

Billings Saddle Club ~ Alkali Creek Road ~ PO BOX 385 Billings, Montana 59103 ~ 406-252-8272



MERRY Christmas and Horsey New Year !!



2008 BOARD MEMBERS

President	Nancy Bjelland	860-8536	Nancy_Bjelland@blm.gov
Past President/1 st Vice President	Pat Cole	962-3002	gatorok@msn.com
2 nd Vice President (Horse Activities)	Susan Malmstrom	373-6736	suem@tbems.com
Co-chair	Doris Gillespie	656-9977	dgillespie@dadco.com
3 rd Vice President (Social Activities)	Tara Hultgren	669-3817	isheyish@yahoo.com
Co-chair	Lorie Trafford	259-5949	forfamilyfun@msn.com
Co-chair	Cindy Sundheim	254-0058	c-sundheim@shepherd.k12.mt
Corresponding Secretary	Polly Olsen Namen	633-9400	barlazyp@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Teri Bakken	860-5380	tbakken@bresnan.net
Treasurer	Sue Schwend	670-8028	sueschwend@hotmail.com
3 Year Director	Larry Schwend	446-3940	
2 Year Director	Jimmie Jimison	373-5725	jim.jimison@elmlocating.com
1 Year Director	Sandie Green	373-9029	sam7sell@yahoo.com
Stirrup Editor	Polly Olsen Namen	633-9400	barlazyp@gmail.com

Club Website www.billingsaddleclub.org

Welcome!! NEW MEMBERS

APPLICANTS: Doug & Suzanna Bailey-11 Mane Trail-Aspen Ridge Ranch-PO Box 1365 Red Lodge, MT 59068 - phone 406/426-0913 doug@aspenridgemontana.com

Winter Solstice on 12/20/08 marks the end of shortening daylight. The days will soon be getting lighter!!!!

Do you have any information (classifieds, event results, awards, member achievements, upcoming events) that might interest other club members? If so, please contact Bernie Madsen, your **NEW STIRRUP** editor at 208-8008 or Bernie@cbthebrokers.com to share the wealth!

~ CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS ~

Contact Bernie Madsen @ Bernie@cbthebrokers.com or 208-8008 with your classified ad information that may be of interest to our members.

\$\$\$ FOR SALE \$\$\$ Ruger 7mm magnum rifle, M77 model, wood stock, Weaver 3-9 scope. Comes w 40 rounds of ammo. Lightly used, in excellent condition. \$525. Australian Stock Saddle, very good condition, by Excalibur Saddlery in Brisbane, Australia - wool flocked panels-seat size 17" Australian (which is equivalent to 15" Western and 17-18" English) - medium width tree (should fit most Thoroughbred/Tenn Walker type horses - will NOT fit wider, modern Quarter horse types) \$450. 18" Courbette Dressage Saddle, two-tone brown in excellent condition – German Charles de Kunffy DII model -spring tree w/ wool flocked panels - 2X width (33cm) - is beautiful! \$1,350 (Matching 52" leather girth with elastic end and roller buckles \$70). Please contact Heidi Pfosch at 406-670-2547

WANTED - Good horse hay in the Billings area. Call Kitty Sorlie @ 698-8510

\$\$\$ FOR SALE \$\$\$ Good grass hay, small squares. Contact Curt/Sue Schwend @ 670-8028

\$\$\$ FOR SALE \$\$\$ 13 year old Doc Bar bred AQHA mare. Excellent show horse for kids or beginners. Call Teresa Bruce @ 245-4268 or 661-7202

\$\$\$ FOR SALE \$\$\$ "Buster"-big sorrel 1995 AQHA gelding (by My Leroy Brown & dam is TB raced and won about \$300-400K on the track). \$12,000.00 . Successful OMOKSEE horse. Willing to work on terms/price. Ted Wood, Jr @ rmspeedhorse@bresnan.net or call 406-439-9900

\$\$\$ FOR SALE \$\$\$ Circle Y Roper Saddle for sale. 16 inch seat, floral tooling some silver. Please call Nancy Bjelland @ 860-8536

