

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
<http://gvbch.bchmt.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

BOARD MEETING : NOVEMBER 18, 6:30 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : NOVEMBER 18, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church

BCHMT BOARD MEETING : DECEMBER 4

Missoula



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Looking forward to Winter? Those of us staying in the Gallatin Valley need to start getting ready and that includes making sure your equine animals are up to date with shots, hoof care as well as water, hay and other feed material. It is also time for our chapter to catch up on things like election of new board members, completion of required trail crew training and coordination with other groups like the U.S. Forest Service as well as our own chapter holiday party.

On the good news side of things, we received the full amount of funding for our RAC grant proposal, our trailer is fully outfitted and ready to support our activities and the USFS is obtaining bids for a pavement preservation project on the Spanish Creek trailhead road in the early summer. We also plan on an in person state convention in Dillon in March 2022. We will be doing the required Defensive Horse Safety training in the Spring, but there will be no saw certifications planned and current saw qualifications will be extended again. Be sure to step up and volunteer for Board membership, holiday party planning/attendance and other chapter activities.

For sad news, we lost one of our faithful members and former Vice President to cancer this past month, Mike Haugan. Mike, with his wry sense of humor, was always available and helping with our activities, including this year's Poker Ride, and will be sorely missed. Until the rest of us join you, keep enjoying those rides and exploring new country Mike!

In November, we will discuss the soon-to-be-released Custer Gallatin National Forest Plan with a presentation from Barb Cestero of the Gallatin Forest Partnership.

—Chris

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 21

ROLL CALL

Henry Glenn, Chris Nygren, Dan Porter (proxy for Kathy VanDyke), Marianne Meyer (proxy for Lew Goodpasture) Jim Wing, Corrine Martin, Vern Campbell, John Mutter (proxy for Rod Wilson), Carmen Matzick and Laurie Connelly

Chris called meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Dan Porter motioned to approve the minutes from September meeting; Marianne seconded the motion; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim reported on the chapter's checking and savings account balances. Marianne was reimbursed for stamps. Henry motioned to approve the report; Laurie seconded the motion; and the motion was passed.

BUSINESS

The RAC grant we requested for \$5000 has been received.

GALLATIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP:

This is a group of people representing various forest user organizations, i.e. GVBCH, SWMontana mountain Bike Association, Wild Montana, The Wilderness Society, Greater Yellowstone Coalition and Big Sky Community. The Partnership seeks to find common ground amongst these groups and together present recommendations to the Forest Service with the hope of influencing their decisions in planning for Forest use in our area. John Mutter has been our point person for a number of years and is stepping down. Laurie Connelly will be our point person moving forward. Chris Nygren will also attend when available. The GFP meetings are held monthly, on average. Chris and Laurie attended their first meeting this past week and report that the Forest Service will be announcing its Forest Plan for the Gallatin/Madison sometime in the first week of December. The GFP has been working hard for a number of years to bring their recommendations to the Forest Service. We are hoping that these recommendations have been adopted. The GFP is developing an ad campaign to support the decision.

SPANISH CREEK:

Yay! The Forest Service has announced it will be repaving the pot-holed, cracked surface of the 4 miles leading in to the trail head sometime early next summer. They would like our input on improvements necessary for the bridges on the trail. Anyone who has used those bridges and has some ideas please let Chris know. The gravel road has been graded!! Sadly, too late for our summer's end get together but still so much nicer to drive on.

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Carmen, Rod and Corrine are all stepping down from their positions (as dictated by our by-laws) and will need to be replaced. Please consider volunteering your time for our chapter. Its a great way to meet more members and really get to know how things work in the chapter. They will be calling around to prospective volunteers and we will take nominations at our next meeting.

FOREST SERVICE CERTIFICATIONS

Anyone working with the club on trails must be certified in CPR, defensive horse safety and Chain-Saw use (if desired). If you were current on the Chain Saw in 2019 then your certification will remain valid thru 2022 due to COVID issues in regard to scheduling certifiers. Janice will get CPR and defensive horse safety courses arranged for a future meeting.

As a reminder, when we are working on the trails as a chapter we are working for the Forest Service so we must abide by their rules. To work on a trail crew you must be a member and have signed the volunteer agreement with the Forest Service and have obtained the appropriate certifications as mentioned above. Also if you wish to carry a firearm on the trail please file the paperwork with the Forest Service. Please connect with Chris or Henry about the process...it is really not complicated and is completely confidential.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

We would like to have a party this year but as yet do not have a venue. Please be thinking about this and if you have any ideas or connects please let Chris know.

