

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.

2017 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

Sue Geske ... 581-6058

Mike Haugen ... 539-0538

Lawrence VanDyke ... 586-2440

TWO YEAR TERM

David Crisp ... 239-776-6279

Dan Porter ... 539-0879

Carl Blaskovich ... 388-4640

STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Rich Inman (1 year) ... 388-1564

Dan Marsh (2 years) ... 587-7578

Jim Albright (Alternate) ... 763-4241

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Brant Robey... 222-5971
pbrantr@gmail.com

BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578
webmaster@bchmt.org
<http://gvbch.bchmt.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : JULY 5, 12, 19, 26

Contact: Larry Thomas 586-6878

WEEKEND TRAIL MAINTENANCE : JULY 1

Dan Porter at 539-0879

POKER RIDE : JULY 8 

Bridger Bowl

BIG SKY COUNTRY FAIR : JULY 17-23

Gallatin County Fairgrounds

BOARD MEETING : JULY 20, 6:00 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

GENERAL MEETING : JULY 20, 7:00 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

SPANISH CREEK OVERNIGHT : JULY 21-23

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

It's hard for me to believe that it's July already and time for the poker ride. The Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen's Poker Ride is, without a doubt, the pre-eminent poker ride in the state and this year marks our 30th annual event!

The loop we ride at Bridger Bowl goes over some of the most beautiful country Montana has to offer. It combines some wide spots where riders can group up and socialize a bit but still has enough single-track through the trees to satisfy those seeking a more primitive back country type of ride. You couldn't ask for a better location.

Traditionally, our lunch is fried chicken, salad and desert. Nobody goes home hungry! Our "Prize Table" is hard to describe. While most poker rides offer modest prizes ours is simply unbelievable. Besides our 5 "Poker Hand" prizes, usually worth upwards of \$200 each, there are raffle prizes totaling thousands of dollars in value. Even the 50/50 drawing has paid out over \$300. Simply stated, we're the richest poker ride I've ever seen!

So, be double sure to mark your calendars. The GVBCH 30th annual Poker Ride will be held at Bridger Bowl July 8, 2017. Registration opens at 8:00 am sharp with the last rider out by 10:00. The cost is \$25 Adult - \$12 Child or pre-register for \$20 Adult - \$10 Child. Pre-registration is advised, as we will limit entries to 250 riders. For more information call Dan Porter at 406-539-0879 or go to <http://gvbch.bchmt.org/poker.htm> to pre-register.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there. Be sure to bring some spare cash though. I'm the one selling the 50/50 tickets!

—John



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 15**

Role Call: John Mutter, Carmen Matzick, Sharon Fraser, Tamara Erickson, Sue Geske, Mike Haugan, Lawrence Van Dyke, Dan Porter, Carl Blaskovich, Dan Marsh, Rich Inman, Marianne Meyer, Dave Crisp. Rich Inman is standing proxy for Harry Huntsinger.

Motion to pass May meeting minutes was made by Carmen Matzick, seconded by Dan Marsh, and the motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Air MedCare- Montana House Bill No. 73 passed on April 25, 2017, which singled out private air ambulance membership programs and makes them subject to state regulation and fees under the Insurance Code. As a result, AirMedCare has ceased selling memberships in Montana but will honor current memberships through their current term. Please contact AirMedCare at 800-793-0010 for details.

MEMBERSHIP

Marianne sent membership cards. Roster stands at 49 paid memberships- 61 including honorary memberships.

TRAIL CREW

Lots of trees down and Forest Service staff is very limited.

POKER RIDE

John placed an ad in the Mini Nickle for the Poker Ride. Full poker ride report will be made at General Meeting.

HITCHING RAIL PROJECT

Hitch Rail project at Spanish Creek went well, and another project is planned on June 17th at Twin Cabins.

PROGRAM

Program for October is open. Rich trying to bring someone in to speak about aquatic mussels.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Dan Marsh asked if we should begin advertising or liking our sponsors on Facebook. Facebook is planning to revamp the non-profit sites. John mentioned he has received feedback from some businesses that have sponsored the poker ride in the past that they don't feel like they are getting much return for their sponsorship.

Gallatin Forest Partnership: Update by John Mutter. He is not sure how much consideration will be given to recommendations.