\$\$\$ FOR SALE \$\$\$ 1995 Circle J Super Arrow 4horse slant-load bumper-pull horse trailer. Front walk-in tack & rear tack. Drop down doors. Has been stored inside & pulled less than 1,000 miles. Like new inside/out. Ht = 6'10", \$9000. 1979 Ford F350 pickup 4WD 4speed 400 engine 76,000 miles. One owner truck, excellent condition. \$7200. Corriente Cattle - Bred Cows, 2008 calves, 4 light yearling heifers. Phone Linda Crowder @ 690-8992

Your 2009 slate of officers:

President	Jimmie Jimison	373-5725	jim.jimison@elmlocating.com
1 st Vice President (Membership)	Pat Cole	962-3002	gatorok@msn.com
2 nd Vice President (Horse Activities)*	Susan Malmstrom	373-6736	suem@tbems.com
3 rd Vice President (Social Activities)	Nancy Bjelland	860-8536	Nancy_Bjelland@blm.gov
Corresponding Secretary	Tara Hultgren	669-3817	isheyish@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary	Teri Bakken	860-5380	tbakken@bresnan.net
Treasurer	Sue Schwend	670-8028	sueschwend@hotmail.com
3 Year Director	Rod Leafdale	855-1182	rleafdale@bresnan.net
2 Year Director	Ron or Sue King	445-9159	rskkking@aol.com
1 Year Director	Kathy Adams	252-5868	tywranglers01@yahoo.com
Stirrup Editor	Bernie Madsen	208-8008	bernie@cbthebrokers.com

***NEEDED: a BSC Member to oversee and organize one day horse shows.**
Please contact Sue Malmstrom at 373-6736.

2008 BARREL RACE AND HORSE SHOW SPONSORS:

*PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS THIS **CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SEASON** AND YEAR-ROUND. LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE A BSC MEMBER!! We couldn't do it without them! (* BSC member)*

Al's Bootery	Sue Malmstrom*
Bear Mountain Silversmiths (Shane & Sarita Stolt*)	Charlene Murphy*
Big Sky Beauty Supply (Jim & Kitty Sorlie*)	Shirlee Parini*
Big Sky Feeds	Platinum Performance
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Lextron	
Lou Taubert Ranch Outfitters	

This article was found at http://www.equisearch.com/horses_care/health/winter/ , and originally appeared in the *Horse & Rider* magazine....

Warm Up to Winter Riding

It's not always the easiest time to ride, but you can beat the cold-weather blahs with some of these tips and strategies for winter riding.

By Debbie Moors



Ride through winter in comfort with a few simple tips for staying warm.
Photo by Darrell Dodds

If you live in a cold weather climate, you know how challenging riding through winter can be. Here are a few tips for taking the chill off barn and riding time.

1. **Wear layers.** Before you head out to the barn, know whether you're just going out to feed and check on the horses, or if you'll be riding. If you're not doing strenuous barn chores or schooling your horse, wear heavier clothes. And, if you are going to be getting your heart rate up and working hard, dress in layers.

Wear a light-weight base layer that'll wick sweat away from your skin (polypropylene or silk are two options) then follow that with a middle layer of wool, or a synthetic that insulates without adding a lot of bulk. A jacket system that has a zip-in vest

or jacket offers even more options.

2. If you'll be trail riding, pack a small waterproof container or ziploc bag that has matches, an extra layer of warmth and a "space blanket." Boating supply companies offer small kits that are waterproof and crush proof, and can usually be slipped into a saddlebag or fanny pack.

3. **Warm up.** A good grooming session before you ride will warm you up and will help warm your horse's muscles, too.

4. During your grooming routine, check your horse's hooves for snow or ice if he's been outdoors. Pick out his feet, then spritz with cooking spray or coat with Vaseline to keep snow and ice from packing into his feet.

5. While you groom your horse, wear your horse's bridle under your jacket to help warm the bit, or wrap it in gel hand warmers. Or, check out The Bitten Store's bit warmer--which'll double as a body warmer or can slip into your pocket as a hand warmer.

