

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 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  
nygren@juno.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:

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY : JUNE 6

BCH, Spanish Creek;

MWA, Cliff Creek

MONTANA MULE DAYS : POSTPONED TO JUNE, 2020

BOARD MEETING : JUNE 18, 6:30 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

GENERAL MEETING & ICE CREAM SOCIAL : JUNE 18, 7:00 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : JUNE 3, 10, 17, 24

Contact Lew Goodpasture, 575-639-9091

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW : JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27

Contact Dan Porter, 539-0879

POKER RIDE : JULY 11 —CANCELLED



#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hello Horsemen,

We are indeed in unprecedented times and I want to encourage you to be safe as we gather and venture outdoors to do what we all love.

We have gotten our COVID19 plan for trail work approved by the Forest Service and are cleared to work on trails while adhering to the plan which will be published elsewhere in the newsletter. Please all volunteers read the plan so we can have a short safety meeting at the trail head and get going. You do have to acknowledge that you have read our plan.

The trail crews are gearing up for a very active year and we have two crews this year with Lew Goodpasture leading the Wednesday crew and Dan Porter leading the Saturday crew. Watch for details via email as where and when they are clearing trails. We did receive a RAC grant to offset some of our cost to the club. Contact info will be listed elsewhere in the newsletter for Lew and Dan.

The board of directors after agonizing for a time has decided to cancel the Poker Ride for 2020. After much discussion it was determined that there was no safe way to have the Poker Ride in the setting that we have and adhere to all the rules that are in place for Phase II.

The Ice Cream Social will be at Janice's for the June meeting and there will be a program so please bring a chair so we can practice proper social distancing.

We will make one trip into the A-B Wilderness this August and more details will be forth coming. tentative dates are August 3-9.

So lets not dwell on what we can't do and enjoy our summer riding and clearing trails.

May God Bless the Trails You Ride

—Henry

## BOARD & GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 21 — VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Roll Call: Henry Glenn, Chris Nygren, Jim Wing, Kathy VanDyke, Carmen Matzick, Carl Blaskovich, Corinne Martin, Lew Goodpasture, Vern Campbell, Marianne Meyer, Dan Porter, Rich Inman, Dan Marsh, John Mutter

**CALLED TO ORDER BY HENRY GLENN.**

Minutes of April 2020 meeting: Carl moved to approve the minutes as published in the April newsletter; Dan Porter seconded; the motion passed.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jim reported on the club's savings and checking accounts. The club received \$325 through the Billie Thomas' memorial. Vern moved to approve the report; Carl seconded; the motion passed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Poker Ride: Regarding the July 11 Poker Ride, concerns raised included problems with social distancing for registration and pop stops/card drawing, and potential liability issues in the event someone were to get sick after taking part in the ride. It is also unknown whether Bridger Bowl would allow the ride to proceed and there might be permitting issues with the Forest Service. Chris moved to cancel the July 11, 2020 Poker Ride; John seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Dan Porter moved to adjourn the meeting, Corinne seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

— Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

### **PROGRAM**

Julie Cunningham, the FWP Region 3 Wildlife Biologist, presented an interesting program about the status of wild game populations.

**CALL TO ORDER BY HENRY GLENN.**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jim reported on the club's savings and checking accounts. The club received \$325 through the Billie Thomas' memorial. Sid moved to approve the report; Carl seconded; the motion passed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

### **POKER RIDE**

Henry reported that the board voted to cancel the July 11 Ride. The decision was based on many concerns including liability, social distancing logistics and possible FS/Bridger Bowl permitting issues.

### **TRAIL CREW:**

Lew Goodpasture will run the Wednesday crews. The process will be different from past years in that a limited number of people will be able to work together, so several crews may be sent out to different locations on the same day. He will send out questionnaires to determine members' interest level and to ensure that he will be able to have a certified sawyer with each crew. Contact Lew (text, call or email) if you are interested in participating or want more information. Henry reported that the club received a \$1,500 grant to purchase trail tools.

### **SATURDAY TRAIL CREW**

Dan Porter will lead the Saturday crews. He has a list of interested members whom he contacts weekly with time and location info. Contact Dan if you would like to get on the list.

### **FOREST SERVICE GUIDELINES**

Henry reported on the process for approval to carry a firearm while volunteering for the FS. Additional info will be included in the newsletter and was previously sent to members in several emails.

### **BCH STATE/BOARD MEETING:**

Dan Marsh reported briefly on the joint BCH state/board meeting. Henry noted that Joni Packard is retiring from the Forest Service at the end of May. She has worked on behalf of the BCH and the state group is working on a retirement gift. Lastly, Dan noted that the MT BCH strongly opposes E-bikes on trails not authorized for motorized use and noted that a link for public comment will be included in the newsletter. The state board will next meet in September in Deer Lodge, then in Missoula in December.

<https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-seeks-public-comment-proposed-e-bike-regulations>

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Henry reported that longtime member Bob Steinmann passed away.

Henry thanked Stacie for the article she wrote for the state BCH newsletter (the Decker Dispatch).

Adjournment: Jim Martin moved to adjourn the meeting; Dan Porter seconded; the meeting was adjourned.

— Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

## GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN RELATION TO WORK PROJECTS

### ADDED SAFETY & HYGIENE PROTOCOLS IN 2020

The purpose of this document is to provide GVBCH leaders with operating procedures to abide by CDC guidelines and government issued orders to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring a productive, positive, and safe work environment in the field. These guidelines pertain to volunteer-based projects.

### DECISIONS THAT GVBCH WILL ADHERE TO & WILL DETERMINE VOLUNTEER-BASED FIELD WORK

- Local, state directives, and governor's orders.
- Health and safety guidelines from the CDC.
- USFS Region, Forest level ordinances and guidelines.
- Approval of volunteer-based projects from District Ranger

### ADDED SAFETY MEASURES

Ahead of projects:

- Volunteers will need to sign up for work day prior to the event so that group size can be limited to 10 and volunteers can review the Covid mitigation plan and answer the following screening questions prior to the work day.
  1. Have you, someone living in your household, someone with whom you have been in close or frequent contact with, or someone you are caring for been diagnosed with COVID-19 (Coronavirus) or had any contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
  2. In the last 14 days, have you or someone living in your household, or someone with you have been in close or frequent contact with, or someone you are caring for returned from, or made a travel connection through a CDC Level 3 or Level 2 country or State Department Level 3 or Level 4 country, for example, China, Korea, Japan, the European Union, Iran? <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html>
  3. Do you currently have, or have you had within the last 24 hours, any cold or flu symptoms with a fever greater than 100.4 or acute respiratory distress (e.g., shortness of breath and coughing)?
- Depending on CDC guidelines & best practices, volunteers from outside MT will not be allowed on projects or have self-isolated in quarantine for 14 days upon arriving in MT ahead of project date.
- Advise volunteers to minimize carpooling to projects with other volunteers.
- Volunteers will be advised to bring their own hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes in order to limit sharing across volunteers.
- If volunteers experience symptoms of sickness during a project, project leader must be informed immediately. Project leaders will then initiate medical evacuation protocol (listed below).

During Project:

- Safety meetings at the beginning of trips: Volunteers will need to answer the health screening questions again when arriving and new precautions being taken will be emphasized
- Volunteers must maintain social distancing measures (6 feet) during the project.
- No tool or hard hat sharing. If a tool needs to be swapped, it will be sanitized.
- Volunteers will be asked to bring their own food.
- Volunteers will be reminded not to share food or snacks with other volunteers.
- Volunteers will be reminded to avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Sneeze or cough into the crook of your elbow.

Covid19 medical evacuation procedures:

- Any volunteer that exhibits symptoms of covid19 on a project will immediately self-isolate.
- Project work will cease and all focus will be placed on evacuating the entire crew as quickly and safely as possible.
- As soon as possible, GVBCH will notify USFS staff (lead contact on project) that the project was stopped and crew evacuated due to threat of coronavirus.
- The possible infected volunteer should seek medical attention.
- GVBCH will comply with any further reporting requested by USFS or local health department.

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Bob Steinman, a member of the Gallatin Valley BCH and also Judith Basin BCH passed away on Saturday May 16, 2020 at 80 years old. <https://www.dokkennelson.com/obituaries/ROBERT--L-STEINMANN?OBID=13731354> There are plans to have services at a later date. Bob has a son Brett in Bozeman and daughter Michele that lives in Whitefish. Bob was a very active member of our chapter before he bought the Yogo Inn in Lewistown and moved there and joined the Judith Basin chapter. After recently selling the Yogo Inn Bob moved back to the Gallatin Valley and was looking forward to working on trails with us again. Michele Koenig,,110 Hansen Lane, Whitefish, MT 59937. offshorehunter@yahoo.com 406-581-4914

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Firearms Qualification for volunteers application:

[HTTP://GVBCH.BCHMT.ORG/DOCUMENTS/R1VOLUNTEERQUALIFICATIONINQUIRY\(UPDATED04-20-20\)GV.PDF](http://gvbch.bchmt.org/documents/R1VOLUNTEERQUALIFICATIONINQUIRY(UPDATED04-20-20)GV.PDF)

## SATURDAY TRAIL CREW

May 16 Six members of GVBCH met at Spanish Creek at 10 am to kick off the 2020 Trail Clearing Season.

After some consultation, Larry and Carmen rode out the #401 trail to scout for downed trees (and snow drifts). Rich and Lew followed behind them on "Shank's Mare" with combies and a saw to work on water bars.

Kenji and I headed South up the 407 Trail, also on foot, to trim brush, maintain water bars, and clear deadfall. It was a beautiful day with perfect temperatures and sunny skies. Trail was mostly dry and there were a lot of pedestrians accompanied by their canine companions. Larry and Carmen later rode the 407 and passed by kenji and I. One hiker had reported deadfall ahead so we transferred our saw to Larry and they went on to locate and cut trail. Rumors were circulated among the hikers and reported back to Kenji and I that a lot of "lolly gagging" was occurring on the trail. We suspected the source and passed the same on to hikers going in the opposite direction for reporting to Larry and Carmen!

All returned to the trailhead around 4pm where it was reported that Rich and Lew had cleared or installed 61 "water bars". That being an astronomical number compared to the two "water bars" kenji and I replaced during the same time frame, it was noted that.."A swale in the trail a "water bar" does not entail".

All in great fun and comradery, we look forward to our next day afield soon. Wednesday and Saturday Trail crews are forming now and we hope to better coordinate our efforts this year. Let me know if you are interested in volunteering on either day and I will get you "in the loop". —Dan Porter



May 23 Lew and I did brave the weather and ride yesterday. After waiting 2 hours at the trailhead for it to clear off, Lew said he was going to take a short ride anyway since he was already there, so I saddled up and went too.

The campground was basically deserted due to the weather so we saw only a few hikers on the trail 407, which was wet but not muddy at all. We ate lunch at the Falls Creek Y and then rode up on the bench above Pioneer Falls, cutting 5 small trees from the trail and leaving only two larger ones since we had brought along only my pack saw. Light snow fell during the entire ride but we were quite comfortable with our rain gear deployed.

Above the falls the snow began to ball up on our horses hooves so we turned back, arriving at the trail head about 4 pm. The sun began to break thru the clouds as I pulled in to the driveway at home about 5:30.

Another day in paradise well spent with our equestrian companions. —Dan Porter

## SATURDAY TRAIL CREW

May 30 Five trail crew members met at Spanish Creek with plans to work on "trim & tread" on the 401 Trail. We crossed the stirrup high South Fork and rode in as far as the junction with Trail #409 to Big Brother Lake. Along the way we worked on trimming one section and took a short lunch at a location with a sweeping view of the historic Flying D Ranch. Returning by the same route we did "rolling" trim work and cleared water bars of sediment on the 401 until 4:30, reaching the trailhead at 5:30 by safely using the road bridge since the South Fork had risen to bank high levels. Lew, Kenji, myself, and new trail crew members Michaela and Tim enjoyed a great day afield with only one hiker and one equestrian passing by the entire day, each accompanied by their canine companion. Congratulations to Michaela and Tim for receiving their PHDs with a "Minor in the use of Combies for Trail Maintenance". We will expect great things from them in the future!

A second group led by Vern and Lawrence rode in to clear trail to Mystic Lake Cabin from New World Gulch. Initial reports of beaver dams causing trail blockage above the lake were confirmed so they backtracked to use the trail running along the west side of the lake and crossing Bozeman Creek just below the dam. Only four deadfall were reported cleared but trails were muddy with several bogs encountered along the way. Reports of a mule belly deep in muck, and an unintentional dismount have not been confirmed as of press time. Happy Trails, Dan Porter



## SATURDAY TRAIL CREW

May 30 Participants were me, Lawrence, Scott Brennan, Mark Deopsomer, Laurie Connelly, Bruce May, Carmen Matzick, and Vern and Mary Campbell.

FYI, we couldn't cross on the trail at the head of the valley due to the beaver dam and high water so we took the trail along the other side of the lake. We were able to cross just below the dam without any problems through knee-deep water.

Nine people and 10 equines hit the New World Gulch trail for some fun in the sun and a bit of exercise. We left at 9:30 and returned at 5:00, having covered 14.5 fairly grueling miles on a muddy, rocky, sometimes boggy trail. We took the chain saw to 2 logs and the hand saw to 2 more, but otherwise found the trail to be surprisingly clear of obstacles. We did encounter a few challenges including one unplanned dismount early on (the rider cowgirled up and continued up the trail) and a bog crossing that saw 2 mules in the mud up to their bellies. We also encountered a hiker who'd had to jettison his backpack and we brought it out for him on our pack mule. —Kathy Van Dyke



## WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW

On Wednesday May 27 we had our first official trail maintenance project after getting our COVID-19 plan approved by the Forest Service. We split into two groups with one group led by Rich Inman along with Wayne Frederickson, Vern Campbell and Connie LeHocky went up to the Wilderness boundary on the #401 trail and cleared about 20 trees and worked on water bars. The other crew led by Lew Goodpasture along with Dan Marsh and Kenji Aoki went up #407 past Pioneer Falls about 5 miles from the trailhead until we hit snow. We only had to cut out a couple of trees but cleaned out over 30 water bars and diversions. Both groups got back to the trailers about the same time and unpacked the stock and had some refreshments before heading home. We met a number of people on foot that thanked us for working on the trails.

—Dan Marsh, Spanish Creek



When working with our horses or mules, it is critical that we understand what they can see. Their ability to focus and to detect light, color, and distance is different from our vision. These differences can result in confusion about why a horse is afraid of something he sees. We need to be aware of the differences so that we can set our animals up for success in doing what we ask.

Horses' eyes are different from human eyes, and from other animal eyes. The way they see is highly adapted for who they are - they are a prey animal, and spend the majority of their time grazing. Since other animals attack and eat horses, it's critical for survival that he detect any new threats in his environment early.

#### Color Perception

Horses can see color, but not as vibrantly as humans. Generally, their world is muted. They also only see blues and greens or yellows. That bright red bucket - it looks brown to your horse.

#### Light Perception

Horses have a tapetum lucidum in the back of their eye. This is a specialized, reflective surface in the back of the eye. Light enters the eye, stimulates the sensory cells of the retina, then is reflected back by the tapetum in order to stimulate the retina again. This is how dogs, cats, and horses all see very well in low levels of light. When you shine a light in the dark at your pets' eyes, you'll see the bright reflection caused by the tapetum.

Although your horse's ability to detect light is excellent, it takes a very long time for him to adjust to changing light. You know how it feels to step from bright sunlight into a dark barn - it takes a second for your eyes to adjust. Your horse needs about eight times as long to adjust. When he hesitates, it may be because he is temporarily blinded as his pupils adjust from bright light to darkness.



#### Eye Shape

Horses have eyes that are larger than any other land mammal, and they are set wide. They have horizontal pupils, which helps them see a wide range, almost the entire horizon. But, because they are set wide, horses do not have great depth perception. They cannot judge distance very well.

#### Focus

Focus is also known as accommodation. Because of the large size, focus takes more time. Much of what a horse sees at any given time is blurry. If he needs to see something up close more clearly, he may lower his head. For example, many animals need to lower their head and inspect footing before getting in a trailer. If given the opportunity to do so, trailer loading can be a smoother process.

Despite the world being somewhat fuzzy, there is a special cluster of cells in the retina that helps a horse detect motion. Motion is the first sign of a predator, so that is why horses will spook when something moves unexpectedly.

Check out this video:

<https://www.horsenation.com/2017/08/03/thursday-video-as-seen-by-the-horse/>

Next time you lead your horse in a new area, or have him hesitate on the trail, remember to be patient. Understanding how horse vision is different will help you work with your horse or mule more successfully, especially when loading in trailers or introducing new objects. Allow his eyes to adjust, or let him lower his head for closer inspection. He sees his world in an entirely different way.

Image 1: Close-up of a horse's eye. He has heterochromia, with a portion of his iris being a different, blue color.

Image 2: A horse closely inspecting new footing before stepping forward onto it.

Dr. Stacie G. Boswell and her husband Sid are members of the Gallatin Valley BCH. Look for her upcoming book, *The Ultimate Guide for Horses in Need*, a handbook to help with horse care tailored especially for rescue horses. She can be reached at [stacie@stacieboswell.com](mailto:stacie@stacieboswell.com).





**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  
City Brew  
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Dan Marsh/ Alice Pilgeram  
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Rikki's Furniture Gallery  
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Clearing Gallatin Trails since 1985

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