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

—Submitted by Tamara Erickson

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 15**

John Mutter brought the meeting to order and welcomed a guest, Marcus Byrd.

Dan Marsh made a motion to pass May minutes, Janice Cartwright seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sharon Fraser reported one new bill for ice cream for the Ice Cream Social submitted by Janice. Rich Inman submitted a bill for trailer supplies for the poker ride.

ISSUES

Dan Marsh reported that Forest Service funding is on the chopping block, which will make it tougher to get funding for trail maintenance in the future.

PUBLICITY

Advertising for the Poker Ride has been done, including an ad in the Mini Nickle, and posts on Craigslist and Facebook.

TRAIL CREW

Two new hitching posts were installed at Spanish Creek, 8 or 9 members showed up to help. This Saturday will be installing two new hitching posts at Twin Cabins. All members are welcome to come and participate. Bring your favorite shovel, tools, and lunch.

Wednesday trail crew will be working on Porcupine, Onion Basin to Ram's Horn. Contact Larry Thomas if you are interested in participating.

PROGRAM

Farrier Katie Curry will present a demonstration at the July meeting.

4-H OTO RIDE

The group is meeting Friday June 16 to kick off the ride, and is anticipating 20-25 participants. Kasey Burns with the Forest Service will join the ride for the weekend. The next trip will be a 3 night, 4 day trip into the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

POKER RIDE

Prizes were collected and Tamara Erickson reported on Poker Ride planning progress, with a primary focus on finding volunteers to fill vacant jobs and tasks. Several members stepped up to help with the ride, and a special thanks goes out to Janice Cartwright's friends Cookie and Dee Dee who are not members, but volunteered to help with the event.

Poker Ride Posters were passed to members for distribution.

Henry Glenn will lead the Poker Ride trail clearing crew and is planning to clear the trail on Wednesday July 5th.

Janice Cartwright will lead the trail flagging crew on Friday July 7th. Please contact Janice for details if you are interested in participating.

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES...
CONTINUED**

All members are welcome to meet at Bridger Bowl Friday July 7th to help with Poker Ride set up. A Pot Luck supper will be held after setup.

Janice Cartwright will lead the pre-ride crew that will depart the trailhead at 7AM.

Coolers and portable tables needed! If you have a cooler or table you are willing to lend the club for the event, please bring it to setup on Friday July 7th! If you are unable to help setup, please coordinate with another member to deliver these items. Thank you!

Volunteers are still needed to help the day of the event! If you are willing and able to lend your talents, please contact Tamara Erickson at TamaraErickson@msn.com or 406-451-8186. If you are unavailable the day of the event, but would like to help, please contact Tamara to coordinate.

Dan Marsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Molly Glenn seconded the motion, the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

—Submitted by Tamara Erickson



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen Receives 2017 Bozeman Award

Bozeman Award Program Honors the Achievement

BOZEMAN June 21, 2017 -- Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen has been selected for the 2017 Bozeman Award in the Non-Profit Organization category by the Bozeman Award Program.

Each year, the Bozeman Award Program identifies companies that we believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Bozeman area a great place to live, work and play.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2017 Bozeman Award Program focuses on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the Bozeman Award Program and data provided by third parties.

About Bozeman Award Program

The Bozeman Award Program is an annual awards program honoring the achievements and accomplishments of local businesses throughout the Bozeman area. Recognition is given to those companies that have shown the ability to use their best practices and implemented programs to generate competitive advantages and long-term value.

The Bozeman Award Program was established to recognize the best of local businesses in our community. Our organization works exclusively with local business owners, trade groups, professional associations and other business advertising and marketing groups. Our mission is to recognize the small business community's contributions to the U.S. economy.

CONTACT: Bozeman Award Program

Email: PublicRelations@onlineawarded.org

URL: <http://www.onlineawarded.org>

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK NEWS RELEASE

Yellowstone Issues Individual Day Ride Permits

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, WY – Yellowstone National Park will begin to issue free day ride permits to individual users who take stock on park trails in 2017. This is a change as the park has not issued day ride permits in the past. The purpose of the free permits is to help the park understand where, when, and how many individual stock users visit Yellowstone. Park rangers may ask to see users' permits during rides on trails.

Stock users can obtain their free permits online, by calling the central backcountry office at (307) 344-2160, or at any of Yellowstone's backcountry offices.

Yellowstone's stock packing regulations remain in effect.

Overnight stock use is not allowed until July 1. Check the backcountry situation report to see which trails are already open for day-use.

Stock users who plan overnight trips must obtain a backcountry permit.

Stock users must possess certification of a negative Coggins Test performed within the last 12 months for all equine stock entering Yellowstone.

Yellowstone is not limiting the number of individual stock users on trails.

Traveling in Yellowstone's backcountry with stock is an exciting way to see the park. The free day ride permits will help park staff assist riders in planning safe, enjoyable, and low-impact trips.-

Public Affairs Office

Office of Strategic Communications

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

307-344-2015

On the following pages are a selection of photographs of the very busy trails crew and GVBCH events. To see more of hard work and fun, visit [GVBCH Facebook](#). — Editor

CHILI FEED





The first trail clearing day of the year led by Larry Thomas assisted by Rich Inman and Dan Marsh began on a sunny Wednesday at the Spanish Creek trail head. We had a busy day clearing out about 40 trees both in and out of the wilderness. We started with the chainsaws and cleared to the wilderness boundary on the #407 trail then turned around and cleared the #401 to about three miles and had lunch. We then headed back to the trailer and left the chainsaws and picked up the crosscut saws and headed back up the #407. We cleared until 4:30 when we heard there were another 7 to 8 big trees down before Falls Creek and decided to call it a day. We saw elk within 50 yards at our lunch stop and next to the trail on the way out. We enjoyed a wonderful spring day.





On May 31 the Wednesday Trail Crew led by Larry Thomas went back to Spanish Creek to get farther up the #407 trail. We had a few more volunteer on this trip with Rich Inman, Dan Marsh, Bonnie Hammer, Jim and Brenda Allbright, and new folks Robin Williams and Bruce May. We headed out at 9AM with our crosscuts and combis on Rich and Jim's mules on the #407 trail. We cleared out a lot of real ugly trees that decided to fall lengthwise on the trail with lots of branches. One crew went up toward Falls Creek and the other crew proceed up the #407. The Falls Creek crew ran across a Forest Service crew. The bridges are in bad need of repair and we put some rocks in one bad bridge to warn horse users to go through the creek. The bridges will be a project for the future. The crews met up and tried to get to the Mirror Y but it started raining on us and we had had enough fun for one day so after 4.5 miles we turned around and headed back to the trailers.



Can you see the bear?



SPANISH CREEK HITCHING RAILS PROJECT



On June 3rd, 10 hearty individuals met at Spanish Creek trail head to install two hitching rails near the corrals. Larry Thomas had the tools and the cement on his truck and Dan Marsh had two hitch rails and a Bobcat loader on his truck/trailer. By 0900 the crew was fast at work digging 6 holes to a depth of three feet. This may not sound like much but is a real challenge at Spanish Creek because of all the rock. For every foot of depth you gained, you also may get a foot of width in the hole. Cody Yeatts (Forest Service) jumped into one of the post holes and somehow lifted a boulder of an estimated 80 # out of the hole. Yea Cody! The legs on the hitching rails were 9 feet long but fortunately John Mutter had his cutting torch and shortened them to 80 inches so the rails would be about 42 inches off the ground. With the holes dug and the cement sleeves in place, Dan Marsh lifted the rails off his trailer and carefully lowered them into place. Cement was mixed in Larry's wheelbarrow and dumped into the sleeves. The rails received a final leveling and then back filled and tamped. All this was completed by about 1:pm in time for a picnic lunch. Most people headed home by 2:pm. Many thanks to all who helped. It was a good day.



