

BOARD MEETINGS:
3rd Thursday, 6 PM

GENERAL MEETINGS:
3rd Thursday, 7 PM

Springhill Church
4769 West Babcock, Bozeman

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

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578
dmarsh@live.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Dan Porter ... 539-0879

TREASURER

Sharon Fraser ... 539-2783

SECRETARY

Tamara Erickson ... 451-8186

DIRECTORS

ONE YEAR TERM

John Mutter ... 285-0516

Larry Thomas ... 586-6878

Mark DeOpsomer ... 585-7835

TWO YEAR TERM

CLARK KINNEY ... 599-4430

CHRIS NYGREN ... 546-7550

CARL BLASKOVICH ... 388-4640

STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Rich Inman (1 year) ... 388-1564

Henry Glenn (2 years) ... 578-2084

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:

4H CLINIC 4 : APRIL 11, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Circle L Arena, Belgrade

EQUINE BOOSTERS TOP OF THE WEST HORSE SALE : APRIL 11

Copper Spring Ranch, Bozeman

POKER RIDE COMMITTEE : APRIL 13, 7:00 PM

170 Kimber CT, Bozeman

BOARD MEETING : APRIL 16, 5:30 PM

Springhill Church

POTLUCK : APRIL 16, 6:00 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : APRIL 16, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Happy Easter everyone.

In March, we had a great presentation and goodies from our local 4-H participants giving us their perspective on the packing clinics they have attended and the packing trips they made using the knowledge they have gained the last few years. They held a raffle for a First Aid kit from Sue Geske of Double Diamond Veterinary Hospital to raise money for food and with a matching amount from Harry Huntsinger they were able to raise enough for their next trip. The prize was won by yours truly and I am in the process of building it up to make a good horse trailer First Aid kit out of it. Sue has also said she would provide a Coggins Test & Health Certificate at a reasonable rate once we pick a date and place for it. The 4-H clinic at Circle L Arena had over 80 people attending and everyone seemed to learn a lot and have a good time.

We had a great State Convention sponsored by the Selway/Pintler Wilderness Chapter in Hamilton. Nobody from our group took home the mule or any of the raffle prizes:-) We are moving along on getting the Poker Ride organized thanks to Tamara Erickson. If you can help out in any way please contact Tamara and let her know you want to help. Tamara is also our new secretary and she would really appreciate it if you could say your name when you make a motion or speak at the meeting until she gets to know everyone. We are still working out the details of the First Aid training that Jeremiah Kunzman is providing for our sawyers. The April program is going to be our annual potluck before the program presented by the Forest Service on what they need from us as volunteers. We will start the board meeting at 5:30 pm and make it a short one that will end at 6:00 pm. The potluck will be from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm with the FS program following at 7:00 pm and the general meeting at 8:00 pm. I hope to see everyone there and please invite a friend and remember to pay your dues for 2015 if you have been putting that off for a while. Since we are having an early spring I hope to see you on the trails soon.

Respectfully Submitted, *Dan Marsh*

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19**

6:00 PM Meeting called by Dan Marsh

Attendees: Dan Marsh, Dan Porter, Tamara Erickson, John Mutter, Larry Thomas, Clark Kinney, Chris Nygren, Carl Blaskovich, Rich Inman, Henry Glen, John Mutter, Harry Huntsinger

Minutes of the last board meeting were accepted by John Mutter, and seconded by Larry Thomas.

FINANCE REPORT/NEW BILLS:

The finance report was made by Dan Porter standing in for Sharon Fraser who was not in attendance. Dan reported that 2 bills were paid: one to the Secretary of State for \$15.00 for business license renewal, and one to Circle L Arena for \$500 for arena use at the 4-H Clinics.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Two pieces of correspondence have been received, the Bitter Root BCH Newsletter, and a letter from the Heart of the Valley.

MEMBERSHIP:

Dan Porter reported that membership stands at 37.

ISSUES:

Rich Inman and Dan Marsh reported on several issues, including Trail 403, H.R. 845, H.R. 167, SB 309, and SB 326.

PUBLICITY:

Harry Huntsinger reported that a news article has been submitted to several local papers and newsletters for publication. He will now begin focusing publicity related items on the upcoming Poker Ride.

NEWSLETTER:

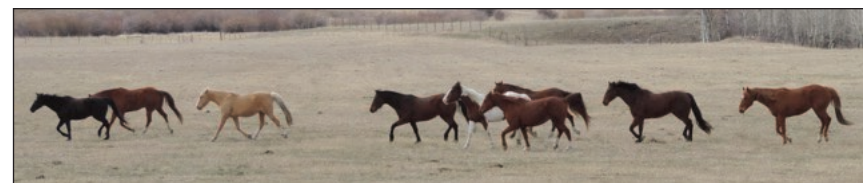
Dan Marsh reported that articles and photographs are still needed for the club newsletter.

