

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.

2014 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR

PRESIDENT

Henry Glenn ... 578-2084
sedancowboy@outlook.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Rich Inman ... 388-1564

TREASURER

Debbie Moran ... 509-999-6561

SECRETARY

Sharon Fraser ... 539-2783

DIRECTORS

ONE YEAR TERM

Dan Porter ... 388-0290, 539-0879

Steve Thienes ... 578-2124

Jim Wing ... 587-8880

TWO YEAR TERM

John Mutter ... 285-0516

Larry Thomas ... 586-6878

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578

STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Rich Inman (2 years) ... 388-1564

Jim Allbright (1 year) ... 599-4620

John Mutter (Alternate) ... 285-0516

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:

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25

BOARD MEETING : JUNE 5, 7:00 PM

Belgrade Alliance Church

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY : JUNE 7

TOWNSEND RIDERS HORSE CLUB POKER RIDE : JUNE 7

PONY POKER RIDE : JUNE 14

854 Montana Highway 359, Cardwell

[MAP HERE](#)

401 TRAIL MAINTENANCE : JUNE 16 - 29

Spanish Creek Cabin

POKER RIDE MEETING : JUNE 19, 6:00 PM

Janice Cartwright, 1655 Harper Puckett Rd

GENERAL MEETING : JUNE 19, 7:00 PM

Janice Cartwright, 1655 Harper Puckett Road



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hello Everyone,

The snow is melting and the trails are beginning to dry out. The Red Bluff ride looked like fun from the feedback I got.

Molly and I enjoyed visiting family on the east coast but are glad to be back to Montana the land of low humidity which we have grown to love.

Please note meeting place changes as we go through the summer. The Spanish Creek info is elsewhere in the newsletter; please read and let us know where you can help. The main focus will be on the Cabin roof and the trails. We plan on the trail work focusing on the weekend of the 21st of June. Please contact Larry if you can come and help.

The Poker Ride is coming together nicely, please volunteer where you can so we can spread the work load out. The set up is Friday evening and we have a pot luck afterwards that is always fun.

Lets all come together as a club and make these projects successful and fun.

Henry

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES — MAY 1

The May Board meeting was called to order shortly after 7 pm at the Silver Spur Arena in Belgrade. Present were officers Henry Glenn, Rich Inman, Debbie Moran, Sharon Fraser. Directors Jim Wing, John Mutter, Larry Thomas, Dan Marsh, State board members Rich Inman and John Mutter. Beth Merrick and Sonya Berg were also present.

There was no board meeting in April.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking \$3090.74 Savings \$20,023.98.

Donations made in memory of Bettye White received from Pat McHenry, Hup Davis, and Tamzin Brown.

MEMBERSHIP:

61 paid memberships (family and individual).

PUBLICITY:

Beth and Debbie to do (same as last year's) advertising for poker ride. Possible TV PSA spot.

TRAIL CREWS:

Spanish Creek cabin reserved for June 16th (Monday) – 29th (Sunday).

Discussion on summary of work to be done at Spanish Creek – discussion about cabin roof, trails, feed bunks, corrals at cabin. Larry emphasized trail work as main priority.

PROGRAMS:

Saw training, first aid, bear spring. Dates are in Henry's letter in the May newsletter and on the website.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion about purchasing a trauma kit. More information and prices to follow.

Discussion about purchasing new tent stakes. Rich motioned for approval of purchase Debbie seconded, no one opposed.

Motion to cancel July board meeting made by Debbie, seconded by Larry, all were in favor.

Ice Cream Social at Janice and Ron's on June 19th. Final poker ride committee meeting beforehand.

A motion was made by John and seconded by Rich to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye.



