

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:

FIRST AID CERTIFICATION FOR FS VOLUNTEER SAWYERS : MAY 2, 8:00 AM - NOON

Bozeman Ranger Station

STATE BOARD MEETING : MAY 9

Broken Arrow, Deer Lodge

4H CLINIC 5 : MAY 9, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Gallatin County Fairgrounds

TRAIL CHALLENGE PLAY DAY @ RAFTER K : MAY 16, 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM

Rafter K Arena

BOARD MEETING : MAY 21, 6:00 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : MAY 21, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church

VIRGINIA CITY POKER RIDE : MAY 23

Virginia City

SUMMER TRAIL FAIR : MAY 27, 6:30 - 9:00 PM

Lindley Center, 1102 East Curtiss

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : JUNE 3

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

We have definitely had the April showers, now its time for the May flowers. We had a great pot-luck with lots of tasty dishes. The Bozeman Ranger District program was informative and we look forward to working with them on the trails. Brian and Jeremiah will be pulling other duties so we have a new volunteer coordinator working with us.

I hope everyone has renewed their membership, Marianne and I will find out who needs a reminder.

The May program is Emily Glunk, an MSU equine nutrition specialist, who will let us know everything about hay and equine nutritional needs.

We have a state board meeting on May 9th at Deer Lodge which happens to be the same day as the last 4-H clinic V to be held at the Gallatin Fair Grounds. The last clinic will make sure they are ready to take a back country trip with the packing skills they have learned.

I want to thank Sue Geske of Double Diamond Veterinary Hospital for taking a Saturday to draw blood for Coggins tests at a reduced rate. Sue will donate five dollars of each test to the 4-H packing clinic fund.

The Poker Ride is just around the corner so if you haven't signed up to help, contact Tamara Erickson to offer your assistance. May is the month that we gather as many prizes as possible for the Poker Ride, if you know someone who wants to donate or if you got prizes last year please let Tamara know so we don't have too many people contact the same vendor or miss vendors that are willing to donate.

I sent a letter to Joni Packard of the Forest Service expressing our concern over them further increasing the restrictions on their food storage orders. Henry Glenn is going to keep our interests known to the Gallatin Community Collaborative meetings that are held monthly and hope to get a report on their progress at a later meeting. *Happy trails, Dan Marsh*



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**APRIL 16**

Attendees: Dan Marsh, Dan Porter, Sharon Fraser, Tamara Erickson, Larry Thomas, Clark Kinney, Chris Nygren, Carl Blaskovich, Henry Glen, Harry Huntsinger

The meeting was called to order by Clark Kinney at 5:30 pm and was seconded by Carl Blaskovich.

Minutes of the last board meeting were accepted by Clark Kinney, and seconded by Carl Blaskovich.

**FINANCE REPORT/NEW BILLS:**

Sharon Fraser reported the checking account balance is \$5,453.63, and the savings account balance is \$20,029.97.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Sharon Fraser reported that she visited the mailbox and several pieces of correspondence were received including: the Bitter Root BCH newsletter, the 2015 CDT Montana Volunteer Guide, and requests for donations from Montana Wilderness Association and Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

**ISSUES:**

Dan Marsh reported on several issues, including H.R. 845, H.R. 167, HR 996, SB 309, and SB 326, HB 204, and HJ13.

Publicity: Harry Huntsinger reported that publicity will focus on the Poker Ride.

**NEWSLETTER:**

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

**TRAIL CREWS:**

Larry Thomas reported that first aid training for certified sawyers is scheduled for May 2nd.

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

**PROGRAM:**

The May program is Emily Glunk, Hay 101, and the June meeting will be held at Janice Cartwright's. The June meeting will begin with an ice cream social, and the program will focus on organizing the Poker Ride.

