

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.

2022 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

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

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Laurie Connelly ... 579-2859

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ONE YEAR TERM

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

TWO YEAR TERM

Sid Boswell ... 505-239-2606
Connie LeHocky ... 570-6060
Tom Lamb ... 908-670-1162

STATE BOARD MEMBERS

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : JULY 6, 13, 20, 27

Contact Lew Goodpasture, 575-639-9091

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW: JULY 2, 16, 23, 30

Contact Dan Porter, 406-539-0879

GVBCH POKER RIDE : JULY 9 🐾

Bridger Bowl

BIG SKY STATE FAIR : JULY 20-24

Gallatin County Fairgrounds

BOARD MEETING : JULY 21, 6:30 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : JULY 21, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Our focus is now on the July 9 Poker Ride at Bridger Bowl. Trails Crews are up and running, including Wednesday's Trail Crew headed by Lew Goodpasture, Saturday's crew with Dan Porter and just beginning either Tuesday or Thursday, a crew headed by John Mutter for work in the Madison Range. John will be providing more details on that trail effort later.

Back to the Poker Ride, this is our chapter's only fundraising event for the year. WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS. It is a great opportunity to meet other horsemen/women with the same interests, spend a day outside in the beautiful Bridger Range and have a free meal to boot. If you are a volunteer, you are eligible to go on a trail clearing ride before, be part of the sweep crew, or be part of the flagging/de-flagging crews that week. We need help with manning the pop stops on the trail, assisting Rich Inman with the food serving line, helping to put up and take down the wall tents as well as just assisting in making the overall event go smoothly. Please reach out to any officer or board member if you are willing to assist.

I also would like to thank all the people who helped on the Buffalo Horn corral repairs earlier in June. One piece of bad news is that the Yellowstone floods have probably cancelled our AB Wilderness trips later in the summer due to the washing out of the roads, we need to wait to find out more about that possibility. We also have had a couple equestrian accidents of members so please be careful when working with stock and remember how strong and powerful those animals can be.

Enjoy the summer weather and see you at the July 9 Poker Ride!

—Chris



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 16

Roll Call: Chris Nygren, Rich Inman, Dan Marsh (also proxy for Vern Campbell), John Mutter (also proxy for Connie LeHocky), Lawrence VanDyke (also proxy for Kathy VanDyke), Tom Lamb, Jim Wing, Bruce May (proxy for Lew Goodpasture), Marianne Meyer, Sid Boswell, Don Porter, Carmen Matzick and Laurie Connelly

MINUTES OF MAY MEETING

John Mutter moved to approve the minutes as published; Sid seconded the motion; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim Wing reported on the checking and savings accounts. John Mutter has been reimbursed for the Porta-Potty rentals for the Poker Ride. Laurie moved to approve the report; Lawrence seconded the motion; the motion passed.

CHAPTER NEWS

Sadly, We have had two injuries while riding amongst our members this past week. Chris Day was injured when on a trail clearing day. If she chooses, she will be covered by the Forest Service workman's compensation insurance. She is home and recovering. The second incident was not on a trail crew with the chapter but Kathy VanDyke was very significantly injured and is in the ICU up at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. Please keep these wonderful women in your prayers and perhaps give a call or email of encouragement, always a welcome distraction from the pains of recovery.

As a reminder, if you haven't done so yet please be sure to sign the Risk Assessment Form. This form must be signed at least once a year and makes you eligible for the Forest Service Insurance. If you don't think you have, the trail boss on Wednesday (Dan Porter) and Saturday (Lew Goodpasture) should have a form for you to sign.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

Due to the historical flooding in Yellowstone Park, the AB Wilderness week long cabin repair trips scheduled for August and September are canceled for this year. There may be an opportunity to work on a cabin closer to Bozeman and out of the flood zone. More on that will come as it becomes finalized.

The Trails Day work repairing the corrals at the Buffalo Horn trailhead was a successful day's work. Thanks to all who came and helped!