Greetings to you BCHers,

Some of you may have heard via the grapevine and other sources about the Spanish Creek cabin/trail project coming in June. Yes it is for real and not a rumor. We have the administrative site reserved from 6/16 through 6/29. Our plans include putting a new roof on the cabin and doing some major maintenance on the 401 trail that goes to the west behind the Turner ranch and toward Cherry Lake. Here is your opportunity to come join in the great fellowship we will have working with each other. You can come help for one day or several days or the whole 14 days, whatever your schedule will allow. Come prepared to self subsist. With the roof scheduled for replacement, we are not sure the cabin will be available for occupancy. It only sleeps 5 anyway. Bring your tent, your trailer or whatever your choice of lodging and come join us. Plan for your own groceries. Henry and Molly have offered to cook at least one group meal and we need a head count for that. That group meal will most likely be on the weekend of 6/21-22. Here is what we need from you. (1) Please plan to come be part of this project. We need your help. (2) If you can help with the trail project, let Larry Thomas (586-6878) know what days you can be there. The Montana Mountain Bike Alliance will be joining us on the trail project 6/20-22. (3) If you want to help with the cabin roof project, let Henry Glenn (578-2084) know what days you can be there. In short, we need to know what days you plan to be there so we can plan for tools, materials, supervision, etc. Horses are welcome as we have the whole administrative site available. There are corrals available that we built a few years ago. They are on a first come basis. Weed free feed only.

We plan to go in about 3 miles on the 401 trail to begin the work and work our way back toward Spanish. Your choice as to walk, bike or horse. Most of the work will be water control structures.

Any questions about this opportunity, please call Rich Inman at 388-1564.

The General Meeting was called to order by Rich Inman after Kay Tate's presentation. The meeting was held at the Silver Spur Arena in Belgrade. Approximately 30 members were present.

For the program, Kay Tate shared entertaining stories and insights on her lifetime experiences with horses, trails and adventure. She also shared her amazing photo albums and banana cake.

After Kay's talk, names were put into a hat (okay an old plastic bowl) for the drawing to win a Walter Becker hand-tied halter. Congratulations to Kay, the winner.

The June general meeting will be held at Janice and Ron's place at 1655 Harper Puckett Rd., just south of Valley Center Rd. Look for the big white Cover-all arena. Poker Ride Committee meeting at 6 pm, Ice Cream Social starting at 7 pm.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Dan and seconded by John to accept the minutes of the April 2014 general meeting as printed in the newsletter. All voted aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking \$3,090.74, Savings \$20,023.98.

MEMBERSHIP:

Approximately 64 paid 2014 memberships.

Thank you to DJ Kominsky, Pat McHenry, Tanzin Brown and Hup Davis for their donations in memory of Bettye White.

TRAIL CREWS:

Larry Thomas discussed Spanish Creek trail work to be done on June 20-22. Work will be focused on the 401 trail washouts and will include water control measures to be done with onsite materials. In order to coordinate our efforts contact Rich, Henry or Larry if you are available to help. Please see Rich's article for more information and specifics.

RIDES:

The Red Bluff Trail Ride held on May 3rd was a wonderful spring ride with 9 people and 11 horses attending.

There was discussion on having a project and/or ride at Copper City on Trails Day June 6th.

NEW BUSINESS:

Posters are ready and were available at the meeting for the 2014 Poker Ride to be held on July 12th at Bridger Bowl. Preregistration is available on the website or by mail. Work is in progress to allow credit cards to be used for the silent auction items.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Statewide 4-H Packing Clinic was "worth every hour" (420hrs volunteered).

Members are encouraged to check out the improved BCHA website at backcountryhorse.com.

Dan Porter made a motion to have the minutes recited at meetings. Billy Thomas seconded. Motion passed.

A motion was made by John Mutter to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Kay Tate. All voted aye.

The *June General Meeting* (June 19th) is also our Ice Cream Sundae (and S'mores) Social. This meeting will be held at Janice and Ron's - 1655 Harper Puckett Road, off of Valley Center in Bozeman. BRING A CHAIR and get ready to build an ice cream sundae or roast some marshmallows. The "Social" starts at 6 pm. The meeting starts at 7 pm. Please park on the gravel, not the grassy areas. Parking "attendants" will be on hand to direct traffic and help conserve parking spaces. Janice's phone number is 406-579-3445. We'll expect to see you there.





