

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:

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : SEPTEMBER 7, 14, 21, 28

FUN RIDE : SEPTEMBER 3

Contact Dan Porter, 539-0879

BOARD MEETING : SEPTEMBER 15, 6:00 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : SEPTEMBER 15, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church

HELLROARING : SEPTEMBER 5-10

Contact Henry Glenn 578-2084



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

It's September already, hunting season is almost here, our trail work season is drawing to a close and I've just recently been asked to put something about our weekly trail work into the newsletter. All along, Dan Marsh has been faithfully updating our Facebook page with trail reports but they've never made it into the newsletter. I'm going to try to remedy that here by copying Dan's work from Facebook. Hopefully, in the future "Trails" will become a regular feature.

(August 17) The Wednesday crew headed to Buffalo Horn for a 12.4 mile adventure. It was a little hazy from a fire in the Hebgen Lake area. The crew led by Larry Thomas included Rich Inman, Bonnie Hammer, John Mutter, Ron Rohletter, Wayne Frederickson and Dan Marsh. We cut out around 27 trees with a lot of them being multiple cuts. We heard thunder about mid way and we got a small sprinkle but it evaporated soon after landing. The trail on the way down Dailey Pass was sloughing off the side hill so we did about 30 yards of tread work. We moved right along averaging 3.2 mph over the route. We went from Buffalo Horn #1 to "Lindley Center to Highland" (That's the trail to the cabin.) to Teepee Creek #39 to Dailey Creek #100 to the Sky Rim Trail to Dailey Pass #57 back to Buffalo Horn #1. It was a 12 mile round trip but a very fun ride. Bonnie and Wayne both had nippers and a bunch of branches were cleared out of the way. We saw two moose in YNP and one cow moose on the way back just off the Buffalo Horn trail.

(August 10) The Wednesday crew cleared about 16 miles of trail on the New World Gulch and Bear Lakes trails. We started at New World Gulch trail #50 to Moonshine Trail #438 back to New World Gulch #50 to the Mystic Lake Cutoff #430 then on to the Bear Lakes Trail #53 over to Bear Loop #440 back to the trailhead. The crew was lead by Larry Thomas with Dan Marsh, Rich Inman, Ron Rohletter, John Mutter, Wayne Frederickson with guest Dianna and Carmen Matzick. Jim and Brenda Allbright started the trail with us but Jim's horse lost a shoe shortly after we started so he and Brenda went back home. We only cleared about seven trees but a couple were about the same width as the chainsaw bar.

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 18

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

Tamara Erickson, Chris Nygren, John Mutter, Rich Inman, Dan Marsh, Lawrence VanDyke, Carl Blaskovich, Henry Glenn, and Mike Haugan, were in attendance. Rich Inman stood in proxy for Harry Huntsinger, who was not present.

MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING

Dan Marsh made a motion to accept the July meeting minutes, Sharon Fraser seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

FINANCE REPORT

Sharon Fraser reported accounted balances. She received one bill in the amount of \$1,128.00 from Town & Country for the poker ride food. Tamara Erickson made a motion to pay the bill, Mike Haugan seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from BCH explaining how funds are spent, emphasizing the small amount spent on administrative tasks compared to similar 501(c)3 organizations.

ISSUES: DAN MARSH REPORTED

A new bill, Senate Bill 3205, Human Powered Travel in Wilderness Act, was proposed by senators Lee and Hatch of Utah.

Cell phone service will be available at the poker ride next year, as a new cell phone tower is being installed at Bridger Bowl.

Dan received an email from a member to let him know about a problem they experienced while attempting to camp in the Taylor's Fork area. In July, they arrived at the "old corrals" to find that a man and his wife from Missouri had taken up residence at the site, blocking off all the corrals and camp area with his vehicles, and making it difficult for anyone else to camp. The GVBCH members decided to leave the area and camped in a different location.

However, several weeks later, they returned to the site, once again intending to camp, only to discover the same man still in residence. He had strung electric fence around the perimeter of the corrals, allowed his stock to overgraze the area, and had not cleaned up after his stock. An argument ensued, escalating with the Missouri man making threats and acting in a very belligerent manner, which was so distressing to the GVBCH members, that they chose to leave the camp. They placed a call to the West Yellowstone Forest Service District, and notified GVBCH.

