

BOARD MEETINGS:
1st Thursday, 7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETINGS:
3rd Thursday, 7:00 PM
Belgrade Alliance Church
205 West Cameron

OUR PURPOSE:

To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use. To assist various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands. To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustained use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public, commensurate with our heritage. Foster and encourage formation of new Back Country Horsemen organizations.

2012 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR

PRESIDENT

Henry Glenn ... 578-2084
glennhavenranch@3riversdbs.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Harney ... 548-4217

TREASURER

Brenda Kessler ... 763-4241

SECRETARY

Marianne Meyer ... 388-2676

DIRECTORS

ONE YEAR TERM

Clark Kinney ... 388-1505

Rich Inman... 388-1564

Mike Haugen ... 539-0538

TWO YEAR TERM

John Mutter ... 285-0516

Larry Thomas ... 586-6878

Beth Merrick ... 388-4047

STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Marsh (2 years) ... 587-7578

Rich Inman ... 388-1564

Stacy Bragg (Alternate) ... 222-0077

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Brant Robey... 222-5971

pbr@wisptest.net

BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578

webmaster@bchmt.org

http://gvbch.bchmt.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

BOARD MEETING : APRIL 5, 7:00 PM

Belgrade Alliance Church

GENERAL MEETING : April 19, 7:00 PM

R-O Brooks Custom Leather Shop, 845 Glider Lane, Belgrade

POKER RIDE COMMITTEE MEETING: APRIL 19, 6:00 PM

Pickle Barrel, Belgrade

MSU EQUINE CONFERENCE: APRIL 21, 8:00-5:00

Gran Tree Inn, Bozeman [brochure here](#)

BACK COUNTRY ADVENTURE: APRIL 28, 9 AM-4 PM

Hands-on packing for registered students

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Happy winter to everyone.

March was a very busy month for the club. We are in full planning mode for the summer and I hope you will check the Calendar on our web site to see where you can help. The Poker Ride Committee is in full swing and I hope you will contact them and volunteer to help in this very important event.

On March 12th I met with some students from Sacajawea Middle School to tell them about GVBCH and what we do. So if you see them on a summer project volunteering say hi.

Again, the Back Country Adventures clinic at Copper Springs was a huge success. We have received lots of kudos for the great instructors and the hands on instruction. Everyone got to tie up a mantie and put it on a horse or mule.

We had our annual meeting with the Forest Service and were able to accomplish a lot. The Poker Ride use permit is forth coming and we are in the final planning stages for the Windy Pass project and the Corrals at Buffalo Horn Trail head.

We have improved communications with the trail crews and the FS. Because of the snow, we were limited in the amount of trails we were able to get to in 2011. I hope all of you are ready to help the trail crews this year. We hope to have a weekend crew to accommodate those who work weekdays.

The annual Montana State Back Country Horsemen convention was this past weekend in Billings. We had a very capable contingent represent us and they will have a report elsewhere in the newsletter. I am wondering who won the Cross Cut Saw competition? *Mark Long & John Fauré*

On March 31 and April 1st some of us spent the weekend at the Circle L Arena at the annual Horse Expo. GVBCH was ask to do two packing and back country safety clinics there and we had a booth as well. Thanks for everyone's help in making these events a success. We received several new memberships at the Expo. Janice has a great program scheduled for the April meeting at Rob Brooks Leather see info elsewhere in this newsletter also Larry Thomas is going to review Chainsaw safety. It is my hope that I see each of you participating in our activities this summer.

May God Bless the Trails you Ride. *Henry Glenn, President*



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 1 , 2012

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Henry Glenn, President.

Officers, directors, and state board members present were: Henry Glenn, Michael Harney, Brenda Kessler, Marianne Meyer, Mike Haugen, John Mutter, Beth Merrick, Clark Kinney, Larry Thomas, Dan Marsh, Stacy Bragg, and Jim Allbright (ex-officio). Dan Marsh was acting as proxy for Rich Inman.

Henry asked for a motion to approve minutes of the February board meeting. Jim moved, Dan seconded, all ayes, and motion passed.

BILLS/CORRESPONDENCE/TREASURER'S REPORT

Recurring Insty-Prints bill for newsletter was handed to Brenda for payment. Henry asked for a motion to approve payment of the insurance bill of \$637. Jim Allbright moved, Larry seconded. Some discussion followed to clarify what this amount includes. Everyone voted in favor with ayes and the motion passed.

Brenda reported \$3,952.46 in checking as of 2/29/12 and \$15,010.44 in savings. Jim Allbright moved to approve the treasurer's report, John Mutter seconded, all voted aye, motion passed.

