



BILLINGS SADDLE CLUB

Alkali Creek Road, PO BOX 385 Billings, Montana 59103

March 2006



Happy St. Patrick's Day



2006 BOARD MEMBERS

President	Pat Cole	962-3002	gatorpc@hotmail.com
Past President	Josie Skibstad	373 6524	jskibstad@imt.net
1 st Vice President (Membership)	Susan Malmstrom	373-6736	suem@tbems.com
2 nd Vice President (Horse Activities)	James Sorlie	259-9995	sorlie@imt.net
3 rd Vice President (Social Activities)	Nancy Bjelland	373-0045	
Corresponding Secretary	Polly Namen	633-9400	
Recording Secretary	Maria Schillinger	670-8785	
Treasurer	Doris Gillespie	656-9977 or 861-9977	
3 Year Director	Sandie Green	373-9029	sam7sell@yahoo.com
2 Year Director	Debbie Magilke	252-7638	ddmag@imt.net
1 Year Director	Sue Schwend	445-2436 or 670-8028	
One-Day Horse Shows	Beth Anderson	671-7522	anderart@180com.net
Stirrup Editor	Polly Namen	633-9400	
Gate Combination		5555 (to be changed after April work days)	
Club Website		www.billingsaddleclub.org	

The April Board meeting will be held Monday, April 3, 2006 @ 6pm at the clubhouse. All BSC members are always welcome to attend.

Did you send in your **2006 membership dues??** They were due by March 1, 2006.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members: Teri and Gary Davis, 2745 Homer Davis Road Shepherd, MT 59079 (406) 373-6770. The Davis' are ranchers. Teri is also a secretary and web site "dabbler".

BIG SKY STATE GAMES does O-Mok-See!!! Billings Saddle Club will host an O-Mok-See on July 8th and 9th in conjunction with BSSG! This is an incredible opportunity for our club to show Montanans what O-Mok-See competition is all about! Riders will be required to wear safety helmets, per BSSG rules. *We will need a lot of members competing and helping out - please let Jim know if you're interested in helping make this a successful and profitable event.*

SHARE THE WEALTH PLEASE let the *STIRRUP* editor (Polly Namen) know of any *information* or *events* that our other members might be interested in knowing about. The more informed we are, the better horsemen we have the opportunity to be!!!

ENTER THE MODERN AGE We will start using email to send out the monthly *STIRRUP* this Spring. This will save the club a lot of money in copying and postage costs. *Please make sure you let us know your current email address*, and then you can look for your monthly *STIRRUP* in your inbox, instead of your mailbox!!

HAVE YOU SEEN our incredible web site?? It is beautiful. Teri Davis has done a remarkable job for us. She is adding to the site and updating it regularly, so *visit often as it evolves*. You will find the *STIRRUP* posted there, as well as an up-to-date calendar of events. Please give a board member some feedback after you take the tour at billingsaddleclub.org. You can also check out the National O-Mok-See site at www.omoksee.com.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG! Our daylight and twilight is noticeably increasing daily! The first day of Spring is March 20! YAHOO! Daylight Savings begins on April 2nd! DOUBLE YAHOO!! Now we'll have daylight to ride evenings after work and school! Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night of April 1st. Then get out there and get yourself and your horse fit for the season.

WISHING A SPEEDY RECOVERY to our president, Pat Cole. Pat recently had knee surgery and does NOT think it is fun!

DISASTER STRIKES our members Chad & Jodie Schaff. Their beautiful new downtown western store, "the Loose Cayuse", recently suffered broken water pipes and they had to move ALL their inventory..... Hopefully those gorgeous Donna Fanyak murals all over the store are unharmed?? Please support Chad & Jodie as they put their store back together.

HORSE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR 2006

April 21 & 22***	Barrel Clinic w/ Shirlee Parini	June 19	Rainout date
April 22 & 23	Workday 9am	June 25	Summer Trail Ride tba
April 23	Fun O-Mok-See 2pm	June 30	Intra-Club O-MOK-SEE 7pm
April 29 & 30	BSC Barrel Race	July 2	Horse Show 9am
May 3	Jackpot Barrel Race 6pm	July 7	Intra-Club O-MOK-SEE 7pm
May 6	O-Mok-See clinic tba	July 8 & 9	BIG SKY STATE GAMES 9am
May 7	Open O-Mok-See	July 16-21	National O-Mok-See @ Gillette, WYO (www.omoksee.com)
May 10	Jackpot Barrel Race 6pm	July 28	Intra-Club O-MOK-SEE 7pm
May 14	Spring Trail Ride tba	August 6	Horse Show 9am
May 17	Jackpot Barrel Race 6pm	August 11	Intra-Club O-MOK-SEE 7pm
May 21	Open O-MOK-SEE 2pm	August 20	Rainout date
May 29	Open O-MOK-SEE 2pm	August	Intra-Club O-MOK-SEE 2pm
June 2	Intra-Club O-MOK-SEE 7pm	Sept 2 & 3	State O-MOK-SEE @ Cut Bank
June 3 & 4***	Horse Show Clinic	Sept 10	Horse Show 9 am
June 11	Horse Show 9am	Sept 17	Memorial O-MOK-SEE 2pm
June 16	Intra-Club O-MOK-SEE 7pm	Sept 24	Fall Trail Ride tba

