

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 : June 3, 10, 17, 24

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY: JUNE 6

Garnet Mountain Trail #85

401 TRAIL MAINTENANCE : JUNE 13

Spanish Creek

BOARD MEETING : JUNE 18, 6:00 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Rd, Bozeman

GENERAL MEETING : JUNE 18, 7:00 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Rd, Bozeman

PORCUPINE SIGNAGE : JUNE 20

Porcupine Trail

PONY HOMECOMING POKER RIDE : JUNE 20

Todd Brennan Ranch, Cardwell

WILSALL RODEO : JUNE 20-21

GALLEP TRAIL CHALLENGE PLAY DAY : JUNE 21

Rafter K

4H FIELD DAY : JUNE 27

Four Corners

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

I hope everyone is looking forward to a lot of riding this summer. The trail maintenance crew, led by Larry Thomas, has started clearing trails with trips to South Cottonwood, Spanish Creek and Garnet Mountain. It already looks like it is going to be a busy year for trail clearing with lots of trees down to saw through.

The 4-H clinics are winding down with one more field day in June that will be held at the famous OTO ranch. Look for the article by Rich Inman later in the newsletter.

We received our bear spray from Counter Assault along with 10 donated inert cans for practice. We have 5 cans left for sale of the 15 that were ordered for \$30 which is a substantial discount from the normal retail price. They will be available at the June regular meeting which will be at Janice's house on 1655 Harper Puckett Drive on June 18th with the ice cream social starting at 6:00 pm. Please bring the prizes you have collected for the Poker Ride to the June meeting or get them to Mike Haugan who is storing the prizes for the poker ride. We will be filling in all of the empty positions for the poker ride at this meeting. Chuck Bartlebaugh of BeBearAware.org is going to be at the poker ride to show the proper way to handle a bear encounter.

May has been a busy month with Forest Service meetings, First Aid, State Board Meeting, trail maintenance, 4-H clinic, and a Trailblazers public demonstration of trail maintenance organizations. June will be just as busy with the regular Wednesday trail maintenance crew in addition to a number of Saturday events with collaborative work with the Montana Mountain Bike Alliance.

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## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 21

Attendees: Dan Marsh, Dan Porter, Sharon Fraser, Tamara Erickson, John Mutter, Larry Thomas, Chris Nygren, Carl Blaskovich, Rich Inman, and Henry Glenn.

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

Minutes of the last board meeting were accepted by John Mutter, and seconded by Henry Glenn.

### FINANCE REPORT/NEW BILLS:

Sharon Fraser reported, and one new bill was submitted.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

Sharon Fraser reported that she visited the mailbox and two pieces of correspondence were received:

A letter from Murdoch's announcing a new company policy encouraging Murdoch's employees to volunteer service hours, and approved the GVBCH as an authorized organization. Additionally, Murdoch's associate, Donna Houtz, has been approved to volunteer 8 company sponsored hours to the GVBCH.

The state BCH board sent a thank you note for the use of two tents and help with the convention.

### MEMBERSHIP:

Two new paid membership applications were received, which brings total membership to 47.

### ISSUES:

Dan Marsh reported on several issues: SB309, SB326, HB204, and HJ13 were all approved. HR845, HR167, and HR996 are still in committee.

### PUBLICITY:

Harry Huntsinger was not in attendance, but Dan Marsh suggested the need to spread the word in the community about the interesting and informative programs presented at GVBCH General Meetings, in hopes of encouraging greater attendance and recruiting club memberships.

### NEWSLETTER:

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

### TRAIL CREWS:

Larry Thomas reported that clearing trails will be a challenge this year, based on the large amount of deadfall encountered in initial pleasure rides this year. Participation on the Wednesday trail crews is needed and encouraged.

The club will celebrate National Trail Day on June 6th with a work/trail ride at the Garnet Mountain Trail.

### PROGRAM:

The June meeting will be held at Janice Cartwright's, and will start at 6 PM with an ice cream social. There will be

no program, as the meeting will focus on finalizing details regarding the Poker Ride. Members are asked to actively participate in gathering prizes, and bring them to the June meeting with a completed 501 C3 form attached, including the following information: Donor name, donor contact information, donated item, and item value.

Tamara Erickson reported on Poker Ride progress.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Rich Inman reported on the State Board Meeting:

- The BCH calculated that \$14.4 million in nationwide volunteer man hours have been donated.
- A resolution passed regarding the BCH's disagreement on the transfer of Federal Lands to the States.
- A new set packing guidelines were debated.
- The Flathead BCH chapter has divided, and a new chapter was formed, the Northwest Backcountry Horsemen, which is the 18th Backcountry Horsemen chapter in Montana.

Gallatin Collaborative Committee- Henry Glenn reported, and attended the May meeting, but stated he would not be available to attend meetings in the summer months.

Cache Creek Update: Dan Porter reported. He stated that new paperwork had been filed, and that so far, the dates are set for August 22nd and 23rd.

First Aid: Dan Marsh reported: Five members participated in the Sawyer First Aid course, and were certified, and a first aid presentation for an upcoming General Meeting was mentioned.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Dan Marsh reported the Trailblazers summer trails fair will be held May 27th at the Lindley Center from 6-9. Dan Marsh and Rich Inman will man a GVBCH booth, and member participation is requested.

Trail Stewardship: Dan Marsh reported the GVLTA asked for GVBCH sponsorship for a new Trail Ambassador Program. They would like volunteers to man trail heads, hand out brochures, and educate the public about issues such as trail etiquette, etc. Additionally, they are asking for a \$500-\$1000 donation to sponsor the program. Some discussion was had, but the issue no agreement was made, and the issue was tabled.

Bear Spray: the club purchased a case of 15 cans of bear spray, and a motion was made to sell the cans to club members at \$30 each. Dan Marsh made the motion, it was seconded by Tamara Erickson, and the motion passed.

Citizen Science Program: Dan Marsh Reported on a new program consisting of 5-7 day guided educational trips into the wilderness.

*Submitted by Tamara Erickson*

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 21

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

Dan Marsh welcomed two guests.

Program: Hay 101 by Emily Glunk

Motion to accept April 2015 minutes was made by Tamara Erickson, and Seconded by Chris Nygard. Motion passed.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Sharon Fraser reported, and two new bills were submitted: a case of bear spray, and Allegra Printing for the printing of Poker Ride flyers and registration forms.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

Sharon Fraser reported Murdoch's announced a new company policy encouraging employees to volunteer service hours, and approved the GVBCH as an authorized organization. Additionally, Murdoch's associate, Donna Houtz, has been approved to volunteer 8 company sponsored hours to the GVBCH.

The state BCH board sent a thank you note for the use of two tents and help with the convention.

### MEMBERSHIP:

Marianne Meyer reported: Two new paid membership applications were received, bringing membership to 47.

### ISSUES:

Dan Marsh reported on several issues: SB309, SB326, HB204, and HJ13 were all approved. HR845, HR167, and HR996 are still in committee.

Publicity: Harry Huntsinger was not in attendance, and no publicity report was made.

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

### TRAIL CREWS:

Larry Thomas reported: Clearing trails will be a challenge this year, based on the large amount of deadfall encountered in two initial rides. Participation on the Wednesday trail crews is needed and encouraged. The schedule is posted in the Newsletter, but is subject to change. Members interested in participating are asked to please contact Larry Taylor by Tuesday evening to confirm the details at 586-6878. No calls past 8 PM please!

Trail crews will depart from the trail head at 9 AM sharp, unless it has been previously determined that an earlier start is necessary. Please be saddled up and ready to ride.

Tools for trail crew participants will be furnished, but please pack a lunch, water, and good work gloves.

The club will celebrate National Trail Day on June 6th with a work/trail ride at the Garnet Mountain Trail, and member participation is encouraged.

Spanish Creek 401 Trail Maintenance is scheduled for Saturday June 13th.

### PROGRAM:

The June meeting will be held June 18th at 6 PM at Janice Cartwright on Harper Puckett Road with an ice cream social. There will be no program, as the meeting will focus on finalizing details for the Poker Ride. Members are asked to actively participate in gathering prizes, and turn them in at the June meeting with a completed 501(c)3 form attached, including the following information: Donor name, donor contact information, donated item, and item value. Rich Inman will provide 501(c)3 forms.

### POKER RIDE:

Tamara Erickson reported Poker Ride Posters are printed, and need to be distributed. Members were asked to please help with Poker Ride Poster distribution, and posters were handed out during the meeting.

Prizes are needed, and members were asked to assist with prize collection. Prizes need to please be submitted along with a 501(c)3 form at the June General Meeting. In an effort to maintain consistency, and to avoid multiple members hitting up the same business for prizes, it was asked that the same contact person from year's past contact the same businesses. Call Tamara Erickson, Rich Inman, or John Mutter for business contact questions.

Members on Facebook are asked to please "like" and "share" the GVBCH website, and the poker ride site on Facebook to help get the word out to the community.

Volunteers are still needed for help with the Poker Ride on July 11th. Please contact Tamara Erickson at 406-451-8186 if you are interested and able to help.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Rich Inman reported on the State Board Meeting that the BCH calculated that \$14.4 million in nationwide volunteer man hours have been donated.

A resolution passed regarding the BCH's disagreement on the transfer of Federal Lands to the States.

A new set packing guidelines were debated.

The Flathead BCH chapter has divided and a new chapter formed as the Northwest Backcountry Horsemen, which is the 18th BCH chapter in Montana.

RTP Grant Update: Rich Inman reported.

4-H Clinics: Dan Marsh and Rich Inman reported:

The last clinic went well, and the Field Day is set for June 17th, which will assess the kids and horses on a mountain trail. This will be the final test to make sure the kids are ready for a pack trip, which is planned on August 1st at the Continental Divide.

The Forest Service has offered the OTO Ranch, which was the first and oldest dude ranch in Montana, as a base location for the 4-H field day / pack trip.

Gallatin Collaborative Committee: Henry Glen reported on issues discussed at the May meeting, including a presentation by a Wyoming group about their strategies for managing similar wilderness areas.

First Aid: Dan Marsh reported that five members participated in the Sawyer First Aid course, and were certified, and a first aid presentation for an upcoming General Meeting was mentioned.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Cache Creek / RAC Grant Update: Dan Porter reported that the dates are set for August 22nd and 23rd.

TrailBlazers Summer Trails Fair: Dan Marsh reported will be held May 27th at the Lindley Center from 6-9. Dan Marsh and Rich Inman will man a GVBCH booth, and member participation is requested.

Bear spray cans were offered to members at \$30 each. A demonstration will be offered at the Poker Ride.

Citizen Science Program: Dan Marsh Reported on a new program consisting of 5-7 day guided educational trips into the wilderness.

Gallatin Community Collaborative Learning Session is at the Holiday Inn on May 30 from 8-noon.

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*

At the May state board meeting, we were told that BCHA is not going to sell the membership lists to third parties so I will be sending them our membership list so you can receive the national newsletter. If you have an email address, I will assume you want to receive the newsletter electronically but if that is not the case send me an email and I will add you to the hard copy list. The new state newsletter should be coming out soon. We only have 48 members signed up, if you have been waiting to renew now is the time. The first meeting of GVBCH had 140 members back in 1985 so lets try to get the membership numbers back up again.

*Respectfully Submitted, Dan Marsh*



#### July 16 Meeting:

Stacy Shannon from THE STATION FOUNDATION will be presenting. She and her husband, Kevin, came to us 2 1/2 years ago and asked for any help that we could give to their beginning organization. The other "Wounded Warrior" man offering a private program in Livingston was there on the same night. She'll be reporting back to us about how their program has grown and what they have accomplished to date.

## MEET TAMARA ERICKSON, BOARD DIRECTOR

Okay, I'll admit it! Rich Inman had to twist my arm, just a bit, when he called last fall hoping to recruit members to run for the GVBCH board. Rich exercised his excellent leadership skills, calmly addressing all my excuses with Jedi-like finesse, and boy am I happy that he did! And so, it is with great honor that I now introduce myself as Secretary of the Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen, and Chairperson of the 2015 Poker Ride.

It has been a real pleasure getting acquainted with such an extraordinary group of people, and I would like to thank everyone who has offered such a warm welcome. As a new face on the board this year, I have been asked to write a short bio to introduce myself, so here goes:

I was born and raised in Ogden, UT, but as a kid, I was fortunate enough to spend my summers with my Grandfather, Farrell Lloyd, on his cattle ranch located just outside Livingston. That time with my Grandfather instilled a lifelong passion for horses and livestock, and for many years I dreamt of someday living in Montana.