Poker Ride: Tamara Erickson reported on Poker Ride progress.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Clark and Harry reported on the 4-H Clinics
- Dan Marsh reported on the Gallatin Collaborative Committee, and mentioned that club attendance at the next meeting on April 25th from 8 AM to 12 PM was encouraged. Henry Glen thought he may be available to attend.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Sue Geske is offering Coggins testing for members at a discounted rate of \$15, at Double Diamond Veterinary Hospital on April 18th.
- First Aid training for sawyers is scheduled on May 2nd.
- The Cache Creek Corral project date has been confirmed on August 22.

*Submitted by Tamara Erickson*



Larry Thomas accepting his award from Dan Marsh  
2015 Chairman's Award - GVBCH - State of Montana



Call Beth Merrick if you are  
interested in a First Aid/CPR class

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 16

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

Minutes of the last general meeting were accepted by Chris Nygren, and seconded by Jim Allbright.

### PROGRAM:

Brian and Wendy presented a program and outlined the Bozeman Ranger District Forest Service volunteer requirements, as well as reporting several personnel changes in the district.

### FINANCE REPORT/NEW BILLS:

No new bills were submitted for approval. Sharon Fraser reported the checking account balance is \$5,453.63, and the savings account balance is \$20,029.97.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

Several pieces of mail were received, including the Bitter Root BCH newsletter, the 2015 CDT Montana Volunteer Guide, and requests for donations from Montana Wilderness Association and Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

### MEMBERSHIP:

Marianne was not present, and membership was not reported.

### ISSUES:

Rich Inman and Dan Marsh reported on several issues, including H.R. 845, H.R. 167, which are both still in committee; SB 309 and 326 passed the senate and are in second reading in the house; HJ 13 is in committee; HB 204 passed both house and senate. Governor made amendments and sent it back.

### PUBLICITY:

Harry Huntsinger reported that publicity focus will be directed at Poker Ride, and that plans for advertising are underway.

### NEWSLETTER:

Dan Marsh reported that articles and photographs are still needed for the club newsletter. It was mentioned that some great photos were taken at the 4H packing clinic, and anyone with photos are encouraged to send them in.

### TRAIL CREWS:

Larry Thomas reported that many trails are still snow packed and inaccessible.

National Trails Day is June 6th, and will be celebrated by the club with a ride at Garnet Mountain.

Saw certification/training through the Forest is good for three years. First aid training is good for 2 years, and is required for all certified sawyers. A first aid training session is scheduled with the Forest Service for existing sawyers on May 2nd. Beth Merrick suggested that first aid training be made available to all members. It was further suggested that first aid training be included as an upcoming program idea. Members who are interested in first aid training are asked to contact Beth Merrick.

It was mentioned that bear spray is available at a discounted rate when purchased in bulk, and Beth Merrick made a motion that the club purchase a case of bear spray. Individual cans will be made available to interested members for purchase. Sharon Fraser seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

### PROGRAM:

The May program is Emily Glunk, Hay 101, and the June meeting will be held at Janice Cartwright's. The June meeting will begin with an ice cream social, and the program will focus on organizing the Poker Ride.

Poker Ride: Tamara Erickson reported on that a Poker Ride Committee meeting was held on Monday, April 13.

The Poker Ride posters have been redesigned to advertise the 2015 ride. The posters will be printed and available during the May General Meeting, and members will be asked to help distribute/put up posters around the valley to ensure a successful 2015 event.

Volunteers are still needed to fill key spots during the event, and members were asked to contact Tamara Erickson 406-451-8186 if they are able to lend a hand.

Prize collection for the Poker Ride has begun, and members who obtained prizes in previous years are asked to collect prizes once again this year. Businesses interested in sponsoring the event may want a 501(c)3 form to file their donation on their taxes. Rich Inman will have the forms available at the May general meeting, but please contact Rich if you need forms sooner.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE...

