

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:

NAVICULAR SYNDROME & RINGBONE IN HORSES : MARCH 3, 6:30 PM

Bridger Feeds West, 186 Garden Drive, Four Corners  
Contact: Bridger Feeds 586-3026 or [bridgerfeedsgm@gmail.com](mailto:bridgerfeedsgm@gmail.com)

GALLATIN SADDLE & HARNESS CHILI FEED : MARCH 14, 10:00 AM

Texas Way off Gooch Hill Road. Wagon Rides available. Bring side dish or desert, beverage and a chair. Chili, coffee, utensils provided. Bring your horse if you want to ride along. More info: Connie Lien 586-2885

POKER RIDE COMMITTEE : WEEK OF MARCH 16

Contact Tamara Erickson, 451-8186, [TamaraErickson@msn.com](mailto:TamaraErickson@msn.com)

BOARD MEETING : MARCH 19, 6:00 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : MARCH 19, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church

4H CLINIC 3 : MARCH 21, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Circle L Arena, Belgrade

2015 STATE CONVENTION & BOARD MEETING : MARCH 27-29

Bitterroot River Inn, Hamilton (Details [HERE](#))

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

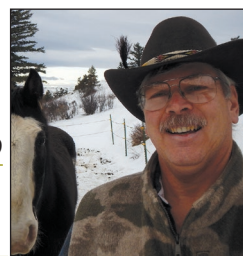
We had a great turnout for the February meeting. For those of you who missed the meeting, I'm sorry you were unable to attend. The program from Kevin Frey on Grizzly bears was very interesting and we had a lot of good questions from the audience. Some young members from the 4-H clinics were in attendance and described their experiences with the packing clinic training they have had so far. I mentioned H.R. 4886 but that was last year's bill; the 2015 bill is H.R. 845 the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act. We had more people in attendance than we have paid memberships!

Please make sure you have paid your membership dues for 2015. It looks like we even have a few officers and directors who have not paid yet. We will be sending out an email notification to past members who have not renewed this year. Please be aware we have a new online membership subscription now on the front page of our web page in the upper left corner of the page at <http://gvbch.bchmt.org/>.

Our March program will be presented by the 4-H youth and Greg Benjamin so don't miss that one! In April, we are going to have Forest Service representatives and our annual Pot Luck game feed. The State Convention is right around the corner on March 27-29 at the Bitterroot Inn in Hamilton Montana. If you have some good pictures you took last year please bring them to the March meeting and someone will enter them in the photography contest for you. If you will not be attending the convention please help out by buying some raffle tickets for the wonderful prizes or a separate raffle for a nice mule. If you want any more details on the convention please visit the Back Country Horsemen of Montana web site at <http://bchmt.org/2015Convention.html>.

If you have any interesting articles please submit them to Brant for the newsletter. Try to avoid politically motivated material and stick to horse access and other horse related information.

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**BOARD & GENERAL MEETINGS MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 19**

The monthly board meeting was called to order by the president, Dan Marsh. Officers & Directors Present: Dan M, Dan P, Sharon, Tamara, Clark, Chris, Carl, John, Larry, Mark, Rich, Henry.

Motion to approve minut <http://www.bcha.org/media/uploads/2015/02/16/files/BCHAWinter2015Newsletter.pdf> es as printed in the newsletter made by Chris, second Clark, all agree.

The TREASURER reported on bank balances, new bills, and membership dues received.

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

15 individual and 14 family memberships paid so far for this year.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Dan Porter and Chris Nygren completed the 2014 financial audit. Julie Nygren reviewed the club's insurance policy and reported her findings. Thank You Julie.

**PUBLICITY:**

- Bozeman Monthly is willing to publish articles related to GVBCH.
- 50 people are signed up for packing clinic
- Harry proposed the idea of inviting public to more GVBCH events and promoting in other related events, such as recent event hosted at Bridger Feeds.
- Facebook page is getting more likes
- Ideas for getting media coverage for GVBCH events
- Articles and photos for newsletter are needed.
- Poker Ride planning needs to begin now.

