

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

STEVE THIENES ... 578-2124

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:

BOARD MEETING : OCTOBER 15, 6:00 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : OCTOBER 15, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church



#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Well my FORD truck has been living up to its name (Fix Or Repair Daily). It has been in the shop more the last month than on the road. Between hunting and truck problems, I missed a bunch of the September trail maintenance projects. Larry and crew have been busy all of September clearing trails we already cleared earlier. Tamara is still trying to get the old Poker Ride committee together to discuss what can be improved for next year.

If you have any ideas for a program in the coming months please get a hold of Rich or Janice. I have got a number of compliments from people on our recent programs that keep them coming to the meetings. I suspect the trail clearing will be drawing to a close shortly but call Larry if you have an urge to get out and clear trails.

We need to have all of our volunteer hours posted to the BCHM web site by the first of October so they can be sent to the Forest Service and compiled along with the other states for use at BCHM. Next year, I would like to have a more formal approach for keeping track of volunteer hours. Rich Inman has done a fantastic job of keeping track of the 4-H clinic hours for everyone and dealing with the mountains of paperwork for our RTP grant.

It is that time of year again when we are looking for officers and directors to fill those positions. I want to thank Tamara, Sharon, Dan, Brant, Marianne, Harry, Larry, Rich, Janice, Henry and all of the directors for their hard work this year and I hope they will be willing to continue on in some capacity next year. I have already done a three year stint as President earlier and only wanted to step in for a year this time around so please consider running for President as I am sure folks would appreciate a change. I will post the results of our volunteer hours as soon as I get them all added up.

If you are not receiving the newsletter or meeting announcements please let me know so I can add your email address or get your mailing address corrected.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Dan Marsh

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 17**

Dan Marsh called the meeting to order and took roll call. Dan Marsh, Dan Porter, Sharon Fraser, Tamara Erickson, John Mutter, Larry Thomas, Mark DeOpsomer, Chris Nygren, Carl Blaskovich, Rich Inman, Henry Glenn and Harry Huntsinger were in attendance.

**MINUTES:**

Dan Marsh made a motion to accept the August Board meeting minutes, Tamara Erickson seconded and the motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Sharon Fraser reported that one new bill was received.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The club received a package from the MNWEC containing informational brochures and posters advertising and promoting noxious weed awareness.

**ISSUES:**

Dan Marsh reported on the LWCF.

**PUBLICITY:**

Harry Huntsinger reported that he is writing an article for the Belgrade News and one for the state 4-H newsletter advocating BCH participation in 4-H packing clinics.

**NEWSLETTER:**

Dan Marsh reported that he will be out of town and his submission to the newsletter may be late as a result but that it will include photographs of trail clearing rides.

**TRAIL CREWS:**

Larry Thomas reported that the trail crews did not go out Wednesday, September 16 due to bad weather. Larry received information that the Elk Horn trail has several downed trees and is in need of attention and announced that the trail crew will clear the Elk Horn trail on Wednesday, September 23. Larry also stated that the trail crew work location will be determined on a weekly basis. Members interested in helping the Wednesday trail crew are asked to contact Larry Thomas no later than Tuesday for information on when and where to meet.

**PROGRAM:**

The program for the General Meeting will be presented by Sundance Saddle Shop. No program is currently determined for the October meeting.

**GRANTS:**

RTP Grant: Henry Glenn reported that there were 11 applications for the \$90,000 Recreational Trails Program Grant, GVBCH was awarded approximately \$6,800.

Rich Inman reported that much paperwork will be necessary to claim reimbursement from the RTP Grant,

including a paper trail showing that the expenses were initially covered by GVBCH. GVBCH will be required to reimburse members' expenses, but will be reimbursed from the RTP grant once all the paperwork has been filed.

•Motion: John Mutter made a motion to authorize GVBCH Treasurer, Sharon Fraser, to write checks covering member expenses with the understanding that those payments will be reimbursed by the RTP grant to the club once the paperwork has been submitted and approved. Tamara Erickson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

RAC Grant: Henry Glenn will attend a meeting on October 3 and make a pitch on behalf of GVBCH for an RAC grant.