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES—CONTINUED  
APRIL 16

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 2015 State Convention Report: Jim Allbright reported on the state convention.
- Rich Inman gave brief update on the RTP Grant
- Clark Kinney reported on the 4-H Clinics, and commended several GVBC members for their dedication to the program, which has been very successful. Due to a conflict, volunteers will be needed to help during the May 9th packing clinic, which will be held at the fairgrounds from 9 AM to 4 PM. Please contact Clark Kinney or Harry Huntsinger for more information or if you are available to help.
- Dan Marsh reported on the Gallatin Collaborative Committee, which is in the process of re-organizing. The next meeting is scheduled on April 25th from 8 AM to 12 PM at the Hilton Garden Inn.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- The BCH Chairman's Award was presented to Larry Thomas by Dan Marsh. Congratulations Larry!
  - Sue Geske is offering Coggins testing for members at a discounted rate of \$15, at Double Diamond Veterinary Hospital on April 18th.
  - The Cache Creek Corral project date has been confirmed on August 22
  - First Aid training for sawyers has been set for May 2nd from 8 AM to 12 PM
  - Goodies for the May meeting will be provided by Madeline and Molly.
- Motion to adjourn meeting was made by John Mutter, and was seconded by Clark Kinney. The motion passed.

*Submitted by Tamara Erickson*



photos by Janice Cartwright

Laurence Van Dyke, winner of a Wally Becker Hand Tied Halter

LOTS of GAMEY dishes... Elk, Deer, Moose, Mountain Goat...





### HAY 101

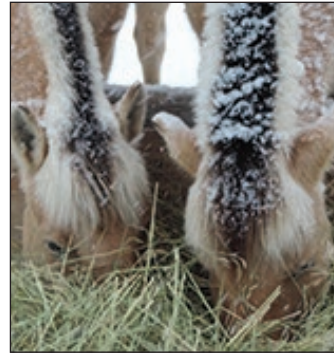
Emily Glunk is the new Forage Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor in the Animal and Range Sciences Department at MSU. Emily came to Montana this past June from University of Minnesota, where she finished her PhD in Animal Science. Before that, she completed her B.S. at Penn State University, and M.S. at North Carolina State University. Since starting at Montana State University, most of her time has been focused on travelling and presenting throughout the state, learning the needs of farmers, producers, and ag agents. Her initial focus is not only on forage production and establishment projects, but also on research that investigates the forage-animal

interaction, as well as aspects of forages in relation to soil quality and health.

The Back Country Horsemen's Forage talk will focus on "Hay 101". Topics that will be covered include hay testing, analysis interpretation, how to properly store your hay, and how to reduce waste during storage and feeding.

Find [HERE](#) certified weed free hay, bagged feed, or straw.

Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Program  
MT Department of Agriculture  
PO Box 200201  
302 North Roberts  
Helena, MT 59620-0201  
406-444-7819 Fax: 406-444-9493  
[agr.mt.gov](http://agr.mt.gov)



### TRAILBLAZERS SUMMER TRAILS FAIR MAY 27

Learn about upcoming trail projects  
& volunteer opportunities!

**WHAT:** The Gallatin Valley Land Trust and the Wilderness Society are hosting a summer trails fair. Celebrate our amazing trail system, roll up your sleeves, get a little dirty and take care of our community trails!

Representatives from the City of Bozeman, US Forest Service, Gallatin County and a variety of trails stewardship and user groups will be on hand to share upcoming summer trails projects and how you can get involved.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 27th, 2015; 6:30-9:00 pm

**WHERE:** Lindley Center, 1102 East Curtiss

Barb Cestero  
The Wilderness Society  
(office phone) 406-586-1600, ext 118  
(cell) 406-579-0713  
[www.wilderness.org](http://www.wilderness.org)

### TRAIL CHALLENGE PLAY DAY @ RAFTER K ARENA MAY 16

We're excited to start the year at Rafter K in May! Trail Challenge Play Days provide a unique opportunity to play with a variety of obstacles, sharpen your skills and learn what you may need to work on in preparation for GalleP's Bohart Trail Challenge on September 19.

Rafter K offers an indoor arena, outdoor arena, and a large acreage to ride out on. They have a multitude of trail challenge obstacles, including a water crossing, so there will be plenty to play with. There will not be an instructor, as this day is all about practicing your skills and having fun. Previous GalleP Trail Challenge winners (now board members) will be there to help out if desired.