TWIN CABIN HITCHING RAIL PROJECT

On June 17th at 0900, eleven members of GVBCH met at Twin Cabin Creek trail head to put in another set of hitching rails. Larry Thomas had the hitching rails, tools, and cement on his truck/trailer. John Mutter was kind enough to bring his tractor with a loader on it to do the heavy lifting. The digging situation was entirely different at this site. After a few small rocks in the first foot, the digging was pure dirt and easy to dig. We even took time to joke about the difference between this site and Spanish Creek. John Mutter lifted the rails off Larry's trailer and carefully lowered them into the cement sleeves in the dug holes. The cement mixing crew (Jim Marten, Jim Wing, Larry Thomas) had it all mixed in the wheelbarrow and ready to dump in the sleeves. Once again the rails received a final level check then back filled and tamped. By 11:30 a.m. we were done and ready for lunch. After lunch, Marcus Byrd, Ian Bevan, Jim Marten and Coriene Marten took their horses on a trail ride. The rest of the crew turned toward home. The entire crew was Larry Thomas, Rich Inman, John Mutter, Jim Marten, Coriene Marten, Marianne Meyer, Chris Nygren, Carl Blaskovich, Ian Bevan, Marcus Byrd and Jim Wing. Many thanks to all of you for making this project possible. Thanks for the pictures Marianne. Another great day in the back country. The crew for the day was Larry Thomas, Billie Thomas, Rich Inman, John Mutter, Dan Marsh, Alice Pilgeram, Dan Porter, Carl Blaskovich and Ian Bevan. — Rich Inman



SPANISH CREEK #407 WITH HELP FROM THE FOREST SERVICE CREW



The Wednesday crew led by Larry Thomas had a full day clearing Spanish Creek #407. We had a good crew consisting of Rich Inman, Bonnie Hammer, Dan Marsh, Mark DeOpsomer, Wayne Fredrickson and Liz Lewis. We had made three prior tries to get to the Mirror Y and had too many trees in the way to get there. We were successful in getting to the Mirror Y this time and even cleared until we were turned around by snow before we got to Mirror Lake. We got back to the Y and decided to go up toward Spanish Lake and saw out what we could. We had a little excitement when Mandy the mule wanted to take the bridge with a hole in the middle of it while Rich was fording the creek. Both the mule and Rich came through the ordeal unscathed. We met up with two of the Forest Service crew cutting out some monster trees so we helped them clear out that mess and went up the trail some more until we ran into rain and time so we turned around. We saw another bear and a bachelor party of bucks not to mention the bison and their calves. Everyone was glad to get back to the trailer and got home a little before 7.



CHAIN SAW CERTIFICATION





It was the longest day of the year in more ways than one! The Wednesday crew led by Larry Thomas started the day by meeting at Larry's at 7:45 AM and I walked back in the house at 10:04 PM. We started out with ten people and ended up with eight when about a mile in Jim's horse started limping so we took most of the gear from his pack mule and loaded up Rich's pack mule Mandy. The crew consisted of newcomers for the year Tom Plumb, Carmen Matzick and Chris Nygren along with Rich Inman, Jim and Brenda Allbright, Dan Marsh, Wayne Frederickson and Liz Lewis. We sawed out about 30 trees in 18 miles. We ran across a guy that was cutting his way to Onion Basin so we went on to Ramshorn Lake. We got about a mile from the lake when we ran across a biker that said it was clear to the lake and it was 4 so we decided to head back. We got back to the trailers around 7 and had some refreshments and some great bars provided by Carmen. We got a couple miles down the road when everything came to a screeching halt! We sat in traffic for an hour and a half because of a major wreck of a semi truck that had tipped over at one of the bends. It was a good thing it was the longest day of the year because we at least had a little twilight left to put up the horses when we got back. We had traveled 18 miles gained 3500 feet in elevation and averaged 3.1 mph going in and 3.4 mph going out. We had beautiful weather and no flies.



HELL ROARING CREEK



The trail crew was busy on Hell Roaring. They have to head up there, again to continue the clearing since they were wet, somewhat chilly, just a little tired, almost sawed out and it was late getting back to the trailhead. So far, this season has been one heck of a sawing, limbing and trimming trail deal. Having to cut and clear your way through so much deadfall definitely hinders forward progress on the trails. Committed crews!

The Wednesday crew lead by Larry Thomas headed up Hell Roaring Creek #81 to the North Fork of Hell Roaring #110 to around 7.5 miles in. It was pretty clear until the North Fork trail when we ran into a bunch of big trees. We turned around at 3 PM when we ran into a real mess and Rich had to get back to get ready for the KBZK interview with Janice on Thursday. The crew consisted of Rich Inman, Dan Marsh, Carmen Matzick, Ron Rohletter and Wayne Frederickson. We had a flat on the way to the trail head on Larry's trailer so we didn't get going at our usual 9AM. We had a little excitement when Paris the mule decided he had enough and headed back to the trailer. Rich "the gazelle" Inman ran it down and saved a long walk back to the truck for Carmen.



**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
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CASH/PRODUCT DONATION

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