

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:

SPANISH CREEK CABIN EXTRAVAGANZA : SEPTEMBER 11-13

RSVP by September 10 to Molly or Henry Glenn 406-578-2084 or
sedancowgirl@gmail.com

BCHMT BOARD MEETING : SEPTEMBER 12, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM

Zoom meeting

SLOUGH CREEK CABIN WORK : SEPTEMBER 14-19

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW : SEPTEMBER 12, 19, 26

Contact Dan Porter, 539-0879

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : SEPTEMBER 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Contact Lew Goodpasture, 575-639-9091

BOARD MEETING : SEPTEMBER 17, 6:30 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : SEPTEMBER 17, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hello Back Country Horsemen,

As we get into late Summer, I hope you have been doing lots of riding. The trail crews are working to keep the trails open for everyone to enjoy. The Cabin projects over in the A-B Wilderness are going well and we have now completed two trips. We had a great crew and there will be an article about the trip elsewhere in the newsletter.

The September fun ride/campout/cookout will be on Sept 11th and 12 this year at the Spanish Creek cabin. All are invited and bring friends and family. RSVP by September 9th that is Wednesday to sedancowgirl@gmail.com or call 406-578-2084 and let us know what side you are bringing. Jessica is playing on Friday night the 11th and we are having Smoked Brisket as the main dish. We also have someone playing on Sat night with BBQ Chicken as the main dish. Camp will be set up and you will have access to the cooking facilities for Breakfast on Sat morning. There is plenty of room for camping and horses with lots of grass available. So come and enjoy a great time with GVBCH.

On another note Larry Thomas was injured in an accident on his farm and is laid up for a while so I am sure he would enjoy a visit or phone call to wish him a quick recovery. We miss you Larry.

May God Bless the Trails you Ride

—Henry

BOARD & GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 20

Roll Call: Henry Glenn, Chris Nygren, Jim Wing, Kathy VanDyke, Carmen Matzick, Lew Goodpasture, Vern Campbell, Rod Wilson, Corinne Martin, Dan Marsh

Called to order by Henry Glenn.

MINUTES OF JULY 2020 MEETING

Chris moved to approve the minutes as written; Vern seconded; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim reported on the club's savings and checking accounts. Chris moved to approve the report; Dan seconded; the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Slough Creek cabin work: Henry reported that the first Slough Creek trip is scheduled for Aug. 24-29. Vern moved to reimburse Henry for food expenses; Corinne seconded; the motion passed.

Gallatin Partnership forest plan: Henry noted that the Partnership members (including this club) had done extensive work on the proposed forest plan and had proposed to have the Cowboy Heaven area transferred to wilderness status. The Forest Service decided not to accept that portion of the proposal. Henry noted that he will make an effort to learn the FS's rationale for excluding that area, and discussion followed regarding how far to pursue this issue as it may be detrimental to the club's standing to make too much "noise."

Spanish Creek Gathering: The gathering is scheduled for Sept. 11-13. Henry plans to have the gate opened by mid-afternoon on Friday and there will be a big barbecue that night, with entertainment by Jessica. Dinner will also be available on Saturday night, as will additional entertainment. Attendees are on their own for breakfast and lunch. Vern moved to reimburse Henry for food and Jessica expenses; Carmen seconded; the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

Adjournment: Vern moved to adjourn the meeting; Carmen seconded; the meeting was adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

PROGRAM

Henry presented a program on backcountry trail safety.

Henry Glenn called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Janice moved to accept the July 2020 minutes as written; Laurie seconded; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim reported on the club's savings and checking accounts. Carmen moved to approve the report; Chris seconded; the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Slough Creek cabin work: Henry reported that the first Slough Creek trip is scheduled for Aug. 24-29 and he went on to discuss numerous trip details. The second Slough Creek trip will be Sept. 14-19 and Corey will be there with the Nine Mile pack string. Both trips will primarily involve fence-building.

Gallatin Partnership forest plan: Henry reported on the Cowboy Heaven issue and noted that he will seek additional information from the Forest Service.

Spanish Creek Gathering: The gathering is scheduled for Sept. 11-13 and family and friends are welcome. Henry plans to have the gate opened by mid-afternoon on Friday and there will be a big barbecue that night, with entertainment by Jessica. Dinner will also be available on Saturday night, as will additional entertainment. Attendees are on their own for breakfast and lunch. Additional information will follow by email re RSVP'ing and signing up for side dishes.

NEW BUSINESS

Henry noted that Larry Thomas suffered a serious leg injury. Thoughts, prayers and visits would be most appreciated.

Adjournment: Stacie moved to adjourn; Corrine seconded; the meeting was adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW

8/1: Three members, Kenji, Marianne, and I headed for the trail #413, leaving the trailhead at 9:30 am and arriving at the # 413 JCT at approximately 11:30 where we parked our 5 horses . Along the way we had identified Bee Balm and Horse Mint, Western Coneflower, Sticky Geraniums, wild Delphiniums and Chinaberry (this one is very poisonous). We hiked up past the first switchback to a 50 yard stretch of tread that had been completely sluffed in and where trail users had been navigating a difficult ledge below. With combies and pulaskis we worked for over an hour digging new tread. It was hard, hot work but we persevered and made this stretch much safer. We then moved back down to the horses for a short break and then pulled large rocks out of the stream crossing, cleared water bars of sediment and trimmed brush as the opportunity arose...arriving at the campground at 5:45 pm for cold drinks and R/R before heading home. —Dan Porter



WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW

8/8: Four BCH members, Kenji, Lauri, Mark and myself made the loop ride from Spanish Creek up the #413 High Lakes Trail to Jerome Rock Lakes and down Falls Creek past Pioneer Falls to return. The fifteen mile route includes several miles of side hill switchback ascending and then descending, and is not recommended for any but experienced riders and horses. There are stretches where the tread is narrow at best and areas where rocky surface is your only option. Two large evergreens growing on opposite sides of the trail at one location require "threading the needle" and negotiating an 18" step-up simultaneously. We encountered several bog areas as well which in late summer were easily crossed without mishap. Ascending up Hermit Creek, resting our mounts frequently was required. We reached a beautiful meadow filled with wildflowers which we decided to call Pink Daisy Park after the "Subalpine Fleabane" that were in bloom there. We also had an "8,000" foot high view of Blaze Mountain. Along the way were groves of "Corn Lily", Western Coneflower and Thimble berry. The poisonous "Chinaberry" was also spotted in several locations.

We stopped for lunch at Upper Falls Creek Lake then proceeded on to Jerome Rock Lake before turning our mounts down the trail. We also took note of the tread and rock work that the forest service crew had completed the previous week in the Jerome Rock area. Just above Pioneer Falls we encountered two equestrians ascending the trail. The four of us turned our mounts on a dime, heads pointing downhill, and rode back to the meadow above so that they could pass. They were much appreciative and we avoided a possible wreck on the steep wooded side hill.

In summary, we had a great time and our equestrian partners did well on what we all felt is a challenging route given the current condition of the trail tread and encroaching shrubs. —Dan Porter



WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW

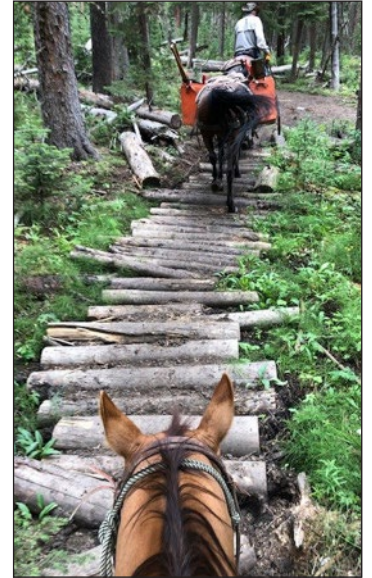
8/12: The Wednesday Crew #2 consisted of Lew, Connie, and Wayne. We met at the Asbestos Mine Trailhead and departed just after 9am. This trailhead is a bit tricky to find as you have to travel through a small housing area after crossing the Gallatin. And, any more trailers than our two or a few hiker vehicles would have made for a challenging turn around in a very small parking area. The beginning of the ride followed the old mine road which was clearly visible but grown over after 40 or so years being unused for vehicles. After about 2 miles the trail veered off and then another mile or so we crossed into the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. Up to the boundary the road/trail was mostly clear and easy although we climbed in elevation quickly with lots of switchbacks. I think Connie reported at the wilderness sign we had climbed about 1700'. From there we did a good bit of cutting with a lot of branches reaching out over the trail and the occasional tree down across the trail. We cut approximately 15 trees of sizes up to about 10" but mostly 3" - 6". After riding about 6 miles we stopped for lunch at a spot where the trail exited the timber and started into a more sparsely treed, rocky stretch. By 2:00 we made it to the junction of the ridge trail that, if you turn right, it takes you down to Lava Lake which we could see from the top. Or, if you turn left, you would go down to Deer Lake. At that point our elevation gain was right about 4000'. It was a good ride that we three had never been on before and would highly recommend it. On the way down and about two miles from the trailhead we had passed an old, big fallen tree that was into the trail a foot or so. We rode around it going up but decided to cut it back on the ride back down. So, we did use the chainsaw for that. —Dan Porter



WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW

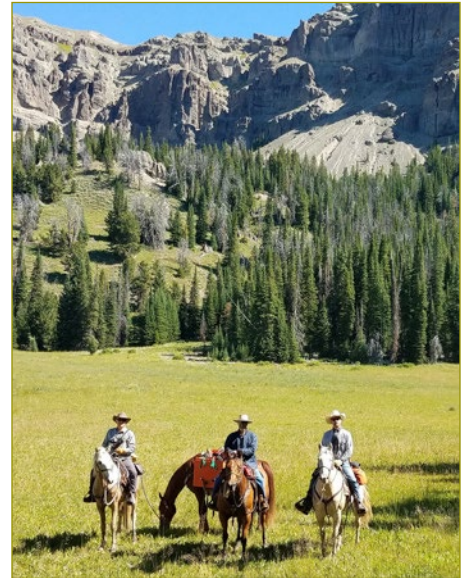
8/12: I'm calling it the curse of the Ramshorn. It all started OK with the temperature at 47 degrees and light rain at the trail head. Dan, riding Merlin and packing Flash, along with Kenji and Bruce got an early start at 8:35 AM and headed out with the intention of clearing Buffalo Horn #1, Ramshorn Lake #160, and Upper Ramshorn Lake Trail #150 but we only got to the Dailey Pass trail after clearing a tree across the trail and my riding horse Merlin started limping on his right foot. We stopped and I gave him some bute and I got off and walked him for a way up the #160 but he wasn't getting any better so I put the riding saddle on

Flash and put the packs on Merlin hoping the lighter load and bute would get him over what we thought was a stone bruise. After another half mile or so, he was starting to balk at being led so we decided to turn back and call it a day. We did manage to clear around 10 trees and clear out some mud bogs. The Forest Service is going to have to bring a crew up there and fix some broken bridges and do something about the bogs. We only put on 9.5 miles of a 15 mile route so we still have not got the upper trails out of Ramshorn cleared. —Dan Marsh



SATURDAY TRAIL CREW

8/15: Kenji, Scott Brennan, Curtis and I rode away from Buffalo Horn trailhead about 9:15 on our way to Ramshorn Lake. It was a beautiful day for a ride and made it to the lake about 11:30, cutting a few tree branches along the way. A previous trip up that way by Dan Marsh and company had cleared several down trees. The trail was wide and beaten pretty hard from lots of travel that direction. After lunch at the lake we continued on, cutting our way to Buffalo Horn pass. There were several trees that had fallen, many of which already had a clear "reroute" trail beat down. Some we cleared and revived the original trail and some we left as is. From the pass we turned down trail 150 and headed back down. That trail was much less traveled and also had a good number of trees down. The trail was easy to follow and in OK shape. All of those upper area trails that we were on are in need of erosion mitigation, i.e. water bars, filling deep "trough" trails with branches and brush, possibly steps to slow runoff along the trail, etc. There are lots of braided stretches of trail. We cut around 25 trees for the day. It was also nice to have Scott Brennan with the Wilderness Society along to help and share some information of his work. Thanks to Kenji, Curtis and Scott for a productive day. [Here is a link to pictures.](#) —Lew Goodpasture



**GVVCH 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
Cuppa Jo on the Go

Dan Marsh/ Alice Pilgeram
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Hardaway Veterinary Clinic
Harrington's Pepsi-Cola
Jan Elpel
Jehnet Carlson
Madison River Propane
Marianne Meyer
Mike Haugan
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