6. Plan extra time to cool your horse down after a ride. If your horse is clipped, consider using a quarter sheet--it'll drape over his hindquarters and keep him a little warmer during cold-day rides.
7. If you wear insulated boots, make sure you're able to move them easily in the stirrups. Consider ordering over-sized stirrups for use during the winter months. Try gel-pack foot warmers to protect against popsicle toes.
8. Take time to stretch and warm your muscles before climbing into the saddle. And give your horse plenty of time to warm up before you start a strenuous schooling session.
9. If you're going on a long ride, wear a Camelbak (drink delivery system that you wear like a backpack) or similar product to carry water. It's easy to get dehydrated in the winter, and dehydration makes you more susceptible to hypothermia and frostbite.
10. Water is a concern for your horse, too. Studies show that when they're offered warm water, horse's will drink more in the winter than if their water is ice cold. Keep an eye on water tanks and buckets (make sure they're clean and ice-free). Decreased water intake can increase risk for colic.
11. On really cold days, take a riding break. Check in on your horse, then grab your tack and head to a warm tack room, or your house, and do a little cold-day cleaning. Wash bits (Listerine makes a great bit cleaner and disinfectant), clean headstalls and saddles, and check for any worn leather or broken buckles.
12. Do a safety check. Walk through the barn and pasture, checking for ice and hazards. Mix sawdust and de-icer to both melt ice and absorb moisture, and double-check water lines when frigid temps are predicted.
13. Visualize summer. Sometimes, staying motivated requires goal setting. Think about goals for yourself and your horse, plan to attend some winter clinics and horse expos, and make a month-by-month list of what you'll do to make your goals come true.
14. Enjoy your horse. Even if you only have time for a deep whiff of eau d'equine or you just sit and listen to barn noises for awhile, it can help recharge your batteries for that next sparkling winter day, when winter riding is at its best.

Safe Hauling

Haul your horses safely by properly distributing your load and maintaining a reasonable speed.



AQHA Corporate Partner [Exiss Trailers](#) understands the importance of traveling safely down the road with our horses. Exiss provides tips and suggestions for safe hauling on its Web site.

Here are a few tips to help you make your next hauling adventure a safe one.

Distribution of Load

There are three aspects to proper loading:

1. The trailer should sit as close to level as possible when loaded, to allow for even weight distribution to the axles. Use a drop hitch on bumper pull trailers or adjust the gooseneck coupler.
2. Distribute the load to ensure proper tongue weight. Since most horses do not weigh the same, the heavier horse should be put in front so tongue weight would stay over 10 percent of total weight.
3. Know the trailer's capacity. Do not overload the trailer. A typical three-horse trailer will safely hold three large horses and a reasonable amount of tack.

Tongue Weight

Tongue weight is a determining factor in trailer handling. Too little tongue weight causes sway or hitch disengagement from the ball. Too much tongue weight may exceed guidelines set out by the manufacturer of the tow vehicle and cause steering or suspension problems. A general guideline is that for bumper pull trailers, tongue weights should be 10-15 percent of trailer weight. Tongue weights less than 10 percent of trailer weight can cause stability problems. For goosenecks, tongue weight should be approximately 25 percent of trailer weight.

Speed and Driving

Use extreme caution when pulling your trailer. Do not exceed the posted speed limits on the roads you are traveling. Be aware that traveling at higher speeds or hauling heavier loads will increase your stopping distance.

The most common trailer repairs stem from people forgetting they are pulling a trailer. It is easy to damage a nose sheet or vehicle by turning too sharply. It is also easy to damage running boards and fenders if you forget how wide your trailer is. You should also be aware of your turning radius to avoid clipping objects or damaging fenders and tires while turning. Position mirrors so that you have good visibility of the area around and behind the trailer.

While you should always check your brakes for proper function before a trip, a good rule of thumb is to drive as if you do not have trailer brakes. For your animals' safety, brake gradually and navigate turns as smoothly as possible.



"Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but rather we have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit."

Aristotle

Penny Pinching at the Pump

Take these steps to save precious fuel while pulling your horse trailer.