TRAIL CREWS:

Larry Thomas reported that a meeting with the Forest Service is scheduled in April. It was determined that the club will celebrate National Trail Day on June 6th with a work/trail ride at the Garnet Mountain Trail.

PROGRAM:

The March General Meeting program is a 4-H presentation, April is Forest Service and Pot Luck. It was determined that the April Board Meeting will begin at 5:30 instead of 6:00 so that Board Members may participate in the pot luck dinner.



POKER RIDE:

Tamara Erickson reported that the first Poker Ride Committee meeting was held Tuesday, March 17, and that planning is underway. The event will be held on July 11th, 2015. A discussion was held regarding the trail route, and the south route in a clockwise loop was decided upon, unless it is not available this year. The entry fees will remain the same as last year, at \$20.00 for preregistration, or \$25.00 the day of the event.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Rich Inman gave an update on the RTP Grant
- The insurance premium was paid in the amount of \$739.
- Clark and Harry reported on the 4-H Clinics
- Dan Marsh reported on the Gallatin Collaborative Committee, and the GSHC Chili Feed which was a success. Dan also stated that the GSHC would like to participate in more collaborative events with GVBCH.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Dan Marsh reported that registration for the 2015 State Convention has closed, but raffle tickets are still available.
- The Cache Creek Corral project date has been confirmed on August 22. It was proposed to offer an overnight stay with participants arriving on the 21st, working the 22nd, and possibly staying another night and departing on the 23rd.
- Saw and First Aid training dates will be set sometime in April after the 11th.
- Dan Marsh reported that The Chairman's Award nomination letter has been sent.
- Dan Marsh reported that West Fork Loop Rd 166B, Low Pass Trail 2.5 mi South Jack Crk to Spanish Crk #357 needs to be made horse accessible.
- Dan proposed a memorial plaque in honor of Jiffy and Chick Hale, Bettye White, and Jean Griffith. He will gather information and suggestions and report next month.
- Rich Inman reported a recent interview that was given by himself and Walter Becker about the Backcountry Horsemen that will be screened at MSU.

Submitted by Tamara Erickson



**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19**

6:00 PM Meeting called by Dan Marsh.

Minutes of the last general meeting were accepted by Janice Cartwright, and seconded by Henry Glen.

PROGRAM:

A presentation was made by 4-H that included a slide show, and several 4-H members that participated in packing clinics begun in 2012. The kids shared their experiences learning and practicing packing skills at the clinics and on several packing trips. A first aid kit was offered as a raffle fundraiser, and Dan Marsh won the raffle.

FINANCE REPORT/NEW BILLS:

No new bills were reported.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Two pieces of correspondence have been received, the Bitter Root BCH Newsletter, and a letter from the Heart of the Valley.

MEMBERSHIP:

Dan Porter reported that membership stands at 37.

Issues: Rich Inman and Dan Marsh reported on several issues, including Trail 403, H.R. 845, H.R. 167, SB 309, and SB 326.

PUBLICITY:

Harry Huntsinger reported that a news article has been submitted to several local papers and newsletters for publication. He will now begin focusing publicity related items on the upcoming Poker Ride.

Newsletter: Dan Marsh reported that articles and photographs are still needed for the club newsletter.

TRAIL CREWS:

Larry Thomas reported that a Saw and First Aid training will be held in April. The date has not yet be determined.

PROGRAM:

The April program is Forest Service and Pot Luck. It was determined that the April Board Meeting will begin at 5:30 instead of 6:00 so that Board Members may participate in the pot luck dinner. The May program is Emily Glunk, Hay 101.



POKER RIDE:

Tamara Erickson reported that the first Poker Ride Committee meeting was held Tuesday, March 17, and that planning is underway. The event will be held on Saturday July 11th, 2015. All members are invited to come help set up on Friday July 10th, and stay for a pot luck supper. The trail will follow the south route in a clockwise loop. The entry fees will remain the same as last year, at \$20.00 for preregistration, or \$25.00 the day of the event. Event planning at this stage is focused on assigning key Poker Ride related tasks. Volunteers were asked for, and several members committed to help. Many more volunteers are needed, and members were asked to contact Tamara Erickson 406-451-8186 if they are able to participate.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Rich Inman gave an update on the RTP Grant
- Volunteer Agreement will be addressed at the April meeting.
- Clark and Harry reported on the 4-H Clinics, and reminded members that the next clinic is Saturday March 21, from 9 AM to 4 PM, and that help is welcome.
- Dan Marsh reported on the Gallatin Collaborative Committee, and the GSHC Chili Feed which was a success. Dan also stated that the GSHC would like to participate in more collaborative events with GVBCH.
- Dan proposed a memorial plaque in honor of Jiffy and Chick Hale, Bettye White, and Jean Griffith. He will gather information and suggestions and report next month.