The board was concerned about the possibility that Forest Service camping regulations were not observed by the folks visiting from Missouri, and possibly not enforced by the Forest Service law enforcement officer. There was an

agreement to look into the situation with an emphasis in learning the details regarding Forest Service camping rules and regulations in order to share the information with members. Anyone else who may have encountered similar difficulties is welcome to contact a member of the GVBCH board.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership stands at 53 including regular and honorary memberships. Dan Marsh informed the board that he was contacted by a member who recently renewed her membership online. She voiced a concern that she had received no acknowledgement from the club that her membership had been renewed, and stated that several other members shared the same concern. Dan explained that the online system is currently set up so that an automatic email confirmation of membership payment is sent from PayPal, but Dan was unclear whether or not the members in question had in fact received that message.

Sharon Fraser and Dan Marsh also shared concerns regarding the accuracy of the current membership roster, speculating that it may be missing some names. A discussion was held regarding both issues. There was general agreement that new members should receive a welcome letter, and that the accuracy of the current roster needs to be investigated. Marianne Meyer was not present, so it was decided that the issues would be brought up at the general meeting where the discussion would continue.

PUBLICITY

No new publicity information was shared. John asked if anyone had heard the Public Service Announcements arranged by Janice Cartwright but no one had heard them.

NEWSLETTER

John Mutter proposed that the Wednesday trail crew updates currently being posted on Facebook also be sent to Brant for inclusion in the newsletter. Everyone present agreed that some members, particularly those receiving paper copies of the newsletter, may be interested in reading about trail crew updates in the newsletter.

HELL ROARING CABIN PACK TRIP

Henry Glenn, Lawrence Van Dyke, and Mike Hagan reported that they packed in 10 loads of material on 10 pack animals, 16.2 miles from the trailhead, clearing the trail along the way, in preparation of the cabin restoration project that is scheduled to begin on Monday August 22nd. They did maintenance work on the site, including digging and constructing a new outhouse, cleaned out the cabin, skidded logs, and repaired fences, but managed to find time for a little fishing and relaxation.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 18

John Mutter called the meeting to order and welcomed Montana Heart Rescue, who provided an excellent program and Compression Only CPR training

MINUTES OF LAST GENERAL MEETING

Dan Marsh made a motion to accept the July meeting minutes, Chris Nygren seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

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TRAIL CREW

Larry Thomas reported that it has been a good summer. The Forest Service Crews have also been out on the trails and have communicated and coordinated with Larry.

PROGRAM

The September program is to be determined.

HELL ROARING CABIN PACK TRIP

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CHRISTMAS PARTY

John Mutter explained that he contacted the Hart Ranch to reserve a date for the annual Christmas Party, but was told the facility would not be available on a Friday or Saturday night this year at no charge. Some options, including moving the Christmas party to a week night, or using a different venue were discussed. No one voiced any objections to holding the party on a Thursday night, and John will make a reservation at the Hart Ranch on Thursday, December 8th.

FUN RIDE

Dan Porter reported that several riders, including members and guests, have participated. The Spanish Creek to North Fork ride was a nice, long ride. He will lead another ride to the Inspiration Trail starting at Cache Creek on Saturday August 20th.

John Mutter made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Tamara Erickson seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

— Submitted by Tamara Erickson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT...CONTINUED

(August 3) The Wednesday crew lead by Larry Thomas cleared the trail starting at the Ousel Falls trail head and went up Second Yellow Mule #42 across Buck Creek Ridge #10 and down First Yellow Mule #162 for a round trip of about 19 miles. We only had to clear 4 trees but we did a lot of pruning along the way. We stopped for lunch near the Yellow Mule cabin and saw a herd of elk moving up the basin. It was a beautiful day with a bit of a breeze when we got up to Buck Creek Ridge. Larry, always the innovator, came up with a shoe lace from his saddle bag to strap down his hat to keep it on. The crew consisted of Rich Inman, Ron Rohletter, John Mutter, Carmen Matzick, Tamara Erickson, Dan Marsh, Wayne Frederickson and two guests. When we got back to the trail head Dan discovered someone had backed into his truck and dented the passenger doors but the guy was kind enough to leave a note.

I sincerely hope you enjoyed Dan's narrative, I did. Until next month,

Happy Trails, John

BOARD MEETING MINUTES...CONTINUED

CHRISTMAS PARTY

John Mutter informed the board that he contacted the Hart Ranch to reserve a date for the annual Christmas Party but was told the facility would not be available on a Friday or Saturday night this year at no charge. The board discussed some options including moving the Christmas party to a week night, or using a different venue. Henry Glenn stated the Springhill Church would be available and the board decided to bring the issue up in the general meeting for additional member feedback.