JULY POKER RIDE

As you may remember, Kathy VanDyke has been the organizer for this annual event. Thanks to her amazing organizational skills she has an extremely well documented folder full of all the elements of the ride. All that remains is that we have members volunteer for the various positions/duties for the big day. We will ask for volunteers at the General Meeting. The trail clearing will be done on Wednesday the 6th of July and led by Lew. The morning of Friday the 8th will be the flagging of the

trail. This will be lead by Janice Cartwright. Please let her know if you would like to join that crew. (Janice 406-579-3445). The setup for the ride will start at 4pm on the 8th in the Bridger Bowl parking lot. Following the work of set up is our traditional BBQ potluck. Henry will provide the meat. Everyone else please bring a dish to share. The ride itself begins between 8-10am on Saturday the 9th. Sunday is the deflagging ride beginning at 0900. We will need volunteers for pop-stations, sack lunch and ice pick-up, registration desk attendants, set up of tents and tables.

John motioned to authorize the money for up to 250 sack lunches at \$7/sack and 250 water bottles; Tom seconded the motion; the motion passed.

The prizes are great this year, provided by Madison propane (Hot Air Balloon rides), Keentrak, Four Corners Saddlery, Mt Canvas, and Murdochs.

Aid to Forest Service for flood damage: Bruce May brought forward a discussion regarding making the chapter available to assist the FS in assessing trail damage due to the flooding. After discussion with the group John moved to authorize Bruce to approach the FS regarding whether they would like us to organize a ride to do some trail assessment in the northern part of the park. Lawrence seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Laurie motioned to adjourn the meeting; Dan Marsh seconded the motion; the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1822.

—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 16

Chris called the meeting to order at 1902 after a lovely ice cream social prepared by Janice. Thank you Janice, yummy as usual. And this year the weather was beautiful, sunny with minimal wind, yeah!

MINUTES OF MAY MEETING

Janice moved to approve the minutes as published; Tom seconded the motion; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Laurie reported on the checking and savings accounts. Dan motioned to approve the report; Janice seconded the motion; the motion passed.

CHAPTER NEWS

As reported above (please see Board Meeting minutes), we have had two riding incidents this past week. Chris Day who is now home and recovering and Kathy VanDyke who is recovering in the ICU at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. Please keep these strong ladies in your thoughts and prayers! And send them well wishes via phone, text or email or all three. The distractions of good friends is always welcome.

CANCELLED: AB WILDERNESS TRIPS

Due to the historic flooding in Yellowstone access to the AB Wilderness cabins we were going to be repairing has been cut off. Those trips are officially canceled. We may have the opportunity to work on the Cherry Creek Cabin. We will keep you updated.

POKER RIDE

The ride is coming up fast. Kathy has been our organizer and of course is no longer able to continue in that roll. Lucky for us she is an amazing organizer and keeps unbelievable notes. All that remains to be done is getting volunteers for the various positions. The ride will happen as follows.

Wednesday, July 6: Clearing of the trail. Lead by Lew. Meet in Bridger bowl parking lot if you want to help. 0900 unless Lew post otherwise.

Friday July 8: Flagging of the trail. This is lead by Janice Cartwright (406-579-3445). Meet at 0900 in Bridger parking lot if you'd like to join her. She would appreciate a call to let her know if you are coming.

Friday July 8: 4:00 pm meet in Bridger Bowl parking lot to set up tents and tables. This is followed by our traditional BBQ potluck. Henry will bring the meat. All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share.

Saturday July 9: Workers please arrive by 0700. The ride begins 8-10 am.

Sunday July 10: Deflagging ride. Meet 0900 in the parking lot.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS:

Sack lunch and water pickup: Jim Wing

July 6: clearing: Lew leading

July 8: flagging in morning, contact Janice

July 8: tent and tables set up 4pm, all welcome

July 8: potluck, camp-out all welcome, bring dish to share.

July 9: pop stations: We need 6 volunteers. So far we have only 3 Dan Porter, Larry and John. Please consider helping out here!!!

Registration desk: Marianne, Laurie, Carmen and Sid (best extra poker card dealer)

Vet with access to trailer for any injured equine: Stacy

Lunch stand attendance:

Prize awards: handled by registration crew

Clean up/ take down: All available crew.

General attendants to direct riders and answer questions:

Lots of hands make for light work. Its really a fun day and if you are interested in riding the trail but concerned about the energy of so many equines in one spot, the Flagging and Deflagging rides are quiet and there is a Sweep ride done at the end of the ride day to insure all riders have exited the trail and that is also a nice quiet ride. And of course we would love any and all who would like to help out. You do not need to ride at all during this event. Just come and watch the excitement and visit with your fellow members.

John motioned to adjourn the meeting; Tom seconded the motion; the motion passed and Chris adjourned the meeting.