MEMBERSHIP

40 new and renewed memberships have come in so far.

ISSUES

Dan Marsh attended the public meeting regarding the WSA and gave a recap of the evening. Larry Thomas, Clark Kinney, Dan Porter, Stacy Bragg, Corey Biggers from the BCH also attended and there may have been more.

PROGRAMS

Spencer Dominick will be presenting at our March general meeting. He is very good and members are encouraged not to miss this presentation.

BUSINESS

Back Country Adventures — Clark presented a projection of expenses and income from the event and he is certain that there will be a net income at the end.

Circle L Arena GVBCH booth — Henry asked Mike Haugen to manage a shift schedule for the booth at the Circle L on 3/31 – 4/01. John & Barb Mutter will definitely be there. Brenda has a cash box and will bring it to the general meeting. Marianne will bring handouts and membership forms for the booth. (Several officers will be out of town at the State Convention.)

Saw Training USFS — Henry sent a letter to Lisa regarding the Forest Service's requirements for saw training and first

aid training but not making this training readily available locally. Both Henry and Rich will stay on top of this issue. Larry asked that we emphasize to members that anyone can go work on a trail crew WITHOUT this training. There's a lot you can do besides run a chainsaw or crosscut saw. Without the training volunteers just cannot operate saws.

Poker Ride Committee — Stacy Bragg brought the Poker Ride records accumulated by Sherrie White to the board meeting. First committee meeting is on March 15 at 6:00pm, Pickle Barrel in Belgrade.

Delegates/Resolutions for the State Convention — Delegates need to register themselves online. Early registration ends 3/15. Rich Inman, Jim Allbright, Brenda Kessler, Dan Marsh, Alice Pilgeram, Michael Harney, and Margaret Lowndes are going.

BCHM sent out resolutions for the convention, the first in regards to BCHA Budget Funding, and the second in regards to BCHA Independent Opinions. The board discussed the resolutions.

Mapping of area trails — Michael's friend Scott Rodan recently graduated in cartography and would be happy to provide some volunteer time to map trails. Scott and Michael mapped the Big Brother loop and Michael showed the board a preliminary printout of the result. Along with a topo map, information included will be distance, elevation gain, description of terrain, directions to trailhead and more. The information will be posted on our website. Michael and Larry will get together to select more trails.

Pony Poker Ride — There will be a poker ride this year, June 16 is the date. Find out more by writing to ponypokerride@gmail.com.

Henry asked for a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting. John made the motion, Jim seconded, and the motion was passed.

Submitted by Marianne Meyer, Secretary.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 15, 2012

Approximately 20 members listened closely to horse trainer Spencer Dominick who also answered some specific questions from the audience. Following the program, Henry called the meeting to order. Officers and directors present were: Henry Glenn, Michael Harney, Brenda Kessler, Marianne Meyer, Clark Kinney, John Mutter, Mike Haugan, Beth Merrick, Larry Thomas, Rich Inman, state board member Dan Marsh, and ex-officio Jim Allbright.

Henry asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February general meeting as reported in the newsletter. Jim made the motion, Dan Marsh seconded, and the motion was passed.

BILLS & TREASURER'S REPORT

Janice presented an old bill for office supplies for the 5-9-11 Safety Clinic in the amount of \$74.94. Larry moved to pay the bill, John seconded and motion passed.

Brenda reported \$3,952.46 in checking, \$15,010.44 in savings. Beth motioned to approve the report, Kay Tate seconded, motion passed.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 42 paid memberships.

ISSUES

BCHMT is preparing to present an outstanding member with a Double Diamond Award certificate. They are taking nominations from chapters. Dan read a resolution by the BCH of WY regarding the new director position that BCHA wants to fund. Question was made to the attending members as to what position they want the convention delegates to take. A straw poll was taken and none supported, all opposed the BCHA plan.

NEWSLETTER

Brant is doing a great job. She communicates regularly with Dan and Henry about progress.

PROGRAMS

April general meeting will be at R.O. Brooks Custom Leather Shop, 845 Glider Lane in Belgrade (North end of Jackrabbit). Rob Brooks presenting.

BUSINESS

State Convention in Billings – An auction item valued \$50 or more is needed for the convention (each chapter has to furnish one). Dan Marsh offered a horse collar mirror and everyone agreed that would be a great auction item. The delegates will take the GVBCH display horse and photos with them to Billings. The booth at the Circle L on the same dates will have a smaller display with brochures, membership applications, etc.

Resolutions submitted for the State convention: Missoula's resolution requiring BCHA to keep a balanced budget.

