

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
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BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578
webmaster@bchmt.org
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UPCOMING EVENTS:

BCHMT STATE BOARD MEETING : OCTOBER 8

Broken Arrow, Deer Lodge

BOARD MEETING : OCTOBER 20, 6:00 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : OCTOBER 20, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hello everyone,

You may wonder why I chose an old photo for this month. It's just my way of remembering my old horse, Blaze, who we buried this month last year. He lived with us for 16 years before he died and was a better horse than I ever deserved. I miss him.

Our year seems to be drawing to a close. Henry and crew have finished their work for the Gardiner District. As most of you know, they helped the Nine Mile crew replace a sill log on the Hell Roaring Cabin. It was a big job and they have pictures posted on Facebook. Larry says he's run out of work for the Wednesday crew so unless something unexpected comes up, it looks like our work year is about over.

Dan Porter is planning another "Fun Ride" so if you're interested please contact him directly. There is still a lot of good riding weather left so let's all get out and enjoy it!

The Bozeman Saddle and Harness Club says it's their year to sponsor the Christmas Party. Many of their club are going to Las Vegas for the NFR and that is in conflict with the date we reserved (Thursday Dec 8th.) Lee Heart says we can have a Fri or Sat night if... we do it in January. A decision must be made soon, so expect a phone call asking for your input this week.

Happy Trails 'Till then,

John

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15

ATTENDEES: John Mutter, Rich Inman, Dan Marsh, Sharon Fraser, Carl Blaskovich, Chris Nygren, Lawrence VanDyke, Carmen Matzick, Tamara Erickson, Jim Allbright, and Mike Haugan. John Mutter called the meeting to order and took roll call.

Tamara Erickson made a motion to approve the August board meeting minutes, Carmen Matzick seconded the motion, the motion passed.

FINANCE REPORT:

Sharon Fraser reported no new bills.

CORRESPONDENCE:

BCHMT sent an email about the recently issued Yosemite Wilderness Plan "Preliminary Concepts & Ideas".

BCHA also sent an email reporting on 2015 statistics such as miles logged and volunteer hours.

PUBLICITY: No report.

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Jim Allbright spoke with the saddle and harness club regarding the Christmas party. They have requested that we consider changing the date from December 8th, due to a conflict. Several Saddle and Harness Club members plan to travel to Las Vegas for the National Finals Rodeo and will be out of town on Dec. 8. They suggested moving the date to January so that they will be able to attend.

Jim volunteered that he and Brenda could speak with Lee Hart about moving the date to a Friday or Saturday night in January.

Rich brought up the fact that it is the Saddle and Harness Club's turn to host the party this year and that we should consider turning the planning over to them and let them handle the details. John asked Jim to coordinate with the Saddle and Harness Club and to speak with Lee about booking a date in January. Everyone agreed and no one objected with idea of moving the party date to January.

HELL ROARING CABIN:

Lawrence Van Dyke reported that a 36 minute video was shot during their recent trip, and suggested that it be shown during a general meeting in lieu of a program. Rich stated that he needs to check with Janice Cartwright but that he believes there is a hole in the program schedule in October, and that it may be possible to show the video.

Lawrence reported that the cabin trip was a success, and everything went beautifully. The foundation stones were replaced and re-mortared, and other maintenance tasks were completed as well.

Lawrence said that Henry Glenn was considering the Slough Creek Cabin as the next project prospect. The cabin needs to be re-sided and the fence restored.

A discussion ensued regarding the next summer's projects. Lawrence wondered if more members may be willing to participate on overnight pack / work trips if they don't have to supply their own pack animal. He speculated that if the Forest Service flies in the project materials or if materials are already available on site, there could be enough pack stock available to haul in the extra food and personal gear necessary to accommodate additional participants.

John agreed, and went on to state that he has received feedback from several members expressing interest in going on the overnight trips. Some were upset about being excluded because they do not possess their own pack stock.

All present agreed that these considerations should be kept in mind when planning next year's projects and ideally arrangements should be made to include as many members as possible.

Furthering the discussion on next year's projects, Jim Allbright suggested the club consider building and / or restoring hitching posts at commonly used trail heads in addition to the usual cabin and corral projects. Several brought up points supporting this idea, as many existing hitching rails are in disrepair or non-existent on trails long favored for horseback riding, and that it could help keep a claim for equestrian use on popular trails as traffic increases. Everyone agreed that building or restoring trail head hitching posts would not only be a worthy project, but a simpler and easier endeavor for most members to participate in.