**TRAIL CREW REPORT:**

Larry met with the Forest Service for preliminary meeting, which went well. There is another meeting scheduled in April

**MARKEL INSURANCE POLICY RENEWAL:**

Insurance policy is up for renewal. Julie Nygren who works in insurance reviewed the current policy and checked over exclusions. It was decided that it was too late this year to make changes to insurance policy, but that possibly next year it should be reviewed and shopped.

**POKER RIDE:**

Tamara Erickson will the 2015 Poker Ride Chair Person. Send an email to recruit help with the poker ride; Schedule and hold first poker ride committee meeting in March.

**FOREST SERVICE:**

Stay on top of Forest Service documents and following up to make sure we have everything we need from them. Horse Corral project at Cache Creek

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Saw & First Aid Training, no dates yet.
- Chairman's award, and Founders Award
- Connie chooses recipient of Founder's Award
- Each Chapter nominates a member for Chairman's Award, our nominee is Larry Thomas
- Annual Business Report is filed
- West Fork Loop RD 166B, Low Pass Trail 2.5 mi South Jack Creek to Spanish Creek #357 need to make it horse accessible.
- New Fees for YNP: \$5 per head for overnight stock, \$3 per head per hiker. A \$25 annual permit is available.

*Submitted by Sharon Fraser & Tamara Erickson*

**The Winter 2015 newsletter from the Back Country Horsemen of America is available for [DOWNLOAD](#) from their web site.**

The General meeting was called to order by Dan Marsh after the board meeting.

Janice moved to accept the January minutes, Tamara seconded, motion carried.

**PROGRAM:**

Bears in the Gallatin Valley

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

Current membership is at 24, with several new membership forms filled out and turned in to Sharon.

**PUBLICITY:**

- Harry is working on promoting GVBCH
- Photos and articles are needed for the newsletter
- 47 adults and students participated in recent packing clinic.
- Introduction of several visiting 4H members

A motion to adjourn was made by Janice Cartwright, seconded by Tamara Erickson, none opposed. Meeting adjourned.

*Submitted by Tamara Erickson*

## BENEFIT FOR FRED FITZPATRICK

Greetings to all Back Country Horsemen of Montana,

The Valier community is getting together to have a benefit for Fred one week before the state convention. Below is information on the benefit and we ask that you pass on the information to your club members. School is located at 804 4th St., Valier. Turn south off of Teton Ave. (main street through Valier) on 4th and go 8 blocks. Thank you for helping to get the word out. **WHAT:** A Benefit Breakfast and Auction

**WHEN:** Sunday, March 22, 2015

**WHERE:** Valier High School Multipurpose Room

**TIME:** Breakfast starts at 9:00 am till gone (they always have lots).

Auction will start between 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM

Friends of Fred are putting together a breakfast benefit to help with medical costs. They are asking for donations or auction items. If you wish to donate to the benefit, contact Bob Kovatch at 406-279-3798 in Valier. You can also send information to LeAnn Hermance at [Hermance@3rivers.net](mailto:Hermance@3rivers.net). Bob's Kovatch's mailing address is: 16085 Valier Hwy, Valier MT 59486. Thrivent is helping with the food, community groups with the cooking and cleaning. Zane is auctioneer.

Items donated so far is a ½ of beef, Superior Welding shop time, quilts, etc. More information will be sent as items are received. Thank you for helping Fred.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT, CONTINUED

Rich Inman and I have just finalized our portion of the \$90,000 RTP grant that is being submitted by the BCHM organization. As a testament to the work that Larry Thomas and his crew have put in year after year on the trails, we put in 41 trails that we do maintenance on every year. The next highest number of trails a chapter put in was 12 with most of the chapters working on a half dozen or less. The chairman of BCHM has started a new "Chairman's Award" and has asked each of the chapters to submit a name for consideration of the award. Larry Thomas has been chosen as our member to be submitted and as typical of Larry he asked me why he should be considered with all of the more qualified members of the chapter to choose from. Next time you see Larry pat him on the back and say thanks for all he does for trails. Don't pat too hard he is still trying to mend his shoulder!