Cost: \$25 for GalleP members, \$50 for non-members  
Limited to 20 horses/riders, minimum of 5  
Dates: May 16, June 21, July / Aug TBD  
Time: 9am to 2pm – sign in starts at 9am.

Registration form click [HERE](#).

Arena rules include: Persons under 18 must wear a helmet while riding, and no dogs allowed, not even in the car.

2015 Events Calendar - Save the dates!

May 16	Trail Challenge Play Day @ Rafter K
June 21	Trail Challenge Play Day @ Rafter K
July-Aug TBD	Trail Challenge Play Day
September 19	Bohart Trail Challenge
September 26	Poker Ride @ Lone Mountain Ranch

## 4-H PACKING CLINIC

### CLINIC I:

Introduction and Packing Project Overview. Discuss participant interests and goals for the year  
Equipment review and introduction to basic packing methods and packs

Packaging/Tying manties

Top packs: diamond hitch

Pannier: different types, application, and loading

Balancing loads: scales

Hitches: basket and barrel hitches

### CLINIC II:

Loading & Packing "Hands-on" practice stations with stationary barrel.

### CLINIC III:

Begins with a guest speaker: Mr. Bob Hoverson. Bob is a professional in the art of packing and will be sharing a wealth of knowledge and education. Bob has written a book and produced a video that our group will be using in all clinics. The GVBCH will be setting up "hands-on" stations to instruct and let everyone practice various skills required for packing

Packaging mantie & panniers

How to quarter & pack elk

Trail etiquette

Balancing cargo loads

Fitting pack saddles

Safety for stock & rider

Hitches to load pack stock

Stock care and camping setup

First Aid & Communication

Diamond hitch for top pack

Highlines, hobbles and pickets

during both Clinics III and IV. Each station will involve learning skills, such as:

Participants will not bring their own riding or pack stock to Clinic III. However, participants are encouraged to bring their own riding and/or pack stock to Clinic IV to begin preparing themselves and their personal stock for Clinic V and ultimately the field day and group pack trip.

### CLINIC IV:

Participants will bring their own pack animals and riding animals. Participants should bring their own tack, both riding and pack saddles. If you do not have pack saddles we will have a few extra pack saddles for use at this clinic. Rich will bring 2 extra pack animals for those who do not have pack stock. HELMETS are required for riding at this clinic.

This session is primarily about getting participants pack animals ready to use on a pack trip. We will be progressing each pack animal through the skill tests listed below.

Explanation and organization of the day. Leave horses at your trailer; meet at the bleachers to start.

Set up and assess individual animals and equipment.

Pack Saddle Fitting and Set Up

Working with pack stock as needed in the arena

Pack Trip Food List with Kitchen set-up, this will be set up all afternoon for discussion and review.

Individuals will rotate through the skill stations. Short trail ride may be an option if pack stock is ready.

Skill Stations:

Weight Distribution of loads

Panniers with Diamond top pack option

Mantees with basket hitch/barrel hitch

Highlines, Hobbles, Pack String )

Pony and leading pack horses

Overall/Rotating Volunteers: Bob Hoverson, Clark Kinney

Primary Volunteers: Dan Marsh, Greg Benjamin, Rich Inman, Mike Haugan, Marty Hoffman, John Mutter, Teri High, Henry Glenn, Steve Thienes

Secondary Volunteers: Carl Blaskovich, Debbie Moran, Dave & Nancy Marx, Harry Huntsinger, Molly Glenn

Kitchen Set-up: Sue Geske, Bobbie Kinney, Debbie Moran

## CLINIC V:

Focus of this clinic will be to implement everything learned in the previous clinics. If you plan to participate in the Field Day, this clinic is required to assess safety of rider and stock. Although we will have a few clinic animals available for those without riding or pack stock. We will have volunteers from the GVBCH available to provide one-on-one assistance, as needed.