—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly

Editor's Note: Photos by Dan Porter, Marianne Meyer, Kenji Aoiki



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY: BUFFALO HORN

For National Trails Day, the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen repaired the corrals at the Buffalo Horn Trailhead for their project. Josh Kinsel and his crew from the Bozeman District Forest Service had gone out and harvested rails for the projects and bought us cribbing and screws and a gate to repair the corrals. I showed up at 8:00AM and set up the generator for the power tools. Driving 8-inch screws into new fallen trees can be hard on drills!

At 9:00AM, the rest of the crew of 16 showed up and began peeling logs and tearing down the old rails and putting up new rails. Around Noon after completing 3/4 of the project we broke for a short lunch. With rain threatening we got back to work and finished the remaining corral. We cleaned up the shavings from the peeling. Cut up the old rails and hauled a couple of spare rails into the woods for next time. We removed one old stump from the second corral and smoothed it out as best we could in the wet conditions. We will have to go back and put the cribbing on since the newly peeled logs and impending rain would not have stayed on the logs for long. It was a great effort by everyone, and we packed up and headed home by 2:00PM just before the afternoon rain started to get serious. We put in over 80 hours of volunteer time not including travel time and over 800 vehicle miles. —GVBCH

The Bozeman Ranger District would like to thank all our National Trails Day volunteers. An especially big thank you goes out to our partners @hyalitecanyon, @swmontanamba, and Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen for organizing events! Spring cleaning was accomplished in Hyalite, corrals were repaired at Buffalo Horn Trailhead and trail maintenance completed in Truman Gulch.— Custer Gallatin National Forest



SATURDAY JUNE 11: SPANISH CREEK TRAIL 401

To everyone who contributed to the day's trail clearing, fantastic job. With the forecast for rain in the afternoon we really thought we might not get much done. We were wrong...we accomplished quite a lot and we want to thank each of you for participating and making it a successful day.

Just a quick recap of the activities, mostly for those that couldn't be there. Having cancelled the June 8th Wednesday work, we re-scheduled for Saturday and, along with the Saturday crew, had a good response with 14 members arriving at Spanish Creek TH ready to go. We departed the TH at 9:45am, 15 minutes behind scheduled departure. Group 1 was led by Dan Porter and included Dan, Curtis Settergren, Chris Day, Larry Thomas and Bruce May. Those five rode up Cherry Creek Trail 401 and cut out some trees blocking the trail, cut and installed water bars, and cleaned water bars and general trail maintenance. Group 2 was led by Dan Marsh and included Tim Butler, Chris Nygren and Connie LeHocky. These four intrepid volunteers rode into the Lee Metcalf Wilderness and, with crosscut saws and other hand saws cleared many trees from the trail, riding up toward Mirror Lake and then backtracking to Pioneer Falls and beyond up to the meadow. One live tree had fallen directly onto the trail just beyond the first bridge (crossing Falls Creek) and required lots of limbing to eventually get it removed from the trail. It took all of them over an hour to get it cleared. The bridge at Falls Creek is not safe for horses with a couple of large holes in it. Some hikers heading to the Blaze said the river crossing ahead with no bridge was unsafe to cross. Group 3 included Lawrence Van Dyke, Clint Schwalm, Laurie Connelly, Kenji Aoki and Lew. We rode up Little Hellroaring trail clearing several trees that had blown down over the winter over about 3-4 miles. We also cut up some downed timber alongside some of the trail to stage for new water bars and steps. The trail, in some areas, has eroded from runoff and rain to the point that it is now just a deep trough, which is only getting deeper. We cut roughly 25-30 4-5 ft x 6-8" logs from the forest and placed them along the trail. The MCC group is coming in later in June to start installing these water bars and steps. By the way, each of these logs weighed roughly 45-60 pounds and we carried them out of the forest and placed them near the trail for the MCC group. Lots of work there.

Group 3 arrived back at the trailhead around 3 pm. Groups 1 & 2 came in about an hour later. The rain started about 2:00 so everyone was sufficiently soaked by the time they arrived.

All in all, it was a good day with lots of trail work accomplished. We really appreciate the effort from everyone.

Also, as an added benefit there was a good size black bear out in the open, just off the road 400 yds about a mile down the road from the trailhead.

Thanks again, Lew and Dan



SATURDAY JUNE 18: SPANISH CREEK TRAIL 401



Six rode west on the 401 from the Spanish Creek parking lot, We didnt plan to spend the night, no need to bring a cot.

