

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.

2021 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

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

TREASURER

Jim Wing ... 579-3230
wingit_4@msn.com

SECRETARY

Laurie Connelly ... 579-2859

DIRECTORS

ONE YEAR TERM

Carmen Matzick ... 600-1379
Rod Wilson ... 539-1338
Corinne Martin ... 539-2856

TWO YEAR TERM

Vern Campbell ... 570-6117
Lew Goodpasture ... 575-639-9091
Kathy Van Dyke ... 586-2440

STATE BOARD MEMBERS

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Brant Robey... 222-5971
pbrantr@gmail.com

BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578
webmaster@bchmt.org
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UPCOMING EVENTS:

SLOUGH CREEK : AUGUST 8-14 Tentative

Contact Henry Glenn, 578-2084

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : AUGUST 4, 11, 18, 25

Contact Lew Goodpasture, 575-639-9091

BOARD MEETING : AUGUST 19, 6:30 PM

1655 Harper Pucket Rd Bozeman

GENERAL MEETING : AUGUST 19, 7:00 PM

1655 Harper Pucket Rd Bozeman

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW : AUGUST 7, 14, 21, 28

Contact Dan Porter, 539-0879

BUFFALO FORK AUGUST 22-28

Contact Henry Glenn, 578-2084



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

A big thank you to all the hard working GVBCH members who made the 2021 Poker Ride a success. After missing out last year due to the pandemic, this year's Poker Ride was a little more streamlined (in term of lunches) and less smoky (than in the valley) and temperatures were pretty bearable. It was a good group activity for the chapter and the other horsemen and women around the state (also Wyoming). Things are getting closer and closer to the old normal every day, but we did learn some better ways of doing things this past year which we will incorporate moving forward.

Trail crews are still ongoing as can be seen in this newsletter, especially due to the large amounts of tree windfall that occurred over the past year. We are also talking about participating in the Belgrade parade in September (see Mark DeOpsomer and Janice Cartwright if interested) and if the smoke and fire danger allows, a trip into the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness in August.

September 10, 11 is our "Barbeque and trail ride at Spanish Creek", more details to follow. The next general meeting is August 19th at Janice Cartwright's place on Harper Puckett Road Things will slow down for the Chapter after the Barbeque, but the weather will still be good to ride for at least a couple months and who knows, the smoke maybe gone by then!

Stay safe and healthy and we all look forward to continuing to get together this year.

—Chris

BOARD MEETING MINUTES**JULY 15****GENERAL MEETING MINUTES****JULY 15**

Marianne Meyer, Dan Porter, Lew Goodpasture, Jim Wing, Vern Campbell, Dan Marsh, Kathy VanDyke, Carmen Matzick, Chris Nygren, Corrine Martin, John Mutter

Chris called meeting to order at 6:33 pm

Kathy moved to approve the meeting minutes as published in the June newsletter; Carmen seconded the motion; the motion was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim reported on the chapter's checking and savings accounts. He suggested we reimburse the trailer salesman \$550 for bringing the trailer to Bozeman. Kathy motioned to approve the compensation; Laurie seconded the motion; the motion was approved. Laurie motioned to approve the treasurer's report; Vern seconded the motion; the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Poker Ride: We unanimously thank Kathy VanDyke for her great organizational skills in bringing this year's Poker Ride together! We had 130 riders, only one horse injury (on the trail) and one human injury (at the campsite). Both were treatable and non-life threatening.

Recommendations for next year: a designated truck/trailer "ambulance" available for any horse related injuries. Potentially offering an extra card for wearing a helmet

NEW BUSINESS

The AB Wilderness trip scheduled for August 8-14 is somewhat tentative due to fire risk and smoke. If you want to go, should it still indeed happen, please be sure to connect with Henry ASAP to let him know your interest. He will keep us posted if it is canceled.

