

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:

BOARD MEETING : JULY 16, 6:30 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

GENERAL MEETINGS : JULY 16, 7:00 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : JULY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Contact Lew Goodpasture, 575-639-9091

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW : JULY 11, 18, 25

Contact Dan Porter, 539-0879

FOREST SERVICE CREW PACK IN : JULY 20 & PACK OUT : JULY 27

Bear Basin

WINDY PASS CABIN : JUL 22-24

Portal Creek Road and Windy Pass Trail

GSHC PETOSI HOT SPRINGS RIDE & CAMPOUT : JULY 24

Upper Potosi Hot Springs

POKER RIDE : — CANCELLED



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hello all Horseman,

Welcome to Summer as we pass the solstice, we are for sure into the busy season for the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen.

The trail crews are hitting on all cylinders and if you would like to join them please let Dan Porter know for the Saturday crew and Lew Goodpasture for the Wednesday crew. Their contact information is elsewhere in the newsletter.

We have several trips planned to the A-B Wilderness this year and so contact me if you want to go on one or more. We will be starting to build a new pasture fence at Slough Creek Cabin. It is a easy ride into Slough Creek Cabin. About 14 miles and we will be able to pack in your personal items for you if you don't have a pack horse. Also 2 people could share a pack horse for their personal items. The tentative dates are August 23-29 and Sept 14-19. Stay in touch we can accommodate a larger group at Slough Creek by setting up tents inside the compound fence.

The Spanish Creek campout is still on so plan on being there for a good time. September 11-12.

Everyone stay safe during these trying times. Our horses are perfect for social distancing so get out and ride.

—Henry

BOARD & GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 18

Roll Call: Henry Glenn, Jim Wing, Kathy VanDyke, Lew Goodpasture, Carmen Matzick, Marianne Meyer, Dan Porter, Rich Inman, John Mutter, Dan Marsh

Called to order by Henry Glenn.

MINUTES OF MAY 2020 MEETING

Jim moved to approve the minutes as written; John seconded; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim reported on the savings and checking accounts. Vern moved to approve the report; Lew seconded; the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Prior meetings: Henry expressed thanks to Dan Marsh for organizing the virtual meetings held the last two months. Dan noted that the virtual meeting provider has asked for payment of \$4/month and we used it for 4 months. John moved to pay \$48; Vern seconded; the motion passed.

Trail clearing: The club needs to clear the southern Poker Ride trail route even though the Ride has been cancelled. The Wednesday trail crew will do the work on July 8.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Dan Porter reported on the work done by two crews. Poker Ride

Jim will contact the insurance carrier to cancel the ride coverage.

NEW BUSINESS

RAC grants: Henry has received two grants totaling \$10,000 (\$5,000 for Gallatin & \$5,000 for Southern Montana). We need crosscut saw scabbards, and some additional saws. Tamara has agreed to make the scabbards.

July meeting: We had a discussion whether to cancel the July meeting. The issue was tabled and will be discussed at the general meeting.

Wilderness cabin work: The Buffalo Fork trip will be August 3-9. Slough Creek has pasture posts and rails on-site so we can work on it when opportunities present themselves. Henry intends to go there in late July with Cory and will formulate a plan, then additional trips will be made later. Slough Creek is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 23-29 and Sept. 14-19.

Poker Ride donors: Dan Porter suggested sending letter to all past donors thanking them for prior support and informing them why we have cancelled. Dan will draft a letter and Kathy will send it out.

Adjournment: Henry announced that the meeting was adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

PROGRAM

Janice Cartwright presented a program on unusual tack items (emergency-release stirrups, several bits, cinches), and saddle options. She also presented some helpful hints and miscellaneous info.

Henry Glenn called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Janice Cartwright moved to accept the May 2020 minutes as written, Chris Nygren seconded, and the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim reported on the savings and checking accounts.. Dan Porter moved to approve the report; Larry Thomas seconded; the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

July meeting: The July 16 meeting will be held at Janice's ranch on Harper Puckett Road.

OLD BUSINESS

National Trails Day: The club had good representation, with two crews working on two different trails.

