

BOARD MEETINGS:
1st Thursday, 7 PM

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

OUR PURPOSE:

Shall be to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in the back country and assist the various government agencies in their maintenance and management of the resource and to educate, encourage and solicit active participation by various members of the general public in the wise and sustaining use of horses, commensurate with our heritage and the back country resource.

2013 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR**PRESIDENT**

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

VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Haugan ... 539-0538

TREASURER

Debbie Moran ... 509-999-6561

SECRETARY

Marianne Meyer ... 388-2676

DIRECTORS**ONE YEAR TERM**

John Mutter ... 285-0516
Larry Thomas ... 586-6878
Beth Merrick ... 388-4047

TWO YEAR TERM

Dan Porter ... 388-0290, 539-0879
Steve Thienes ... 578-2124
Jim Wing ... 587-8880

STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Marsh (1 year) ... 587-7578
Jim Allbright (2 years) ... 599-4620
Clark Kinney (Alternate) ... 599-4430

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Brant Robey... 222-5971
pbr@wiswest.net

BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578
webmaster@bchmt.org
http://gvbch.bchmt.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

TOWNSEND POKER RIDE : JUNE 1

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY PROJECT : JUNE 15 & 16
Bridger Bowl, contact Rich Inman, 388-1564

 **NEW DATE**

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26

BOARD MEETING : JUNE 6, 7:00 PM
Belgrade Alliance Church

CLINIC AT SPUR LINE : JUNE 8,
1370 Hwy 10 West, Livingston

PONY CLUB HOMECOMING POKER RIDE : JUNE 15
Brennan Ranch, Cardwell

 **Directions
HERE**

POKER RIDE COMMITTEE MEETING : JUNE 20, 6:00 PM
1655 Harper Puckett Road, Bozeman

GENERAL MEETING : JUNE 20, 6:00 PM 

1655 Harper Puckett Road, Bozeman
Come dressed for the weather &
bring a chair to sit on.
Ice Cream Social & Campfire Chat

SPANISH CREEK TRAIL CLEARING : JUNE 29
Contact Dan Porter

**PRESIDENT'S
REPORT:**

Hello Everyone

We are getting closer to summer riding so get those horses and yourself ready for some big fun. The Packing Practice was a huge success and thanks to the Montana Mountain Bike Alliance for their participation, thanks to Clark and Rich and of course, to the cooks for a great lunch; everyone had a great time. If someone needs help with pack saddle fitting or equipment please let someone know and we will help you or find someone who can. We want to encourage you to get out and go packing.

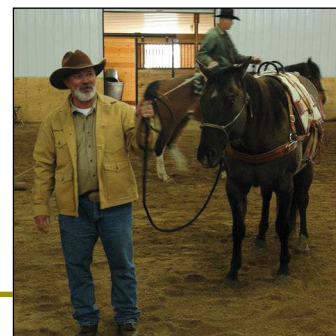
We are in the final stages of planning for the Poker Ride and need all hands on board. The June meeting will be to finish the Poker Ride Volunteer list and put on the finishing touches. Please call Debbie and volunteer if you can't come to the meeting. All members who plan to ride on the Poker Ride please preregister on line [HERE](#).

Watch the web site for updates for upcoming events. Remember the week of July 4th is very busy for us. July 1st we are clearing the Poker Ride trails, July 3rd is the Wounded Warrior Project ride, July 5th is the day we flag the Poker Ride trail and setup the event, July 6th is the 26th annual GVBCBCH Poker Ride, and July 7th is Wounded Warrior Project ride.

Please remember the Ice Cream Social at 6 pm at Montana Horse Sense so please arrive early for the June meeting and enjoy some fellowship with the membership.

Weather permitting we will have a camp fire.
May God Bless the trails you ride.