We are still considering whether we should ride in a parade this year. The Sweet Pea has been voted down due to its size. The Belgrade parade the second or third weekend in Sept. is one option. The Manhattan potato festival in August is another. We can discuss further in the general meeting.

Vern called to adjourn the meeting; Carmen seconded the motion; the motion passed. Chris adjourned the meeting at 7:01 pm

—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly

Chris called the meeting to order at 7:10pm

Janice moved to approve the June meeting minutes as published; Larry seconded the motion; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim reported on the balances in the chapter checking and savings accounts. We made between \$3100-\$3200 profit on the Poker Ride, our biggest fund raiser of the year. We collectively want to thank Sid for 'pushing the purchase of cards'. Nice job! We had 130 riders. Jim moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented; Stacie seconded the motion; the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

The trailer is being out-fitted for our needs. Labor provided by our members....Henry, Lew, John, sorry I am not sure who else but it is greatly appreciated.

NEW BUSINESS

The August AB Wilderness trip to work at the forest service cabin may not happen due to fire danger and smoke intensity. Please be sure Henry knows you want to join the work crew if you want to go. He will let us know if it is to be canceled.

We are considering riding in a local parade as a form of community awareness of our chapter. The Sweet Pea Parade has been voted down due to its size and large volume of spectators. Belgrade's parade is in Sept. We can consider this at our next meeting.

PROGRAM

Karen Cox presented a very informative talk regarding transitioning a horse from shoes to barefoot and booted. She had several different boots for horses to show us.

August 19 is our next meeting. It will be at Janice Cartwrights barn, 1655 Harper Pucket Rd Bozeman.

The program will be provided by a representative of Crazy Bison Ranch.

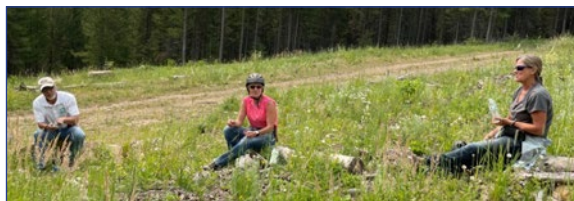
The Spanish Creek BBQ, hosts by GVBCH is still happening Sept 11

Kathy motioned for the meeting to adjourn; Janice seconded the motion; the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly

CLEARING & DEFLAGGING POKE RIDE

July 7: The trail clearing for the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen's Poker Ride this Saturday, was completed today. It was cool up in the mountains even though it was 97 degrees when I came back into Bozeman. We did come across some downed trees to clear and some water crossings to remove overhanging brush for crossing and watering horses. The flowers were blooming, the skyline was lovely, and the green foliage was a nice surprise in the midst of the current drought.