Volunteer Hours: Dan Marsh asks that members submit all volunteer hours to him via email by the end of September. This includes hours spent clearing trails on an individual basis, as well as administrative tasks.

**GCCC:**

Dan Marsh attended the GCCC meeting last month and reported that the committee recommendations are due to be submitted in October.

**STATE BOARD MEETING:**

Henry Glenn and Rich Inman reported:

- The RTP grant was the largest topic of discussion.
- Some BCH chapters around the state are finding it difficult to launch a packing program with local 4-H Chapters. Possible reasons were discussed and most likely is a combination of factors including a lack of dedicated individuals willing to make the necessary efforts to establish a packing program and a lack of funding.
- Bear Aware Program: Bear Spray is available at a discounted rate to GVBCH. A case of 15 or more cans must be purchased for free shipping to receive the best price.

**SADDLE AND HARNESS CHRISTMAS PARTY:**

Dan Marsh reminded the board that it is GVBCH's turn to host the Christmas party, which is scheduled for December 12th. Volunteers are needed to form a planning committee.

**OFFICER NOMINATION COMMITTEE:**

It is once again time to nominate members for board positions and volunteers are needed to form a nomination committee. Dan Marsh indicated that the position of President will be open and need to be filled for 2016.

**4-H DONATION REQUEST:**

Harry Huntsinger made a request that the GVBCH sponsor the 2016 4-H Packing Clinic.

•Motion: Chris Nygren made a motion that the club support the 4-H Packing Clinic with a \$500.00 "Competition" level sponsorship. Tamara Erickson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

— Submitted by Tamara Erickson

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 17**

Dan Marsh called the meeting to order and welcomed one guest in attendance.

**PROGRAM:**

Thank you to Dan Crinklaw, Sundance Saddle Shop, for presenting an informative and interesting program. Mr. Crinklaw began creating custom saddles in 1978 and recently relocated his shop to 6555 B Tawny Brown Lane. But don't let the name fool you, Sundance Saddle Shop is not limited to producing custom saddles. "If it's made of leather, we can make it or fix it," said Mr. Crinklaw, who explained that he handcrafts many leather goods including pistol holsters, rifle scabbards, chaps and chinks, saddle bags, specialty tack items and even ladies' handbags. Sundance Saddle Shop also specializes in repair work for all types of leather goods including saddles, tack and boots.

The program included a basic explanation of saddle fit for both horse and rider and offered some economical suggestions on how to achieve good saddle fit for one saddle on a variety of horses with the use of saddle pads that offer a customizable fit through the use of shims, so long as the horses have reasonably similar wither and back shapes. He explained the different gullet and bar sizes required for a good fit on different horse breeds.

The importance of good saddle fit for the rider was also stressed and several tips for maximizing rider comfort were offered along with advice on desirable saddle traits based on the primary riding style, discipline or activity performed. For instance, a good roping saddle will be sturdy with a shallow seat, whereas a trail saddle should be light weight with a higher cantle and swells allowing for a deeper, more secure seat for riding up and down hills.

A new Kevlar wrapped wood tree is being offered and recommended by Sundance Saddle Shop, because it offers great strength and durability, but is very light weight, which is a significant benefit to both horse and rider.

**MINUTES:**

Tamara Erickson made a motion to accept the August General Meeting minutes, Jim Allbright seconded and the motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Sharon Fraser reported trail maintenance bills were received, along with one bill for copies. An explanation was made by Rich Inman regarding the necessity to front money and write checks for trail maintenance that will later be reimbursed by the RTP Grant (see details below). Rich informed the club that a motion was made and passed during the board meeting to allow Sharon Fraser to write the checks out of the GVBCB account.

- Motion: Jim Allbright made a motion to accept and pay new bills. Chris Nygren seconded the motion and the motion passed.

It was also noted that one new membership was received.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- The club received a package from the MNWEC (Montana Noxious Weed Education Campaign) containing informational brochures and posters advertising and promoting noxious weed prevention and awareness. The posters were displayed and brochures were passed to interested members.

- A letter advertising The Bale Barn was received, which is a cover and feeder designed for round bales. The cost is \$895 and a \$25 commission will be donated to the club for any GVBCB sales generated.