***The April Barrel Racing Clinic is already full - with a waiting list! Your Horse Activities Chairman, Jim Sorlie, **would really appreciate your input** on who/what for the June 3 & 4 **Horse Show Clinic**. Please contact Jim at 259-9995 or sorlie@imt.net.

MEETING MINUTES – February board meeting

The Billings Saddle Club Board meeting was called to order by Pat Cole, President, on February 6th, 2006 at 6:00 pm.

Present: Maria Schillinger, Sandie Green, Sue Schwend, Sue Malmstrom, Polly Namen, Jim Sorlie, Pat Cole, Debbie Magilke, and Doris Gillespie

Minutes: The January 2006 minutes were read. Sue Malmstrom motioned to accept the minutes as corrected and Sandie Green seconded the motion. The board approved.

Treasurer's Report: Doris Gillespie presented the Treasurer's Report for January 2006. The utility bills have significantly decreased since the winterizing of the clubhouse. Sue Malmstrom motioned to accept the report and Sue Schwend seconded the motion. The board approved.

Correspondence: Polly Namen presented correspondence. The BSC received an all city graduation notification and a notice for the Billings heights public neighborhood plan meeting.

Horse Activities: Jim Sorlie presented horse activities. He has finalized the April barrel racing clinic.

Membership: Doris Gillespie motioned to deduct Teri Davis' family membership from the BSC website bill and pay the remainder and Sandie Green seconded the motion. The board approved.

Social Activities: No report.

Rentals: The first 2006 rental will be March 11th. Debbie Magilke went over the rental schedule. Debbie will become main rental contact. Sue Malmstrom is in the process of updating the rental contract.

Arena Rental Contract: Dennis Tryan presented his proposal for the May Saddle Club rental. The board presented its rental fee contract. The \$1000 deposit will be due April 1st. The rental fee is \$3000, which includes clubhouse and arena. Sandie Green motioned to accept the rental contract and Polly Namen seconded the motion. The board approved.

New Business: Boots & Britches has inquired about usage of the main arena on Monday evenings.

Director Reports: No report.

Announcements: The next Billings Saddle Club Board meeting will be Monday, March 6th, 2006 at D.A. Davidson.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Schillinger

Classified Advertisements

FOR SALE: CircleY flex-lite barrel saddle, very nice tooling, dropped rigging for freedom of movement and close contact, 14" dark green suede padded seat. Truly like new – hardly used, daughter no longer needs. \$1000 OBO (is \$1400 new). Call Polly at 633-9400 for more information or to view/try.

FOR SALE: Wintec all-purpose English saddle, 17" seat, Cair panels, adjustable gullet/wither width. Terrific shape– like new, daughter no longer needs. \$475 OBO (is \$695 new). Call Polly at 633-9400 for more information or to view/ try.

FREE: Need to organize your tack? This saddle rack holds 8 saddles (4 on each side) – was originally downtown in Connolly's Saddlery for many, many years. Call Polly for information at 633-9400.

If you have (or someone you know has) horses, tack, trucks, trailers of any other horse related equipment for sale (or wanted items) that would interest our membership, contact the STIRRUP editor (Polly Namen 633-9400) with your ad information.

