

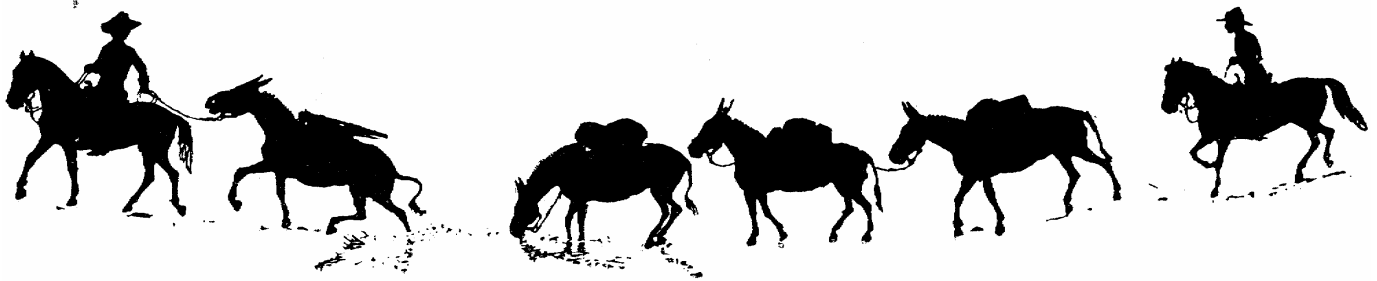
November 2003

# *The Picket Line*

Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

Post Office Box 3232, Bozeman MT 59772-3232

[www.bchmt.org](http://www.bchmt.org)



## Officers

### President

Brown Parsons 586-9030

### Vice President

Ron Rassley 388-4415

### Secretary

Joan Holborn 586-3306

### Treasurer

Bettye White 586-2301

## Directors

1 yr

Bonnie Hammer 284-6822

Rich Inman 388-1564

Aaron Linton 585-3493

2 yrs

Joyce Haner 388-4273

Sharon Lowry 587-4013

Jim Nelson 388-2201

## State Board Members

Harry Boughton 1 yr

Linda Roffe 2 yrs

Alternate: Ron Rassley yrly

## Newsletter Editors

Dan Marsh 587-7578

[dmarsh@montana.edu](mailto:dmarsh@montana.edu)

Jiffie Hale 763-4105

Cell 580-6825

[jhale@imt.net](mailto:jhale@imt.net)

## Backcountry Horsemen

“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

Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Sharon Lowry’s, 160 Lake Rd. 587-4013

Members are welcome

## General Meeting

Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Belgrade Alliance Church

Hoffman & Cameron Rds., Belgrade

## Program

First Aid for Horses

Presented by

Jacy Cook, DVM

All West Veterinary Hospital

### Letter from your president

It is that time of year when the nominating committee is busy searching the general membership for officers and directors. It is time for some new blood to take charge of the leadership of our club. It is through new people that new ideas arise and the club can continue to grow and take new directions as to where the club should be headed. It is not that there has been anything wrong with how the club has functioned, but in order to make it a viable club. A club that will appeal to prospective new members and one that will deal with taking challenge to prosper. The club has to provide new leadership that can take on the Forest Service Road Management Proposal. If there are any trails to be shut off to livestock, how do you respond to these plans in a way that will net the results we seek?

We are very fortunate to have in our club people who can read and understand the Forest Service proposals, so it is in our best interest to respond when they ask for input. If we don't do it ourselves, who will?

So start thinking about who would make a good officer or director. Who is a forward thinker, who understands our purpose and have the foresight to insist on answering these questions. It is our legacy to give good input when asked about the Forest Service proposals. We need your assistance!

Brown Parsons

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### Congratulations to Tom Griffith

From the Washington Office of the Forest Service, our renowned member, Tom Griffith, has received a letter of sincere congratulations on his selection as an awardee for the 2003 Director-Senior, Youth and Volunteer Programs Outstanding Volunteer Service Award. The letter quotes that, "It is impossible to measure or overestimate the importance, usefulness and value of the volunteer work accomplished and the public service provided by volunteers. Your caring, unselfish attitude and dedication have allowed us to pursue these goals that otherwise would never have been possible. Because of your service, we are more readily able to accomplish our mission."

Tom was presented with a certificate for his outstanding service and that his service is commendable exemplifying what the Forest Service stands for, "Caring for the Land and Serving People."