Henry, President



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 2

Meeting was called to order by Henry Glenn, President. Officers, directors, and state board members attending were Mike, Debbie, Jim Wing, Dan Porter, John, Larry, Beth, Marianne, Dan Marsh, and ex-officio Jim Allbright. Rich Inman served as proxy for Steve Thienes. Also present were Sonya and Janice. We did not have a board meeting in April so there were no minutes to approve.

TEASURER'S REPORT/BILLS

Debbie reported \$3,313.27 in checking and \$15,017.42 in savings. There were no new bills.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership climbed to 73.

ISSUES

No issues. Rich did obtain information regarding DAY RIDES in Yellowstone NP. The park DOES require a current Coggins Test for day rides, but they don't require a permit or health certificate. Remember that any Park employee can ask to see your Coggins papers so have them with you on the ride.

PROGRAMS

May meeting will be at Janice's; presenter will be Dr. Hardaway. Janice asked that members bring folding chairs. June meeting will also be at Janice's starting with ice cream social at 6 pm and ending with a campfire meeting. There will be no program as this is the last meeting to wrap up Poker Ride planning and to tie up loose ends.

OLD BUSINESS

The guys are looking forward to the Packing Event at Twisted Spur on Saturday May 18th. Larry encourages everyone to come. In this setting, so many neat ideas and tricks get shared that otherwise might not come up on a work day or trail ride.

NEW BUSINESS

The local 4-H club contacted Henry about collaborating and involving youth. This would tie well into the challenge made at the State Convention. (All chapters were challenged to start a youth program.) Sonya knew that our local 4-H club now offers packing education; leader's name is Greg Benjamin.

Henry found out that we might lose part of the grant that we were awarded last year. The sequester may mean funding for RACs will be reduced or scratched. Henry will stay on top of it.

POKER RIDE BUSINESS

A link for the Poker Ride is now under "events" on our website. Dan will add a link on the home page as well.

Email notifications of folks pre-registering will be routed to Steve. Debbie will check our mail box every week from now until Poker Ride. Members are encouraged to start pre-registering; it will save time the morning of the ride and pre-registrations will give us an idea of a head count for food.

Harry Huntsinger will profile GVBCH in a newsletter that goes out to 1500 folks. Nice additional publicity.

Raffle prizes need to be rounded up over the next few weeks. Members can donate new items as raffle prizes as well. Some have done so for years. Prizes need to be reported to Barb by 6-15-13 and will be gathered at Mike Haugan's in Belgrade. Thanks to Barb and Mike!

We HAVE to have trash cans by every outhouse. Rich moved to spend approximately \$75 for trash cans as well as trailer stock items. Beth seconded and motion passed.

John moved to adjourn the board meeting, Janice seconded, all voted aye, and motion carried.

Submitted by Marianne Meyer



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 16

PRESENTATION NOTES

Approximately 30 members and guests came to the general meeting at Janice's to listen to Dr. Gordon Hardaway's presentation. He talked about horse first aid in the back country, what to bring on a pack trip or day trip, and we got a bonus lesson on laminitis and the horse's hoof.



Business meeting was called to order by Henry a little after 8pm with officers, directors, and state board members Mike, Debbie, Marianne, Jim Wing, Dan Porter, John, Larry, Beth, Dan Marsh, and Jim Allbright present. Chris Nygren made a motion to approve the minutes for the April meeting. Beth seconded and motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT/BILLS

Debbie reported \$2,874.02 in checking; \$15,017.42 in savings. No new bills. Henry told Debbie that we typically will move about \$3,000 from savings into checking for Poker Ride expenses. After the event, the money can be moved back.

MEMBERSHIP

We received 4 more renewals bringing membership to 77.

ISSUES

No new issues. Same old ones still being watched.

TRAIL CREWS

With grant funds in limbo, our meetings with the Forest Service are held up. We have not received a list of projects for this summer.

PROGRAMS

June general meeting will be at Ron & Janice's on Harper Pucket. 6:00 pm ice cream social, camp fire, and final prep discussion for the Poker Ride. No program. Bring folding chairs.

OLD BUSINESS

Last call to RSVP for Saturday May 18 so Rich has a head count for lunches.