My dream came true in 2006, when my family and I moved to Bozeman from Durango, Colorado. My husband is a plumber, and together we started a plumbing contracting business, Bridger Mountain Plumbing, which thankfully thrived, despite the downturn in the economy that hit Bozeman shortly after we opened for business.

Another dream came true that same year, when my husband bought me a horse, a dark bay gelding named Sundown. My parents and grandparents both raised horses all my life, and up until then, I'd always ridden family horses, but Sundown was the first horse of my very own. Because he was the last colt bred and raised on my Grandfather's ranch, he is even more special to me. I am now delighted to own several horses, and love them all, but Sundown is still my very favorite, go to partner.

Dal and I were blessed with two handsome sons, Ryan age 23, and Dallin age 13; and a beautiful daughter, Katelyn, who just turned 16. The kids keep us on our toes, but we are sure proud of each of them. My husband is a wonderful partner, and together we work hard to instill our children with good, old fashioned values, and the same passion for the outdoors that we both share; camping, hunting, and horseback riding.

I have been a member of the GVBCH for several years, but until now have not actively participated, other than riding in the Poker Ride every summer. I hold a deep respect for the hard work and dedication that so many individuals have devoted to the GVBCH, which provides such a remarkable service to the Gallatin Valley. It is a privilege to become more involved with such a wonderful organization, filled with such vast backcountry and horsemanship experience. I hope to soak up as much knowledge as possible, and that my service impacts the club, and our community in a positive way.

It is fitting that this piece will appear in the June GVBCH Newsletter, because June is my favorite month of the year. I am looking forward to another glorious Montana summer, and am planning to get out and ride our spectacular trails as often as possible.

Looking forward to seeing you out on the trail,

Tamara Erickson



## WEDNESDAY MORNING TRAIL CREW



Wednesday morning, May 13th, the Larry Thomas trail crew began their first trail clearing of the season as they departed the South Cottonwood trail head at 9 am. Joining Larry were Rich Inman, Dan Marsh and Lawrence Vandyke. It took us six hours to saw our way about 7 miles. Lots of down trees and some of them were rather big. We almost needed

a 24 inch bar on one saw. The crew kept two saws running most of the time. It was a cool but great day with no dust on the trail. The previous night's rain had cleared the air and settled the dust. We encountered the first snow just about where Langhor trail takes off then not much snow until just before the turn to Fox Cr. cabin. The trail above the Fox Cr. cabin turnoff appeared to be logged in and quite full of snow. We rode on to the cabin arriving there about 3 pm. The last log we sawed was on the steep uphill grade just before the cabin. One big tree had blown over stump and all leaving a very narrow spot near the top of the steep uphill section of trail. We did not have time to properly repair this spot. We did install a few water diversions on the way up. Larry noted that the stream crossings were very low for this time of year. More like in August or September.



We all enjoyed a great picnic lunch in a small meadow about half way to the cabin. The spring flowers were just in bloom with numerous glacier lilies, mouse ears, and butter cups to look at. Having completed that 7 mile section of clearing we headed for the trail head. Arrived safe and sound at the trucks about 5 pm.



COME WITH US ON TRAIL CREW AND YOU WILL SLEEP WELL AT NIGHT. MAY 20, WE SAWED 42 TREES BY HAND IN 4 MILES. HAD ONE TIRED CREW WHEN WE GOT BACK AT 1730.



## WEDNESDAY MORNING TRAIL CREW

May 20th is the second time out for the Wednesday crew this summer. The morning was cool and overcast, a coat, glove and warm boot day. Brenda and Jim showed up at the Spanish Creek Trail head at about 8:00, being the first to arrive. They had been there only long enough to unload the two horses and Molly Mule when a black sedan drove up and out popped a woman with many questions. The first was: "Are those your horses?" Then it was questions about renting horses, the fishing in Spanish Creek, etc. and finally, she told stories about her 48 lb fish, she caught in Alaska, and about the moose that would not move out of the Spanish Creek trail when hiking the previous day. After finding out that she and her partner had hiked the trail, she was asked what the trail was like as far as trees being down. Her information essentially stated that it was not bad to the "Y" and the trail to the right up to the falls. However, she declared that it was a mess when one turned to the left at the "Y". She left as the saddling and getting the horses and mule ready required close attention, only to reappear when Larry Thomas, Rich Inman and Dan Marsh drove in. Again, were the questions and stories? To her and our credit, she did verbalize how appreciative she was of the Back Country Horsemen for what they do. She did mention several times that she was from Michigan, a grant writer for DHR for 20 years and now had time to travel,

Soon, we had the mules packed: Molly, Jim's mule and Mandy, Rich's mule with cross-cut saws, shovels and various trail maintaining tools. And with that accomplished, we mounted and started up the trail. The first comment was whether to cross the creek or go around by the road and hit the bridge. The decision, as we rode, was the leader was to decide. Brenda promptly, told the leader, to remember that she had a short horse, but despite that it was Spring and there was a possibility of Spring runoff, the creek was reasonable low and no one got their feet wet.

Once on the trail, within 15 minutes, the crew encountered the first tree down. And it was not a small tree and all were engaged in getting to use the cross cut and then roll the chunks of the tree off the trail with lots of grunts and moans. (Except for Brenda as she is: "Brenda, holder of horses".) Once again, on the horses and a short distance, another tree appeared across the trail. At this point in the morning, it was joked that maybe Brenda should be sent back for the chainsaw as the crew had not entered the Wilderness yet and chainsaw are allowed. Larry, especially felt that a chain saw would be nice if there were any more big trees down before entering the Wilderness.

As it turned out, that was the last tree before entering the Wilderness and after that there was a steady appearances of trees down and the count was close to 11 by the time we hit the "Y". At that point, Dan, Jim and Brenda started up the trail to the Falls while Larry and Rich stayed behind to clean and create water bars. Only one small tree on that trail was found, and, the water falls was a beautiful sight and as always this is a great scenic trail to ride.

Coming back and uniting the crew the discussion was: what was going to be found to the left after clearing 12 trees on the trail being recounted as "not bad" but going to the left was a mess. The crew continued to the left and it did appear as if every turn in the trail contained a tree down with numerous branches that needed to be cut before the cross cut saws could even go to work. Then it was wedges and pry bars used to maneuver the logs so the cross cuts could be effective: And grunting and heaving getting the big chunks off the trail.

Lunch was a nice break and the weather had cooperated nicely with even a few moments of sun breaking through. The crew decided at 2:00 to try and make it to the next "Y". At about 3 o'clock the creek crossing at the "y" was sited but as Larry said that there were at least 3 deadfalls across the trail before actually getting there. The count of trees cut and removed from the trail by this time was somewhere around 44 (plus or minus 3: with this being the error margin?). We turned back, saving work for the next time the crew hits this area. The ride out was fast and uneventful with Larry and Rich managing to do some more water bars. Loaded up and out by 5:00 with some very tired guys. But what a nice day!

—Brenda Kessler



## 4-H PACKING CLINIC

Our 4-H packing program has now completed five clinics and is set for a field day on June 27th. The field day provides the participants with an opportunity to use the skills they have learned over the last five months. Those participants who successfully complete the field day will be ready for the pack trip in July.

Clark Kinney, Larry Thomas, John Mutter, Rich Inman and Forest Service Gardiner district ranger Walt Allen spent Saturday, May 23rd, looking at the OTO ranch on Cedar Creek as a possible base camp for the July pack trip. Walt Allen has offered this to us. With a base camp we hope to accommodate more families.

The OTO ranch was the first and oldest dude ranch in Montana. A land exchange many years ago enabled the FS to acquire this historic site. It is now national forest land.

There are ten sleeping cabins and a cook house that are all quite useable. We looked at trails out of the OTO and found some old outfitter trails that will make a nice 5 mile loop. There also is the FS mainline trail # 72 which accesses the high country. We found a good spot for a spike camp about 2 miles from the base camp. With spectacular scenery and great accommodations, it looks like the OTO ranch has the makings of a great place to host this year's 4-H pack trip. It may also be the beginning of a great host place for years to come. We thank Walt Allen for this most generous offer.

—Rich Inman







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

TOP POKER HAND PRIZES

Montana Canvas  
Ardeson 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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