

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.

#### 2016 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR

##### PRESIDENT

John Mutter ... 285-0516  
mutterranch@q.com

##### VICE PRESIDENT

Carmen Matzick ... 600-1379  
cmatzick@msn.com

##### TREASURER

Sharon Fraser ... 539-2783

##### SECRETARY

Tamara Erickson ... 451-8186

#### DIRECTORS

##### ONE YEAR TERM

Harry Huntzinger ... 580-2788  
Chris Nygren ... 546-7550  
Carl Blaskovich ... 388-4640

##### TWO YEAR TERM

SUE GESKE ... 581-6058  
Mike Haugen ... 539-0538  
Lawrence VanDyke ... 586-2440

#### STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Rich Inman (2 year) ... 388-1564  
Henry Glenn (1 years) ... 578-2084  
Dan Marsh (Alternate) ... 587-7578

#### 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:

FALL EQUINE WORKSHOP : NOVEMBER 2, 6:00 PM

Desert Rose, 213 W. Main, Belgrade

BOARD MEETING : NOVEMBER 17, 6:00 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : NOVEMBER 17, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church

BCHMT STATE BOARD MEETING : DECEMBER 3

Fairbridge Inn, Missoula



#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hello all,

Normally, I try to keep this column light and simple but this month is an exception.

Regretfully, over the summer there's been a couple of occurrences where our members acted in less than an acceptable manner. The most recent came to my attention from the President of BCH Montana. I won't go into it here, or anywhere else for that matter, because our member promised me that it would never happen again.

I want to emphasize to everyone that we are an organization that is dedicated to the common good of all outdoorsmen and women. When any one of us is recognizable as a "Back Country Horseman" we are in essence representing our entire organization. It's not just about you anymore!

Please remember that there are people out there with hidden agendas. Some folks have big chips on their shoulders just looking for a fool to knock it off. PLEASE don't be that fool! It might be a land owner that doesn't like horses and doesn't want you to be where you are even if you have legal access. Don't mouth off. Just be cool. It might be a mother that thinks her little one can run up under your horse's tail to pet it. Watch for this and move your horse away if necessary, especially in high traffic areas. Don't cop the attitude that they should know better. Remember, they may not know anything about safety around livestock. And, possibly most important of all, please watch what you say to other people. Pick your words carefully and be aware that what you think is "Cute" others might take very seriously. In other words, always take the high road. Don't be crass. Remember, you represent a great organization. It's bigger than just you. We Back Country Horsemen are all gentlemen and gentlewomen. Let's be sure to present that image to everyone we meet.

Thanks for listening.

*John*

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 20**

**ATTENDEES:** John Mutter, Sue Geske, Dan Marsh, Sharon Fraser, Carl Blaskovich, Chris Nygren, Lawrence VanDyke, Carmen Matzick, Tamara Erickson, Jim Albright, Dan Porter, and Mike Haugan.

John Mutter called the meeting to order and took roll call.

Carmen Matzick made a motion to approve the September board meeting minutes, Chris Nygren seconded the motion, the motion passed and the minutes were approved.

**FINANCE REPORT:** Sharon Fraser reported one new bill.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A newsletter and invitation to purchase raffle tickets was received by Public Land and Water Access.

**PUBLICITY:** No report.

**TRAIL CREWS:** No report.

**ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chris Nygren reported that Carl Blaskovich has done a lot of calling, and they are still working on getting nominations finalized which will be ready in time for the November meeting. John will ask members to consider running for board positions at the general meeting.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Jim Albright confirmed that the new date for the Christmas party will be January 28th, which is a Saturday night. It will be held at the Lee Hart Ranch, Henry Glenn will provide the meat, attendees will be asked to provide pot luck salads and desserts, and the Saddle and Harness Club will be officially hosting the party.

**FRIENDS OF 4H AWARD**

The 4H club presented GVBCH with a "Friends of 4H Award" plaque.

**FUN RIDE:**

Dan Porter reported that the participation on fun rides could have been better. He also suggested doing a fun ride "pack trip" for folks interested in doing an overnight pack trip. The trip could be worked out so that some people could ride to a half way point, for instance the Falls Creek Y, and either turn back, or stay the night and ride to Spanish Lakes the next day.