TRAILER STORAGE

Dan Porter has graciously agreed to store the new trailer on his property for the winter.

STATE BOARD MEETING

Henry reported on the State Meeting. Remember they have a great website, check it out bchmt.org.

As a general statement, Henry would like to remind us all that the Backcountry Horseman organization is a service organization. It/We have no political stand. Please be mindful of this in our gatherings and lets try to keep politics out of our discussions. Let's be respectful of each other, be kind to all on the trail and serve our community.

ELECTRIC CHAIN SAW

Dan Porter has made a request for an electric saw for the Saturday Crew. We can vote on this in our next meeting.

Chris motioned to adjourn the meeting; Henry seconded the motion; the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned as 7:00 pm

—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 21

PROGRAM

Tom Reed, local author, read from his new book "Give Me Mountains for my Horses". Thank you, Tom

Next month, Barb Cestero from Wilderness Society and leader of Gallatin Forest Partnership, will be here to explain the GFP and the soon to be announced Forest Service Plan.

Business meeting called to order at 7:40 by Chris.

Welcome visitors DeeCee and Judy

No minutes to approve because we only had a 'Parking Lot' Board Meeting last month due to lack of access to the building.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim reported on the checking and savings account balances. Marianne was paid \$44 for stamps.

Laurie motioned to approve the report; Carmen seconded; and the motion passed.

BUSINESS

New Trailer: Dan Porter has graciously agreed to store the trailer on his property for the winter.

Forest Certifications: All members need to be certified in CPR and defensive horse safety. Janice will arrange for this in a future meeting. Those wishing to use the chain saw on the trail will have to be certified with the Forest Service and this usually is good for two years. Due to COVID issues if you were current in 2019 then your certification will remain valid through 2022.

Elections for Officers: Three board members need to step down this year (Carmen, Corrine and Rod). We need volunteers to serve. Please consider volunteering. It is a great way to get to know some members better and to really see how the organization works. Someone from the committee will be contacting people this month to gauge your interest. We will be pulling together a slate of candidates by the November meeting.

Christmas Party: We would like to have one this year. We usually do it together with the Saddle and Harness Club and the Saddlites. We need a venue. Please be thinking about this and let Chris know if you have any ideas.

Back Country Horseman State Board and Convention: Henry reported on the State Convention and State Board Meeting. They have created a Northern Bridger Infrastructure Committee (several groups to be represented... Wilderness Society, SW Mt Mountain Bike Assoc and others) to discuss the overuse of the trails in the Northern Bridgers and what we might be able to do about it.

BackCountry Horseman is working on creating one volunteer agreement so that no matter how many organizations you may be volunteering with, you would only need to sign this one agreement.

Firearms: You need this permit to be covered by the Forest Service Insurance if an accident should occur. The permit is easy to receive. The background check is completely confidential and whether you get the permit or not is also confidential. So please, if you don't have this Forest Service permit, let Henry know, he will get you the form.

Next annual Convention of the Back Country Horseman is March 11-14. We usually have 8-10 members go. Its great fun. Please consider and let Chris know if you would like to attend.

The State chapter sponsors a Youth Camp yearly. 8-18 year olds. It lasts for one week. If you have someone you think would like to go to the camp please submit their name to Chris for a scholarship.

Politics is creeping into all things in our world today and the BCH meetings have been no exception. Please remember we are a SERVICE organization. Try to be respectful of your fellow members, be kind on the trail and let's keep serving our community.

Montana now has 18 chapters within the state.

Carl motioned to adjourn the meeting; Janice seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Chris adjourned the meeting.

—*Respectfully* submitted by Laurie Connelly



This looked nasty but healed up just fine with a few apps of vetricin gel—DP

WINDY PASS TRAIL CLEARING—OCTOBER 3

Four rode in to Windy Pass, three horses and a jenny.
The 7 mile drive to the trailhead, of rocks and ruts there are plenty.

The trail itself is also a challenge, the maintenance in disrepair,
The shortcuts, deadfall and erosion, many can be found there.

The bogs are few and mostly dry,
but a cool drink for the horses
Always can be found, by and by.

A meadow here and there, but mostly thru dark timber,
Of Spruce and fir, and sometimes pine limber.

Portions are rocky and some are steep,
But not too hard to keep your seat.

We cleared some deadfall to reach the pass,
Went over and around others to get there at last.

Up on the crest where the trail tops out,
The rock cairns show you the way,
Below in the meadow the cabin,
and the corrals we built lay.

Views there are panoramic,
Of Steamboat, Wilson, and more,
They are spectacular,
and worth the ride for sure.



—Kenji , Marianne, Melissa, Dan



**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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