John asked Jim to head up the project. Jim agreed. He will begin the process of scouting possible locations and planning the first projects. He will also look into obtaining permission from the Forest Service, as needed. Rich suggested that if we are simply replacing or refurbishing existing hitching posts, it may not be necessary to get permission from the Forest Service.

UPDATE ON "MR. MISSOURI" ISSUE:

Dan Marsh reached out to the parties involved for updated information, but never heard back from anyone.

Rich said that he heard from the Forest Service and that they were aware of the issue. The Forest Service told Rich they were aware of the situation and actively counted the days that "Mr. Missouri" had been camping in the area, but that he left before his time limit in the Gallatin Forest had technically expired.

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

— Submitted by Tamara Erickson

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15

PROGRAM:

United in Light Draft Horse Sanctuary is in Livingston. Deborah Derr, Founder, spoke about UIL draft horse rescue, program origins, purpose and goals. She shared inspirational stories about the horses and people involved and answered many questions from members. Please visit: www.draftrescue.com for more information.

President John Mutter brought the meeting to order. No guests were in attendance.

Janice made a motion to accept the August minutes, Larry Thomas seconded the motion, the motion passed.

FINANCE REPORT: Sharon Fraser reported no new bills.

CORRESPONDENCE:

BCHMT sent an email about the recently issued Yosemite Wilderness Plan "Preliminary Concepts & Ideas". They welcome member feedback. If you did not receive the email, please contact John Mutter.

BCHA reported 2015 statistics such as miles logged and volunteer hours.

NEWSLETTER:

Last month, it was generally agreed that trail crew reports, posted on FaceBook, should be included in the newsletter. A volunteer was requested to handle this job but no one stepped up. This is be a fairly easy task, simply copying the information and sending it to Brant Robey for publication in the newsletter. Anyone willing to help with this task is asked to please contact John Mutter for details.

TRAIL CREW:

Larry Thomas reported that the formal Wednesday trail clearing is suspended for the year but he requested that members let him know if they discover big messes on the trails that need to be handled. He stipulated that one down tree does not constitute a big mess! As usual, he will stay in contact with the Forest Service. Larry thanked everyone who participated and said he enjoyed working on the trails.

FUN RIDES:

Dan Porter reported on the fun rides. The last one was a nice, short but steep ride at Moonlight Basin and the view from the top was great. He said there was much participation on the fun rides this year and that the group enjoyed several long but beautiful rides.

CABIN PROJECTS:

Lawrence Van Dyke reported on the Hell Roaring cabin project. The group, led by Henry Glenn, made several trips and completed much needed maintenance work.

This year, participation in the cabin restoration projects was limited to members able to provide their own pack animal. John Mutter mentioned that this policy was

brought up and discussed during the board meeting. The board agreed to consider the issue while planning next summer's overnight projects, with the goal of including members who may not have their own pack stock.

HITCH RAIL PROJECTS:

During the board meeting, Jim Allbright suggested installing and/or restoring hitching rails at commonly used trail heads. The board discussed it, concluded it would indeed be a worthy project and asked Jim to head it up. Jim agreed and will begin scouting the first projects.

ILL MEMBERS:

A few members, including Harry Huntsinger, have been hospitalized or placed in rehab to recuperate. Contact John Mutter for details and please keep them in your prayers.

PROGRAMS:

Rich has contacted Kevin about doing a Grizzly bear update in October. If he's not available, there will be a video of the Hell Roaring Cabin project. By popular demand, Emily Glunk, "the hay lady", will return in November for a program about hay and nutrition.

ELECTIONS AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

It is time to assemble a nominating committee for the upcoming elections. Volunteers were asked for. If you are interested in participating, contact John Mutter.

The 2017 elections will be held at the December 2016 meeting and the ballot will be available in November. Chris Nygren and Carl Blaskovich volunteered to serve on the committee. Rich Inman suggested that Harry Huntsinger may be interested in making calls while he is convalescing.

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Last month, after discussion at the board and general meetings, John Mutter reserved the Hart Ranch for December 8. Jim Allbright stated that he spoke with the Saddle and Harness Club, who said they have a conflict with the date. Several of their members are traveling to Las Vegas for the National Finals Rodeo at that time. They said it is their turn to host and asked if we would move the meeting to January. If so, they will take over hosting duties. Jim said that he will coordinate with the Club, as well as Lee Hart, on arrangements.