In the Henry Mountains of Montana, horsemen and bicyclists work together to clear and maintain the Mile Creek segment of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail that they share.

BACKCOUNTRY

Cooperative Spirit

Celebrate National Trails Day by volunteering on a trail crew and helping to protect your right to ride.

BY RYAN T. BELL

EVERY YEAR, THE FIRST SATURDAY of June is National Trails Day, an event when volunteers from all walks of life heft chainsaws, shovels and Pulaskis in the spirit of caring for America's trails. Why not join them? Volunteering is a great way to give back to the public lands that make backcountry trail riding possible. But if that's not reason enough, consider this: Public trails are in crisis.

According to a 2013 report, only 25 percent of trails in national forests meet maintenance standards. The report was conducted by the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), a congressional watchdog group, at the behest of two organizations—Back Country Horsemen of America and the Wilderness Society—

whose members have witnessed firsthand the sorry state of American trails. The U.S. Forest Service has fallen woefully behind on trail maintenance because of a funding shortage. In a regular year, the Forest Service spends \$210 million maintaining its 158,000-mile trail network. The GAO found that in 2012, the report's study year, the

agency spent only \$80 million. Divide that by the number of people who visit national forests each year—165 million—and it means the agency spent about 50 cents per person in trail maintenance.

Today's economic reality doesn't make it likely that Congress will increase the Forest Service's budget anytime soon, so the GAO recommends that the Forest Service expand the role played by volunteer trail crews.

Jim McGarvey, chairman of the BCHA, agrees.

"Our trails won't take care of themselves, so collaboration and leveraging resources and volunteer power is the name of the game now," McGarvey says.

And that's why this year's National Trails Day is more important than ever.

Volunteering benefits horsemen in ways beyond opening trail access. By rubbing elbows with hikers, mountain bikers and local landowners, horsemen can foster a spirit of camaraderie and understanding among all backcountry user groups.

Take, for example, the unlikely partnership in southwest Montana between the Gallatin Valley chapter of BCHA and a mountain bike advocacy group called Montana Mountain Bike Alliance (MMBA). They frequent the same trails in the Gallatin National Forest, and each summer they join forces to clear trails together,

“Horsemen and mountain bikers are out there for the same experience, to explore public land in a form of quiet-use recreation,” says Bob Allen, co-president of MMBA.

No matter their favored mode of transportation, MBA and BCHA share in common the mission of being stewards of the public lands that sustain their recreation, BCHA is more than 40 years old, while MMBA was created in 2007. Nevertheless, the groups share an ethic of rolling up their sleeves to clear trails as a way to demonstrate they are vested stakeholders in the land,

As it happened, a founding member of MMBA, Corey Biggers, married into a family of horsemen. In fact, he started mountain biking because of them. Biggers was allergic to horses, so in order to join family hunting trips he started riding a bike into the backcountry, That was in the 1980s, long before mountain biking became popular.

“My bike is my horse,” Biggers says.

His father-in-law, Clark Kinney, was a veteran member of BCHA. Realizing that their interests overlapped, the men organized a joint BCHA-MMBA work party. It was a good fit for a lot of reasons, The BCHA members were an aging bunch, for one, and the bikers provided much-appreciated muscle. And the horsemen helped the bikers by packing their tools and lunches.

The bikers rode ahead and when they found an obstacle, such as an avalanche washout, downed tree or crumbled trail tread, they waited for the tool-toting packstring, which was never far behind.

“Those young guys didn’t mind us coming along with cold drinks and lunches,” Kinney says.

Their joint trail crew of six horsemen and 20 bikers was a force to be reckoned with. In on day, they cleared an 18-mile route that had been closed for 15 years due to a lack of maintenance.

While building a physical trail, they also built symbolic bridges between the seemingly disparate worlds of horsemen and bikers, Over lunch, they talked about how to solve the challenges of a mixed-use trail. They learned how a well-designed trail can decrease dangerous horse-bike encounters. For example, limbed-up trees can improve sight lines so each can see the other coming, and long straightaways provide safe locations to pass.