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### **New member:**

Bob Towers  
3281 Blackwood Rd  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
587-0084  
[rtowers206@aol.com](mailto:rtowers206@aol.com)

### **email address changes**

Greg & Amy Waring  
[gwarding@avicom.net](mailto:gwarding@avicom.net)  
Jerry & Darlene Shoff  
[shodar@montanadsl.net](mailto:shodar@montanadsl.net)

## ***Tack Sale***

As members you are aware that Dr. Volney Steele has donated items for the club to sell. We are taking bids on each item. Call Ron Rassley @ 388-4415 to make your bid.

The final sale will be at our Christmas party.

- ❖ Gale Jerome mountain riding saddle, double rig, 15" seat, 12" swells, 5" cantle, hooded stirrups.
- ❖ Chink chaps
- ❖ Breast collar
- ❖ Saddle bags: 8" x 8", leather, 3" gullet
- ❖ Keystone saddle, has broken fiberglass tree, 15" seat, 12" swells, hooded stirrups

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*A snail was mugged by a turtle. The police came to investigate the crime and asked the snail if he could identify the assailant. The snail replied, "Oh, no! It all happened so quickly."*

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## ***For Sale***

6 year old 15.2hh Overo reg. Paint gelding. Sorrel and white. Green broke. For experienced rider only. Asking \$1500. Call Cinda Eichenfels @ 285-4651.

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## ***Saddle shop changes hands***

The saddle shop at Four Corners has new owners. Alicia Bradshaw and her husband, Eric Bozwell, have bought the shop. They are retaining Kelly, who is the present manager. Alicia is open for suggestions on items you wish them to carry and is looking to have an open house in November or December, along with plans underway for a web site.

Alicia and I had first met in physical therapy and then group therapy for brain trauma persons. Alicia was struck in the head by an automobile while crossing an intersection in Bozeman this year and has suffered physically and mentally from her

injuries. She is slowly beginning to recover.

Alicia is a native of Montana, grew up riding Western, has her own horses, ridden in our Poker Rides, participated in cross country and will soon be joining our club. And not too far in the future she hopes to be able to get back on her own horses. She is presently riding with Eagle Mount. Alicia is a very positive person with a good outlook on life and you will thoroughly enjoy her.

As a note, she is going to be getting more sophisticated hard hats in her shop for those of us whose heads are not very hard nor forgiving.

*Jiffie*

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## ***Silly Stuff***

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.

Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.

## Trail work update

*by Chick Hale*

Trail work has been on the decline due to dry conditions and *old age*. Since helping to complete the second bridge on the Spanish Creek trail the following has been completed:

September 24<sup>th</sup> I spent five hours working on the #401 trail out of Spanish Peaks trailhead. Starting at the road I removed rock, added fill dirt at steps and cleaned water bars. At the same time, Wally and Bob Conti rode up the Spanish Creek trail to the dead end trail I mentioned last month. Wally and Bob were able to close off that short trail and re-dug the old trail to improve that area considerably. They were each out seven hours for a total of fourteen hours!

September 29<sup>th</sup> I snuck back to the #401 trail, better known as the Becker/Hale section. I spent about three hours to complete a total of two-thirds of the trail up to the high point.

October 12<sup>th</sup> Wally and I took four packhorses into the Fox Creek cabin (So. Cottonwood trail) and packed out the Forest Service tools, trash, etc. left there for us and then delivered these items to the F.S. warehouse. On the way out we cut two blow downs off of the trail using their chain saw.



On October 17<sup>th</sup> Wally, Jiffie and I traveled up the Bridger's Middle Cottonwood trail to the saddle. This was intended to be a pleasure ride, but turned out otherwise. Wally walked down from the saddle about two miles and removed all the loose rock. Jiffie kept the horses under control and I followed with my pruning shears leaving the trail open. The tread on the upper two miles is very poor and one-12" diameter blow down remains.

October 20<sup>th</sup> I had time to hike up the #401 Becker/Hale trail and put the finishing touches on the trail. Loose rocks were removed, drainage ditches opened and water bars cleaned. It is all ready for hunters and snow. The next day Jiffie and I rode the trail, almost but not quite, to Willow Swamp. The trail was good to our lunch stop where we had a great view and beautiful weather. We need rain and snow badly.

October 23<sup>rd</sup> Wally and I rode our horses up Garnet Mountain trail and met four members of the Forest Service work crew. They had driven up the access rode that leads to the lookout building on top. We all carried tools down the trail to the work site. Much rock was encountered and a 20 pound sledge hammer and rock bar were used to widen the trail and tread. About 135 feet of trail was restored.