Larry, Carmen, Lauri, Kenji and Dan Porter deflagging



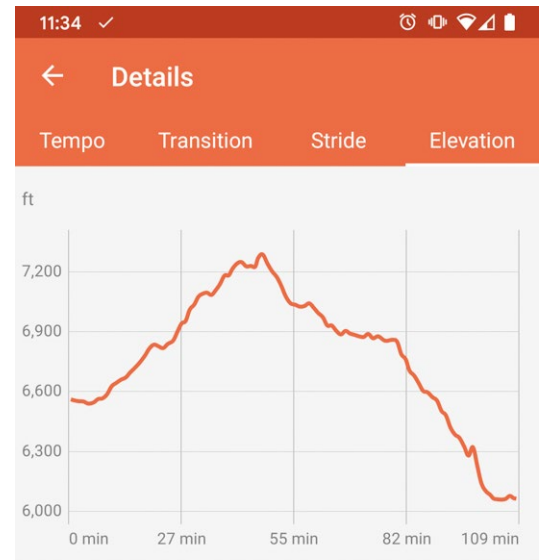
POKER RIDE



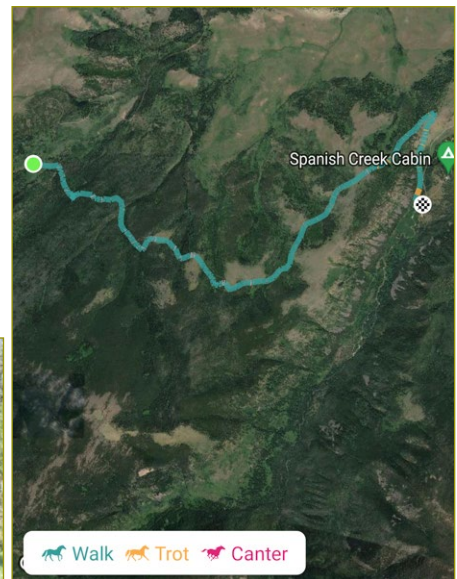


FUN RIDE

July 3: BCH members and one guest braved the heat to make a “short” ride over to the North Fork of Spanish Creek where we ate a quick lunch and cleared two dead snags that had fallen across the trail right at the F.S. boundary. From there, Lew and Kenji rode on towards Willow Swamp a short distance while Tom and I rode on up the North Fork. Returning we noted that one sign post had rotted off and needs replacement and another is split and broken off. (see photos) As part of our ongoing sign replacement project, hopefully a new sign is being made by the Forest service to replace the one on Divide Peak at the head of Storm Castle and a new one can be made for the Big Brother junction. The need for more trimming and water bar maintenance was noted in the trail section beginning approximately 3 miles in and all the way to the North Fork. A new sign post potentially can be cut on site to reinstall the North Fork sign during the next work day in that area.

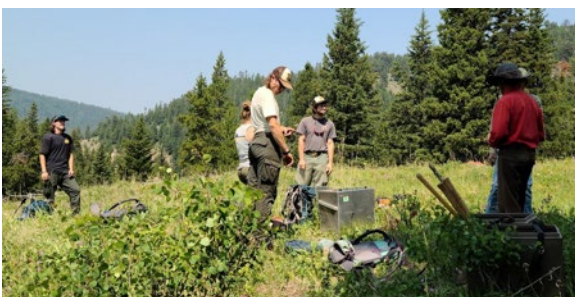


Photos & screenshots by Dan Porter, Jamel Perkins



FOREST SERVICE CREW PACK-IN

On Monday July 12, the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen with Rich, Lew and Dan packed in a Forest Service Crew up Elkhorn trail about 3.5 miles to their camp. Another Forest Service Crew had gone in ahead and cleared the trail so we didn't have to cut our way in. We packed in their food and tools and will go back in to pick them up on Thursday.



WEDNESDAY TRAIL CLEARING

July 21: Lew sent a crew of 5 including Larry, Rich, Dan, Tim and Jack to clear First Creek trail. What started out as a cool, clear, beautiful morning soon turned into the beginning of chainsaw day as we crossed the first creek and headed up the mountain. At the next creek crossing, we encountered a large spruce (18"+) laying across the trail. After nearly an hour of cutting limbs and sawing out the main tree we were ready to head on up the trail. It took us nearly 6 hours to clear the trail to the First Creek/Hidden Lakes divide. We cleared 35 trees to get to the divide. Most of them were 18 inches and larger. Somewhat challenging when you only have an 18 inch bar on your saw. Coming back down the trail we had the pleasure of a thunder storm that got us quite wet before we put on our slickers and rode the rest of the way to the trail head. My thanks to a great crew who spent the day pushing and lifting big logs. I am sure they were as tired as me when we arrived back at the trail head. Thank you Pepsi for the cold drinks. It was a fine day in God's back country.

The other crew of 4 consisting of Lew, Kenji, Wayne and Connie headed down the Porcupine trail to Onion Basin. They went about 16.5 miles and sawed out more than 65 logs.



