

BOARD MEETINGS:  
1st Thursday, 7 PM

GENERAL MEETINGS:  
3rd Thursday, 7 PM  
Silver Spur Arena  
115 Dirt Road, Belgrade

**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:**

BOARD MEETING : MAY 1, 7:00 PM

Silver Spur Arena

RED BLUFF TRAIL RIDE : MAY 3, 9:30 AM

Call Rich Inman for information: 388-1564

SAW TRAINING RENEWAL : MAY 10

SAW TRAINING FIRST-TIME: MAY 17

POKER RIDE MEETING : MAY 15, 6:00 PM

Silver Spur Arena

GENERAL MEETING : MAY 15, 7:00 PM

Silver Spur Arena

VIRGINIA CITY POKER RIDE : MAY 24

GALLATIN RIVER RANCH POKER RIDE : MAY 31

Equestrian Center Loop, Manhattan. 284-3200 (MAP)

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Hello Everyone,

Just as Spring was about burst forth we got snow this morning. The 4H Clinic was a huge success and there is an article and pics elsewhere in the newsletter.

We are getting ready for another season of trail work and we are kicking it off with a blast at Spanish Creek on the 16th of June. We will have the cabin reserved for 2 weeks so come and help with trails in the area and help work on the cabin.

If you need to renew your saw training there is a class on the 10th of May. If you need saw training for the first time there will be a class on May 17th. As a note, you don't need everyone on a crew to have saw training just the ones using the saw.

A class on Bear Spray is on June 5th and First Aid is June 6th space is limited in these classes so contact me. I hope everyone will come out for the May meeting at Silver Spur to see Kay Tate give a presentation on her experiences riding the trails of Montana. She is a wealth of knowledge and has some stories to tell.

Thanks to Debbie Moran for again being the coordinator for the Poker Ride. Please volunteer to help her where you can. Mark your calendars for July 12th and bring lots of friends to the 27th annual Poker Ride.

*Henry*

— THERE WAS NO BOARD MEETING IN APRIL —

The business meeting was called to order by Henry with officers, directors & state board members Rich, Debbie, Sharon, Dan P, Steve, John, Larry, Dan M and Jim A. present. Minutes from the March general meeting were approved by a motion from Jim and seconded by Janice.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Checking \$3,581.18. Savings \$20,023.98. No new bills.

A motion was made by Rich and seconded by Jim to accept the Treasurer's report. All voted aye.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Approximately 60 paid memberships so far this year. Many coming in from the mailing send out by Marianne.

**EVENTS:**

2014 Poker Ride on July 12th at Bridger Bowl. There will be a 10 mile ride, food, tons of prizes and a silent auction. Debbie and Sara are co-chairing the committee. The next Poker Ride committee meeting is before the general meeting on May 15th at Silver Spur Arena in Belgrade.

**NO NEW BUSINESS**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The 4-H Packing Clinic was a great success and was attended by 50+ youngsters. Over 400 hours were donated for the project. Look for pictures on the GVBCH Facebook page.

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

**Greetings all you Gallatin Valley Back County Horsemen,**

Now that the snow is slowly retreating and the grass is greening up it is time to think about our summer projects and your participation. I invite each of you to come participate in some project. They are listed on the schedule on our website along with the contact person. We have cabins to repair, trails to maintain and freight to pack into various places. It is a time of great fellowship with other members; a time of learning and doing; and just a great opportunity for you and your horse to be out enjoying this great creation. Try something new and different. I look forward to seeing you.

For those of you who did not know, we just finished teaching basic packing skills to 52 4-H youth. We did this in two sessions on 3/22 and 4/12 at the Silver Spur arena. Molly Glenn took some great pictures some of which I am sure will show up in coming newsletters. Nineteen of our members helped teach and facilitate these two sessions putting in over 400 hours into the planning, preparation and implementation. The youth learned from us and we learned from them. What great young people to work with. Many thanks to Harry Huntsinger for making sure we had great lunches and snacks. We plan to do this each year as long as the need and desire are there. My thanks to each and every one of our members who helped make this event possible.

—Rich Inman

## STATE BOARD MEETING — MINUTES

### MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2014, PRE-CONVENTION STATE BOARD MEETING MISSOULA, MT

The minutes for the December meeting were approved. Sandy Taylor, Treasurer presented the 2013 year-end figures and the 2014 projected budget showing a deficit of \$3,232. Rich Carl is working on getting 501c3 status for the state organization. The national directors reported Jim McGarvey BCHA chairman was attending the convention. Dave Crawford was working on the volunteer hours report and still had not got the hours from all the chapters. A motion was made to use the BCHA form for reporting hours. The motion was tabled until the Sunday meeting. There was a meeting later in the day to go over how to fill out the volunteer forms. Fred Fitzpatrick the issues chair said an Idaho chapter has contracted with the Boy Scouts to work on the horsemanship merit badge. The Blackfoot travel plan is out with the final decision in August. GPS maps are available for download to smart phones. The Hi-Line chapter has not been to any meetings except by telephone for quite a while. Charley O'Leary wanted more content for the state newsletter. Dan Marsh requested chapters update the information on the web pages. A new movie called "Untrammled" was a joint effort between BCHM and the Forest Service. Scott Kisser got donations for 800 numbers for the conference calls from CentryLink and a private donor. Selway-Pintler is holding the 2015 convention in Hamilton. The 2016 convention will be held by the East Slope chapter. Resolutions will be voted on at the convention. Nominations for new officers and directors were Connie Long for Chairman, Brad Pollman for Vice Chairman, Rich Carl for treasurer, Chuck Miller National Director, and John Chepulis as Alternate. Joni Packard of the USFS said the Challenge Cost Share and Volunteer agreement can be used in tandem. A pool was created at the national level for Workman's Comp so the districts don't have to pay out of their trail budget. The Utah BCH issued a challenge to BCHM to provide a \$1500 donation to the BCHA for a fund raising video. A motion was made and tabled to accept the challenge. An audit committee was formed to go over the books and the meeting was adjourned.

### MINUTES OF THE 2014 STATE CONVENTION, APRIL 5-6, DAY 1.

Meeting was called to order and the flag was presented by the local FFA. Missoula presented a slide show of their chapter. Mark Himmel outgoing chair was presented an embroidered vest for his service. Sandy reported a membership of 1,115 down 32 from last year. The Wyoming resolution to have divided National Board Meeting was discussed and a vote was taken against the resolution. The National Directors will pass this along at their national meeting. Dave Crawford said three chapters had still not provided him their volunteer hours. The video "Untrammled" was shown as part of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The proposed resolution

for funding a youth program was passed. The Beartooth resolution presented by John Simmons about limited entry ways was passed. Wild Horse Plains presented a video on the rehabilitation of Big Hole Peak Lookout. We watched a demonstration from the Nine Mile Pack String. Lee Bowman of the MT Wilderness Assoc. presented and thanked the BCH for all of their work. Fria Lovato provided a prospective as a youth going into the Bob last year. Jim McGarvey showed a presentation to show people what we do. Senator Walsh was unable to attend but made a video thanking BCH for their work. A video "How About Them Cowgirls" was presented.

### DAY 2.

Casey Burns of the Nine Mile Ranger District presented a slide show. Sandy Taylor treasurer said the 50/50 brought in \$773, the live auction brought in \$2,315, buckles \$220, and canvas bags \$56. Audit Committee reported everything was good. Joni Packard thanked Mark and the BCH for their work and said a new filming project called "Urban America Outdoors" is in the works. The National Directors Chuck Miller and Alt John Chepulis were voted on and approved. The photo contest winners were announced with the people's choice going to Cindy Betlach of Cabinet. Kathy Hundley presented a slide show for next year's convention in Hamilton. Rick Potts presented a \$700 check to support the budget item for youth education.

### MINUTES OF THE APRIL 6, POST-CONVENTION STATE BOARD MEETING

Bills were presented and paid and minutes approved. The Volunteer Hours Report motion was passed to use the BCHA form with the reports due on October 1 to match the FS deadline. A page will be put on the web site for chapters to enter the summary information. The Utah challenge to give \$1,500 to BCHA was discussed and the motion was carried. Jim Albright was they only no vote. Three Rivers said they would host the convention in 2017. The new Chairman Connie Long, Vice Chair Brad Pollman, and Treasurer Rich Carl were voted in by acclamation. Nancy Pollman agreed to be the secretary for another year. There will be no May board meeting, the next will be September 20 at the Broken Arrow in Deer Lodge, December 6th in Missoula at the Quality Inn, and March 27, 2015 in Hamilton at the Bitterroot River Inn. An email will be sent to the directors concerning HR1526 and a vote will be taken on our position. Charlie O'Leary asked about the Recreation Trails Program and its future.

—Dan Marsh  
Ex-State Director

## 4-H CLINIC

One of the goals of Back Country Horsemen is to get more youth involved to help preserve the heritage and culture of pack and saddle stock use in the back country. With that in mind, the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen decided to approach both FFA and 4-H leaders to determine the need or interest in such a program. An opportunity with 4-H came to life almost immediately. After several meetings with Todd Kessner, Larry Thomas, Clark Kinney, Harry Huntsinger and Rich Inman the idea took hold. Dates were set (3/22 & 4/12) and the core group met with Dale Moore to design the 4-H program. Clark Kinney heard that 4-H leader Greg Benjamin was teaching packing to his club so he was contacted by Clark and invited to join us.

The program was designed to be a two day event running from 9:30 to 4:00 each day. The clinic started with Bob Hoverson, retired former manager of the US Forest Service pack string, giving a great talk with pictures about his 30+ years of experience as pack string manager. This was followed by a 12 head pack string entry showing the various types of packs, boxes and hitches. After introductions, pledge of allegiance, and a general orientation the 27 participants were divided into small groups. Each group would go through six instructional stations to get hands on knowledge of the various techniques/skills needed in packing stock. Each station was about 1 hour with only two stations completed at the March 22 clinic. The other four stations will be completed at the April 12 session.

The instructional stations were:

- #1 Manty packs, ropes, scales: Henry Glenn, Tom Finlay
- #2 Panniers, highlines: Larry Thomas, Rich Inman
- #3 Boxes, hard panniers: Mike Haugen, Dale Moore
- #4 Top packs: Greg Benjamin
- #5 Saddle horse equipment, electric fences: Clark Kinney
- #6 Medical, safety: Dan Marsh, John Mutter

A great pulled pork lunch was served at noon. Everyone enjoyed the drinks, pulled pork and macaroni salad provided by Four Corners Cafe. Montana Canvas donated a set of soft panniers as a raffle prize for this session and another prize for the April 12 session.



Preparation for this event was done by 12 GVBCH volunteers who donated about 3 hours each on Friday night to get things set up. They were rewarded with pizza and pop purchased by our chapter. I offer my heart felt thanks to all our GVBCH volunteers and 14 sponsors who made this event possible.

Our sponsors are:

Montana Crane Service, Rich's Flooring, Quality Inn, Silver Spur Arena, Southwestern Montana Financial Center, Walker Excavation, Montana Canvas, Rocky Mountain Supply, Jackpot Casino, Elite Kubota, Charlie Hoekema Trucking, Bill Harrison Trucking, Lee Eblen, and Walker Construction.

—Rich Inman



4-H CLINIC





1st Annual  
GALLATIN RIVER RANCH

*Poker ride*



**\$500**  
*in cash prizes*

top 4 hands win!

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2014



**Earlybird Entry Fee:** \$25  
**1st Rider Starts:** 10:00 am  
**Last Card BBQ:** 1:00 pm

Ride starts at the GRR Equestrian Center located at  
591 Equestrian Center Loop in Manhattan, MT  
Early Bird Registration: [GallatinRiverRanch.com](http://GallatinRiverRanch.com)

Entry fees benefit the Gallatin River Ranch Volunteer Fire Department.  
For more information, contact the Gallatin River Ranch Sales Office at 406.284.3200

## BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA



Dear BCHA members,

Bryce Canyon National Park has proposed changes for users of privately-owned stock on designated horse trails within the park. The changes are intended to ensure the safety of all visitors and to protect park resources. The park initiated a public comment period on the proposed changes for 30 days beginning March 26, 2014.

The changes proposed by Bryce Canyon National Park include a requirement that all horseback riding must be coordinated with the park's authorized trail-ride concessioner, prior to entering the park. Of concern, however, is that private stock users also would be required to pay a substantial fee to the park's concessioner to guide and accompany all privately-owned stock riding groups for the duration of their trip over any portion of the eight miles of park trails available for stock use.

The fee that would be charged by the concessioner for this service would be based on the number of riders, up to eight riders per guide. The proposed fee schedule would range from \$100 for the first rider to \$345 for eight riders.

