

THE PICKET LINE

MAY 2005



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Beth Merrick 388-4047

State Board Members

Brown Parsons 2 yr

Dan Marsh 1 yr

Alternate: Linda Kelly 1yr

Newsletter Editor

Jiffie Hale 763-4105

cell 580-6455

jhale@littleappletech.com

BCH Web Master

Dan Marsh 587-7578

dmarsh@montana.edu

Backcountry 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."

Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 4th @
7pm

At Janet Castro's 388-0966

990 Bulltail Rd, Belgrade

General Meeting

Thursday, May 19th 7pm

Belgrade Alliance Church

Cameron & Hoffman Sts.

Program

Kevin Frey

Grizzly bear management
specialist for MT FWP

Other events see page 3

Saturday, May 7th 10am

Trail ride

Horseshoe Hills

(See pg 3)

Sunday,

May 15th

Trail Work Day

Spanish Peaks

See Page 2

Saturday,

May 21st

9:30am

Defensive

Horsemanship Clinic

See page 2

Sunday, May 15th @ 10am will be our first planned club work day, weather dependent. We will be preparing the Spanish Peaks trail about 2 miles in from the trailhead. This work is in preparation when the nine-mile-mule pack team arrives to help us August 8th—12th on this site. We will also be doing general maintenance. Wally Becker will be our trail superintendent, i.e., BOSS. Call Boss Wally 587-9607 or Chick 763-4105.

Defensive Horsemanship clinic information

YOU MUST CALL BEFOREHAND TO REGISTER. THIS IS MANDATORY—Chick 763-4105

Our Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horseman will be sponsoring its first Defensive Horsemanship clinic on Saturday, May 21st at Shanango Station (Squaw Creek) to begin at 9:30am and last all day. This is a FREE clinic. It is not mandatory, but recommended that you bring your horse.

This clinic is a requirement by the Forest Service for our members and friends who plan to volunteer their time on trail maintenance and be around stock. This is not for certification. There are pamphlets available for you to read and may be on hand at the general meeting or call Chick Hale @763-4105. It is also available on our web site

<http://www.bchmt.org>

There will be a scheduled pleasure ride after the clinic up Garnet Mountain to review what you have learned from this clinic.

Our club will serve lunch and there will be a can for donations/contributions.

The Defensive Horsemanship committee has been approved by the Forest Service to be your teachers. However, the committee has asked the following “advisors” from the Beartooth BCH to come and help us. The Beartooth BCH club has had previous and successful experience sponsoring these clinics. The following BBCH members are:

Dan Aadland has just stepped down as president of BBCH and has spent 25 years raising Tennessee Walking Horses. His ranch has held the previous DH clinics and his own “Beyond the Round Pen” clinics on horse training. His articles are numerous in *Equus*, *Horse and Rider*, *Western Horsemen*, etc. and five books. His web site is

<http://my.montana.net/draa>

Tom Highberger is a member of the BBCH and a recently retired Forest Service Resource Assistant with 30 years of packing and wilderness management experience, along with being a very schooled and accomplished horseman.

Mike Lorash is a BBCH member and a professional horse trainer and horseman educator. He has worked with Pat Par-elli and John Lyons. Mike is an excellent communicator with a dedication to safety and solid horsemanship as it relates to back country riding.

Dave Schilz is the past chairman of the BCHMT, is the present president of the BBCH and a member of GVBCH. Dave has spent 14 years as a wilderness ranger, a trail foreman and wilderness packer and 15 years as a horseshoer.

ROSTER ADDITIONS & CHANGES:

Bill Shields email to jb5715@earthlink.net

Bonnie Hammer correction of road name to Altenbrand

Linda Kelly (temporary) 270 Trail Creek Rd, Livingston, MT 59047 (222-4467)

New members (welcome back)

Art & Trish Baker, PO Box 11, Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730 (763-5221) artrishbaker@isp.com

Hello Out There,

I know some of us are getting anxious to get on our horses and ride the trails and that will come soon. We need to give thanks for the great moisture we have been blessed with during March and April. It probably means we will get to stay on the trails longer and maybe not be shut out due to high fire danger.

Here are a few things I want to share with you as we move into May.

First off, remember the horse safety training session we are having on May 21 at Schenango Work Station in the Gallatin Canyon. There will be training, lunch and a short ride all on the same day so come join in. This is a mandatory training session if you plan to volunteer for projects on national forest land.