LEWIS AND CLARK CAVERNS:

Dan Marsh and Lawrence Van Dyke will represent the club at an event at Lewis and Clark Caverns on September 17, 12-6 pm. They will have informational displays and a 30 minute packing demonstration. Members were invited to participate.

Janice Cartwright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tamara Erickson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

—Submitted by Tamara Erickson

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW

(8/31/16) This week the Wed. trail crew headed up by Larry Thomas included Rich Inman, Bonny Hammer, Tamara Erickson, Ron Rohletter, and John Mutter. We went up South Cottonwood to the junction of the Squaw Creek Ridge trail where we had lunch in the meadow. On the way up, we cleared 6 trees from the trail, 3 with hand saws. On the way out we stopped by the FS cabin, where Eddy was working with his crew on a new out house. We had a good chat with them before starting back down the trail where a rather large rock awaited our attention.

I don't know why but it seems like something strange always happens on the S. Cottonwood trail. It had been a good day and soon the conversation turned to the legend of Charley the mule. We all had a good laugh when out of nowhere up rides this mustachioed old codger who claimed to be E. F. Hutton. Then he proceeded to add to our telling of the legend. Everyone was so impressed with his knowledge, they kept completely silent and just listened to the story.



When E. F. Hutton speaks, everyone listens!

by John Mutter



Larry pulled some long, black moss hanging off the trees as we were riding and used it for a fake mustache and beard! —Tamara Erickson

**JACK CREEK / SPANISH CREEK DIVIDE
FUN RIDE**

Six GVBCH members (Larry & Billie, Carmen Matzick, Bonnie Hammer, John Mutter, Dan Porter and one guest, Tom Lamb) carpoled to Jeffers and up the Jack Creek Road to the Jack Creek Rec Area. Prior permission had been obtained to continue on thru the Moonlight Basin gate to where the old FS Tr. #316 bisected the newer Jack Creek road. We parked there and rode a steep but relatively clear trail thru meadows and timber for a short but scenic ride to the ridge overlooking Lake Solitude and the entire Spanish Creek drainage. Even the fieldhouse in Bozeman was spotted. A short ride across the ridge allowed us a view in to the Spanish Lakes and across the way a great angle at Blaze Mountain. We ate lunch at “the top” and returned by the same route, looking South across Moonlight Basin to Cedar and Lone Mountain and West to the Gravellys. No wildlife was spotted but the scent of elk lingered in several locations. It was a perfect day with cooler temps and great company, good horses and no flies.

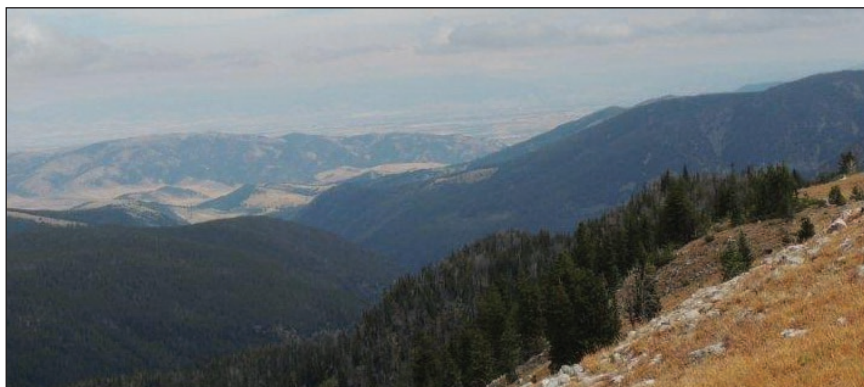
This ride requires special permission from Moonlight Basin and a check with the Madison Ranger District is advisable as well. The trail is steep with many switchbacks and is a good candidate for a water bar project...some day. I was told one can ride around the gate on horse or foot and up the road three miles to the trail intersection without permission however you are passing thru private property and must stay on the road until you reach the trail.

—Dan Porter



This sign was on the ground at the divide where the trail dropped over in to the Spanish Lakes. Larry said it was from the days when outfitters had overgrazed the area around the lakes while taking dudes and hunters in to fish and hunt. It prohibits all stock, There was also a sign that said the trail was not recommended for livestock.

SATURDAY FUN RIDE
JACK CREEK UP THE EAST HAMMOND CREEK TRAIL TO LAKE SOLITUDE



photos by Bonnie Hammer

BLAZE MOUNTAIN & DIAMOND PEAK
BY 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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