By installing trail features such as water bars and switchbacks, referred to as “speed checks,” reckless bikers—which Bob Allen calls the “bad apples”—are forced to reduce velocity.

The outing had unintended outcomes, too. The horses quickly became accustomed to the presence of bikes, and

the bikers learned something about how to act around horses.

“Those mountain bikers gained a lot of respect from us horsemen for the way they came to us and asked how we could all get along,” Kinney says. “They said, ‘What do we need to do to make the horses comfortable with us?’ I realized they were as afraid of getting kicked by a horse as the horses were of their bicycles.”

The horsemen were so won over by the bikers that, every summer since, they’ve partnered to clear trails together. In fact, one BCHA member, who is known for being an old cowboy curmudgeon, says now he won’t go trail clearing unless the bikers are coming along.

“Now, when we see mountain bikers in the backcountry, they are our friends, not our enemies,” Kinney says.

Cleared trails and clearer understanding—that’s the power of National Trails Day.

Contributing editor RYAN T. BELL lives in Montana. Reprinted with permission.

RED BLUFF RIDE — MAY 3



On April 26th at 0930, 9 hearty horse loving souls gathered at the Red Bluff cemetery to begin the first Red Bluff ride in 3 years. Previous years have been rained or snowed out. Blue skies and sunshine accompanied us as we left the trailers. The “first

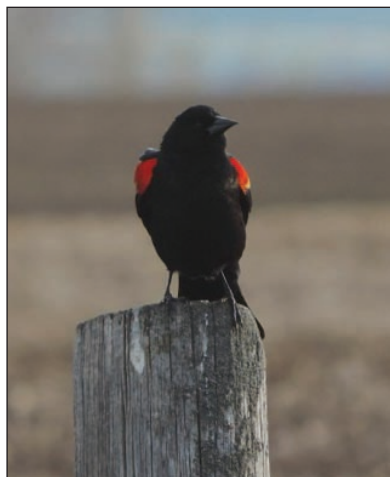
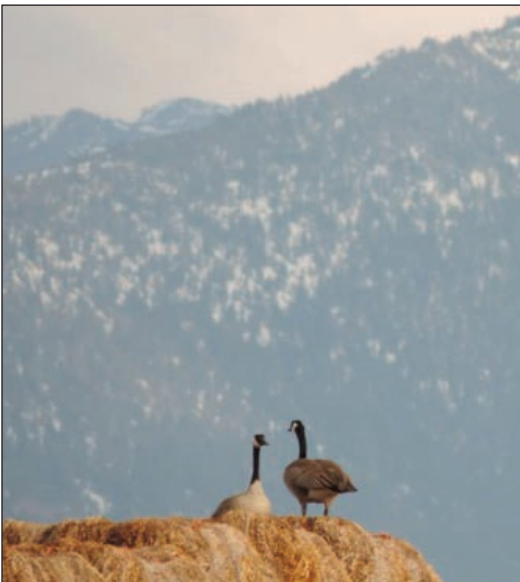
20 minute” rule went well except for Rich’s horse doing some unneeded prancing and dancing. The first mile was a gradual up the ridge meander that settled most of the spring jitters. It was nice to have a wind breaker as a light wind was blowing. Once on top, you could see 7 different mountain ranges all pretty much covered in snow. Was a great sight to see all the



snow-capped mountains standing against the blue sky. After an hour of up and down hills, we found a lunch spot overlooking the Beartrap Canyon Wilderness on the Madison River. We had a good look at the fire scar from 2 years ago. We enjoyed a nice picnic lunch and shared stories. Everyone found their own favorite rock for a seat.. The horses really enjoyed the new native grass. After lunch we worked our way back to Red Bluff and on home to Saturday afternoon chores. It was a good spring conditioning ride for both riders and horses. — Rich Inman



HORSING AROUND



GVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2013 POKER RIDE:

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All West Veterinary Hospital
B&B Plumbing
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