With fuel close to \$5 per gallon, hauling horses can seem like the ultimate nightmare. Though hoping for the return of \$2 fuel may never pay off, these tips can help you save some green at the pump. After all, your money is better spent on entry fees at your next show.

Get Clean

Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your truck's gas mileage up to 10 percent. The air filter keeps impurities from damaging the inside of your engine. Not only will replacing a dirty air filter save gas, it will protect your engine.

Embrace Inflation

You can improve your gas mileage up to 3 percent by keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressure. Under-inflated tires can lower gas mileage by 0.4 percent for every 1 psi drop in pressure for all four tires. Properly inflated tires are safer and last longer. But be sure not to over-inflate, as that can rapidly decrease your fuel economy.

No Packrats Allowed

Avoid keeping unnecessary items in your truck and trailer, especially heavy ones. An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle could reduce your mileage by up to 2 percent. Clean out your tack room and truck bed, and pack lightly for your trip. Take only the feed that you need for that haul.

Shut It Off

Avoid excessive idling. Idling gets 0 miles per gallon. Trucks with larger engines typically waste more gas at idle than those with smaller engines. If possible, turn your engine off when loading and unloading, or when checking in for the show.

It's Not NASCAR

It may sound too simple, but slow down! While each vehicle reaches its optimal fuel economy at a different speed, gas mileage usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Think of it this way: each 5 mph that you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional 30 cents per gallon for gas.

Get More From Your Diesel

Diesel engines produce more torque at the same engine speed as gas and can be more efficient when hauling heavy loads. The power output of an engine is expressed as its torque multiplied by its rotational speed (RPM). Run your heavy-duty diesel truck at an RPM 40 percent below the peak torque. Diesel-powered truck research has indicated that this is the point at which maximum fuel economy is achieved.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The November 10, 2008 Billings Saddle Club Board Meeting was called to order by Nancy Bjelland.

Present: Sue Malmstrom, Sue Schwend, Nancy Bjelland, Tara Hultgren, Sandie Green, and Pat Cole.

Minutes: No minutes to review (no meeting held in October; September minutes approved via email).

Treasurer's Report: The board approved the treasurer's report.

Sue Malmstrom motioned to pay one full year's real estate taxes in the amount of \$1,822. Sandie seconded and the board approved.

Correspondence: No report.

Stirrup: A new editor is needed for next year.

Horse Activities: A tentative activities calendar was distributed and discussed. The YRS will not make a decision until March 2009. No confirmation has been received regarding Tryan's rental for 2009.

The year end awards have been ordered and will be delivered before the annual meeting.

June 12, 2009 is the first intraclub O-Mok-See.

Membership: Received a 2009 membership application from Doug and Suzanna Bailey. Mr. Bailey will be making a presentation at the general meeting regarding trail rides.

Social Activities: The general meeting will be Sunday, Nov. 16, at 5 pm. The club will provide the main dishes. Members are to bring side dishes.

Rentals: No more rentals this calendar year. Sue Schwend made a motion to winterize the club house after November 16 meeting. Pat seconded and the board approved.

Unfinished Business: The water line and light poles still need maintenance.

New Business: The possibility of bidding for State 2009 will be addressed at the November 16 general meeting.

We need nominations for board members. We will be short two directors. It's too late to make any adjustments to the by-laws this year.

Officer Nominations:

President – Jimmie Jimison

Treasurer – Sue Schwend

Horse Activities – Sue Malmstrom (need Horse Show co-director)

3-year Director – Rod Leafdale

2-year Director – vacant

1- year Director – vacant

Correspondence – Tara Hultgren

Secretary – Teri Bakken

Membership – Pat Cole

Social - Nancy Bjelland

Stirrup Editor -vacant

Director Reports:

3-Year Director (Fund Raising - Larry Schwend) – No report.

2-Year Director (Rentals/Clubhouse – Jimmie Jimison) - No report.

1-Year Director (Arena/Grounds – Sandie Green) – No report.

Announcements: The general board meeting will be at the clubhouse on November 16, 2008.

Sue Malmstrom motioned to adjourn, Sue Schwend seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

Teri Bakken