of rebuilt trails. Trail crew chiefs Chick Hale and Wally Becker were particularly honored with beautifully embroidered U.S. Forest Service/Back Country Horsemen saddle pads. In addition, the service awarded the club an official forest service certificate of appreciation, noting that it is the best group they have worked with. Chick recalled how very far the club's relationship with the service has evolved to the present one of honor and gratitude by the service. Brown capped the awards with an urgent appeal to have every able-bodied member put in at least one day next summer on trail clearing or building.

The President's trophy for outstanding member service was awarded to both Bill Shields, who led the Bridger crew and Sharon Lowry, who not only wrote, edited, produced and mailed *The Picket Line*, but also organized and supervised the annual Poker Ride. *Two* members, Jiffy Hale and Dan Marsh have graciously agreed to take over her position as editor this year, and, thankfully, Sharon will continue to serve on the board.

The awarding and successful fulfillment of a weed control grant to GVBCH was led this year and last by Tom Griffith, who reported receiving \$5,000 for global positioning system equipment and the contribution of \$5,700 in club effort and hours. The evening's entertainment was ably passed from Beth Merrick to George Watson, who mc'd many glorious new renditions of old well-known tunes by the club's own beautifully decorated Reindeerettes (Beth, Bonnie, Karen, Sammylu and Sharon) a sampling of which follows:

(To the tune of "I've Been Working on the Railroad," more or less)

I've been working on the trail crew
All the live long day
I've been working on the trail crew
Just to pass the time away
Don't you hear the 'larm clock crowing
Rise up so early in the day
Don't you hear the trail boss shouting
This ain't no holiday!!!"

Things were brought to fitting, good-humored close with a poem by "Hillbilly" Parsons, Karen Watson's ten good reasons (excuses!) for missing trail work (e.g., failing the pepper spray target practice), and this sampling of saddle humor from the state meeting: "It's a big mistake to drive black cattle in the dark," and "A smartass is one that doesn't fit in a saddle."

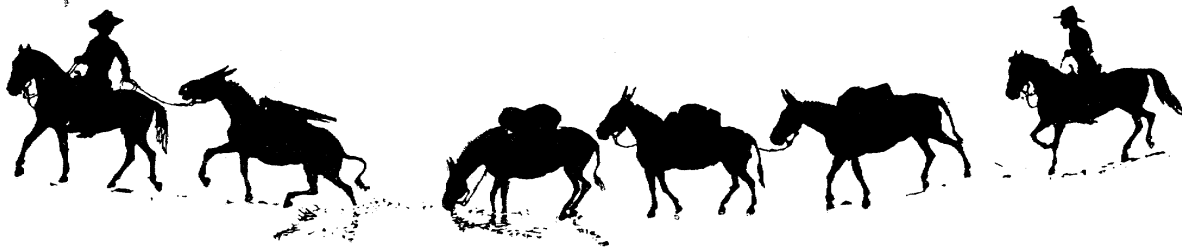
**A Heartfelt Thanks to these businesses and
Individuals that supported our Gallatin Valley
"2002" Poker Ride. Please support them!**

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Precision Fence
Quality Landscape Seeding, Inc
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Tally Oats
Team Bozeman Polaris

Club Members:
Beth Merrick
Jack Lowry
Jiffie & Chick Hale
Kay Tate
Laura Hanks
RJ & Jacki Conti
Volney Steele



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