RTP

Rich Inman reported that the RTP check for the last submission had been received, and checks had been cut for member reimbursement. However, Rich had included a submission to reimburse Larry Thomas for saw and equipment maintenance, which was denied because Larry's signature was not included. This was an example of some of the frustration Rich has endured in dealing with the RTP Grant paperwork on the club's behalf which has been a considerable headache.

Chris Nygren made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mike Haugan seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

—Submitted by Tamara Erickson



SATURDAY FUN RIDE, AUGUST 20—CACHE CREEK

Nine riders rode the loop from the Cache Creek Trailhead to Lizard Lakes and across Inspiration Trail to the head of Buck creek , crossing over the divide and dropping in to Mcatee Creek, past Cougar Creek and returning by way of Indian Crossing and the gradual climb out of Indian Creek back to Cache Creek. In doing so, they crossed from the Gallatin National Forest into the Beaverhead National Forest and back in to the Gallatin again. Most of the time they were riding in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, land that will be protected and preserved forever from development and mechanized use.

The first part of the trail rises gently with numerous switchbacks and soft tread, leveling out and leading to the Lizard Lakes. After the lake a steep climb out of the basin is challenging for horse and rider and the trail then skirts the rocky rim above Buck Creek is best reserved for experienced horses and riders. The trail dropping in to Mcatee and Indian is better and the climb out is gradual with soft tread.

On this ride we encountered a number of down trees blocking the trail. Due to time constraints we bypassed as many as possible. One, in particular, blocked the trail at the rim of Buck Creek creating a danger point that we did remove.

The weather was perfect for a long ride, with clear skies, cooler temps, an occasional slight breeze and almost no insect activity. Views of the mountains in every direction were incredible. At one point we could see a fire burning in Yellowstone Park. The only wildlife seen were one cow moose, one mule deer doe, Clark's Nutcrackers , woodpeckers , a few squirrels and some chipmunks. (No lizards were spotted on this day but they are assumed to be doing well.) The effects of the pine bark beetle were everywhere , with dead trees outnumbering live ones in many areas. The past clear cuts in Buck Creek and Cache Creek however were hardly noticeable.

This is a long ride but everyone enjoyed the day and were glad to spend eight hours in the saddle together.