October 24<sup>th</sup> Wally was on his own, met up with the FS crew and all drove up to the work site. Again, heavy going didn't allow much headway. Cold weather and wind forced an early end to their day's work. Wally should receive a medal for his meritorious service. I'm sure he kept the crew in line and the trail was up to code. Much of the trail required removal of some large rocks and approximately 50 feet of trail was restored.

**GVBCH Board Mtg. Minutes Oct. 1, 2003**

Attendance: Brown Parsons, Ron Rassley, Harry Boughton, Sharon Lowry, Bettye White, Joyce Haner, Linda Roffe, Sammylu proxy for Rich Inman, Chick Hale proxy for Jim Nelson, Kay Tate proxy for Bonnie Hammer, Jiffie Hale, & Joan Holborn, Aaron Linton not present.

Minutes rec'd by Ron noting minutes from Sept show Brown made motion, Brown states he didn't make any motions.

Treasurer's Report by Bettye White accepted as follows:

Checking Acct Balance 9-18-03		\$2089.04
Deposits:	Dues+\$54.00	
Bills paid:	Ron Rassley (State Mtg) – 36.68	
	Balance: Oct. 1, 2003	2106.36
Petty Cash:		25.24
Money Market:		1929.00
3 Month CD		<u>1500.00</u>
	Grand total:	<u>\$5560.60</u>

Correspondence: Ron reports letter rec'd from certified trainer Carie Reed looking for a home in Bozeman to house-sit & watch animals.

Ron states the forest service proposal Alt # 6 reduces trails for horses by only @ 20 miles with a reduction of wheeled vehicles in Wilderness study area.

Jiffie states she has unsigned release forms available. Harry states release form has dual purpose, 1, as liability waver, & 2, as record of trail use. Kay suggests release records to be stored in file in trailer.

Jiffie states items up for bid will be in N.L. for Nov.

Ron read from the club constitution Article III section 3,4, 5 & 6. Article XIII, section 1 "The GVBCB will conduct all meetings within the meeting framework given in "Roberts Rules of Order", which will be used as the final authority in resolving points in meeting conduct and parliamentary procedure." He continued with reading from Robert's Rules of Order Chapter XI-Structure "the average volunteer club limits the board, when new policies or projects are considered, to reporting to the general membership for approval & ratification. Ron emphasizes the board is for advisory purpose to the general membership not as a governing body.

Joyce questions the urgency of the horse sale, Brown states it was an emergency.

A Motion by Sharon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bettye to have an elected parliamentary advisor for the purpose of resolving procedure according to Robert's Rules of Order. Motion carries. Joan advises position be a non-voting member.

Nominations: Jiffie reports four members have committed to run.

Xmas party set to be at 6pm, Kay volunteers to chair entertainment.

A Motion by Kay, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron to request the resignation of Brown due to malfeasance of office. Motion defeated 3 to 2.

Thanks to Sharon for her hospitality.

Respectfully submitted by J.Holborn, Sec.

**GVBCH General Meeting Minutes, October 16, 2003**

Attendance: Jiffie and Chick Hale, Brenda Kessler, Jim Gould, José and Janet Castro, Cinda Eichenfels, Carol and Wally Becker, Kay Tate, Ron Rassley, Jean and Tom Griffith, Brown and Sammylu Parsons, Sharon and Jack Lowry, Rich Inman, Joyce Haner, Sonja Berg, Linda Roffe, Pete Gould, Bettye White, Harry Boughton, Dan Marsh, Beth Merrick, Ed Long, Bob Towers.

The treasurer's report was accepted from Bettye White as follows:

Checking account balance, October 1		\$2106.36
Deposits (dues from new member Bob Towers)	\$22.00	
Bills paid		
Kinko's (newsletters and agendas)	53.08-	
USPS (newsletter postage)	37.00-	
Checking account balance, October 16		2038.28
Petty cash		25.24
Money market		1929.74
3-month CDs		<u>1500.00</u>
	Total	<u>\$5493.26</u>

The minutes of the Board Meeting of August 6 were corrected (*Italics*) as follows:

- ✓ "Motion by *Chick*, 2<sup>nd</sup> by *Aaron* to pay \$90 to Big John's...."
- ✓ "*Ron* made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron to have a sealed bid to end Oct. 1, with a \$1500.00 minimum for the sale of the gelding."
- ✓ "Bonnie moves to advance Harry funds for steak ride, 2<sup>nd</sup> by *Sharon*, motion carries."
- ✓ "Linda proposes a fee be set for ads selling items thru the N.L. Fee set at \$5.00/month suggested. Harry makes motion to approve, *Linda* 2<sup>nd</sup>, voice vote unanimous."

The minutes of the Board Meeting of September 3 were corrected (*Italics*) as follows:

- ✓ "Motion by *Sharon* to use Korner Cafe for Xmas party; 2<sup>nd</sup> by *Joyce*, passed by majority."
- ✓ "Aaron submits \$15.00 bill for hose & fitting on propane tank. *Sharon* makes motion to pay...."

Chick reported that all BCH scheduled trail work has been completed for the year. Later in the meeting he reported that he and Wally also had taken out four pack horses of equipment used by Forest Service workers who had re-routed part of History Rock trail and installed a new footbridge there. Chick noted he had talked the service into doing further work on places that had become narrow on the Garnet Mountain trail, and solicited six-to-eight members for a day's pick-and-shovel work on Thursday, Oct. 23. And last, he showed pictures of Janet Carlson who supplied three pack horses to the Forest Service on the Spanish Creek trail.

Regarding the pending Forest Service revised Gallatin Forest Travel Plan, it was noted that one alternative, #6, would provide more strict limits on wheeled vehicles in some areas and some on horses and hikers in others. Brown asked if BCH was making comments on the plan, and it was noted that some had been made earlier. José Castro said that the comment period was over and that a representative of the service would welcome the opportunity to come to GVBCH and present findings; that a draft EIS is due this coming spring, and that it will be a blending of all alternatives proposed.

Ron Rassley reported that a renewal application for club liability insurance had been received and that the policy would be based on the nature of club activities. Rich Inman inquired how the club would be covered, specifically whether the officers of the club would be covered. Brown answered that they are not.

Bidding on tack contributed to the club by Dr. Steele began at this meeting and will be concluded at the Christmas party.

Regarding nominations for office for the coming year, Jiffie announced that Rich Inman has agreed to be nominated for President. Rich noted that though everyone was "too busy, new blood was needed to take on the club's work." Other nominations were: Janet Castro for Vice President, Cinda Eichenfels for Treasurer, Joan Holborn to continue as Secretary, Harry Boughton for State Representative (Linda Roffe still has a year left on her term) and Dan Marsh, Alternate. Wally and Chick for Board Directors. Jiffie cited the need for more directors; while Chick stated he would rather do trail work than act on the board.

The Christmas party is scheduled at the Korner Kafe again this year, on December 13, with details on the menu and costs to be determined. Kay Tate and volunteers will provide the entertainment off and on throughout the meal, rather than any outside group.

The meeting was concluded with a tour of the Lewis and Clark expedition by Beth Merrick (in period costume provided by area Boy Scouts).

Submitted by Jim Gould, acting for Joan Holborn, Secretary

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*"The aim of an argument or discussion should not be victory, but progress."*  
*Joseph Houbert*

## Celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Corps of Discovery

By Jim Gould

In a delightful historical tour of the Lewis and Clark expedition, Beth Merrick, who does research and communications on the staff of the Museum of The Rockies, focused on some fascinating, horse-related details and incidents (many not commonly known)...the expedition starting with only one saddle and Lewis forgetting his reins, and a total initial spend for horseman's clothes of \$1. Their brand was Lewis and Clark spelled backwards and was, as was common practice, burned into trees along the way.

The tour was expected to be relatively easy, as reported back to President Jefferson, but several unexpected hurdles proved daunting, such as snowy, high mountain ranges to cross and having "stone ponies" for horses acquired by barter with Indians along the way. "Stone ponies" were in fact *stallions* and were difficult if not impossible to castrate or brand (to enable recovery from Indians who stole them along the way).

Horses generally were thought to have slowed up the corps virtually every day. Of the four thousand miles traveled, about five hundred miles going west were by horse, and one thousand miles returning east, for a total time in the saddle of six months. As if the hardships of the expedition were not enough, on October 9, 1809, Lewis and Clark were called on by Washington to explain their expenses. (Sound familiar?)

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Wally with Lee Hart's team hauling logs from the forest to the work site for building a horse bridge over Spanish Creek (2<sup>nd</sup> creek) in the Wilderness area. September 17, 2003  
Yes, that is snow you see.

Check it out on the web site to see in color. [www.bchmt.org](http://www.bchmt.org) and click on Gallatin