**ISSUES:**

Dan Marsh reported on the LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund bill). Dan explained that approximately one million dollars per year are allocated for trail funding from offshore oil revenues, which helps secure items such as access through private land. The purpose of the bill is to acquire permanent approval.

**PUBLICITY:**

Harry Huntsinger reported that he is writing an article for the Belgrade News and one for the state 4-H newsletter advocating BCH participation in 4-H packing clinics.

**NEWSLETTER:**

Dan Marsh reported that he will submit photographs of recent trail clearing rides for the next newsletter and reminded members that photos and articles will be needed during the upcoming months to keep the newsletter interesting once trail riding season is concluded.

**TRAIL CREWS:**

Larry Thomas reported that the trail crews did not go out Wednesday, September 16 due to bad weather. Larry received information that the Elk Horn trail has several downed trees and is in need of attention, and announced that the trail crew will clear the Elk Horn trail on Wednesday, September 23. Larry also stated that the trail crew work location will be determined on a weekly basis. Members interested in helping the Wednesday trail crew are asked to contact Larry Thomas no later than Tuesday for information on when and where to meet..

**RTP GRANT UPDATE:**

Rich Inman reported that there were 11 applications for the \$90,000 Recreational Trails Program Grant, which was won by Sanders County who will utilize the money to establish a safe trail along a busy highway. MTBCH was awarded a smaller \$40,000 grant, of which the GVBCB will be allocated to receive \$6,800.

Rich stated that much detailed paperwork will be necessary for the club to claim reimbursement from the RTP Grant, including a paper trail of cancelled checks showing that the expenses were initially covered by GVBCB. Rich spent several hours preparing

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES—CONTINUED

paperwork for the initial submission, which is due on October 15, 2015. He plans to submit the paperwork for reimbursement by October 1, 2015 to ensure it is received with plenty of time to spare. GVBCH will be required to payout reimbursements to members for expenses, but will then be reimbursed from the RTP grant once all the paperwork has been filed.

### **VOLUNTEER HOURS:**

Dan Marsh asks that members submit all volunteer hours to him via email by the end of September. This includes hours spent clearing trails on an individual basis, as well as administrative tasks.

### **GCCC:**

Dan Marsh reported. He attended the GCCC meeting last month and reported that the committee recommendations are due to be submitted in October.

### **STATE BOARD MEETING:**

Henry Glenn and Rich Inman reported:

- The next state board meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2015 and will be held in Missoula.
- GVBCH's next turn to host the state BCH convention is not scheduled until 2021.
- The RTP grant was the largest topic of discussion.
- Some BCH chapters around the state are finding it difficult to launch a packing program with local 4-H Chapters. Possible reasons were discussed, and most likely is a combination of factors including a lack of dedicated individuals willing to make the necessary efforts to establish a packing program, and a lack of funding.
- Bear Aware Program: Bear Spray is available at a discounted rate to GVBCH. A case of 15 or more cans must be purchased for free shipping to receive the best price.

### **SADDLE AND HARNESS CHRISTMAS PARTY:**

Dan Marsh reminded the board that it is GVBCH's turn to host the Christmas party, which is scheduled for December 12th. Volunteers are needed to form a planning committee.

### **OFFICER NOMINATION COMMITTEE:**

It is once again time to nominate members for board positions and volunteers are needed to form a nomination committee. Dan Marsh indicated that the position of President will be open and need to be filled for 2016.

4-H Donation Request: Dan Marsh announced that Harry Huntsinger made a request to the board that GVBCH make a sponsorship donation to the 2016 4-H Packing Clinic program and that the board responded by approving a donation in the amount of \$500.

### **OTHER ISSUES:**

Rich Inman suggested the club consider purchasing a satellite phone for use by the trail crews next summer as a safety tool. The idea was discussed and it was determined that a satellite phone is no longer cost prohibitive. The board agreed to look into the possible options and that the issue will be decided before the 2016 trail clearing season.

Dan Marsh reported a possible change to the Cross Cut Chain Saw policy that would allow individuals to obtain certification to become certified Class B instructors and would allow GVBCH to have an in-house trainer or trainers.