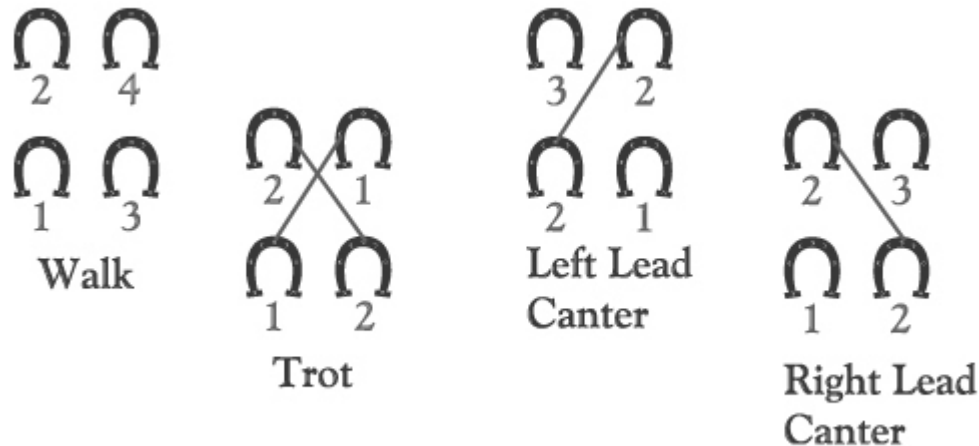
A HUGE THANK YOU to Steve Cole for fixing the heater and the water pump at the Clubhouse. When we opened up the clubhouse this Spring, Steve made all operable in time for the first rental! Thanks, Steve.

Sue Malmstrom and Doris Gillespie are looking for **sponsors** and **lucky draw prizes** for the **April Barrel Race**. Please contact them with ideas, information, and offers. **We need you** to help at the event, as well. Let's help them make this another successful, profitable year!

Gaits of the Horse

by Sue Stuska, Ed.D

We take every opportunity to watch the way our horses move; we enjoy their beauty, plus we learn so much about them from analyzing what they are doing and how they are doing it. An understanding of horse gaits and their sequence of footfalls helps us to be more educated observers of horse movement. It helps us to better understand what we feel while riding. Further, it enables us to be better riders and trainers because we can see and feel when a horse is moving correctly; subsequently, we develop an eye and the feel for the quality of the movement.



Feeling and Observing Footfalls

Ride each gait, first watching, if needed, for the hooves to land, and then feeling when they do so. Try calling out numbers (1,2,3,4 - with either hind being 1 - for walk) or indicating the legs (left, right - for the hind legs in trot) as they land and push off. If you've not done this before, or if you are teaching others, it's very helpful to do this in a controlled setting like a round pen or on a longe line where the rider can concentrate on the gaits alone. If possible, ride without reins or stirrups and even with your eyes closed for short periods (these will help you concentrate on what you are feeling through your seat and legs).

Watch other riders. Study horses running loose in the pasture or arena. Watch someone work a horse in a round pen. Recognize each gait, count out the footfalls, and notice the transitions between gaits.

Form and Quality

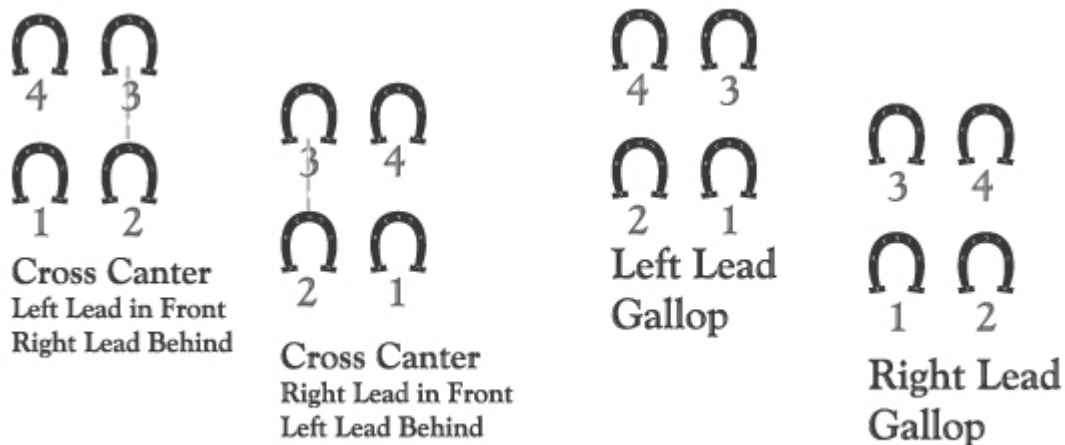
The forward-moving gaits we ride have, at least, a collected, a medium or working, and an extended, form. The collected gaits are shortened and elevated, with contained impulsion, while the lengthened gaits have longer steps. On the way to developing collected and extended gaits (which require muscling and balance), horses show slow, medium and fast speeds at each gait. Gaits also have qualities from poor to excellent. After reviewing the information here, you'll then go on to detect differences in gait qualities like freedom, balance, cadence, and rhythm.

Aid Timing

Awareness of which hooves are grounding and when they are pushing off is very helpful for timing your aids. For example, if you want the horse to increase his energy in walk, it makes sense to use your legs in time with his steps and at times when he is poised to be able to respond: when he is about to push off with a hind leg.

If you are asking the horse to swing his forehand around to your left, it is valuable to be able to feel when his left foreleg is unweighted. He won't be able to immediately respond to you if his weight is firmly on his inside fore leg.

By the time you are asking the horse for a strike off into right lead canter at a specific place or time, you will probably be able to anticipate the left hind leg (which begins the gait) swinging forward, grounding, taking the body weight as the forehand rises, and pushing off into that right lead.



Walk

The walk is a four-beat-per-stride gait. A stride is measured in time or distance between two consecutive groundings of the same hoof. In walk, each hoof moves independently; it is raised and lowered to hit the ground alone. On hard ground you will hear four distinct footfalls, and ideally they will be evenly spaced. There is no period of suspension (when all four hooves are off the ground).

The walk is a continuous sequence of these strides, so we could start numbering footfalls anywhere. But since we consider the hind legs to be the horse's motor, it makes sense to begin with a hind leg. The hind-leg-on-one-side followed by the fore-leg-on-that-side sequence gives the gait its characteristic feel of movement on alternating sides and the slight lateral motion of the horse's head and neck.

Jog

Jog is a two beat diagonal gait which is diagrammed the same as the trot. However, it is slower, more collected, and lacks the moments of suspension. The terms "trot" and "jog" can be used interchangeably, or the jog can refer to this shorter-strided, generally western gait. The very slow gait which western horses execute in pleasure and equitation competition is a jog.

Trot

The trot is a two-beat-per-stride gait. Diagonal pairs of legs move the same; one diagonal pair of the hooves hits the ground together, followed by the other diagonal pair. This coordination is shown in the diagram by the lines connecting the diagonal hooves. Watching a horse move from the side, you can see the cannons of the diagonal legs moving together (roughly parallel). As the horse springs from one diagonal to the other, there is a brief period of suspension. So, each stride includes two periods of suspension.



**Trot: Beat one of the two-beat gait (left hind and right fore are grounded).
If the rider were posting (sitting now, rising on beat two), she would be posting with the left
hind - right fore**

If you rise to the trot, you are rising and sitting with one or the other diagonal pair. It is important to notice your posting diagonal so that you don't always post with the same legs; posting on the same diagonal all the time could encourage your horse to move unevenly. English riders in the United States post with the outside foreleg (and inside hind leg); they are out of the saddle when these are forward, and sitting when these hooves are grounded. This encourages the inside hind to work more strongly to support the horse when moving on curved lines (like circles). Posting on the "inside diagonal" (inside fore and outside hind) can also be helpful to the horse because the outside hind has to travel further on circles (but this is considered the "wrong diagonal" in the English show world).

Backing Up

When the horse is balanced, energetic, and his hind legs are taking their share of the weight (are engaged), he will back up in a two beat diagonal movement. The diagonal pairs of legs are picked up cleanly and placed down rather than dragged backwards. If, instead, you see or feel a four-beat gait, the horse is not moving as well as he can be—he may need to be more responsive to your aids, to be more energetic, or to have better balance under the rider.



**Backing Up: Diagonal pairs move together when the
hind legs are engaged. The cannons are roughly parallel; identify the pairs.**

Canter

This is a three-beat bounding gait. One hind leg begins each stride as its hoof hits the ground. The second beat is made by the diagonal pair touching down together. As the horse continues to roll forward, the remaining front leg reaches out and the hoof touches down. All four legs contribute their power to propel the horse off the ground in a low leap that makes the one period of suspension per stride at canter.

The terms may be used interchangeably, but, generally speaking, "lope" is the slower, more collected, western version of canter. The very slow show ring lope lacks the moment of suspension.

Watching a horse canter or lope, you will see that one side of his body, and the legs on that side, reach forward more and those hooves touch the ground farther forward in each stride than the legs on the other side. The horse is best balanced on turns if his inside legs reach more forward, or "lead." Therefore, you hear riders refer to the inside (balanced) or outside (less balanced) lead. If the right legs lead, the horse is on the "right lead"; the left legs lead in the left lead.



Canter, Left Lead: Beat one was the right hind. Beat two has just occurred; the diagonal pair is moving and grounding together. Beat three will be the leading left fore.