Straw poll of attending members supported the resolution. All voted Yea. Next resolution from Missoula would require that BCHA support Montana's opposition to HR-1505. A show of hands supported the resolution.

BC Adventures – the next date is March 24th. Big thank you to those involved in working so hard on the pack boxes. Clark says they are perfect.

Circle L Horse Expo – GVBCH has free booth space on 3/31 and 4/1. Mike Haugan is keeping track of shifts.

GallEp Annual Meeting – Michael Harney reported on GallEp's Annual Meeting of equestrian clubs. He said Maggee Harrison from Eagle Mount approached him, wondering if our club would be willing to take veterans (wounded warriors) on projects. Discussion followed and everyone agreed it would be a worthwhile effort to help, but our project days might not be the best opportunity. Invitations to the Poker Ride day or Steak Ride were discussed.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janice introduced guest Dorothy Noreika who came to the meeting to see what we are all about. Janice will be training kids from Park County 4H at horse camp on Harper Puckett Road on May 7th. Volunteers are welcome to help her.

Henry asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Beth so moved, Jim seconded, motion passed, and meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Marianne Meyer, Secretary.

CLICK FOR:
2012 GVBCH CALENDAR

For the past 15 years Rob Brooks has made his living crafting everything leather, from custom saddles to belts, and to hear him tell it, there's no end in sight. Located where Jackrabbit Lane in Belgrade finds its northern end on Glider Road, R.O. Brooks Custom Leather is a place where you can step away from the hustle and bustle of the Gallatin Valley and take in the sights and smells of true craftsmanship. Now Brooks has found a place on the edge of town where he feels comfortable.

Growing up on his family's farm outside of Manhattan, this Montana native has been sculpting rawhide as long as he can remember. What started as necessary upkeep for repairs around the farm soon grew into a passion. Instead of using technology like lasers and computers to accelerate production, Brooks values elbow grease, old-fashioned work and quality. But being an honest man, he cracks a smile and admits to a closet-full of discarded equipment. Staying small and concentrating on the craft are crucial to Brooks's success. By focusing on individuals and their needs, he's allowed the space to create unique pieces that stand the test of time.

(The above article is excerpted from an article by Brad Van Wert in Mountain Outlaw Magazine, Winter 2012 issue.)



GVBCH Delegates



Mark Himmel, new BCH Chair



Nancy Pollman, Secretary



Dancing to Val

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO BRING ANY TACK THAT NEEDS SOME REPAIR. NOW IS THE TIME TO FIX ITEMS BEFORE THE RIDING SEASON ARRIVES.

KNEES STIFF AFTER RIDING? HIPS HUR T AFTER RIDING? ANKLES ACHING? BRING YOUR SADDLES AND WE'LL SHOW YOU WHAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO TO HELP WITH THESE PROBLEM AREAS.

Chain Saw Safety Demonstration in preparation for trail clearing is also expected to take place (outside the shop). This is weather dependent. Please bring a chair for your comfort.



Directions: Jackrabbit Lane north, past the high school, turn right onto Glider Lane. Rob's is the first place on the right.

—Janice Cartwright, your cheerful Program Director



Tom Schmidt, Keynote Speaker

The Pre-Convention meeting on March 30th was done fairly quickly. The nominating committee presented their choices for the new officers. The various standing committees gave a short accounting of where they are. The new member committee chaired by Ken Ausk asked for help from the chapters to send him names for new prospective chapters. The Livingston area was mentioned as a possibility. Fred Fitzpatrick who is the issues chairman is on dialysis and a card was circulated to wish him well on a speedy recovery.

The two resolutions were brought up and a motion was made for the board to sponsor them at the convention. The Treasurer's Report was approved and everyone headed off to get ready for the convention. Rich had put up the horse display so Alice and Dan helped by putting the pictures on with Velcro. It was mentioned that we need to freshen up our pictures for next year.

There were about 192 members in attendance for the 2012 State Convention held at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center March 31st through April 1st. Ernie Strum presented a slide show of fantastic images of the Beartooth Chapter's stomping grounds to start the convention.

Dave Crawford presented a report of the volunteer hours worked by the Back Country Horsemen of Montana. A total of \$621,983.24 worth of volunteer labor and stock consisting of 18,332 hours and 101,094 miles of travel for both vehicles and stock. Tom Schmidt, Deputy Regional Forester, was the keynote speaker who started his position in March of 2011. He thanked us for all of our volunteer work. He said our help is greatly appreciated and needed with all of the budget cuts they are working with for the last number of years. There are only \$10 million in the budget to maintain over 28,000 miles of trails. The Forest Service is faced with maintaining more trails with a smaller budget every year.