NEW BUSINESS:

- Dan Marsh reported that registration for the 2015 State Convention has closed, but raffle tickets are still available.
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- Saw and First Aid training dates will be set sometime in April after the 11th.
- Dan Marsh reported that The Chairman's Award nomination letter has been sent.
- Dan Marsh reported that West Fork Loop Rd 166B, Low Pass Trail 2.5 mi South Jack Crk to Spanish Crk #357 needs to be made horse accessible.
- Goodies were not needed for April's meeting due to the Pot Luck.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Jim Allbright and seconded by John Mutter. Motion passed.

Submitted by Tamara Erickson



**Gallatin Valley
Back Country Horsemen
Post Office Box 3232, Bozeman, Montana 59772-3232**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Name _____ **Spouse's Name** _____

Mailing Address

_____ **\$45 Family Membership**
_____ **\$35 Individual Membership**
_____ **\$35 Associate Membership**

Phone # _____

E-Mail _____

(Please print clearly)

Assumption of Risk

I understand and agree that I am a participant in an equine activity as set forth in Montana Equine Law MCA 27-1-725 - 728 and I agree to accept responsibility and assume the risk for my actions while participating in the clubs events.

I recognize that there is a potential for accidents wherever horse use is involved which can cause injury or death to horses, riders, and spectators. I also recognize that the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen officers, directors, or members cannot always know the conditions of trails or experience of the riders or horses taking part in trail rides or other Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen functions. Therefore, I do hereby release the above named from any claims or rights for damage which might occur to me, my minor children, horses, other tack or equipment.

Signature Date

Signature Date

Please check any committee(s) on which you are willing to serve:

Social Activities Trail Rides Issues Fund Raising Newsletter Projects
 Planning Clinics Audit Trail Maintenance Serve on Board Refreshments

What skill, talent or resource are you willing to share with the club?

Name of the advertisement or person that introduced you to the Back Country Horsemen?

MEET MARK DEOPSOMER, BOARD DIRECTOR

I was introduced to the Backcountry Horsemen Club by Walt Becker. We were both eating dinner at the Western Cafe pretty much every night back in 1985-86 when I was working at the Bozeman Chronicle and going to MSU. Walt was always talking about the Appaloosa ride and the Backcountry Horsemen Club. I didn't know at the time that the Club was just starting out. Walt and I would get together and go on rides up bear canyon. I remember the first time I met him at Bear Canyon. He had one of those old International flatbeds with the sides on it. He had his horsed loaded in that back and pulled into the ditch. I was standing there and he said, "You'd better get back, they come out there pretty western style." Boy, he wasn't a-kidding about that!

Well, I graduated from MSU and moved to Boudler, CO to work at IBM. So I was never able to join the Backcountry Horsemen Club and I always regretted that.

After moving around some, my wife and I came back to Bozeman the summer of 1996 and it was soon after that I finally joined the Club. I went on a bunch a rides, always did the poker ride, riding in the Sweet Pea Parade, and really enjoyed the Yellowstone ride. In fact, after the Club stopped doing the Yellowstone Ride to Mammoth, Walt, Ed Long, Bob Conti and I kept it going for 12 straight years.

Long story short, I heard the Backcountry Horsemen Club was rebuilding Forest Service cabins up the Slough and elsewhere. So that's why I was interested in rejoining the Club to help out. I also think we should start riding in the Sweet Pea Parade again. I know we got stuck behind the hot air balloon one year and hot rod cars, but I'd be willing to talk to the parade marshall for the Club and make sure we get the right spot. For all the work the Club does, we should be in the parade. However, I think we need a good number of horses in the parade, not 5-6, more like 20 plus the pack string.

For work, I've been employed at Motorola for 20 years as a software engineer designing, testing, installing and supporting cellular networks around the world. I'm currently installing a private 4G cellular network up in Calgary for the Calgary Police Service. It's got a mobile unit that can be deployed for wildland fire and setup in minutes.

—Mark Deopsomer



4-H PACKING CLINIC — HARRY HUNTSINGER

About five years ago, several members of the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen (GVBCH) held a meeting in order to discuss developing a way to pass on their packing skills to our young people. Their targeted groups: youths who would appreciate learning the skills and techniques of packing, then put that knowledge to good use, thus carrying on the tradition. Clark Kinney, one of the directors of GVBCH, said it best, "Without getting our young people involved in learning packing techniques we will be faced with losing a very big part of our western heritage."