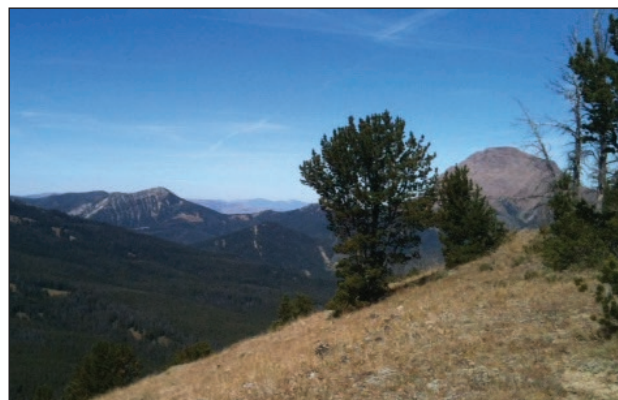
—Dan Porter



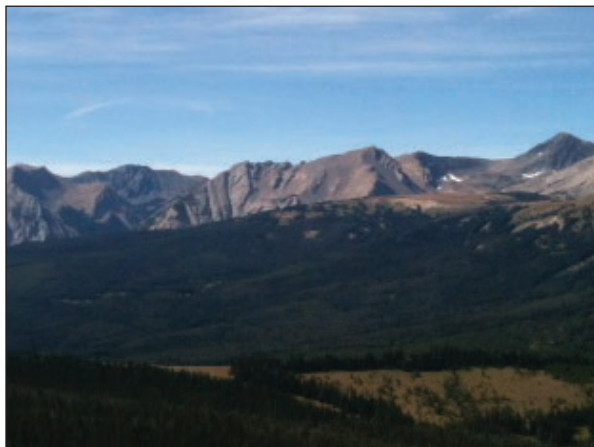
Lunch on the rim



Trail Boss



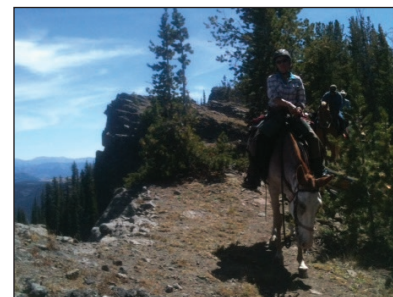
View into the Madison



Shed horn and the Taylor peaks



Crista at the bull pasture



Carmen on inspiration trail

TALES OF THE TRAILS BY DAN PORTER

JUNE 11

Eighteen riders met at the Spanish Creek Campground/Trailhead ready to ride by 10 am. At least eight were non members invited along to enjoy the trail. We split in to two groups, the first group led by Larry Thomas leaving ten minutes or so ahead of the second. The plan was to ride up the South Fork of Spanish Creek and meet somewhere above the falls on Falls Creek, which we did in the first meadow on the bench above. After a short break everyone continued on together for a mile or two ,then we stopped to enjoy lunch in a sunny meadow along the trail. The falls below Diamond Lake could be seen from this vantage point and the remainder of last winter's snowfall as well.

After lunch one group of 6 non members returned, while the rest of the group continued on to the Falls Creek crossing. Here a dead tree lay across the creek making it precarious at best to cross. The group decided to return at that point as it was already early afternoon.. The trailhead was reached by 4pm with no mishaps of note. It was a nice beginning for our first fun ride of the year.

JULY 2

Two riders, myself and a non member friend , arrived at the Spanish Creek Campground ready to ride by 9:30. We waited for a new member, Karl Darby to arrive, but left shortly before 10 with no Karl in sight. The Little Hell Roaring Tail to Arrow Lake is mostly uphill for several hours before leveling out for a short stretch before reaching Arrow Lake. One portion of the trail skirts a steep incline that some riders might consider hoofing it themselves as opposed to riding it. Arrow Lake appears to be a snowmelt catchment. I have not seen an inlet or outlet. The trail continues on across Indian Ridge, overlooking Grayling Lake and dropping down in to Hell Roaring Creek at Thompson and the Chilled Lakes. We stopped at Arrow to eat lunch and shortly after Karl Darby arrived , riding and leading a gray packhorse. We ate lunch together and visited about the lake, the trail, and the sign we had seen along the way. We returned by the same route as we had first taken. The turnout for the ride was light but it was a nice day with only moderate fly activity and a couple small trees to cut, We all had fun.

JULY 30, 2016

Six riders met at Spanish Creek for our third fun ride of the year ... Larry and Billie, Carmen and Michael, a friend ,Tom Lamb, and myself. Leaving the trailhead at just after 9am, we took the 401 trail West across the South side of Ted Turner's Ranch. We crossed the head of Cuff Creek and continued on past the turn off to Big Brother, arriving at the North Fork at 11:20 am. After a short break we all agreed to try the North Fork trail which would take us up and over the divide and down in to Camp Creek, past Big Brother. The first part of the trail passes

thru small meadows and is not well marked. It showed no recent human activity and we encountered a few down trees but nothing we couldn't ride around or cut without a problem. At the top of the divide the trail all but disappears again but can be found by dropping over thru alpine timber and picking it up on the other side of the ridge. Just above the lake we met a two man trail clearing crew from the Forest Service. They asked if we had come from the Willow Swamp direction and how many down trees they would have to deal with. They carried packs and a saw long enough to cut the largest tree in the peaks.

Our horses were tired by now. Tom and I had walked partly up from the North Fork to rest them and continued walking down past the lake until we reached Camp Creek and much needed water . From here we rode on to the confluence with the 401 /North Fork Trail. My horse in the lead, I gave him his head to see if he knew his way home. He made a nervous look in both directions and turned the right way with no other hesitation. ...looking back to make sure the other horses agreed with his decision.

We arrived at the trail head just before 7pm and ahead of threatening rain clouds. It was a long ride (25+ miles) but all agreed a great ride to make with experienced horses/riders in good condition. The next fun ride will be from the Cache Creek Trailhead where GV BCH built corrals last year. This ride will be another long one , (24+- miles) riding North past Lizard Lakes on the Inspiration Trail, across the top of Buck Creek, and then dropping back in to Indian Creek , past Cougar Creek, and thru Mcatee Basin, returning up Indian Creek to the trailhead. Most of this trail is relatively gentle with only one short stretch that makes you lean in your saddle. It features truly spectacular scenery and is one not to miss. Riders that don't want to ride that far could go as far as the lunch break where the scenery is awesome, and return easily to the trailhead on mostly soft easy trail.

Overnight camping at the trailhead is a good idea but not necessary. Rain gear, bear spray, extra food and water are advisable.



WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW PHOTOS



**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



FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK

