

BOARD MEETINGS:
3rd Thursday, 6:30 PM

GENERAL MEETINGS:
3rd Thursday, 7:00 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.

2020 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

Chris Nygren ... 546-7550
chrisnygren1@gmail.com

TREASURER

Jim Wing ... 579-3230

SECRETARY

Kathy VanDyke ... 586-2440

DIRECTORS

ONE YEAR TERM

Carl Blaskovich ... 388-4640

Vern Campbell ... 570-6117

Lew Goodpasture ... 575-639-9091

TWO YEAR TERM

Carmen Matzick ... 600-1379

Rod Wilson ... 539-1338

Corinne Martin ... 539-2856

STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Henry Glenn (2 year) ... 578-2084

Dan Marsh (1 year) ... 587-7578

Rich Inman (Alternate) ... 578-2084

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:

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW : AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Contact Dan Porter, 539-0879

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

Contact Lew Goodpasture, 575-639-9091

OPEN HOUSE, HARDAWAY VETERINARY HOSPITAL : AUGUST 13, 4:00-7:00 PM

5650 Jackrabbit Lane, Belgrade

GSHC SAGE CREEK RIDE & CAMPOUT : AUGUST 14-16

Sage Creek, Highway 191

BOARD MEETING : AUGUST 20, 6:30 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

GENERAL MEETINGS : AUGUST 20, 7:00 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

SLOUGH CREEK : AUGUST 23-29

Slough Creek Campground Road



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hello Horseman,

Summer is in full swing and the heat as well as fire season is here. Everyone be careful during fire season both with fire and stay out of the way and don't get trapped in the back country by a forest fire.

Thanks to Lew and Dan Porter for leading the trail crews, they are doing a great job of coordinating the trail crews. Lots of work has been done. If you have not been out on a crew yet give Dan or Lew a call. Dan leads the Sat crew and Lew the Wed crew.

We are planning the August A-B Wilderness trip to build a new fence at Slough Creek. Dates are August 23-29 and you may come all of the days or only part of them. Let me know as we plan for food and equipment to be taken in. The ride in is on a old two track most of the 14 miles. There is one hill right at the beginning from the trailhead other than that it is mostly flat with water available for the horses along the way. It will be dry and dusty unless we get rain the day you travel. You do not need a pack horse to participate, we will have pack horses for your gear. If you are coming to help without a pack horse, please limit your load to a sleeping bag and your personal items to 30 lbs. If it goes over 35 lbs we will remove 5 lbs of items. We will provide food; if you need a specific diet please contact Molly and she will coordinate with you. There will be tents provided in a grassy area around the cabin with a fence all around. Couples can share a tent. Most of you know my cooking by now and it will be typical western camp food. BBQ pulled pork, Brisket, Chicken and hamburgers with sides every evening and breakfast will be typical eggs, bacon, biscuits, pancakes and etc. Lunch will be sandwiches.

Please don't bring rank horses that kick and fight other horses. Assume there will not be cell service. I hear that sometimes it is possible to text but it is unreliable. You must have a current (within the last 12 months) Coggins test on your horse before you can go into the YNP.

Any questions, please call me so we can plan accordingly. RSVP is mandatory by the August 20th meeting. All are welcome this will be a great trip and fishing will be outstanding in Slough Creek so bring your fly rods. We will take a side trip to French's grave one day. Let's make this a great adventure and project. —Henry

BOARD & GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

JULY 16

Roll Call: Chris Nygren, Jim Wing, Kathy VanDyke, Carmen Matzick, Marianne Meyer, Carl Blaskovich, Rich Inman, Dan Porter, Dan Marsh; Marianne stood proxy for Corinne Martin; Rich stood proxy for Lew Goodpasture

CALLED TO ORDER BY CHRIS NYGREN.

Minutes of June 2020 meeting: Carmen moved to approve the minutes as written; Jim seconded; the motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: Jim reported on the club’s savings and checking accounts. Carl moved to approve the report; Marianne seconded; the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Trail crew: Dan Marsh and Rich reported on the two crews that worked in the Buffalo Horn/Teepee Creek area on July 15; lots of logs were moved and many a horsefly swatted. He also noted that there remains some work to be done on the trails in that area. Dan Porter reported that the trail crew will go out this Saturday, July 18, meeting at the Spanish Creek trailhead.

Forest Service Packing: Dan Marsh reported that the Windy Pass excursion has been cancelled. He also reported that several members will be packing an FS camp into Jerome Rock Lake on July 20, then packing the camp out on July 27.

Wilderness cabin work: The Slough Creek trip is scheduled for Aug. 23-29 and more volunteer workers would be most welcome.

Forest Plan: Dan Marsh reported that “Forest Plan F” was approved as the recommended use plan, and that it most closely reflects the provisions supported by the club.

NEW BUSINESS

PLWAA: Dan Porter received a letter from the Public Lands & Water Access Assoc. seeking a donation. The club has donated to this organization in the past, and feels it is a worthwhile endeavor. Chris moved that we send a \$100 donation; Rich seconded; the motion passed.

Adjournment: Rich moved to adjourn the meeting; Carl seconded; the meeting was adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke



Program: Janice Cartwright presented a program on tack fitting and trail riding tips. We next heard from Dr. Stacie Boswell about her recently published book on a variety of equine-related topics.

CALLED TO ORDER BY CHRIS NYGREN.

Minutes: Dan Marsh moved to accept the June 2020 minutes as written, Carl Blaskovich seconded, and the motion carried.

Treasurer’s report: Jim reported on the club’s savings and checking accounts. Sid Boswell moved to approve the report; Rich Inman seconded; the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

August meeting: The August 20 meeting will be held at Janice’s ranch on Harper Puckett Road.

OLD BUSINESS

Trail crews: Dan Marsh reported on the two crews that worked in the Buffalo Horn/Teepee Creek area on July 15; lots of logs were moved and many a horsefly swatted. He also noted that there remains some work to be done on the trails in that area. Dan Porter reported that the trail crew will go out this Saturday, July 18, meeting at the Spanish Creek trailhead.

Wilderness cabin projects: The Slough Creek cabin trips are set for Aug.23-29 and Sept. 14-19, and more volunteer workers would be most welcome. The Buffalo Fork trip will be August 3-8. [Editor’s note: This trip was cancelled by the Forest Service.]

Adjournment: Chris Nygren adjourned the meeting.

Crazy Mountain Access Project: Following adjournment we heard from Jess Peterson about the land-exchange proposal in the Crazy Mountains. The group would like to receive input and support as they work to move the project forward. Additional information can be found at www.crazymountainproject.com.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke



Don Funke showed the club members a gaited horse that he had for sale. Larry Thomas was never going to have a gaited horse but guess what. He bought the horse and has already headed (and lead) on down the trail with him. Congratulations, Larry! Janice gave Tack Talk/ Trail Tips about breast collars, cruppers, and rear flank cinches.

TRAIL CREW

July 10: Ten BCH'ers met at the Porcupine trailhead on Friday morning, July 10, to tackle several trails in the area. One group consisting of Vern, Bruce, Tom, Lawrence and Kathy, were tasked with heading up Trail 34 toward Ramshorn Lake. Just as we were leaving the parking lot one of Vern's horses blew up into a bucking fit worthy of a rodeo arena and resulting in a later departure than originally planned. We finally hit the trail at 10:00 am, and after 1-1/2 hours of riding we encountered our first deadfalls. From that point the trail was regularly blocked by downed timber, to the tune of 38 large logs for the chainsaw and 8 smaller trees for the silky saw. At 4:30 we had not yet made it to the lake but decided it was time to head back to the trailhead, where we finally arrived at 7:00 pm. It was a long trip, 17 miles, and lots of work, but a very nice crew made for a great day on the trail. —Kathy VanDyke



WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW

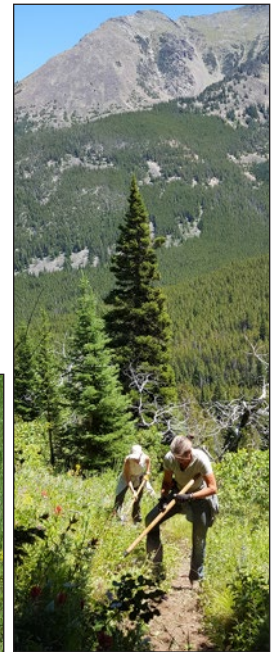
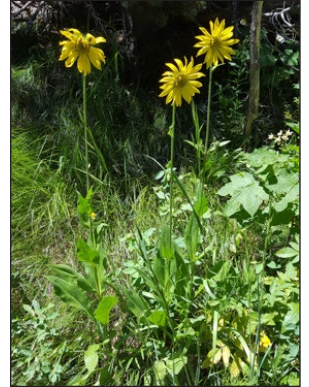
July 15, at 0900, Rich, Connie, Tim, Wayne, Kenji, and Mark left the Buffalo Horn trail head. It was a chilly 32 degrees and quite cool for the first two hours. Even saw frost on the grass. We rode trail #1 to the trail #39 junction then on past the Buffalo cabin to Tepee Pass. Did not have to clear any trees as the Forest Service already had been there earlier. From Tepee Pass to Dailey Pass we had to cut 12+ trees most of which were big and narly with multiple large limbs. These were old dead snags that were just waiting for the right wind to topple them. We stopped for lunch on a high vista point about half way between Tepee and Dailey Pass. What a view! At Dailey Pass we met Dan's trail crew who had just completed clearing trail #57 to the pass. This was a surprise to us but welcomed as we then got to ride back to the trail head without getting off our horses to cut any trees. All we had to do was fight the horseflies which were quite intense much of the time. Tvas another beautiful day enjoying the splendor of God's back country.

The other group consisting of Dan, Vern and Mary, Corrine and Jim and Laurie were headed to Ramshorn but due to a navigation error by Dan instead of taking the #151 trail to the #161 to Ramshorn Lake as planned ended up going up the pack trail to Dailey Pass. We ended up helping the other crew by cutting out over 35 trees including a few leaners that we had been passing up over the years that needed removal. We wound up only going 12 miles but it was a lot of work and the horse flies got real bad in the afternoon. Vern had some trouble with his mare that decided she wanted to buck back to the trail head. Vern walked her out for a mile or so and she seemed to settle down enough for him to ride the rest of the way back. If you are planning any rides up there be sure to bring extra fly spray! —Dan Marsh



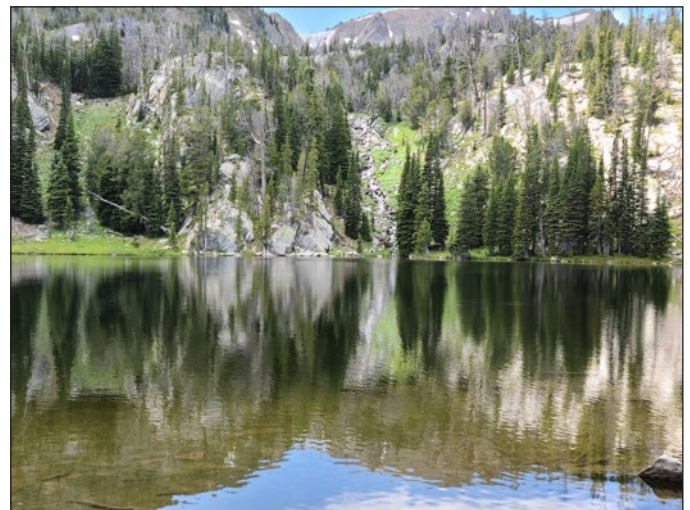
SATURDAY TRAIL CREW

On Saturday July 18, seven brave GVBCH members showed up to work on retreading trail #413, aka High Lakes Trail. I verified that on older maps this trail was originally labeled part of the #401 as I had previously called it. After an approximately 6 mile uneventful but relaxing ride to the trail junction, Kenji, Carmen, Lauri, Chris N., Bruce May and myself parked the horses and hiked up approx. ½ mile to have a quick lunch break at noon before working back down the trail with combies. We enjoyed an incredible view of Blaze Mountain and the ridge/canyon of the South Fork during lunch and while working. Weather was clear and warm with some fly action but not intolerable. Wildflowers are coming in to their own. Marianne joined us after lunch. The much needed retread of trail was hard work but rewarding. An estimated 150 yards of trail was attacked by an incredibly undaunted crew on the section of trail most needing attention but there are many more yards that could be greatly improved for equestrian use. The trail showed zero signs of recent use by any means and could potentially be abandoned if not maintained. We all returned to the trailhead in safety by approximately 5pm where Carmen provided unexpected entertainment as she “attempted” to depart...but that’s a story for only she to tell around the campfire. —Dan Porter



PACKING CREW

On July 20th, Gallatin Valley BCH crew packed in and then on July 27th we packed out a Forest Service crew to Jerome Rock Lakes. The crew consisted of Dan and Lew with one pack animal, Lawrence with three pack animals and Kenji helping with the packing. The Forest Service crew with 7 guys and gals were camped out at Jerome Rock Lake for seven days working on the High Lakes trail and Jerome Rock Lakes trail. A few also got over to Spanish Lakes and a some went out past Mirror Lake to Little Hell Roaring. The FS crew had quite a week with a hail storm and did a fabulous job of fixing the trail near Jerome Rocks. The FS crew also did a great job on the water diversions on the upper section of the Jerome Rock Lakes trail in addition to the tree clearing. Our hats off to a great bunch of young people! We had an uneventful trip in the first day but Dan's horse went down in the bad section the crew fixed leaving Jerome Rock Lake. The pack out day also went well going in but the mules were not too fond of a couple surprise hikers sitting next to the trail that caused the mules to snap the pigging strings. If you are curious it was 7.5 miles from the trail head to Jerome Rock Lake and it took 3 hours to get there. —Dan Marsh



WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW

July 22: This past Wednesday trail crew #1 had 7 members working and met at Twin Cabin trailhead. The participants were: Dan, Larry, Kenji, Jim, Tim, Mark, and Curtis. They worked their way up to the junction with Porcupine trail No. 199, then worked south. Trail crew #2 had 6 member participants and met at the Buffalo Horn trailhead. This crew consisted of Lew, Wayne, Clint, Bonnie, Connie, and Bruce. They rode up the Buffalo Horn trail to the junction of Porcupine trail No. 199 and worked their way north. We found an easy trail and not much clearing to do as the motorcycle group had recently been there and cleared most of the fallen trees. But, as sometimes is the case, they didn't cut out enough to allow safe horseback travel so we had to make additional cuts. Overall the trail was in decent shape. We rode past the Elkhorn junction and within about 1/2 mile we met crew #1 coming from the opposite direction. Crew #1 didn't run into any trees until the last mile or so and cut out 8 or so trees including ones that were not cut out wide enough. We all had a leisurely hour and a half lunch, told a few stories and headed back. 5 members of crew #1 rode back down on the Elkhorn trail, cutting a few small logs on the way. Dan and Curtis backtracked to the Twin Cabin trailhead and took trailers over to Elkhorn and picked up the others. Crew #2 cut out a little brush and small trees growing too close to the trail, cleaned a couple of water bars then headed back to the trailhead, arriving about 4:00. It was a nice ride and beautiful weather but not a lot of work. Thanks to all who participated. —Lew Goodpasture



SATURDAY TRAIL CREW

July 25. Lew, Laurie, Kenji, and I met at Walmart at 7:00 am headed for Cliff Creek. Two large trees were down at the start of the trail but we determined to proceed around them to survey the trail above for the MWA work day in August. The trail is rocky with a lot of up and down over small rises along the stream and begs for trimming, but is a nice cool ride in the shade of mature spruce and fir. We cut numerous medium to small trees out of the trail and rode approximately 5 miles up Cliff Creek canyon, returning just after 6:30 PM. A long but rewarding and fun day. —Dan Porter



WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW

July 29: Today, we had 11 volunteers meet at Bridger Bowl to ride both the north and south routes. We all traveled up a really washed out stretch of trail at the bottom to assess repairs or possibly a re-route. The plan, initially, was to rebuild it. After some experienced eyes saw the problem and some brainstorming through the day it was unanimous that a re-route made more sense. A group of 6, consisting of Rich, Dan, Henry, Kenji, Connie, and Clint, and rode the south loop. They cut out a couple trees and did some limbing. They ran across a couple of Forest Service Gates that are in need of repair and saw a nice bull moose.

Our group of 5, consisting of Lew, Mark, Bruce, Tim and Chris, rode the north loop. It was a nice day for a ride but not a lot of work. We cut out one tree and a few branches that crossed the trail and found the trail in decent shape, though much of it is on maintenance/logging roads. There were no incidents along the way as all riders and animals behaved. We departed the trailhead shortly after 9 and returned about 3:30 and the South crew showed up just before 4:00. Rich and Dan provided cold drinks which were very much appreciated. Thanks to all who participated. —Lew



**GVVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2019 POKER RIDE**

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