**FOREST PLANNING MEETING WITH MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSN:**

Dan Porter reported that the first meeting is scheduled sometime in November.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Tamara Erickson was contacted by Russ Lewis, who is in the planning stages of organizing a packing clinic open to the public to benefit Heroes and Horses in Manhattan. Russ asked for feedback regarding what type of information would be most helpful and/or interesting to club members. Tamara told Russ that she thought most people interested in attending such a clinic would mostly likely be interested in learning basic skills, which was affirmed when the board was asked their opinion. Dan Marsh, John Mutter, and Sue Geske offered to give Russ their advice and asked to be copied on further email communications, which was agreed upon.

Tamara made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Sharon seconded the motion, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

*—Submitted by Tamara Erickson*





**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 20**

**PROGRAM:**

Keith Aune retired after a career with FWP and is currently working as Bison Program Director for the Wildlife Conservation Society. Keith spoke about his experiences and the necessity of utilizing horses in wildlife research while studying bears and bison.

Dan Marsh made a motion to accept the August minutes, Jim Albright seconded the motion, the motion passed, and the minutes were accepted.

**FINANCE REPORT:**

Sharon Fraser reported on the account balances and one new bill received this month.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

A newsletter and invitation to purchase raffle tickets was received by Public Land and Water Access.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

One new member joined at the Lewis and Clark Event, which brings current paid memberships to 57.

**ISSUES:**

HR 845 passed the house and is going to the Senate but it hasn't been looked at yet.

**TRAIL CREW:**

Larry Thomas has had several phone calls reporting down trees on many trails caused by recent wind storms which will be cleared next spring as trail crew is finished for the year. Larry recommends that if you are planning to hit the trails, to bring a saw as there are many reports of downfall.

Larry spoke to Cody with the Forest Service regarding the hitching post projects discussed in the September meeting. The Forest Service was in support of the project and suggested the hitch rails be made of pipe instead of wood so that they will last longer. The Forest Service will work on coming up with funds to provide materials if GVBCH provides tools and labor.

**FUN RIDES:**

Dan Ported reported good turnout for the first few rides, but then participation slacked off later in the year. He is interested in ideas to attract more members to participate in the fun rides.

After hearing about member interest in pack trips last month, Dan suggested a fun ride / pack trip next summer which would involve packing in a camp to the Falls Creek Y at Spanish Creek, approximately three miles from the trail head. Members wishing to do a longer ride could proceed from the camp site to the Spanish Lakes, others not wishing to camp overnight could turn back at Falls Creek. This would provide an easy pack opportunity for members to participate in an overnight trip and Lawrence

Van Dyke and others offered the use of their pack stock.

A time frame was discussed. Dan's original thought was to schedule it in July or August; Larry Thomas proposed scheduling the trip in the spring when needed work on water bars, bridges and other trail maintenance could also be accomplished early in the season.

**PROGRAMS:**

Emily Glunk will put on the program next month by popular demand speaking about hay and horse nutrition.

**ELECTIONS AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

Please consider serving on the 2017 board of directors. The nominating committee is in the process of contacting members in order to solicit nominees, but if you are interested and have not yet received a phone call, please contact Chris Nygren, Carl Blaskovich or any board member for additional information. Please remember, we have no club without a board of directors!

**CHRISTMAS PARTY:**

The Christmas / Holiday party has been scheduled for Saturday January 28th at the Lee Hart Ranch. The Saddle and Harness club will be hosting the event. Henry Glenn will provide meat. Salads and desserts will be pot luck.

**MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION:**

MWA is forming a group of interested parties to become more organized in bringing forth ideas for the Forest Service planning meeting. Several members have committed to represent GVBCH, but other members interested in attending are asked to contact Dan Porter or John Mutter for additional information. They are asking for a small group to be involved at the first meeting.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Tamara will bring goodies to the November meeting.