Dan Marsh announced that medical or search and rescue life flight subscription plans are available in the event that helicopter rescue is needed. A Butte company offers a plan starting at \$45 per year per individual, but lifetime plans are also available.

— Submitted by Tamara Erickson



Steve's horses by Janice Cartwright

This trail starts behind the 320 Ranch in the Gallatin Canyon. Across the bridge, over the Gallatin River and continue on the road behind the cabins and there one finds a wide open space with lots of area to park a horse trailer. Everyone arrived close together and totaled 9 members and 11 animals. The crew consisted of Rich Inman, Larry Thomas, Ron Rohletter, Dan Marsh, John Mutter, Jim Allbright, Brenda Kessler and Carmen Orr. Because it started to drizzle, most found their rain coats and put them on. It was stated that, "If the rain coats were put on, the rain would stop and the sun would come out." Whoever said that was correct as by 10:15, the sun appeared, and the coats were never really needed.



Carmen's long-legged, pretty mule

Carmen was riding her new mule, Paris. It seems as the day went on, the mule knew exactly what she was doing. What a nice ride she was. She's a pretty thing, also.

At some point Larry asked the crew if they wanted to do lots of work and everyone except Brenda said, "Of course!" so Larry pointed his horse towards Dailey Pass and we started up a trail that has not been worked for some time. And the crew worked: and stopped counting somewhere around 30 plus downfalls that they removed. A breather was managed, called lunch.

Later, it was a relief when we reached Daily Pass. This part of the trail is on the Yellowstone Park border and is situated on a ridge that looks down into the Daily Creek meadow and Yellowstone Park.



Looking down into Yellowstone Park from Daily Pass with Jim and mule Molly



Starting out: everyone with rain coats, except Jim



Lunch

Turning back towards Buffalo Horn Creek and losing lots of altitude on trail 100, we turned onto trail 39 and into another meadow. There we passed by the Buffalo Horn cabin, and back to Buffalo Horn creek. Soon we were at our trailers. It had been a nice cool day. When it was discovered that Larry had planned on hitting that trail all along, the guys teased Larry, "Was the choice really ours or did he let us think we had a choice. This way if there were any complaint we had only ourselves to blame for all that work?" When accused, Larry just looked good-natured but (mischievous). Pulling out of the 320 Ranch, we passed three or four groups of dudes and wranglers going up the trail. It was nice to be going home.

—Brenda Kessler

On September 30, 2015, the Larry Thomas trail crew headed for the Buffalo Horn country. We received a report that some of the trails that we had cleared on August 5th were again in need of clearing. Larry Thomas, Ron Rohletter, Jim Allbright, Daniel Hartzheim (friend of Jim's), and Rich Inman arrived at the Buffalo Horn trail head at 0900, loaded up the mules and headed up the trail. In less than half a mile, we encountered our first downed tree. It made us wonder what was in store for the rest of the day. We turned right from Buffalo Horn trail #1 and headed toward the cabin and, yes, a few more trees to cut. From the cabin we proceeded to Tepee Pass. We were pleased to see that the directional sign at Tepee Pass was still standing. John Mutter and Larry Thomas had dug a hole and reset the post on August 5th. From Tepee Pass we headed toward Dailey Pass. We spent some time putting water diversions in the steep grade headed east from Tepee. About 1230, we stopped for lunch at a scenic vista located just off the YNP line about half way to Dailey Pass. Some of us had thoughts of a short nap after lunch but Larry said we must push on. We had cut 20+ trees by lunch time. Arriving at Dailey Pass we turned onto the Buffalo Horn Lakes trail #57. There was quite a bit of clearing to do on this trail. We finally connected back with Buffalo Horn trail #1 about 3:30 and headed toward the trail head only to encounter more downed trees. To top it all off, we spent about an hour putting in water diversions in the steep grade just west of where trail #1 and trail #57 come together.

Jim's friend, Daniel, had not ridden a horse in a long time so the 15 mile trip left him with some sore spots. He added to those sore spots by doing some heavy duty digging on the water diversions. He now is acquainted with a combi.

We arrived back at the trucks about 5:30, had a nice cold pop from our cooler then headed for home. It was a great day with absolutely perfect weather.

—Rich Inman, Scribe

**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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