Greg Shatz gave a talk on the Bob Marshall Foundation and encouraged folks to donate time and money to the foundation to maintain the trails in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Membership in the state is down about 3% from last year at a total of 1173 members. Missoula and Flathead remain the largest chapters.

John Gibson gave a talk on the work the PLPW does to keep access to public lands open. Their latest fight is on the Ruby over stream access form bridges.

There were two resolutions presented and the first one was accepted after some modifications and the second resolution was tabled for the next day. On Sunday, the authors of the resolutions withdrew them in favor of sending a letter to the national organizations asking them for a face-to-face with the chairman concerning a lack of leadership, communication, fiscally responsible budget, and keeping to our purpose. A letter will be sent to the chapters for approval that will then be hand delivered to the national chairman to voice our concerns.

Joni Packard of the Forest Service presented a lot of information on how the Forest Service is trying to improve relationships with its volunteer labor. The Forest Service

wants to standardize the handling of the Volunteer and Cost Share options. Our Chapter has been under the Volunteer Agreement with them for many years. A new program called the Safety Journey was created to help reduce the 4-6 fatalities from last year. The safety emphasis would include refreshers; safety equipment; radio; Job Habit Analysis (JHA); certifications; at least one person has to have First Aid/CPR, blood born pathogen, defensive horsemanship developed in 2000 with BCH; defensive driving; bear spray; chainsaw and crosscut saw. A new chainsaw policy working group is being formed because of an inconsistent policy now. Currently, only the Forest Service can certify for chainsaw and crosscut use. They will try to schedule training on weekends locally in 10-12 locations. Some suggestions were offered including Charlie O'Leary wanted them to line up training early. Do a field risk assessment. Establish two lead contacts months before the work. Tag team the JHA hazards of the day. Assign a safety leader to look for mood of stock, weather, mood of people.

Alex Gavrisheff the Operations Staff Officer for the Lewis & Clark National Forest presented a slide presentation on the completion of the repairs to the Gates Park Bridge. It was built in the 30's, rebuilt in 1963, wiped out in a flood in 1964, rebuilt in 1965, replaced caps in 2001 and finally, in 2011 repair of the bridge was complete.

A motion to spend over \$500 for a picture to be presented to Max Baucus passed. Chuck Miller was chosen as National Director for another 2 years. Mack Long and John Favro won the crosscut saw competition. Max Baucus stopped by the convention to accept his gift for his work on the Rocky Mountain Front. Val Geissler provided the entertainment for the evening. The chapter's donation of a horse collar mirror brought in \$240 for the state at the auction.

Saturday breakout sessions: Dan Aadland "Back Country Horses in Iceland", Shawn Stewart "Being Bear Aware", Ernie Strum "Fishing the High Country", Jeff DeBenedetto "An Overview of Whitebark Pine Ecosystem in the Beartooth Mountains", Renee Richards "What everyone should know about their nonprofit 501(c)(3) status and accounting policies"

On Sunday Mark Himmel was elected chairman; Connie Long Vice Chairman; Sandy Taylor treasurer; and Nancy Pollman agreed to stay on as secretary. Dates of the state board meetings were set as May 12, Sept 8 and Dec 8. John Chepulis agreed to chair a Convention Committee to lay out guidelines for the chapters to follow at the conventions and was also voted in as the alternate national director. The 2012 budget was approved with \$19,431 in income and \$18,745 in expenses. 2011 ended with a loss of \$808.86. The account for 2012 starts with \$21,709 in the bank. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 and everyone headed for home.

—Dan Marsh, GVBCH State Director

GalleP’s annual meeting had a panel of representatives from area horse groups. The question was put to the panel, “What issues are your (interest) group facing right now?”

Comments were varied but a recurring theme was the Horse Community Needs A Voice at the many trail meetings with government agencies, by communicating with one another, by making known the huge economic equestrian impact on the local economy, etc. Getting persons involved is never easy—until they feel threatened—such as trails being closed, horses not allowed in certain areas in town, the county or the trails. How do we get horse owners ON their horses more? What people are doing with horses has changed and diversity is key to making it all work. Suggestion to put all calendars with horse connections in a central place and to use social media. Many people want to see the events in the newspapers. How can we make these events fun, safe and affordable and then how do we get the word out?