Trail crews: Dan Porter leads the Saturday trail crews; Lew Goodpasture leads the Wednesday trail crews. Contact them if you are interested in going along.

Wilderness cabin projects: Rails and posts have been flown into the Slough Creek cabin. Several trips will be made there this year, with tentative dates being Aug. 23-29, and Sept. 1-19. The Buffalo Fork trip will be August 3-8 and will consist of cabin repair / trail work.

RAC grants: Henry announced the receipt of two RAC grants, and discussion followed regarding record-keeping and reimbursements.

Spanish Creek gathering: The Sept. 11-12 gathering at Spanish Creek is "on."

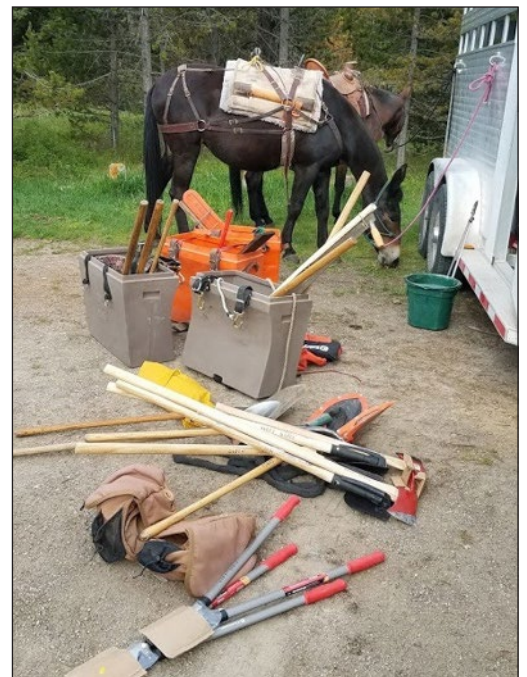
Adjournment

Chris Nygren moved to adjourn the meeting, Marianne Meyer seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

WEDNESDAYDAY TRAIL CREW

On June 3 there were 7 of us that met at the Spanish Creek trailhead. Bruce, Clint, Henry and I rode 401 and cut a few small trees that had fallen, riding to about 1/2 mile beyond the North Fork crossing. Not a lot of work but we had a little extra excitement along the way. My black molly mule, Yukon, decided to go for a run, dumping both pack boxes and all their contents. Luckily nobody was hurt and she came out of it with just scratches and bruises. All tools were OK except for a broken shovel handle. I can't say for sure what set her off but that's the first time something like that has happened with her. We loaded her back up and kept going. In the meantime Dan, Connie and Wayne went up the 407 trail expecting to have a light day since they were up there last week to Falls Creek and everything was cut out. Unfortunately, on Sunday there was a big wind storm that blew down a bunch of trees. Between the Spanish Creek trailhead and the Falls Creek trailhead they had to cut out over 8 large trees requiring double cuts on most of the trees. They didn't get to Falls Creek until after noon. They went on up to the second creek crossing and removed a tree that was blocking the exit on the far bank. They had lunch there and went up another couple of miles and cleaned out water bars and diversions that were causing a lot of runoff down the trail. —Dan Marsh



WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW

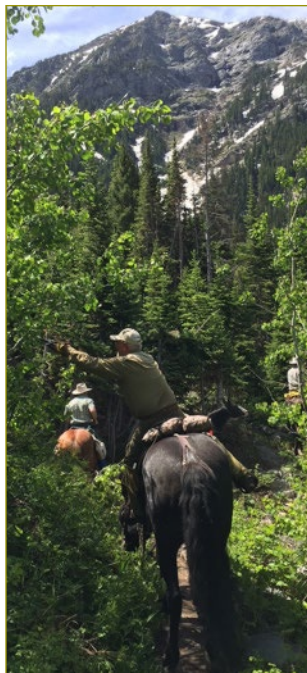
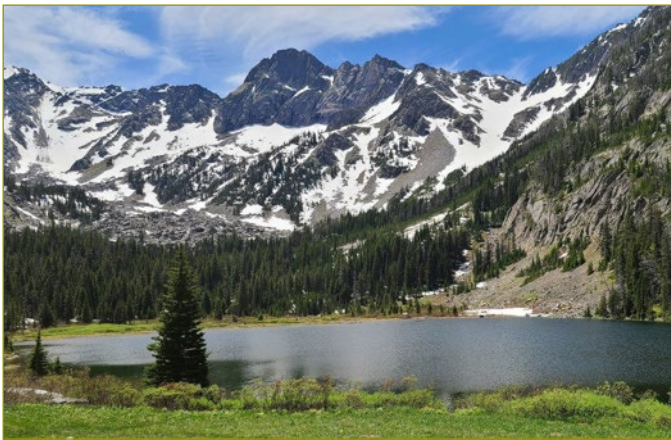
On June 10th the Wednesday bunch divided into two groups of 5 with one group going up Indian Ridge and the other group going up Hellroaring Creek. Larry, Carmen, Kenji, Bruce and Rich left the Hellroaring trail head at 0845. We arrived at the Y at 1030 and took a short break to decide what to do. The 5 miles to the Y had already been cleared of down trees some of which were very large (24"). There also was a reroute around one of the big mud holes. Nice work. Whoever did this work also put in some nice water diversions to keep water from running down the trail. Good job! We decided to work our way back toward the trail head and widen the trail in a few places where the trail and creek almost meet. We widened 5 places. When we reached the top of the switchback grade, Kenji, Bruce and Rich took combies and cleaned 40+ water diversions on the way back to the trail head. We arrived at the trail head about 2:30 pm and enjoyed cold drinks and Carmen's great baked goodies. Twas a great day in God's back country. The Indian Ridge crew got an early start at 8:30 AM which consisted of Dan Marsh hauling the tools along with Wayne Frederickson, Connie LeHocky, Tim Butler and Jim Wing. We had to cut out about 15 trees along the route and stopped to clear brush that had overgrown the trail. Connie and Wayne did a lot of lopping of tree branches along the way. We ran across some big trees that folks had been going around for quite a while so we had to re-establish the tread for a 50 yard stretch. While Dan, Tim and Jim were working on the tread Connie and Wayne rode ahead and cleared the trail to the Little Hellroaring trail head about 6 miles from the trailhead. They said the snow would have made continuing on that trail difficult. We caught up with them coming back and decided to head back. If you haven't been on that trail you will note that it is a constant climb on the way in and all downhill on the way out. There might be 6 feet or so of horizontal travel and 90% of the trail is on a side hill. It does have wonderful views however. We got back around 4:00 PM and had a cold beverage and headed home.



WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW

On Wednesday, June 24, Lawrence worked with Larry, Kenji, Vern, Bruce and Laurie. They traveled the 401 trail to its junction with the high lakes trail following the north fork of Spanish Creek, approximately 9 miles one way, and cut out about 8 trees with a chain saw, then about 10 with hand saws after passing into the Wilderness. The water bars along the 401 had already been cleared so no work was required there. The group saw one ruffed grouse, one blue grouse, and had a good, long day on the trail.

The other crew with Dan Marsh packing along with Wayne, Connie and Tim headed up to Mirror Lake. We had clear sailing all the way to the Mirror Y but we had to cut out 8 trees on the way to Mirror Lake. We also did a bunch of lopping and cleaned out a few water bars. A couple of the trees were large and brushy and in bad spots with no way to get around them. We got to the lake around 1:30 had lunch and headed back. We got back a little after 4 and had a cold beverage and hung around until 5 hoping to meet up with the #401 crew but as it turns out it would have been a long wait!



SATURDAY TRAIL CREW

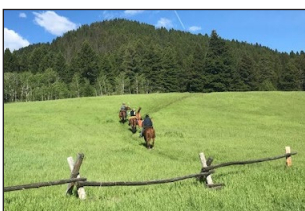
6/6/20: Nine members met at Spanish Creek to celebrate National Trails Day and work on maintaining our trails. Due to the strong winds of the previous evening it was decided to send a crew up the 407 to search for and remove new blowdowns. Curt, Kenji and Mark with Curt's packhorse loaded with combies, silky saw and a crosscut made the ride, clearing a number of downed trees and doing some tread work as well. Meanwhile, Larry, Carmen, Marianne, Tim, Chris N. and I took the 401 trail with my pack horse...combies and loppers at ready. We stopped about 2 miles in for a brief "expert" demonstration of the "how to" for waterbar maintenance and then set out to clear sediment from a number of water bars and trim as needed in that section. We then proceeded on to just past the second crossing of Cuff Creek where we tied up at about 1 pm for a quick 5 minute lunch break. With a few rain drops falling and thunderstorms in the forecast we went to work clearing water bars in both directions on the slope and trimming as needed. Shortly after 2 pm, we headed for home with one eye on the overcast skies above, arriving at the trailhead without mishap and no rain. It was a day well spent with all hands working hard at clearing water bars. There are still some sections in need of trimming on this trail in the Cuff Creek area and also just past the Trail 409 junction on down to the North Fork.

A big Thank you!!! To a great National Trails Day Crew!! You ROCK! Lets do it again soon! -Dan Porter



6/13/20: Eight GVBCH members: Larry, Laurie, Connie, Micaela, Mark, Curt, Tom and myself met at Spanish Creek and rode in the Little Hell Roaring Trail #401 with 2 pack horses. We cut over 20 downed trees from the trail using silky saws and cleared several water bars of sediment as well as some light trimming, covering about 2.5 miles before high winds convinced the crew to return to the trailhead. Portions of this trail are worn deep from use and erosion and in need of maintenance where it travels up thru the meadows. Tentative upcoming plan for 6/20 (first day of Summer) is to take on the Indian Ridge Trail starting at the highway and cut any new downed timbers while reaching the junction with Little Hell Roaring and then working back down to trim and tread as needed. One group may also start at the bottom on "shanks' mare" and work upwards trimming and treading as needed. Plans to be finalized at the Chapter meeting. -Dan Porter

On June 20, eight GVBCH members spent the day 9am to 5pm working on the Indian Ridge Trail # 401. Lew, Kenji, and Vern led a pack mule up to the jct with Little Hell Roaring Trail clearing deadfall and trimming. Mark arrived late and passed the "foot soldiers" (Jim, Marianne, Tom and myself) on his way to catch up with the mounted cavalry. We trimmed trail all morning from the trailhead, reaching the Logger Creek crossing at 10 am and proceeding on with only short breaks for water and snacks, clearing water bars of sediment along the way until about 4:30. We had made only about 1 mile up the trail, clearing to 8' wide by 10' high specifications and were just short of reaching the switchbacks that lead up to Indian Ridge. The mounted crew reported using more than a full tank of gas while cutting deadfall with the chainsaw on the upper section of the trail. It was a day well spent on a trail that features an easy first mile, some fairly steep sidehill, and great views from the top. Our posted trail maintenance sign at the trailhead alerted the fair number of hikers passing us of our intent and we received "thank you" from everyone.



Heading up the trail

Jim Wing finishing a water bar



Marianne stretching her back

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW

6/27/20, We had a good day on Saturday with a fun bunch of workers. Mia and Curtis Settergren, Kathy and Lawrence Van Dyk, Kenji and I met at the Spanish Creek trailhead and headed up trail 401 at a little past 9 am. We turned on to the Camp Creek trail 409 toward Big Brother Lake, then up that trail about 4 1/2 miles. We cut 16 trees from the trail, most of which were inside the wilderness. We had one big one that we had two saws on and smokin'. We turned back at the Camp Creek crossing just before the switchbacks that would have taken us up to the lake and arrived back at the trailhead about 4:15. Thanks to all the participants for your hard work. Here is a [LINK](#) to some pictures. -Lew Goodpasture



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

Ace Hardware West
Ace Hardware Belgrade
Ag Depot
B & B Plumbing
Bank of Bozeman
Beth Merrick
Big Sky RV
Carmen Matzick
Castle Custom Leather
Chalet Market
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Cuppa Jo on the Go

Dan Marsh/ Alice Pilgeram
Double Diamond Halter
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Gene Houghtaling
Hardaway Veterinary Clinic
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Jan Elpel
Jehnet Carlson
Madison River Propane
Marianne Meyer
Mike Haugan
Montana Canvas

Montana Horse Sense
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