Carmen's horse had spent the night, equestrian quarters there were tight.

Above the switchback the water bars looked good, but some need excavation, just above the wood.

Not too far along another horse group came past, our stopping to work had made us dead last.

The deadfall was a plenty, across the trail it did lay, all medium to small, we cleared with little delay.

Before we reached the Big Brother Lake fork, we met the group returning, they didn't dare cross North Fork.

It was running quite high, at stirrup height, we crossed it easily, not a horse gave a fight.

We rode on aways, after lunch at the camp site, we weren't planning to stay there, over night.

Up the trail through the aspens, they could use some trimming, The trail was dry so the horses weren't swimming.

At one point we stopped to clear a deadfall, a big standing dead tree, broke loose beside us...close call!

We reached the turn to Placer Creek, then headed back east towards home and the Peaks.

The North Fork was now running, quite a bit higher, we made it across before the horses could tire.

Happy Trails. —DP

SATURDAY JUNE 25: SPANISH CREEK TRAIL 409

Four rode out, Kenji ,Lauri, Marianne and I,
We reached the 409 before noon, by and by.

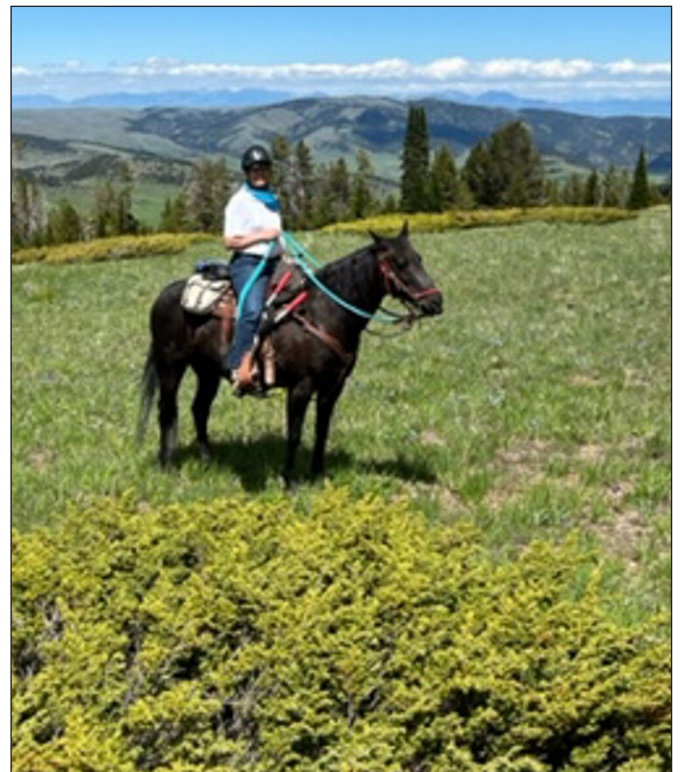
This 409 was "looking real fine"
But ain't no Ford, it winds out thru Doug Fir and Pine.

We cut ten big logs from the trail,
didn't make that up, not a horse tale.

We trimmed out some saplings on the way back,
then put our trusty steeds towards home on the fast track.

A beautiful day on a wonderful trail,
we had a nice ride, it never does fail.

—DP



WEDNESDAY JUNE 29: BUFFALO HORN

Eight members met at Buffalo Horn TH, split into two groups, both departing TH at about 9:45am. Dan Marsh w/ packhorse, Laurie, Connie, and Kenji rode up Tr 1 and then veered off to left onto Tr 160 and headed for Ramshorn Lake. Just before the lake they stopped at the corrals and took pictures of them and the outhouse there. There is an assessment going on of repairs needed. This may be a future project for us to be involved in. From there the group rode by the lake and on to Buffalo Horn Pass and then back onto Tr 1 arriving back at the TH at 7 pm, a long day. They cut 40 trees from the trails, many of them big and brushy. The route totalled 16 miles. The 2nd group with Clint w/packhorse, Tim, Lew and Rigby, rode up Tr 1 to Dailey Pass Trail, then down along the YNP boundary to Teepee Pass then down Tr 39 to Tr 1 then back to TH, arriving about 4:15. That route took us about 12 miles and we cut between 40 & 45 trees from the trail.

Thanks to all that participated. It was a good day. —Lew



**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

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Rocky Mountain Hat Company



Clearing Gallatin Trails since 1985

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