When cantering freely around the pasture, the horse balances himself on his own by choosing the lead that is most comfortable. When you ride, you know ahead of time which way you will be turning, so you cue the horse for the appropriate lead. Our signal to him, telling him to canter, also tells him which lead to take. If the horse incorrectly takes the outside lead, it is called the "wrong lead." When the rider purposely cues for the outside lead, in a test at a horse show or for training purposes, the horse is in "counter canter."

If you want to change the horse's lead for any reason (he may be on the incorrect lead by accident, or you may be changing direction) the easiest thing to do is bring him back to trot, walk or halt and cue for the opposite lead. This is called a "simple change of lead." The horse can also execute a "flying change;" he changes his body position and leg order during a period of suspension in canter.

Sometimes, the horse becomes unbalanced and does not lead with the same front leg as hind leg. He may be on the correct lead behind and the incorrect lead in front, or the opposite. This is called "disunited" or "cross canter."

This sequence of footfalls feels like it looks—more broken from side to side, less balanced, and more rough. To get the horse back in the correct lead again, you may bring him to trot or walk and start

the canter/lope again, or you may signal him to change the incorrect legs as he canters by making half a flying change of lead.

In a slow lope, if the horse's hindquarters are not sufficiently engaged, the diagonal pair hit separately (hind hoof followed by fore hoof) causing a four beat gait.

Gallop

The racing gallop is a four-beat gait. Its sequence of footfalls is like the canter, except that the horse's body, legs and stride are stretched out so far that the diagonal pair is broken into two distinct footfalls. The hooves touch down almost like spokes of a wheel, and there is a lengthy period of suspension following the leading hoof's footfall. A fast canter is also called a gallop, and show horses in hunter classes may be asked for a "hand gallop," which is a three beat canter with a lengthened stride.



**"Correction does much,
but encouragement does more."**

Goethe

**2006 Dues were due by March 1.
This will be your final *STIRRUP* edition if you have not paid your annual
dues.**

(If you are having a hardship paying your dues, contact our membership board member, Sue Malmstrom)

BILLINGS SADDLE CLUB

BARREL RACES

Stockman Bank



AI's Bootery



APRIL 29 & 30, 2006

Entries Close: 11:30 a.m.

LUCKY DRAW PRIZES

Same Schedule Each Day

9:30 a.m.	Arena Open for General Riding	
11:00 a.m.	Time Only Runs	\$5.00
Not before Noon	STOCKMAN BANK WPRA DIVISIONAL TOUR (\$200 Added) Entries close 1/2 hour before start	\$45.00
	OPEN 4D BARRELS (\$100 Added)	\$35.00
	YOUTH 3D BARRELS (Under 18)	\$15.00
	OPEN 3D POLE BENDING	\$20.00
	Stalls – Call if coming in before 4/28/06, facilities are locked. Bring sawdust	\$10/night

Splits: 4D: Fast Time, FT+.5, FT+1, FT+2 (17.5, 18, 18.5, 19.5)

3D: Fast Time, FT+1, FT+2 (17.5; 18.5; 19.5)

Payoffs: 4D: 1D: 35%; 2D: 30%; 3D 20%; 4D: 15%

3D: 1D: 50%; 2D: 30%; 3D: 20%

Arena Location: 756 E Alkali Creek Road
Billings, MT

Info: Sue Malmstrom (406) 373-6736

Sponsors:

Bill's Custom Leather
Law Dog Hat
Pierce Home & RV
Deck The Walls
City Brew

Lockwood Auto & Truck
Lou Taubert Ranch Outfitters
Towe, Ball, Enright, Mackey &
Sommerfeld, PLLP
Denny Menholt Chevrolet

Cooper Tools
Boothill Inn & Suites
Carol Hagan Studios
Bear Mountain Silversmiths

WEDNESDAY NIGHT JACKPOTS

BILLINGS SADDLE CLUB

756 E ALKALI CREEK ROAD
BILLINGS, MONTANA



MAY 3, 2006

MAY 10, 2006

MAY 17, 2006

May 24, 2006 (Rain Out Date Only)

Time Only Barrel Runs - \$5.00 (2006 BSC Member \$3.00)

Open 3D Poles (\$10.00 to Jackpot) \$15 Entry Fee

Open 3D Barrels (\$15.00 to Jackpot) \$20 Entry Fee

Splits: 3D: Fast Time, FT+1, FT+2 (17.5; 18.5; 19.5)

Enter @ 6:00 pm, Poles at 6:30 p.m. Followed by Time Only Runs & Barrels

Gate Opens at 5:30 p.m.

Grounds close 9:30 p.m.



More Info: Sue @ 373-6736