

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.

2018 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR

PRESIDENT

Henry Glenn ... 578-2084
sedancowboy@outlook.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Chris Nygren ... 546-7550
chrisnygren@berglawfirm.com

TREASURER

Carmen Matzick ... 600-1379

SECRETARY

Kathy VanDyke ... 586-2440

DIRECTORS

ONE YEAR TERM

Carl Blaskovich ... 388-4640
David Crisp ... 239-776-6279
Dan Porter ... 539-0879

TWO YEAR TERM

Tamara Erickson ... 451-8186
Marianne Meyer ... 585-4780
Rod Wilson ... 539-1338

STATE BOARD MEMBERS

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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BCH WEB MASTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY PROJECT : JUNE 2, 9:30 AM

Spanish Creek Campground. Bring a lunch, water, chair and gloves. We will be repairing the corrals, feed bunks, hauling manure, and if time water diversion work on the 407 trail. Lots of fun for everyone. RSVP to gvbch@bchmt.org so we can get a head count.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY : JUNE 1-3

Eagle Guard Station

PONY POKER RIDE : JUNE 16

37 Sitz Road Harrison

BOARD MEETING : JUNE 21, 6:00 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

GENERAL MEETING : JUNE 21, 7:00 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

WEDNESDAY TRAIL DAY : JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27

call Larry: 586-6878



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hello Back Country Horsemen

We are entering the busy season for BCH with the weather finally breaking towards Summer. Lots of trails to clear and lots of snow in the mountains makes for lots of work. Please volunteer where you can. Call Larry if you are going on the Wed Trail crew so he can plan accordingly. A reminder to renew your membership before going out on the trails.

We are in the final planning stages of our 31st poker ride. If you are volunteering at the poker ride please attend the upcoming meeting at Janice's so Nanci and Dave can get all the positions filled. Also, please promote the Poker Ride where ever you can and put up posters at all likely places and revisit to see if the posters are still up.

Remember to be safe while out riding and working on trails. You are representing our Chapter of BCH. Let us always be courteous to all who we meet on the trails. Inspecting your tack before you start out can go a long way in preventing an accident.

May God Bless the Trails you Ride,

Henry, President

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 17

Roll Call: Henry Glenn, Chris Nygren, Carmen Matzick, Carl Blaskovich, Rich Inman, Marianne Meyer, Dan Marsh, Kathy Van Dyke, John Mutter, Dan Porter, Rod Wilson, Tamara Erickson

CALLED TO ORDER BY HENRY

Minutes of April 2018 meeting: Carmen moved to approve the minutes as written; John seconded; the motion carried.

FINANCE

Carmen reported on the checking and savings accounts. John presented bill for Porta-potties for the Poker Ride.

OLD BUSINESS

Poker Ride: There'll be a report at the general meeting.

National Trails Day (June 2): John went to the meeting in Helena. He's not sure where they'll go (probably the Elk Horns) but they will definitely do a pack trip. Anyone interested in going should contact John and he'll get them on the call list. We also discussed work that may need to be done locally including repair (or dismantling) of feed bunks at Spanish Creek.

RTP: A \$90,000 RTP grant was awarded and our share is approximately \$8,000, effective in June. Dan Marsh will do the paperwork.

Forest Service Forest Plan Revision: The comment period is over. Several options have been presented and are available for review on the website. Option C is closest to Partnership recommendations. There will be another opportunity to comment after an option is chosen.

Membership: Marianne reported on the questionable applications discussed at last meeting, noting that one of them has been resolved. Wayne Frederickson may have paid twice, and we'll give him one year's credit. We have 43 paid and 12 honorary for a total of 55 memberships. We had a brief discussion about whether to have a youth member category and decided that although a youth would need to be on the roster to be covered by insurance, they do not need to pay for a separate membership.

NEW BUSINESS

New trailer: We discussed whether to replace the club's trailer with a new one. No final decision was made, and it was decided to use one we already have through the July Poker Ride then decide what would be needed and if/whether to proceed. Chris nominated Rich to chair the "Trailer Committee"; Henry and Dan Porter will also be on the committee.

June meeting: We'll have our usual ice cream social at Janice's, and the Poker Ride plan finalization will be front and center for the general meeting.

John made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Marianne seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

In the saddle at age 88?

Wally Becker was born on his uncle's place up the river from what he calls the home place. When he was 2 his family moved to the home place down the Shields River. The picture with him sitting on the old foundation log is on the home place. He lived there about 8 years then moved closer to Wilsall to be closer to school. Rode his horse or took the wagon four miles a day to school.



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 17

PROGRAM:

Janice Cartwright gave a program on useful techniques to prep for spring riding. Rich Inman made several inert bear spray canisters available so members could practice using them.