Secondly, some of us have recently returned from a great state convention in Great Falls. The East Slope Chapter is to be congratulated on a job well done. If you have not been to one of our state conventions, I invite you to look ahead to next year and plan to attend. The Gallatin can send up to eight delegates and we only sent four this year. Next year's will be in Polson, MT on March 24-26.

Resolutions were well presented and properly handled. The resolution that amended our State constitution passed. The Flathead resolution that chastised the national chairman for perceived improper handling of last year's oil and gas drilling resolution did not pass. The Missoula Chapter's resolution in support of the fee demo program did not pass

and should have. The facts of fee demo were grossly misrepresented. The Gallatin N.F. Travel Plan resolution presented by the Beartooth Chapter passed. It opposed any blanket type closures (area or seasonal). It allowed for other type restrictions provided there is good site specific rationale. If you want to know more, contact Dan M., Brown P. or Rich.

You will be pleased to know that in the 2004 work year report, the Gallatin Chapter surpassed all other chapters in trail work hours. I tip my hat to all of you who participated. This is what you would truly call "walking the talk".

During break time we talked with other chapters and compared ideas, projects and programs. This is one benefit of a state convention. All 16 chapters were represented. It is neat to see what other chapters are doing and sometimes pick up a new idea or two to try at home. On Saturday afternoon there were four workshops you could attend. The workshops were on GPS, equine 1st aid, digital photography, backcountry 1st aid. I attended the two first aid ones and got a lot out of each of them.

I left the convention on Sunday feeling blessed that I had been in the company of fellow horse people who are dedicated to preserving a cultural heritage, a heritage of horses/mules and common sense backcountry use. I am very proud of our chapter and consider it an honor to be your president. Thank you all for what you do.

Rich Inman, president

Kevin Frey, our speaker on May 19th is the grizzly bear management specialist for MT FWP who deals with all types of bear conflicts in Region 3 which is southwest Montana from the Idaho border to Red Lodge and North to Helena, mostly the Yellowstone, Gallatin, Madison and Boulder River areas. His priority is grizzly bears, but does work with black bears, mountain lions, elk, moose, deer, etc. Kevin is mostly involved in management and bear/human conflicts, but does sneak a little time in on bear research projects in MT, ID, WY and YNP. In the past he has worked for the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study, MSU and MT FWP on these projects. Kevin plans to show a video clip of a grizzly bear and a horse trailer, speak on safety in camp and on the trail as well as bear distribution in this area.

Saturday, May 7th 10am

Horseshoe Hills trail ride

Joellyn Howell, trail boss 388-4493

May 14th Judged trail ride

Saddle & Harness Club @ fairgrounds

May 28th Virginia City Poker Ride

BRIDGER FEEDS



MANAGER

ROBBY MOCK

PHONE: 406-586-3026

OWNER

MARCIA S. ANDERSON

The Right to Ride bill needs your support.

In 2004 this bill HR 586 passed the House of Representatives. Due to a lack of a sponsor it did not go to Congress. This year we have Senator Mike Crapo from Idaho who is willing to sponsor this bill S.781. We need you to write to Burns, Baucus and Rehburg similar to the following letter that was sent from the President of the Beartooth BCH:

(Date)

Dear Senator (Burns),

I am writing as a member of the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen of Montana requesting your support of Senator Mike Crapo's recently introduced "Right to Ride" bill S781. This bill is intended to preserve the use and access of pack and saddle stock on public lands administered by the federal government where there is an historical tradition of such use.

Montana horsemen are becoming increasingly frustrated and concerned over the reduction of trails available to them for riding activities that many of them helped establish and have worked to maintain. With so much of our land in the hands of the federal government, we need to ensure that our local public land managers will preserve access to these lands which are so vital to the quality of life in Montana

We watched you ride in the Presidential Inaugural Parade and were proud that you demonstrated the traditional close relationship of Montanans and their horses. We urge you to help preserve that tradition by co-sponsoring the "Right to Ride" bill and actively supporting its passage by the Senate.

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME)

Member of Gallatin Valley Back County Horseman

Please note: Many letters with one signature is worth more than one letter with many signatures. It only takes you 5 minutes to write 1 letter using 1 piece of paper, 1 envelope and 1 stamp. You could go into the BCH web site and get our newsletter for May <http://www.bchmt.org/gvbch/newsletters.htm> and copy/paste sending this letter to the web sites of...

Baucus <http://baucus.senate.gov/> or 511 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510

Burns <http://burns.senate.gov/> or 187 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510

Rehburg <http://www.house.gov/rehberg/> or 516 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515

Be sure to make various changes, i.e., date, to whom and from whom.

This bill, if passed, could potentially be the law of the land!

Right-to-Ride Livestock on Federal Lands Act of 2005 (Introduced in House)

HR 586 IH

109th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 586

To preserve the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on public lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas, administered by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service where there is a historical tradition of such use, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 2, 2005

Congressman GEORGE RADANOVICH ® of Fresno, CA from the 19th Congressional District in CA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To preserve the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on public lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas, administered by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service where there is a historical tradition of such use, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Right-to-Ride Livestock on Federal Lands Act of 2005'.

SEC. 2. USE AND ACCESS OF PACK AND SADDLE ANIMALS ON PUBLIC LANDS.

(a) National Park System Lands- Section 12 of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-7) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

` (c) Use and Access of Pack and Saddle Animals-

` (1) GENERAL RULE- The Secretary of the Interior shall provide for the management of National Park System lands to preserve and facilitate the continued use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas, where there is a historical tradition of such use. As a general rule, all trails, routes, and areas used by pack and saddle stock shall remain open and accessible for such use. The Secretary may implement a proposed reduction in the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands only after complying with the full review process required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

` (2) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION- Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed--

` (A) to authorize the Secretary to refuse to issue a permit for a new use of pack and saddle stock animals, including use by a commercial outfitter or guide, without complying with applicable resource management plans and planning processes required under this Act or any other provision of law;

` (B) to limit the authority of the Secretary to impose a temporary emergency closure of a trail, route, or area to pack

and saddle stock animals or issue special permits; or

` (C) to create a preference for one recreational use for any unit of the National Park System, without consideration of the stated purpose of the unit.'

(b) Bureau of Land Management Lands- Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

` (e) Use and Access of Pack and Saddle Animals-

` (1) GENERAL RULE- The Secretary shall provide for the management of public lands to preserve and facilitate the continued use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas, where there is a historical tradition of such use. As a general rule, all trails, routes, and areas used by pack and saddle stock shall remain open and accessible for such use. The Secretary may implement a proposed reduction in the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands only after complying with the full review process required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

` (2) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION- Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed-

` (A) to authorize the Secretary to refuse to issue a permit for a new use of pack and saddle stock animals, including use by a commercial outfitter or guide, without complying with applicable resource management plans and planning processes required under this Act or any other provision of law;

` (B) to limit the authority of the Secretary to impose a temporary emergency closure of a trail, route, or area to pack and saddle stock animals or issue special permits; or

` (C) to create a preference for one recreational use for any area of the public lands, without consideration of the stated purpose of the area.'

(c) National Wildlife Refuge System Lands- Section 4(d) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

` (5)(A) The Secretary shall provide for the management of System lands to preserve and facilitate the continued use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas, where there is a historical tradition of such use. As a general rule, all trails, routes, and areas used by pack and saddle stock shall remain open and accessible for such use. The Secretary may implement a proposed reduction in the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands only after complying with the full review process required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

` (B) Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed-

` (i) to authorize the Secretary to refuse to issue a permit for a new use of pack and saddle stock animals, including use by a commercial outfitter or guide, without complying with applicable resource management plans and planning processes required under this Act or any other provision of law;

` (ii) to limit the authority of the Secretary to impose a temporary emergency closure of a trail, route, or area to pack and saddle stock animals or issue special permits; or

` (iii) to create a preference for one recreational use for any unit of the System, without consideration of the stated purpose of the unit.'

(d) National Forest System Lands- Section 15 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1613) is amended-

(1) by inserting `(a)' before `Regulations'; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

` (b) Use and Access of Pack and Saddle Animals-

` (1) GENERAL RULE- The Secretary shall provide for the management of National Forest System lands to preserve and facilitate the continued use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas, where there is a historical tradition of such use. As a general rule, all trails, routes, and areas used by pack and saddle stock shall remain open and accessible for such use. The Secretary may implement a proposed reduction in the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands only after complying with the full review process required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

` (2) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION- Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed--

` (A) to authorize the Secretary to refuse to issue a permit for a new use of pack and saddle stock animals, including use by a commercial outfitter or guide, without complying with applicable resource management plans and planning processes required under this Act or any other provision of law;

` (B) to limit the authority of the Secretary to impose a temporary emergency closure of a trail, route, or area to pack and saddle stock animals or issue special permits; or

` (C) to create a preference for one recreational use for any unit of the National Forest System, without consideration of the stated purpose of the unit.'.

(e) Issuance of Rules- Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue final rules to define the meaning of a historical tradition of use of pack and saddle stock animals on Federal lands for purposes of the amendments made by this section.

GV BCH Board Meeting minutes April 6, 2005

Attendance: Rich Inman, Janet Castro, Wally Becker, Trina Frederickson, John McIlhattan, Lori Brockway, Jiffie & Chick Hale, Dan Marsh, Donna McGeein, Kimberly Schlenker, Jose Castro, absent: Joellyn Howell and Beth Merrick.

Minutes of March 8, 2005 meeting accepted.

Kimberly Schlenker spoke to the Board regarding Alt 7 of the Forest Service Travel Plan and how it affects the BCH and horses in general. Kimberly emphasized that this is not an effort to close the forest to horses. The intent is to restrict usage only on trails that are in poor condition. The restrictions could be during the spring freeze/thaw period, or in more sensitive areas. Closures will be flexible depending on weather and trail conditions (i.e., trails could open or close earlier or later than posted). The feedback period has been extended to August 1, 2005. Of the 2,100 miles of trails, the Forest Service is emphasizing 1,800 miles for horses. This means that only 300 miles would not be suitable for usage by horses. Some of the concerns brought out in the meeting by BCH members including the ability to have access to the forests in order to carry out trail maintenance, difficulty in contacting forestry officials regarding trail access and the blanket closure of the forests to horses. Rich advised that all 16 BCH presidents signed a letter confirming their position against any blanket closure of the forests to horses.

In Cinda's absence, Jiffie presented outstanding bills for payment approval. Motion by Trina/2nd Lori to reimburse Jiffie for Kinko's bill of \$60.32 (April NL) and reimburse Rich for BCH state convention of \$103.34 (\$73.34 expense voucher/ \$30 auction item).

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm

Respectfully submitted by Trina Frederickson, sec.

April 21, 2005 General Meeting Minutes

Officers in Attendance:

Rich Inman, Chick Hale as proxy for Beth Merrick, Wally Becker, Trina Frederickson, John McIlhattan, Lori Brockway, Donna McGeein, Jose Castro as proxy for Janet Castro, Joellyn Howell, Cinda Eichenfels.

General Meeting Minutes for March 17, 2005 accepted. Motion Bill Shields, 2nd Lori Brockway.

Treasurer report by Cinda as of April 21, 2005:

Checking account balance 3/17/05	\$3,397.86
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Deposits

Dues	\$480.00
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Dues	160.00
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Bridger Feed ad	<u>20.00</u>	<u>\$660.00</u>
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Checking a/c balance	\$4,057.86
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Bills paid

Stamps (Jiffie)	\$37.00
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P.O. Box rental (Janet Castro)	48.00
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Kinko's	54.60
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Kinko's (Jiffie, April NL)	60.32
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State Convention (Rich)	73.34
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" " "	<u>30.00</u>	<u>\$303.26</u>
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Checking account balance 4/21/05	<u>\$3,754.60</u>
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Other assets:

Petty Cash	\$55.96
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Money Market	1,951.42
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3 mo. cert. (V.S.)	<u>3,121.49</u>	<u>\$5,128.87</u>
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José Castro and Brian McNeil of the Forest Service gave a PowerPoint presentation on Alternative Seven of the Forest Service Travel Plan and answered questions from the approximately 40-50 members and guests in attendance.

If any BCH members are interested in becoming part of the trail crew, you must attend the Defensive Horsemanship Clinic on May 21, 2005. Please contact Chick Hale to register for the clinic (763-4105).

Miscellaneous correspondence received, including an announcement from Rob Brooks of the Polo Club that they will be hosting a Fun Day at the Circle L Arena. Call Rob for more information at 585-3468.

Dan advised that the State Convention was well received. There is more information about the convention on the BCH website.

Volunteers are still needed for the Poker Ride, particularly with first aid, meal preparation, manning the ice chests and looking after the extra poker hand. If you can assist, please contact Janet Castro.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted Trina Frederickson, sec.

**We thank these sponsors for their generous contributions to our 2004
Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen 17th annual Poker Ride**

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Club Members::

Dick & Barbara Haines

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Rich Inman

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Beth Merrick

Dave & Lisa Reed

Linda Roffe

Kay Tate



Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

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