In addition to working directly with you and your stock, we will also cover the following items:

- Trip Planning: gear & food lists
- Trailer Loading & Unloading
- Driving & Backing a Trailer

## FIELD DAY:

Saturday, June 27th, meeting at the Town Pump at 4 corners, 8:00 AM. Trip location to be determined depending on weather and trail condition, but likely up the Gallatin Canyon.

## FAIR:

Monday, July 13th, 7 pm- 9 pm. Not quite sure specifics on the event yet since we may adjust the program depending on group size. However, we have the large outdoor Anderson Arena at the fairgrounds scheduled so will focus on a fun event!! This will be a chance to showcase the groups skills and thank our sponsors for their support in this public event. There will be ribbons and prizes. Examples of individual projects:

- Poster of displays of knots, splices, hitches, equipment needs, stock care, menus/food and trip itinerary.
- Poster and of display about safety; horses and/or human first aid
- Equipment made by Exhibitor. Possibilities include knots, sling ropes, panniers, pack saddles, etc.
- Pack trip journal with pictures

Skills Test/Packing Challenge: Gear and equipment will be staged to be packaged, loaded and packed through a trail course.

## PACK TRIP:

(Tentative, but will be finalized at Clinic V): Friday-Monday July 24th-27th. Initial plan will be to have a backcountry "base" camp set up to allow kids and families to join the group for one night only OR allow a longer stay and longer rides for 4H kids that want a bit more. A backcountry "trail boss" will be available for groups that want to come in or leave on a couple different schedules. Tentatively, we are planning the trip to "Fish Lake" east of Gardiner. This location will allow for a moderate length ride, or hike for parents without horses, to a backcountry "base" camp with unlimited riding/hiking further into the Absaroka Wilderness if desired.

## PACK-IN VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREWS:

Saturday, August 1st, near West Yellowstone. We only need 4-5 pack horses so does not require a large group. But if you want to truly put the pack skills you have learned to work, this is your opportunity to have a real "unpaid" job for you and your pack stock! This will be a short 3-4 mile pack in, so this only a day event (no overnight stay). Dates and locations of clinics subject to change.

## GOALS:

The project will be consistent with 4-H goals of education and learning life skills.

The primary focus of the program is to teach safe and efficient methods for recreational packing on horses & mules.

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

You do not need a horse, mule or packing equipment to participate. You can learn the art of packing and utilize the clinic pack animal(s) for "hands-on" experience during the clinics. Excellent opportunity to be introduced to packing with horses before making the commitment to purchase equipment. Should I bring my own horse and equipment to the Clinics? NOT to Clinics I, II or III, but participant horses and pack equipment are encouraged for Clinics IV and V. You will need your own horses or mules to participate in the field day or pack trips. The program will be tailored to attention spans of kids. This will not be a "lecture" style program. It will be "hands-on" applications. Breaks and snacks will be provided as needed.

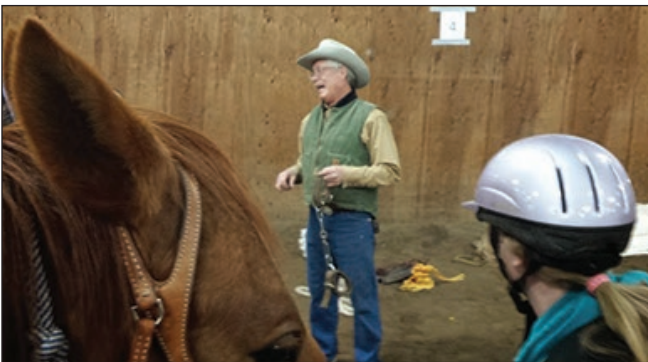
## WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

All 4-H members are welcome. You do not need to be signed up for Clinic I. If you have an interest, come listen to the first 30 minute Introduction. You can still sign up for the project after Clinic I. Parent(s) and/or adult mentor(s) are encouraged, but not required, to participate with kids. Packing is a wonderful family activity.

For questions please contact:

Greg Benjamin Phone: 406-580-9574 E-mail: [gbenjamin@seaeng.com](mailto:gbenjamin@seaeng.com)

# 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  
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



FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK

