

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@wispwest.net

BCH WEB MASTER

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : JULY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

See Page 4 for trails

4H PACKING PLANNING MEETING : JULY 2, 6:00 PM

TRAIL ROUTING & CLEARING : JULY 7

contact Henry Glenn

POKER RIDE SET UP, TRAIL FLAGGING & POT LUCK: JULY 10, 4:00 PM

Bridger Bowl

POKER RIDE : JULY 11

Bridger Bowl



4H FAIRGROUNDS EVENT : JULY 13, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

GALLATIN COUNTY FAIR : JULY 15-19

Gallatin County Fairgrounds

BOARD MEETING : JULY 16, 6:00 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : JULY 16, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church

4H PACK TRIP : JULY 24-27

Gardiner

BOZEMAN STAMPEDE NRA RODEO : JULY 31 & AUGUST 1

Gallatin County Fairgrounds

GALLATIN VALLEY 4H CDT PACK IN : AUGUST 1

Targhee Pass

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:



With the weather warming up and the lack of moisture lately please be careful when you are out in the forest and using chainsaws and make sure if you start a fire it's dead out before you leave. I suspect it won't be long until fire restrictions are in place.

We have had a busy June for the chapter with four Wednesday trail clearing projects, a very successful National Trails Day at Garnet, more water diversion work on the 401 trail, and a 4-H Field Day and scouting trip. The sign post packing trip was deferred when our volunteer coordinator Cody's wife had a baby. Even with the heat we have been stopped by snow on all of our trail clearings to Mirror Lake, Spanish Lake, North Fork, and Jerome Rocks Lake in the Spanish Peaks.

Thanks to Tamara we have everything we need in place for another successful Poker Ride on July 11th. Be sure you get your prizes to Mike Haugan if you are still waiting to drop them off. If you have been putting off volunteering for something now would be the time to call Tamara and let her know you want to help. Larry Thomas has picked the trails to work on for July and you can look at our calendar <http://gvbch.bchmt.org/calendar.htm> or read about them later in the newsletter.

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 18

Attendees: Dan Marsh, Dan Porter, Sharon Fraser, Tamara Erickson, John Mutter, Larry Thomas, Carl Blaskovich, Rich Inman, Henry Glenn, Harry Huntsinger, Janice Cartwright. Rich Inman stood in proxy for Clark Kinney and Mark DeOpsomer.

The meeting was called to order by Dan Marsh at 6:00 pm.

Motion to approve minutes of May Board Meeting was made by Tamara Erickson, and seconded by Larry Thomas. Motion approved.

FINANCE REPORT/NEW BILLS:

Sharon Fraser reported and new bills were submitted. Henry Glenn made a motion to accept and pay new bills, and Carl Blaskovich seconded. The motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No new correspondence was reported.

MEMBERSHIP:

Dan Marsh reported that membership stands at 47. He also suggested that the GVBCH brochure needs to be updated with more current information.

ISSUES:

Dan Marsh reported on several issues: HR845, HR167, and HR996 are still in committee. FSM 2358 is an update on Forest Service Saw Rules, but does not specify that sawyer training must be provided by the Forest Service. The Federal Lands deal is dead in Montana.

PUBLICITY:

Harry Huntsinger agreed to submit ad in the Mini Nickle to advertise Poker Ride.

NEWSLETTER:

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

TRAIL CREWS:

Larry Thomas will save his report for the General Meeting.

PROGRAM:

The July program will be The Station, which supports active members of Special Ops and Armed Forces.

POKER RIDE:

Tamara Erickson reported on Poker Ride progress. Dan Marsh reported 7 people have pre-registered for the ride.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Gallatin Collaborative Committee: Dan Marsh attended the recent meeting and reported.
- Cache Creek Update: Dan Porter reported that the RAC Grant meeting will be held in Dillon on June 30th.
- 5 cans of Bear Spray are available to members at \$30 each.
- New Assumption of Risk language has been updated on all forms, which can be found on the website.

NEW BUSINESS:

- GVBCH has obtained a debit card.
- The 4-H Field Day Packing Clinic will be held June 27th. Volunteers are requested, and asked to contact Greg Benjamin for details.
- Members are asked to please "like" and "share" GVBCH posts on Facebook to take advantage of free publicity. Activity on Facebook has been increasing.
- MWA is working on a new project to map trails and include detailed information such as elevation, trail type/conditions, difficulty level, etc.

Dan Marsh made a motion to adjourn meeting, Tamara Erickson seconded, and the motion passed.

Submitted by Tamara Erickson



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 18

The meeting was called to order by Dan Marsh at 7:00 pm.

Motion to accept May meeting minutes was made by John Mutter, and seconded by Alice Pilgeram. The motion passed, and minutes were accepted.

PROGRAM:

Poker Ride details were discussed, and loose ends were wrapped up, including finalizing the Poker Ride task/volunteer distribution, and prize collection. Poker Ride Posters were re-distributed, and members were asked to do another sweep posting them in the valley.

Upcoming Poker Ride Dates and Volunteer Roster:

Monday June 29th, 6:00 PM- Mike Haugan's home: Prize committee meeting (organize and catalog prizes): Tamara, Mike, Alice, Barb, John, and Beth

Tuesday July 7th: Henry Glenn and Crew will determine trail route. Anticipated route is south clockwise. Larry Thomas and crew will clear and maintain trail.

Friday July 10th, 4 PM, Bridger Bowl: Poker Ride set up, trail flagging, and pot luck.

Clark Kinney: Deliver Trailer and Porta Potties to Bridger Bowl

Rich Inman: Set up stoves, fill propane bottles, set up road sign

Flagging Crew: Janice Cartwright, Tamara Erickson, Dan Porter

Saturday July 11th, 7 AM, Bridger Bowl:

Dan Marsh, Master of Ceremonies

Registration: Marianne Meyer, John Mutter (50/50 tickets), Madeline Lieb, Larry and Kathy Van Dyke, Signe Lahren, Steve and Roseanne Theines (pre-registration)

Prize Tent: Alice Pilgeram, Beth Merrick, Barb Mutter

Rich Inman: Order food

Larry Thomas: Pick up water melons and ice for pop stops

Jim Wing: Pick up food from Lee and Dad's

Food tent: Susie Finley, Anna Holstrom, Carol Becker, Sharon Fraser (if available)

Pop stop crews: Team A: Dan Porter, Carl Blaskovich, Team B: Larry & Billy Thomas, Team C: Chris & Julie Nygren

Sweep Riders & deflagging: Clark Kinney & Debbie Moran

4-H Volunteers: Hold horses at registration tent, help in food tent if necessary, and help with parking lot clean up.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Sharon Fraser reported. GVBCH has obtained a debit card.

MEMBERSHIP:

Marianne Meyer reported 48 or 49 Memberships. Dan will send out letter to former members who have not yet renewed membership.

ISSUES:

Dan Marsh reported: HR845, HR167, and HR996 are still in committee. FSM 2358 contains new rules for the saw program, but does not specify that Forest Service personnel must conduct saw training. Training can be done by our own certified members, but First Aid certification is still required.

PUBLICITY:

Harry Huntsinger reported: Harry is working on an OTO news release and what it will mean to 4-H and GVBCH packing group. Harry will place ads in the Mini Nickle advertising the Poker Ride.

NEWSLETTER:

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

TRAIL CREWS:

Larry Thomas reported: Trail crews have been working hard to clear trails. The National Trails Day event at Garnet Mountain was a success, and Larry thanked members for a good turnout. GVBCH also had a good turnout at the Spanish Creek 401 trail clearing event. Friday and Saturday signage for the porcupine trail has been delayed until sometime in July.

PROGRAM:

The July program is The Station, a program supporting active members of Special Ops and Armed Forces.

OLD BUSINESS:

- RTP Grant Update: Dan Marsh reported. GVBCH is waiting for a cut of approximately \$9,100 of the \$90,000 allocated for the state of Montana.
- The 4H packing clinic field day is scheduled for June 27th. Volunteers are needed, and asked to contact Greg Benjamin for details. Volunteers will meet in Four Corners.
- Dan Marsh reported on the Gallatin Collaborative Committee. The next meeting is scheduled June 24th.
- Cache Creek Update: Dan Porter reported that the RAC Grant meeting will be held in Dillon on June 30th.
- Bear Spray: There are 5 cans of Bear Spray available to members at \$30 per can, as well as 10 practice cans. Chuck Bartlebaugh has agreed to attend the Poker Ride and perform demonstrations of proper bear spray technique. Dan Marsh suggested GVBCH pitch in to help with Chuck's gas. John Mutter made a motion to give Chuck \$100 for gas/expenses, Sonja Berg seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- New Assumption of Risk language has been updated on all forms, which can be found on the website.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Debit/ Credit Card: GVBCH has obtained a debit card.
- Members are asked to please "like" and "share" GVBCH posts on Facebook to take advantage of free publicity. Activity on Facebook has been increasing.
- Newsletter from BCHA: Dan Marsh asked members how they would like to receive BCHA Newsletters. In the past, BCHA indicated that they would sell member emails to third parties, so a decision was made to not share GVBCH email addresses. However, BCHA recently assured Dan they will not share member emails with third parties. It was decided that Dan Marsh will continue to send an email link to the BCHA Newsletter to those with an email address, and a paper copy will be sent to members without email capability.
- MWA is working on a new project to map trails and include detailed information such as elevation, trail type / conditions, difficulty level, etc.
- Janice Cartwright will provide goodies at August meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by John Mutter, and seconded by Chris Nygren. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Tamara Erickson



The 4-H packing clinics were a big success and Greg Benjamin is still looking for help with some judging at the Gallatin County Fair and the pack trip at the OTO ranch. For July, in addition to the five Wednesday trail clearings we also are going to set the course for the Poker Ride and clear that trail. Contact Henry Glenn for information on the Poker Ride trail and Larry Thomas if you are interested in any Wednesday trail clearings. We also have the 4-H pack trip at the OTO ranch on July 24-27 that we are looking for volunteers to help. Follow our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/gvbch> for the latest news. The July Program will be The Station <http://www.thestationfoundation.org/> (A homecoming project for the warriors and families of special operations.) that gave a talk to our group a while back so we can find out what's new with their organization.

Stay cool and I'll see you at the Poker Ride,

Respectfully Submitted, Dan Marsh

JULY WEDNESDAY TRAILS (tentative):

7/1	Porcupine to Ramshorn
7/8	Hellroaring
7/15	Porcupine to First Creek
7/22	Elkhorn to Red Cliff
7/29	New World Gulch

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY 2015

On June 6, 2015, the Mountain Bikers and GVBCH joined forces to reroute a section of Garnet Mtn. trail #85. 0900 found us at the trail head ready to head up the mountain. It was a 2.5 mile trek to the project area. 27 of us plus Cody Yeatts from the FS arrived at the project area and were ready to begin digging the new trail about 1030. There were 14 participants from the mountain bike group and 13 from GVBCH. We walked the route with Cody to make sure it was where we wanted it. After a brief safety talk, the participants were shown how to dig the new trail fire line style. We had four pulaskis in front, followed by four combies and four shovels/mclouids in the rear putting the final touches on the trail. A lot of dirt was moved and many shoulders were sore from the 4+ hours of digging needed to complete this quarter mile of new trail. Several comments were over heard as to the number of aleve or ibuprofen that would be needed when returning home.

We broke for lunch around 1230. Thanks to Clark Kinney and Mike Haugan our lunch of turkey and ham wraps plus water and energy bars was packed to the project

site. Corey Biggers had the Rise and Shine cafe/bakery throw in some special "Scotchies" to satisfy our sweet tooth craving. If you have not had one of these culinary delights, you now know where to get one. Many thanks to Rocky Mountain Truck Center and Montana Mountain Bike Alliance for furnishing the lunch.

A drone showed up on the site and put a real scare into most of the horses. One of our members got bumped by her horse pretty hard and knocked to the ground. Not having been around drones before we all learned something new about horses and drones.

We felled a few trees across the old trail to get people to use the new one. Before we even left the site, we had hikers and bikers using the new route. We put a wrap on it about 3:30 pm, gathered up the tools and headed for the trail head. All in all, this project was a huge success thanks to the energy and effort given by all who participated.

Rich Inman





the new switchback, all finished



the old section of trail, straight down

don't use this any more!



cutting down brush to fill old section



WEDNESDAY MORNING TRAIL CREW

SPANISH CREEK, JUNE 3



WEDNESDAY MORNING TRAIL CREW

On Saturday, June 13th, the GVBCH trail crew, the Montana Mountain Bike Alliance and two forest service people returned to trail 401 out of Spanish Creek trail head for our annual maintenance. We left the trail head at 0900 and returned about 4:00 pm. The first three miles of the trail that we did all the rehab work on last year were in good shape so we put our energies into rehabilitating another half mile. We put in another 30+ water diversions and pulled the berm back into the trail. Part of the trail was getting quite over grown with lodge pole pine

reproduction. We brushed out that section. When we returned to the vehicles, Larry Thomas found a note on his windshield telling him about a big fallen tree up main Spanish Cr. that needed to be cut off the trail. Work for another day. Many thanks go to Larry Thomas, Chris Nygren, Mark DeOpsomer, Jim Wing, Dan Marsh, Jeff Mazer, Cody Yeatts, and Lulu?? for the good work done on this Saturday. Slowly but surely we are working our way toward Willow Swamp.

—*Rich Inman*

TO VIEW MORE PHOTOS OF THE GREAT TRAIL CLEARING EFFORTS,
VISIT: [HTTP://WWW.BCHMT.ORG/GALLERY/INDEX.PHP/GVBCH](http://www.bchmt.org/gallery/index.php/GVBCH)

WEDNESDAY MORNING TRAIL CREW

Wednesday, June 17th, the Larry Thomas trail crew headed up the Falls Cr. trail 410. First thing we ran in to was the big tree left over from last Saturday. We made short work of it with our cross cut saws. Was a good warmer upper for what was to come. Jim Allbright and Rich Inman both had their pack mules, Mandy and Molly, so we leap frogged our way up the trail. We enjoyed lunch at the Larry Thomas picnic spot a few miles up the trail from the junction of 407 and 410. There was no time for an after lunch siesta as we were trying to get to Jerome Rock Lakes. After 20+ down trees we quit counting. About 3:00 pm we got to the Wally Becker snow drift (8500' elevation) and that was as

far as we could go. Too much snow and bog for the horses. Another week or so and people will be able to get through the snow drift and to the lakes. On the way out, we cleaned out water diversions for several miles. Round trip we rode nearly 17 miles and arrived back at the vehicles about 5:30 pm. Trail 410 is now open for the public to enjoy. Thank you Larry Thomas, Ron Rohletter, Jim Allbright and his friend David, Carmen Orr, Dan Marsh and John Mutter for this maintenance work.

—Rich Inman



WEDNESDAY MORNING TRAIL CREW

CINNAMON CREEK, JUNE 24



4H FIELD DAY TO RAMSHORN LAKE—JUNE 27



FROM FACEBOOK:

Marianne Meyer "The hiiiiills are alive, with the sound of pulaskies, shovels, and pick axes". June 6, 2015 - National Trails Day. High above Hwy 191 and Gallatin River on Garnet Mountain Trail. Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen and Montana Mountain Bike Alliance



June 6 Today on National Trails Day MMBA joined forces with the Gallatin Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen to reroute a section of the Garnet Mountain Trail in the Gallatin Canyon. A steep unsustainable fall line section was bypassed with a .22 mile section of hand built swoopy, fun and scenic singletrack. According to Forest Service protocol when a trail is rerouted the old route is 'decommissioned'. Big trees were dropped onto the old route - please ride and love the new section. Don't be a dweeb by removing the trees. Please go ride the new section ASAP- the soil moisture level is perfect for beating in a smooth bike line. Enjoy!

June 3 · We had quite a crew for our Wednesday trail clearing on the main Spanish Creek trail. The crew included Larry and Billie Thomas, Jim and Brenda Allbright, Rich Inman, Ron Rohletter, Dan Marsh, Lawrence Vandyke, Bonnie Hammer, Beth Merrick, and Carmen Orr. We cleared trees to the Mirror Y and split our group up with some going toward Spanish Lakes and the other going toward Mirror Lake. Both groups ran into snow before we could reach the lakes.

May 28 On May 27th the Wednesday crew of Larry Thomas, Dan Marsh, Rich Inman, Jim Allbright, Beth Merrick, and Carmen Orr cleared the Garnet Mountain trail #85 up to the Rat Lake trail. We cleared some downfall and did a lot of water diversion work along with flagging the new route. The mission was to get ready for the June 6th Trails Day where we will re-route the trail in the open meadow that has a lot of erosion on the trail and no place to drain the water.



The 4 mustangs from the movie UNBRANDED were at Janice Cartwright's house for a "clean up" day last week. Ben Masters, star of the movie, is a club member.



**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
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Janice Cartwright
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Three Forks Saddlery
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