POKER RIDE BUSINESS:

Barb has a spreadsheet of volunteers who rounded up raffle prizes before. Barb and John contacted every one of them and they all agreed to do it again. Don't "freelance" and go asking for prizes without checking with Barb or John first. Someone else may already have that business or person assigned. We do not want to duplicate requests! Prizes must be turned in by June 15th.

Marianne went over the list of areas where we typically put up posters. Posters were handed out to volunteers who will handle the posting. Don't hang them up yet. Wait until after June 1 and even then, you might check a couple of weeks later to see if the poster is still up.

NO NEW BUSINESS

Janice moved to adjourn the meeting, Barb seconded, motion passed and meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Marianne Meyer



MAY PROGRAM: PRACTICAL PACKING CLINIC

May 18th had been circled in red on my calendar since a BCH Clinic was announced early in the year. With a new Fjord horse (hard to fit) who has spent ten years working in an indoor arena, this was a great event for fine-tuning equipment and checking "trail hazards" off the list of potential disasters associated with a new horse.

With a long list of talented experts like Clark Kinney, Larry Thomas, Henry Glenn and Rich Inman there were lots of places to turn for guidance.

Horses with no experience meeting bicycles got an opportunity to mix with bikers from Montana Mountain Bike Alliance in a safe environment and at their own speed of progress. My horse mixed comfortably with the bike riders. Bikers were simultaneously learning to read horse reactions. Talking with horse and riders as bike and horses approach each other was emphasized. The bikers made small, slow circles that the horses could approach and still have space to escape into if needed.

Best of all, horse riders got a chance to see clever modifications and light weight, balanced bike racks made to carry chain saws and other equipment into the forest to do trail work. We are NOT alone in our trail clearing efforts!

The next experience was pulling tree trunks with a rope from on top of the horse. My horse does not neck reign... we employ the ancient art of plow reining, therefore this

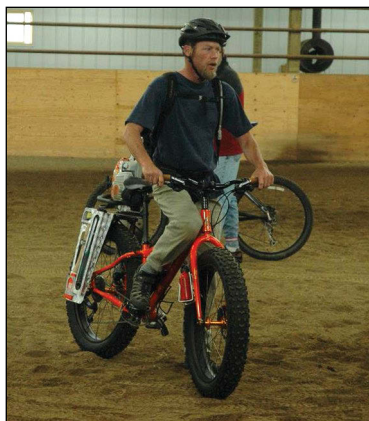
exercise was more complicated, but achievable. It turns out you can steer and hand hold the rope at the same time, and be ready to drop it in the event of a jackpot. Overall, I think most of us were pretty delighted at how well our flight-for-life animals did with these very large, multi-armed objects that unnaturally stayed with us. Riders started out backing their horses while facing the trunk where the horse could easily observe it. The next step was to side pass with the trunk following to the side. This generally turned into a circling of the trunk with the horses making a larger circle and the horse keeping one eye on the drag. Horses with real confidence moved on to the real task: pulling the trunk along behind as the horse moves forward trusting the load behind.