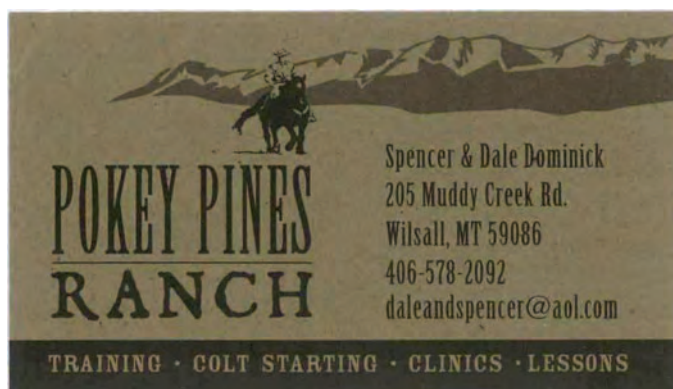
This is just an example of the information and animated discussion that took place. Check out GalleP’s website [HERE] or, better yet, join and receive regular updates.

What issues does GVBCH have? Michael mentioned getting new members, younger members and more participants within the club. As trails are such a popular subject, there were plenty of chances for our members to share the work of GVBCH: The many miles of trails cleared each year, trails we address, special projects, man hours our club donates to this effort, our educational efforts, joint efforts to develop the local trail map...and more.

—Janice Cartwright

The speaker at our March program was Spencer Dominick. Even without a horse, the information Spencer shared with us was helpful. (He wanted a horse to use for demonstrating but he ended up with Janice wearing a bridle while standing and Michael wearing a bridle while on all 4s since Spencer needed a bigger horse.) Questions were asked and answers were given, mostly aimed at problems our members have while trail riding. Good program. Good information. Another resource for our members for horse help in the future. He can be reached at: (406) 578-2092.

—Janice Cartwright



Connie Lien, President
Gallatin Saddle & Harness Club



Spencer Dominick & Michael Harney



Maggee Harrison, Eagle Mount Equine Program Director &
Michael Harney, GVBCH Vice President



THE EQUINE MIND: TOP 10 THINGS TO KNOW

Excerpt: TheHorse.com by Erica Larson, March 24, 2012

“Why does he do that?” “What is she so scared of ... there’s nothing there!” Robert Miller, DVM, a former equine practitioner,... relayed the top 10 things horse owners, caretakers, and riders should understand about how the equine mind functions.

“There are 10 genetically predetermined behavioral qualities unique to the horse that have been established by natural selection over the 50 million-year period during which the horse evolved,” Miller began. “Failure to understand these qualities makes it impossible to have optimum communication with horses.”

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Flight | 6. Memory |
| 2. Perception | 7. Dominance |
| 3. Reaction Time | 8. Movement Control |
| 4. Desensitization | 9. Body Language |
| 5. Learning | 10. Precocial Birth |

Editor’s Note: “Horsing Around” is a new feature for our newsletter. We will include stories about or from our members as interest and space allow. Please share your story or news.



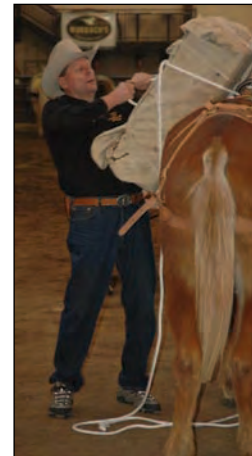
Copper Springs Arena



Learning to Pack



Balancing the Load



Bob Hoverson & Basket Hitch



MT Horseman Saddle Building School Display



Pack Animals

GVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2011 POKER RIDE:

Ag Depot
All West Veterinary
Ardesson Boots and Shoes
Biggerstaff Construction
Big Sky RV
Big Sky Yoga Retreats
Bozeman Saddle Outlet
Bozeman TV & Appliance
Brett Anderson, farrier
Bridger Feeds
Bridger Glass & Windows
Buffalo Bump Pizza
Bunkhouse Originals
CBU (Citizens for Balanced Use)
C'est la Vie Salon
Chalet Market
DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service
Double Diamond Halter Co.
Faithful Friends Animal Clinic
Four Corners Saddlery
Freeway Enterprises
Greater Yellowstone Flyfisher
Hardaway Vet Clinic
Harrington's Beverages
Kitchen T.L.C.

Knife River Road Mix
Kountry Corner Cafe
Lee & Dad's
Mama Mac's
Montana Canvas
Montana Equine Medical & Surgical Center
Montana Harvest
Montana Horse Sanctuary
Montana Horse Sense
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Northern Energy
Owenhouse Ace Hardware
Rapid Tech
R.O. Brooks Custom Leather
Rocky Mountain Hat Company
Rocky Mountain Horseman (Joe Turner)
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