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Dan Marsh

### HEALTH CERTIFICATE & COGGINS TEST

Dr. Geske, DVM, is offering to host one or multiple days/sessions where club members can go to a predetermined site as a group and receive Health Certificates and Coggins testing for their horses. Negative Coggins Report is good for one year in Montana and Wyoming. (Other states may have different time restraints on them. Check before going.) They are required at various horse events. They are also required to enter into these states. (If you go to Yellowstone Park, you'll need one to get back into Montana.) Health Certificates are now offered for a minimum of 30 days (also required to travel into Montana and Wyoming and to return) and some states will honor them longer.

The Health Certificate is \$15 (of which Dr. Geske will donate \$5 of each test fee back to our club to be used at our discretion) and the Negative Coggins is \$15. The Coggins report takes a few days to get back so a week's notice or more is requested. She has asked us to pick some dates and run them by her for approval. It has been suggested that we get our Coggins reports early in the season on one date. Then, set up another date or two to receive health certificates prior to going out of state/in to the park for work projects or general riding.

Her office in Baxter Meadows and the Fairgrounds are 2 places she mentioned for possible sites to meet. This information is how I understood it after speaking with her and looking at Montana and Wyoming's websites on EIA.

— Janice Cartwright



JEAN SCOTT HALE "JIFFY"

Born Jan. 22, 1930, in Mountain Lakes, New Jersey, died peacefully on Feb. 27, 2015, in Bozeman, Montana.

Jiffy attended school in Mountain Lakes, New Jersey, and completed high school at Radnor High in Wayne, Pennsylvania. She also attended Taylor Business School in Philadelphia. She met and married

Charles W. Hale, Jr. "Chick" in Wayne, Pennsylvania, in June of 1950. They were married for 65 years before Chick preceded her passing on Oct. 22, 2014. See more [HERE](#)

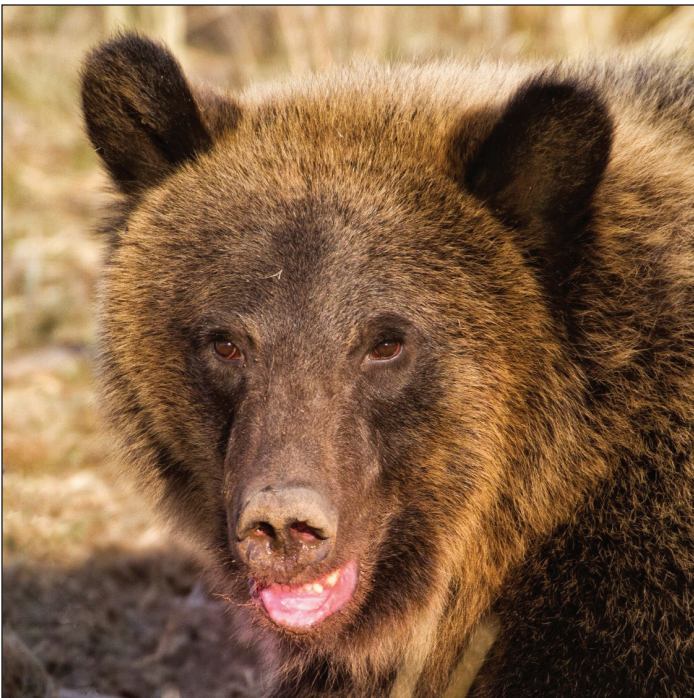


## KEVIN FREY'S SLIDE SHOW PRESENTATION

Kevin Frey is a 22-year veteran grizzly bear specialist with the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Frey has previously worked for the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team and still is a member of this team. He spends nearly all his time working with bears and especially griz bears. Kevin has a wildlife degree from Montana State University.









## BUCK BRANNAMAN CLINIC

President's Day brought the second annual Buck Brannaman Clinic for the Colt Starting and Training students at MSU. Quite a few members were spotted in attendance. Twenty-one horses and students were in the arena at the same time. Before the start of the clinic, one young gelding decided that the saddle just didn't feel right. He proceeded to try and "get it right/off". We were treated to a few laps of him bucking like a son of a gun. Most of the other horses were already in the arena with many of them tied to the side rails. There weren't any wrecks but there were a few bumps and spooks until this youngster was apprehended.

— Janice Cartwright





Recent study results lead researchers to believe it's better to scratch a horse in reward, rather than to pat.

To pat, or not to pat. That is the question we horse people have been asking ourselves, and it's also one that a group of British equitation scientists recently aimed to resolve.