For more information, view the Park's website here:

<http://www.nps.gov/bcrca/parknews/proposed-rule-change-for-private-horse-use.htm>

If approved, the proposed changes would represent a new and disturbing precedent among National Parks to require all private stock users to hire a commercial guide. We are not aware of any National Park where such a requirement currently exists. Nor does BCHA want to see this precedent established at Bryce Canyon. In order to adequately resolve concerns regarding visitor safety, we believe that alternative measures can be taken that emphasize rider education, resource protection, and the role of law enforcement in dealing with rogue riders who choose to violate the rules.

The public is encouraged to submit comments by May 24, 2014, via email to the following address: [brca\\_information@nps.gov](mailto:brca_information@nps.gov), or mail your comments to: Program Analyst, Bryce Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 640201, Bryce, Utah 84764

BCHA's Advisor for Wilderness & Recreation is coordinating the public comment effort with BCH Utah's Officer for Public Lands. They recommend you consider including some or all of the following talking points in your comments to Bryce Canyon National Park.

Remember, "Cool heads prevail." It's important to be courteous, to make constructive recommendations that address the safety problem and, importantly, to demonstrate your passion and knowledge by adding your personal story among these talking points:

- I am writing about the Proposed Rule Change for Private Horse Use.
- As a private user of recreational stock, I recognize the importance of minimizing safety hazards and resource damage on our public lands.
- I appreciate the Park Superintendent's announcement of a 30-day comment period on the matter. By doing so, he recognized the high level of public interest and desire of visitors who use their horses and mules to enjoy the beauty and splendor of Bryce Canyon and other National Parks.

- I understand that portions of the trails at Bryce Canyon are unusually narrow and steep. This is why horse trails at the park are designated "one-way," in order to minimize the potential for parties on horseback to pass each other along segments of trail where it is dangerous to do so.
- I understand that additional measures are needed to avoid private and commercially-guided parties from converging at those sections of trail where there is high safety risk.
- I do not, however, support the park's current proposal that all private stock parties be required to hire the services of a commercial guide.
- Instead, I understand the Park Superintendent is open to constructive comments that would help alleviate the safety situation and ensure that riders stay on designated trails and not damage park resources.
- In addition to the currently required 48-hour advance check-in by private stock users, I recommend the park adopt an alternative that would restrict the time(s) of day a private party be allowed to traverse sections of trail where there is high safety risk, in order to allow commercially-guided trips safe passage.
- I understand the need to minimize damage to off-trail soils and cultural resources.
- I recommend that private stock parties be required to check in--prior to riding in the park--both to coordinate departure/itinerary logistics regarding rider safety and to receive a briefing from either park or commercial outfitter personnel. The briefing could be used to convey regulations pertaining to use of park trails, including prohibitions on off-trail travel, cutting of switchbacks and riding parallel or side-by-side on designated trails where the trail tread is narrow.
- I do not object to paying a modest fee to cover agency and/or commercial outfitter costs associated with the recommended pre-departure briefing for private stock parties.
- I encourage the Park Service to explore methods by which NPS law enforcement personnel can more readily identify and make contact with stock users who do not follow the rules. These methods should emphasize streamlined communication with park volunteers and the stock concession operator to report violations in a timely manner.
- I understand that Back Country Horsemen of Utah (BCHU) has volunteered to assist the Park Service in developing a curriculum of the pre-trip training for private stock users. They have several Master Trainers versed in Leave No Trace techniques, and the Park Service would benefit from cultivating closer relations with BCHU and enlisting their assistance.
- I appreciate this opportunity to provide public comment.
- Thank you for your effort to make the unique trail experience offered at Bryce Canyon safe and affordable for everyone. I look forward to my next visit to Bryce Canyon National Park.

*BCHA:*

*Working to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.*

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

Ardeson Boots & Shoes  
Montana Canvas  
Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply  
Northern Energy Propane  
Rocky Mountain Hat Company  
DJ Bar Ranch  
Ag Depot  
All West Veterinary Hospital  
B&B Plumbing  
Big Shooters Espresso  
Big Sky RV  
Bozeman Saddle Outlet  
Bridger Glass & Windows  
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C'est la Vie Salon  
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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 & Surgical  
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Mountain Arts Pottery / Coffee Pot Bakery  
Three Forks Saddlery  
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Wheat Montana  
Yellowstone Country-Belgrade  
Harrington's Pepsi Cola

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Rich Inman  
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Janice Cartwright  
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