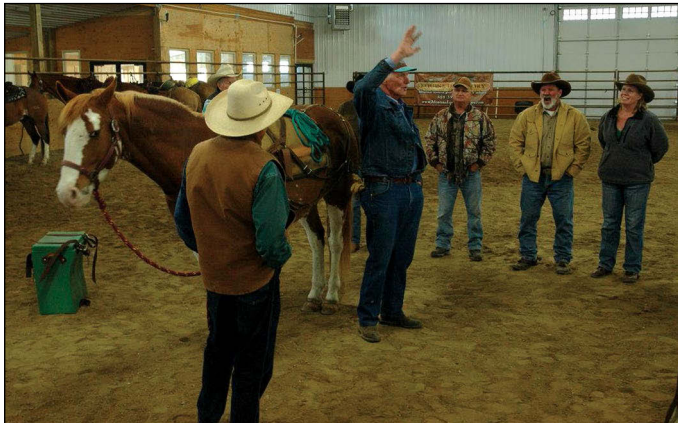
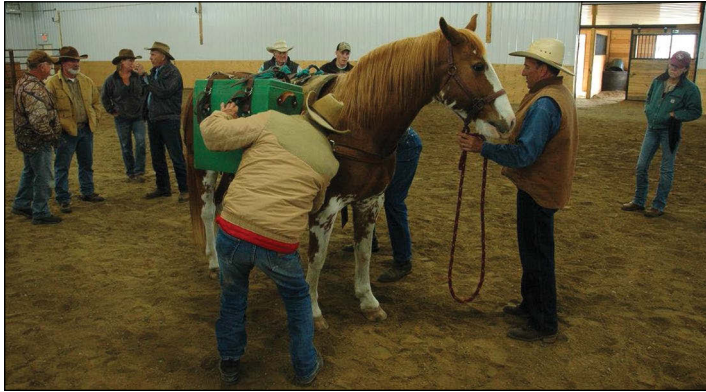
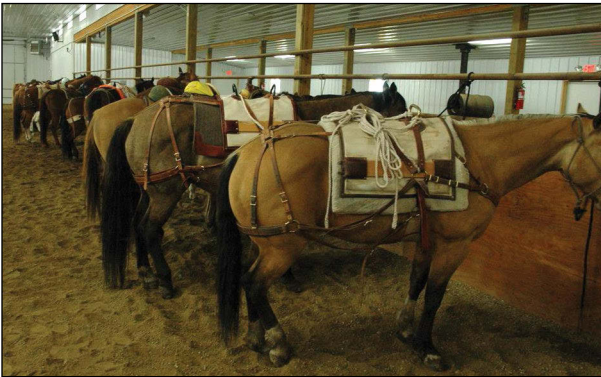
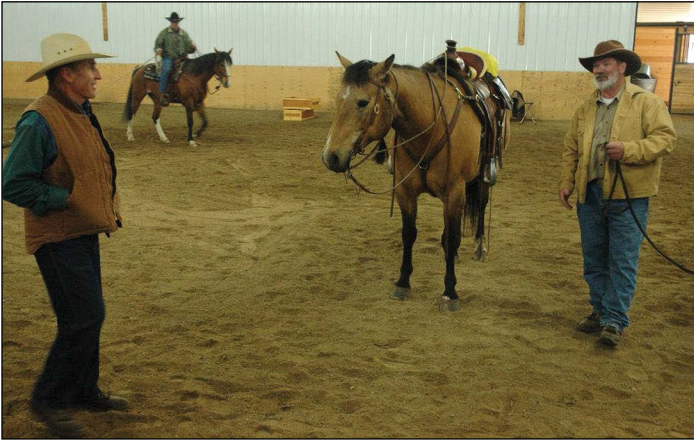
A Q & A session on packing techniques and equipment followed. Lots of experience was shared, but Larry summed things up pretty well: "If it works, is safe and doesn't hurt your horse, do it."

The clinic was organized by Clark Kinney, Larry Thomas, Mike Haugan, Rich Inman and Greg Beardslee representing the mountain bike participants.

The company was great! Lunch, coffee and brownies were outstanding. Thanks to all for a great day of getting set up for summer.

—Beth Merrick





Predator Is As Predator Does

by Jennifer Forsberg Meyer
Horse & Rider Magazine
April 2013

This image always grabs me, and no pun intended. George Stubbs is my all-time favorite painter of horses, but this particular painting is hard to look at, for obvious reasons. It does bring the concept of predator into sharp focus, though, doesn't it? It's also a perfect lead-in to what I'd like to talk about, and that's the difference between being a predator and acting like one.

I've written before about how important it is not to behave in ways that cause your horse to regard you as a predator ("Are You Stalking Your Horse?"). Now, something I read in a book by Robert M. Miller, DVM, over the weekend has clarified this whole concept for me.

You see, it's always been hard for me to imagine any of my horses regarding me as a predator, no matter how I behave. My horses know me. They know how I look and how I smell and the sound of my voice. I'm the person who feeds them and grooms them and scratches their itchy spots. How could they ever view me as a predator?

The answer is, they don't need to. As Dr. Miller makes clear in *Natural Horsemanship Explained*, "Horses are not afraid of predators. They're afraid of predatory behavior."

To support this premise, Miller points out that horses can be persuaded to work with tamed tigers in circus acts—even to the extent of allowing the tigers to ride on their backs. (The lion is behaving like a rider, not a predator.) Zebras aren't alarmed by the sight of a pride of



Image courtesy of Wikigallery.org

lions in repose; they react only when the lions arise and take on a predatory posture, and thereby become menacing.

Most horses aren't automatically afraid of dogs, but if a border collie assumes a stalking pose and fixes its gaze on a horse, the horse will notice and react.

So, think about this when you're working with and riding your horse. If your goal is to form the closest bond with him you possibly can, you'll want to be very mindful of how you behave and the signals you send.

You want to be your horse's respected leader—not something that even vaguely brings to mind Stubbs' lion.



Gallatin Valley
Back Country Horsemen's **26th Annual**

POKER RIDE

July 6 ● Bridger Bowl

Poker Hand Prizes[★] *

- ☞ **Custom 50% Beaver Hat** ☞
Rocky Mountain Hat Company
- ☞ **100 Gallons of Propane** ☞
Northern Energy-Amerigas
- ☞ **Tony Lama Bullhide Boots** ☞
Ardesson Boots & Shoes
- ☞ **Pannier/Bedroll Cover/Manties** ☞
Montana Canvas
- ☞ **Murdoch's \$250 Gift Card** ☞
Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply

Mule Maker Raffle[★]

Stud Service for your mare
with *Gen. Beaudroe* or *Texas Wanderer*
at DJ Bar Ranch

Raffle Prizes[★]

donated by our Sponsors and totaling
over **\$2500**

Coggins NOT Required
No DOGS or STALLIONS

12 mile ride or **8** mile shortcut

PreRegister[★] by June 22 & Save

\$20 Adult PreRegistration:

includes Poker Hand, Raffle Prizes, Dinner

\$10 Children[★] PreRegistration:

(under 12) includes Raffle Prizes and Dinner

\$25 Adult/\$12 Kids on day of ride.

Check In/Depart 8 - 10 am



For Information & PreRegistration SAVINGS visit our website at gvbch.bchmt.org

★ **All minor children** must have a release signed by a parent or legal guardian.

* **Poker hands** must be reported to Registration before 3 pm or draw before riding to win.

☞ **All prizes** must be collected by 4 pm the day of the ride or forfeited.

★ **PreRegistration** is not refundable.

One Extra Poker hand is available for \$25, up to 3 extra cards for \$5 each.

50/50 tickets 3 for \$5.

All participants are subject to Montana Equine Liability Law.



GVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2012 POKER RIDE:

BIG CONTRIBUTORS

Ardeson Boots & Shoes
Montana Canvas
Murdoch's Ranch & Home
Northern Energy Propane
Rocky Mountain Hat Co
DJ Bar Ranch: MULEMAKER

Ag Depot: RAFFLE PRIZE
All West Veterinary Hospital
B&B Plumbing
Big Shooters
Big Sky RV
Bozeman Saddle Outlet
Bridger Glass & Windows
Bunkhouse Originals
C'est La Vie
Chalet Market
Double Diamond
Faithful Friends Animal Clinic
Four Corner Saddlery
Freeway Enterprizes

Hardaway Veterinary Hospital
Knife River
Kountry Korner Café
Lee & Dad's
Mama Mac's
Matt's Saw Shop
Montana Equine Medical
Montana Side Saddle
Owenhouse Ace Hardware
R.O. Brooks Custom Leather
Remuda Coffee
Rocky Mountain Supply
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