Call to Order: Henry Glenn called the meeting to order.

MINUTES:

Rich Inman made a motion to pass the April minutes as written; Janice Cartwright seconded; the motion carried.

FINANCE:

Henry reported on the checking and savings accounts. Nancy presented a bill for Poker Ride printing expenses.

RTP:

Montana BCH received nearly \$90,000 in an RTP grant, and GVBCH received about \$8,000. Dan Marsh will oversee the paperwork.

PROJECT PHOTOS:

Henry encouraged people to take photos and document any work done for BCH and asked that info and photos be sent to the newsletter editor.

JUNE MEETING:

will be at Janice Cartwright's, 1655 Harper Puckett Road. The board meeting begins at 6:00; the business meeting will focus on the Poker Ride. July's meeting will also be at Janice's.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY:

On June 2, the club will do repair work on the corrals at Spanish Creek. Everyone should meet at 9:30 at the Spanish Creek campground. Bring tools. Dan Marsh is in charge.

FOREST PLAN:

Dan Marsh reported that the comment period is over. Several options have been presented and are available for review on the website. Option C is closest to Partnership recommendations. There will be another opportunity to comment after an option is chosen.

POKER RIDE:

Dan Porter has the flyers which are ready to go out. Anyone who has collected any prizes should bring them to the June meeting. There will be a drawing for volunteers as a "thank you." The final details will be discussed at the June meeting. The Glens will provide meat for the Friday night get-together; other participants should bring sides. Trail clearing will be on Tuesday, July 3.

Rich made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Molly seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

Walter Becker at the homestead



MAY GVBCH PROGRAM

It's a good time (with this late start to trail season) to check out your horse trailers and tack. Pressure washing trailers and blankets/pads so they have time to dry out before use, look over leather for cracks or stretched areas, check (by touch) blankets/pads/undersides of saddles for any pokies that may irritate your horse, rub some saddle soap and/or conditioner on your tack...and any other things that will get you and your horse ready to ride.



MAY GVBCH PROGRAM

Our May program was split in two. The first part, SPRAY PLAY was Rich's demonstration and information about how to use Bear Spray properly. Members had access to some inert cans to practice their aim. Then we went inside and entered Janice's TORTURE CHAMBER, also known as props she brought to help prepare the rider for riding season. These were timely presentations aimed at keeping us all safe while out with our horses. Our programs are open to all so come and join in the fun. GVBCH meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at Springhill Community Church off of Cottonwood. [Editor's note: The July GVBCH meeting will be held at Janice's, 1655 Harper Puckett Road]

What happens when Janice and Rich have not come up with a speaker/program idea? They give one themselves. (That will teach you, the members, to not offer suggestions when asked!)

Rich offered us some Spray Play time. We practiced "shooting" bears with inert cans of bear spray. Rich sprayed the real thing a few times, reminding us to shoot down wind with short bursts at waist level and not towards your horse.

Janice produced a "Torture Chamber" of sorts by bringing an assortment of props to help demonstrate correct use of rider positions to consider while mounted. Core was mentioned a lot, along with heels higher than toes and ear over shoulder over hip over heel. Rich tried out the hula hoop. Dan and Rich checked out the Thighmaster Plus (not just for thighs, guys) and Chris gave the Balimo chair a try to see how loose his lower back is (or is not). Most of us want to continue riding for many more years. Paying attention to our body, while doing so, will help with that goal. —Janice Cartwright



As members of the Backcountry Horsemen, we travel with our horses down long highways and up two-track dirt Forest Service roads in our quests to maintain public access trails. This extensive travel for our horses is not without risk. Common travel-related problems are injuries, colic, and respiratory problems, and the severity of these problems can range from mild to extreme. In this article, we'll talk in detail about the causes of these problems, and how to avoid them. We'll also discuss treatment.

Trailer Inspection and Safety

Loose or weak floorboards, a malfunctioning braking system, or a tire blowout can result in a disaster while shipping horses. Before every trip, you should double-check that your trailer coupler is properly engaged, that your lights and brakes are plugged in, and that your trailer's emergency brake battery is charged and connected properly. The truck and trailer ball or coupling should be properly size matched.

Each year you should have your trailer inspected. This inspection should include evaluating the floor, the wheel bearings (and packing them, if needed), the brakes and emergency brake box, and all hardware and latches. Unexpected mechanical problems can occur, but regular inspection and caution will prevent many problems.

Transporting Horses

Driver safety

You should be confident with the truck and trailer in your charge. A contingency plan should be in place with a secondary driver. A smooth, confident ride will help prevent the horses from slipping and falling.

You should be well rested and alert; driving drowsy is just not worth the risk. This goes without saying, but drivers absolutely should not have cell phones out while shipping horses. At least pull over to use the phone or have a passenger assist with necessary calls, texts, or maps.

Rest Your Horses

Long trips are especially difficult for horses. The horse will experience adverse changes in muscle metabolism, elevations in stress indices, dehydration, and decreased immunity. Even just stopping the trailer for a break for an hour or two on a long journey (more than 12 hours) will allow his physiologic stress parameters to normalize, and his tired muscles to get some relief. Provide food and water during the rest stop is ideal.

Making sure your horses have free choice access to food and water prior to the journey is important. This has been proven to prevent muscle problems and will help colic.

Halter and Tie Horses Properly

You should not allow horses stick their heads out of your trailer in any way while the vehicle is moving. This can result in injuries to their head or eyes. A breakaway halter or tie is an absolute necessity at all times in the trailer.

With few exceptions (e.g. horses that fight with their neighbors) the horse should be tied so that he can get his head down below the point of his shoulder to cough. This helps clear the airway and is key to preventing pneumonia.

Pay Attention to the Environment

During warmer months, closed horse trailers quickly become 20 degrees warmer than the outdoor ambient temperature, and horses can overheat, sweating and becoming dehydrated. Horses in enclosed trailers generally do not need blankets as they are more likely to sweat. Sweating leads to dehydration and loss of electrolytes. Those losses are the primary contributing factors to colic associated with travel.

If you are hauling your horse in a livestock-type of trailer or one with an open design where your horses are exposed to wind, other considerations apply. Your horse should wear a fly mask to prevent particles from injuring his eyes or face. Cold wind may justify using a blanket.

Travel-Related Illness

Most of the time, horses that travel do just fine. The three most common travel-related illnesses are wounds, colic, and respiratory diseases.

Wounds in Traveling Horses



leg wound before treatment

Lacerations and injuries can occur when horses have rough rides during shipments. Taking your time to load nervous horses and driving conservatively helps prevent injuries.

Reasons Wounds Occur When Traveling

Horses' high flight drive results in panic when they are afraid. Specialized equine anatomy means that there is little to no excess skin, particularly on limbs. The horse also has to learn how to balance while standing when traveling. If your horse is inexperienced or of a flighty nature, he is more likely to sustain an injury.

Wound Evaluation

Wound depth is a critical factor for recovery. It will help your veterinarian if you can evaluate and describe a few things:

- Pull the skin apart a little bit. A full-thickness skin wound will have a gap. A superficial wound will not gap when you manipulate it.
- Walk the horse several strides and determine if he is lame.

- Look closely and see if flap is present or skin seems to be missing, rather than just cut into.
- Determine if the wound is near a joint.
- As you inspect the wound, if you can see muscle, bone, tendon, or other underlying structures, that is a deep wound that will need extensive treatment.

Wound Treatment

Start by providing first aid. Move your horse to the most clean, dry, and safe area you have, and thoroughly rinse it, if possible. In veterinary medicine, we have a saying for this: "the solution to pollution is dilution."

If there is a lot of frank blood running out of the wound, try to apply some absorbent material, and apply a bandage tight enough to stop the hemorrhage. This may be all you can do until a veterinarian sees your horse. Cleaning or re-cleaning the fresh wound may cause the hemorrhage to resume.

Many antiseptic and topical medications are toxic to the healthy, healing tissue and will damage cells and slow down the healing process. If you are considering a topical medication, a rule of thumb is: if you wouldn't put it in your eye, don't put it on a wound. Talk to your veterinarian before you give your horse any medication or apply topical substances.

Wounds that are sutured and treated properly from the beginning heal faster and are more likely to result in full return to function.

Extensive or Deep Wounds

Deep and complicated wounds are those that did not heal with sutures, a wound that invades a joint, or is down to the bone. Deep wounds may invade chest cavity, damaging the lungs. These horses can be difficult and expensive to treat. If the deep wound enters the digestive tract, the horse's odds of survival due to the contamination are low.

If a joint is infected, there are a variety of treatment options. Essentially, the earlier the infection is noted and which treatment option selected are the two factors that influence outcome.

Colic in Traveling Horses

Colic is a general term for abdominal pain, and there are a multitude of specific disease processes that result in colic. Risk factors for development of colic include long hours of travel with consequent dehydration, change in feed, change in housing or daily exercise levels, electrolyte deficiencies or imbalances, and stress. About 10% of horses colic each year, and traveling horses have an extra high risk.



leg wound after treatment

Signs of Colic

The way each horse exhibits abdominal pain will vary. Some horses are more sensitive than others and will display a more overt pain response. Horses that do this may be young, a sensitive breed (Arabians and Thoroughbreds, for example), or a flighty, nervous individual.

Colic signs include changing position from standing to lying down repeatedly, or he may lay down and be unwilling to get up. He may also be rolling, kicking at his belly, watching or looking at his flank, stretching out (which sometimes can look like he is trying to urinate, but can't), or just not acting right. Some horses will exhibit a wrinkled lip and nostril flair that is characteristic of pain. Your horse may also have a decreased appetite. Signs that your horse has a more severe problem include a lack of response to Banamine, and violent rolling, especially if he has damaged the skin of his eyelids or head while trying to rid himself of pain.

It is important for you to monitor fecal output closely. A decrease in fecal output or change in consistency may forewarn of an impending colic.

Impaction Colic

A common type of colic is impaction, also known as high constipation. An impaction occurs when the material in your horse's gastrointestinal tract moves more slowly than usual leading to a "backup" of ingesta. Dehydration and loss of electrolytes are major contributing factors that lead to this type of colic.

Prevention of Colic

Keeping your horse hydrated is the most important thing you can do to prevent colic. Offer water during longer trips, if feasible. Make sure your horse has access to water before setting out, and immediately upon arrival.

Avoid sudden feeding changes. Acclimate your horse to the pellets or cubes he will be eating on the trail while at home. Access to salt or electrolytes is important. If the horse has refused to drink, or has a reduced fecal output, feeding him soaked roughage can help.

Veterinary Evaluation and Treatment of Colic

Standard of care is to administer Banamine (flunixin meglumine), which can be given either in the vein or orally. Your veterinarian should do an examination per rectum to try to palpate the reachable portions of the gastrointestinal organs. If we identify abnormalities, then the problem can be more specifically addressed.

The majority of time, your veterinarian will also give your horse water through a stomach tube. A cathartic such as epsom salts, electrolytes, or mineral oil may be administered with the water.

Veterinarians will then advise you how to modify your feeding and exercise routine to help resolve the colic. Most colicking horses will normalize in just a day or two with this treatment.

Respiratory Disease in Traveling Horses

Horses that travel are at high risk of developing respiratory diseases. Make sure your horses are vaccinated to prevent Influenza and Rhinopneumonitis (caused by a Herpes virus).

There is a variation in the severity of respiratory illnesses. It can be as simple as a virus, where your horse has a runny nose for a few days, a fever for less than 24 hours, and recovers quickly. The worst case scenario is that a horse develops “shipping fever” or pleuropneumonia, a serious infection that may threaten your horse’s life. Recovery can take months, and may leave long-term airway deficits.

Air Quality is Key

Traveling with vents open is important for controlling both air quality and temperature. Fresh air flow is critical to reduce ammonia. Ammonia build-up from urine results in damage to the cells that line the respiratory tract, thus increasing the risk of pneumonia.

Shavings on the floor are not a good idea, especially in open trailers – the dust and particles harm the respiratory tract. On the subject of particles, if a hay bag is hung, wetting it down will drastically reduce the dust that it emits.

Treating Respiratory Illness

The most important factor in successful treatment is early recognition - watch for coughing, nasal discharge, or general malaise.

Treatment will be specific to your horse’s problem. It is likely to include anti-inflammatories and antibiotics. The good news is that with early intervention, the majority of horses make a full recovery.

Summary

Trailering horses means we are able to explore all corners of Montana, and occasionally other states. Drivers should be confident, and the trailer should be in good working order. Maintaining good hydration and air quality are critical for preventing illness. Long-distance travel can be especially hard for horses to endure. Stopping for breaks is important to you as the driver, as well as to your horse’s health. Happy Trails!

Stacie G. Boswell, DVM, DACVS is an equine veterinarian based at Hardaway Veterinary Hospital in Belgrade, Montana. She and her husband, Sid, recently moved here from New Mexico. They have been active members of Backcountry Horsemen of America for the past four years. She can be reached at StacieBoswell@gmail.com



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SUMMER PACKING CAMP

for youth ages 14-17
indian meadows trailhead
August 2-5, 2018

Participants will meet at Indian Meadows trailhead near Lincoln, MT at noon on Thursday, August 2nd, learning to pack in the afternoon, and attending a campfire chat with Smoke Elser that evening. Friday morning, August 3rd, campers will learn to load up pack stock, then hike into Fickler Meadows in the Scapegoat Wilderness and set up camp. Friday evening will include a campfire chat with Amy Pearson. Saturday, August 4th, campers will hike to Heart Lake to do a rehab project and learn about the principles of Leave No Trace camping and stock use. Saturday evening includes a campfire chat with Ellie Fitzpatrick, who is leading the rehab project and LNT training. Sunday, August 5th, campers will pack up and return to the trailhead by noon.

Candidates should apply by going to www.bchmt.org, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Youth Summer Camp Application."



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