A few Facebook comments:

- We truly appreciate the hard work you do to keep trails clear. Whenever I try to ride a trail that has not been cleared I realize the extent of what you do. Thank you!!!!
- Can't wait until I can get a horse and come help you guys!
- What back breaking work you do to help us all enjoy our riding in the high Country. thank you to all of you for your hard work and dedication to keeping our trails open!!
- You guys are the best. Thanks for all you do. Stay safe out there



SATURDAY TRAIL CLEARING

July 24: Five GVBCH chapter members , Lew, Marianne, Curt, Rachel, and myself rode in to the North Fork on the Cherry Creek Trail #401 , arriving at the North Fork at 11:15 am.

After a quick lunch Lew and Curt back tracked a short distance to cut a new 8 ' sign post from deadfall while Marianne, Rachel and I began excavation for the new post at the Willow Swamp/North Fork Y.

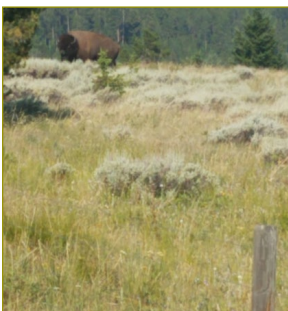
It was discovered that the old post had only been supported by a few boulders stacked around it. The new post installed is much more substantial and buried 2 feet in the rocky soil.

It should last a long time and guide those passing thru.

Returning we stopped to do some light trimming and water diversion along the way. The need for installation of steps was noted in several locations.

The Spanish Creek "Trailer Only " parking was completely filled with trailers by 9am that day when we got a leg up and was still full when we returned, however we saw no other trail users that day on the 401.

We did encounter one lone bull buffalo along the trail . Fortunately he was inside the Turner's Ranch fence . He caused only momentary alarm for our equestrian mounts as we passed by and he was equally satisfied with moving away in to the timber below. —DP



WEDNESDAY TRAIL CLEARING

July 28: The Wednesday crew met at the Cinnamon-Buck #6 trail head at 9:00AM. The weather was pleasant and not too smoky. After doctoring up my horse who managed to scrape up his rear feet in the trailer, we headed out at about 9:20AM. The crew consisted of Dan, Larry, Jim, Tim, Kenji, Wayne and Connie. Wayne had his white Arab instead of his usual Canadians. We didn't run into any logs until we started up the trail to the outfitter cabin and didn't make it 50 yards before our first tree. We only had to cut out 25 trees but they were mostly larger than 18 inches and blocking the trail with no safe way around them. Once we got past the outfitter cabin there was a creek crossing that had deep holes that were covered by tall grass. Wayne's horse stepped in one and went in up to his belly and tipped over on top of Wayne. Luckily neither the horse or Wayne was hurt but it is a spot that desperately needs a bridge. The rest of the way around was cleared by another crew that did a great job of making a wide path. Kudos to whoever did the clearing. We took the Meadow Creek Cutoff trail then on the Cinnamon Meadow #30 trail where we finished the 12 mile loop and got back to the trail head around 4PM. We enjoyed a cold beverage and headed for home.



SATURDAY TRAIL CLEARING

July 31: Kenji, Melissa, and I rode to Thompson Lake, leaving the trailhead at 8:30 am and returning just before 7Pm. On the way up, we met only a few hikers, saw one moose cow with calf, and marveled at the wildflowers still blooming at higher elevation. Returning we spotted the "Indian" on the ridge and wondered that we had never heard of it before. The trail was totally clear of deadfall thanks to the great work by the Wednesday Trail Crew although a lot of young fir trees will need to be trimmed out of the trail soon. Our Silky saw never left its carrying case and we returned in great shape...tired but rewarded by a great day in the mountains with our trusty steeds.—DP



**GVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2021 POKER RIDE**

Bridger Bowl
Four Corners Saddlery
Hardaway Veterinary Clinic
Harrington's Pepsi-Cola

Kenetrek Boots
Madison River Propane
Montana Canvas
Montana Bank

Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply
Rocky Mountain Hat Company



Clearing Gallatin Trails since 1985

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