Jim Albright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Marsh seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

*—Submitted by Tamara Erickson*



SPANISH LAKE  
RAMSHORN LAKE

Larry Thomas, Carmen Matzick, and I rode to this lake on Saturday...a long 8 miles in..cool and overcast most of the day. Three goats spotted on the peak above the lake. Not much else to say. —*Dan Porter*



Janice, (Scout), Ron, Anna and Barbara (friend) enjoying lunch at the lake.





## MIRROR LAKE

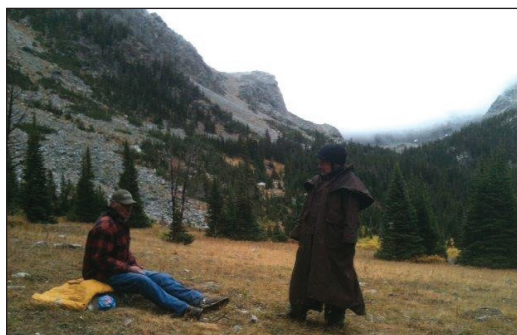
Tales from the Trail

September 24, 2016

Four members of GVBCH , Larry T. , Carmen M., Dan P, and new member, Ian Bevan met at Four Corners for a ride in the Spanish Peaks Wilderness southwest of Bozeman. On the way to the turn off, we spotted herds of elk on Ted's land across the river, and bison were scattered out in the meadows along the Spanish Creek Road. The previous night saw rain, and clouds still hung low over the mountains. When we arrived at the parking area it was virtually deserted so we had the trails to ourselves. We took the trail up the Southfork (FS 407) and rode left towards the Mirror Y continuing on to Mirror Lake which we reached at 12:10 pm. It was a cool 39 degrees and the tops of the mountains were hidden in the clouds but the views were still incredible. The fall colors were in evidence everywhere. Returning by the same route, one "blue" crossed the trail as we passed and one set of moose tracks was spotted. We had to cut only four trees on the 14 mile round trip however it was noted that the water bars were mostly clogged with sediment and several needed replacing. The sun was trying to peak through the clouds for much of the day but we all enjoyed a nice quiet ride in the mountains.

If you go...The first 5 miles of this route are relatively gentle with several stream crossings and one bridge alternative during high water. The last 2 miles become increasingly steeper and rocky. In several places there are steep drop offs . This portion of the trail is not recommended for inexperienced riders or inexperienced horses.

—Dan Porter



**GVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS  
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2016 POKER RIDE:**

TOP POKER HAND PRIZES:

Rocky Mountain Hat  
Madison River Propane  
Ardesson Boots & Shoes  
Montana Canvas  
Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply

SILENT AUCTION PRIZES:

Big Sky RV  
Knife River  
DJ Bar Ranch  
Steer In Trailer Sales  
Rich Inman  
Ace Owenhouse  
Beth Merrick  
Meredith Kresge  
Sorensen Veterinary Hospital  
Montana Equine Veterinary  
Four Corners Saddlery  
Rocky Mountain Truck Center  
Tru Value Hardware Belgrade  
Tim McWilliams  
Montana Horse Sense  
Ben Masters  
Steve Thienes

RAFFLE PRIZES:

Treasure State (Mike Haugan)  
Troxel  
Montana Horse Sense  
Boot Barn  
All West Veterinary  
Three Forks Saddlery  
Double Diamond Halter Company  
Dan Marsh  
Rich Inman  
Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply  
Barb Mutter  
John Mutter  
Chalet Market  
Four Corners Saddlery  
Beth Merrick  
Big Sky RV  
Montana Equine  
Sorensen Veterinary Hospital  
Rocky Mountain Truck Center  
Freeway Enterprises  
Double Diamond Veterinary  
Rocky Mountain Supply  
Town & Country Belgrade

Hardaway Veterinary Hospital  
DaBrim  
The Coffee Pot  
Bridger Mountain Plumbing  
Bozeman Saddle Outlet  
Outback Steakhouse  
Kountry Korner Café  
Corral Steakhouse & Bar  
B&B Plumbing

CASH/PRODUCT DONATION

Bank of Bozeman  
Harrington's Pepsi-Cola  
Town & Country Belgrade



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