Their study's results lead them to believe

that it seems better to scratch, not pat, to reward a horse, said Emily Hancock, MSc, under the supervision of Sarah Redgate, PhD, both of Nottingham Trent University in Nottingham, the United Kingdom. Hancock presented the research at the 2014 International Society for Equitation Science conference, held Aug. 6-9 in Bredsten, Denmark.

"Wither scratching could potentially increase horse/human bonding and act as a more effective reward," Hancock said, adding that scratching is a natural behavior among horses, whereas patting is not. "Riders and handlers should be encouraged to scratch rather than pat their horses as a reward."

The issue of patting versus scratching had not previously been addressed in scientific studies, she said. In her study Hancock and her fellow researchers observed 16 horse/rider combinations in the Grand Prix Special dressage test of the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Overall, pats dominated any other type of non-aid contact: Riders issued 350 pats throughout the Grand Prix competition and only three strokes.

Of the 16 riders, 15 patted their horses when they finished the test, and 12 of these patted for at least a full minute. As a result, 34% of the horses displayed visible behavioral reactions, mainly speeding up their movements when they received the pats, Hancock said. However, it's possible that this acceleration was the result of the rider moving forward in the seat, she conceded.

The research group then investigated the effects of patting and wither-scratching in five riding school horses as well as five rescue horses that had never been victims of abuse or adverse handling. The riding horses were accustomed to being handled, patted, scratched, and brushed, but the rescue horses were not.

In the study handlers patted each horse for 30 seconds four times, with 15-second breaks between each patting session. They also scratched the horses on the withers four times for the same intervals. As a control, handlers just stood quietly next to the horses for the same amount of time. The team recorded heart rate and behavior for all three parts of the experiment.

The researchers found that horses moved their ears around more when they were patted. When they were scratched on the withers, they tended to put their heads down, Hancock said. Even more remarkable, she said, was the fact that wither-scratching seemed to prompt behaviors that weren't seen at all in patting or during the control phase.

"We noted a lot of mutual grooming and especially upper lip movement during the scratching phases, but there was just none of this at all when the horses were being patted," Hancock said.

Interestingly, the riding school horses showed more positive behaviors than the rescue horses did, perhaps because of their isolated housing situations, Hancock said. "Obviously when these horses are individually housed, they can't participate in this mutual grooming," she said. "I think they appreciated it more."

Patting, by contrast, resulted in "much more movement, more head-shaking, more moving back and forwards, slightly more raised heads, and more pawing," Hancock said. "But we saw no pawing at all during scratching."

A 4-year-old rescue horse, the youngest in the study, had the most extreme reaction to patting, raising his head high and taking seven steps back, she said.

Heart rate, though, did not vary significantly between the groups. Although previous research on wither-scratching alone (not compared to patting) has consistently revealed lowered heart rates during the scratching, Hancock's study did not show this, she said. "But their behavior still made it clear that they enjoyed the scratching," she said.

About the Author:

Christa Lesté-Lasserre, MA is a freelance writer based in France. A native of Dallas, Texas, Lesté-Lasserre grew up riding Quarter Horses, Appaloosas, and Shetland Ponies. She holds a master's degree in English, specializing in creative writing, from the University of Mississippi in Oxford and earned a bachelor's in journalism and creative writing with a minor in sciences from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She currently keeps her two Trakehners at home near Paris. Follow Lesté-Lasserre on Twitter @christalestelas.

Photo by Janice Cartwright



## HORSING AROUND

**a** TOUGH OLD COWBOY FROM TEXAS COUNSELED HIS GRANDDAUGHTER THAT IF SHE WANTED TO LIVE A LONG LIFE, THE SECRET WAS TO SPRINKLE A PINCH OF GUN POWDER ON HER OATMEAL EVERY MORNING. THE GRANDDAUGHTER DID THIS RELIGIOUSLY UNTIL THE AGE OF 103, WHEN SHE DIED. SHE LEFT BEHIND 14 CHILDREN, 30 GRANDCHILDREN, 45 GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN, 25 GREAT-GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN, AND A 40-FOOT HOLE WHERE THE CREMATORIUM USED TO BE.

—Courtesy of Rich Inman



Janice Cartwright



**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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