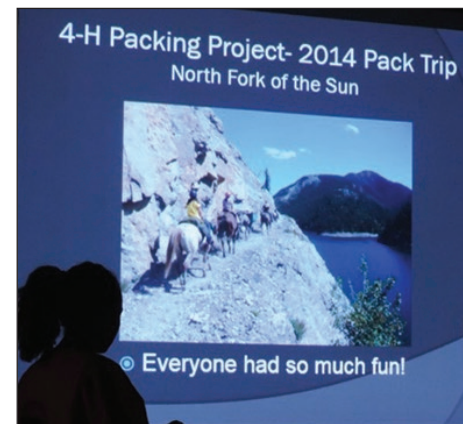
The art of packing horses and mules into the back country is sadly becoming a lost art in this age of high-tech development. With that in mind, the members of the GVBCH, guided by the moto, "We haven't shown our young people why we love this country yet," got busy. The initial group of GVBCH members, composed of Clark Kinney, John Mutter, Rich Inman, Mike Haugan, Henry Glenn, and Larry Thomas, have taken this moto to heart and run with it.

They began working with Todd Kesner, the head of the MSU 4-H Department to develop a statewide packing program for all 4-H clubs. With the aid of Dale Moore, longtime packer for the Forest Service & Belgrade saddle maker, Bob Hoverson, of Seely Lake, author of *The Packer's Field Manual*, featuring the Decker Pack Saddle, with his thirty some years of working for the Forest Service, building trails and Todd Kesner, they developed a course syllabus and a program of technical clinics. Greg Benjamin, an avid hunter and packer, jumped on board to head up the clinics and help design informational 4-H packing brochures.

The group was able to start hosting clinics for 4-H club members, their parents and club leaders. The first two sessions for 2015 were held January 22nd and Feb 12th. Both successful clinics had about fifty people in attendance. Great learning and fun was had by all.

The next all-day clinic session will be on March 21st at the Circle L Arena on Spain Bridge Road. The clinic day will be filled with rotations through the skill stations for hands on experience of packing, directed by volunteers from GVBCH, with plenty question and answer time. Once the students have gone through all the clinics, they will be prepared to go on a back country packing trip.

The state 4-H clubs would like to say, "Thank you to the GVBCH for putting on these clinics". Their hard work and diligent efforts have given these youths a greater appreciation for the art, knowledge and skills for safe and fun back country packing in the future.



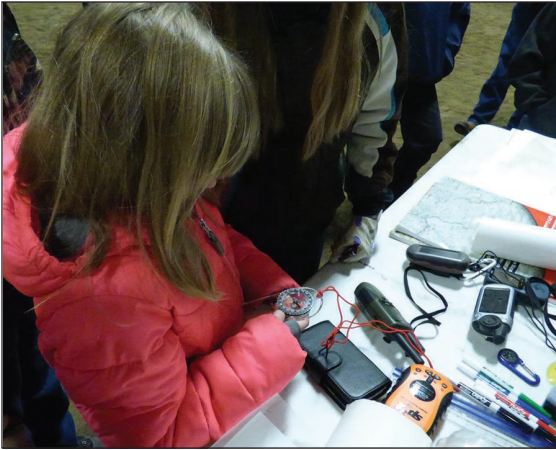
Harry, Rachel & Amande



Larry hopes to win the First Aid Kit



4-H PACKING CLINIC



4-H PACKING CLINIC



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

TOP POKER HAND PRIZES

Montana Canvas
Ardesson Boots and Shoes
Rocky Mountain Hat Company
Northern Energy-Amerigas

SILENT AUCTION PRIZES

DJ Bar Ranch
True Value Hardware Belgrade
Big Sky RV
Montana Equine
Steer In Trailer Sales
Dan Porter
Gallatin Saddle Outlet
Bozeman TV & Appliance

RAFFLE PRIZES

Bob Hoverson
Hardaway Veterinary Clinic
Corral Bar
Jan Elpel
Freeway Enterprises
Rocky Mountain Supply
Rocky Mountain Truck Center
Big Sky RV
Owenhouse Ace Hardware
Janice Cartwright
Wally Becker
Rich Inman
Chalet Market
Murdoch's

Farnam Company
Three Forks Saddlery
DL Custom Leather
All West
Sorenson Veterinary Hospital
Chuteside Vet Clinic - Three Forks
Steer In Trailer Sales
Spurline, Livingston
Pickle Barrel
Lee & Dad's
Alice Pilgeram
Double Diamond Halter Company
Double Diamond Veterinary Hospital
Mike Haugan
Montana Gluten Free Processors



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