

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

TREASURER

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

SECRETARY

Laurie Connelly ... 579-2859

DIRECTORS

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Connie LeHocky 570-6060
conniel.montana@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Brant Robey... 222-5971
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BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578
webmaster@bchmt.org
<https://gvbch.bchmt.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

GVBCH BBQ & Get Together : September 9-10

Spanish Creek Cabin

TUESDAY TRAIL CREW : SEPTEMBER 6, 13, 20, 27

Contact John Mutter, (406) 600-7661

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : SEPTEMBER 7, 14, 21, 28

Contact Lew Goodpasture, 575-639-9091

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW: SEPTEMBER 3, 10, 17, 24, OCTOBER 1

Contact Dan Porter, 406-539-0879

BOARD MEETING : SEPTEMBER 15, 6:30 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : SEPTEMBER 15, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Shorter days, changing colors, cooler temperatures each are about to begin. September is probably the prettiest month in Montana and there are still lots of equestrian opportunities available so make sure to take advantage of them.

As for our BCH chapter, we have barbeques planned for both Friday, September 9 and Saturday, September 10th at the Spanish Creek cabin with the main dish supplied by our BCH chapter. More information will be sent out by email regarding this event.

Another idea was proposed last meeting about performing work on the corrals at Ramshorn Lake which is located on a small enclave of State land, located a few miles from the Porcupine trailhead (or Buffalo Horn trailhead for that matter). That project still needs to be planned so we will see if it can be executed this fall.

Also, we will start spreading the word to see the interest people have in becoming part of the BCH leadership, both officers and board members. Without volunteer leadership, your BCH chapter will cease to exist so I encourage everyone to think about how they can help keep our chapter operating.

Take care!



—Chris

Roll call: Connie LeHocky, Kathy VanDyke, Laurie Connelly, Chris Nygren, Lew Goodpasture, Tom Lamb, Dan Porter, Sid Boswell, Stacie Boswell, John Mutter, Vern Campbell, Dan Marsh, Tim Butler

Chris called the meeting to order at 1835.

MEETING MINUTES

John Mutter , as proxy for Henry Glenn, motioned to accept the minutes as published; Vern seconded the motion; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chris reported on the checking and savings accounts. There are no bills or receipts outstanding. Laurie moved to accept the report as stated ; Sid seconded the motion; the motion passed.

ANNUAL CHAPTER BBQ

The cabin at Spanish Creek trailhead is reserved. There is plenty of room for camping. The dates are Sept 9 and 10. There will be a potluck Friday night and Saturday night. Henry will be providing the protein. Please bring a side or dessert to share. There will be plenty of people to ride with over the weekend. Please plan to join us.

Chapter elections coming at the end of the year. Be thinking about offering some of your time to the chapter. We will discuss this at the October meeting.

HOLIDAY PARTY

We are thinking Eagle Mount would be nice to have as our venue. It has worked well the past two years. Janice will check on available dates.

SEPTEMBER'S MEETING PROGRAM

A representative from the Fish Wildlife and Parks department, Mike Duncan, will talk us about the official /intentional fish kills being conducted in our area.

Laurie motioned to adjourn the meeting; Connie seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Chris adjourned the meeting at 1901.

—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly

POKE RIDE WINNERS

Rachel Grace:

Hot air balloon ride, Montana Balloon

Matt McGee:

Tucke adventure bag set, Four Corners Saddlery

Terry Speckling:

Duffle bag & bedroll cover, Montana Canvas

Brett Knudsen:

50% off Certificate custom beaver hat, Montana Hat Co.

Andy Bingham:

\$200 Murdoch's gift certificate

Chamois Anderson: Kenetrek Boot gift certificate

PROGRAM

Chris Mason, Hoof Care Professional, Founder /Laminitis Rehabilitation Specialist, gave a very interesting and informative talk about hoof rehabilitation. Thank you so much Chris.

Chris Nygren called the business meeting to order at 2030.

MEETING MINUTES

Vern moved to accept the minutes as published; Janice seconded the motion; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chris reported on the checking and savings accounts. There are no outstanding bills or receipts at this time. Carl moved to accept the report as stated; DC seconded the motion; the motion passed.

ANNUAL CHAPTER BBQ

The Spanish Creek cabin is reserved for Sept 9 and 10 for our annual BBQ. BBQ is both nights. Please join us. There is plenty of room for camping and corrals for the stock. Henry will be providing the protein. Please bring a side or dessert to share. Folks will be riding Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

TRAIL CREWS

We are still going out Tuesdays (Trail Boss John Mutter), Wednesdays (Trail Boss Lew Goodpasture) and Saturdays (Trail Boss Dan Porter). Watch for their emails and let them know you are coming, if you can.

Molly Mule for sale. Melissa (406-595-4042) has a riding/ packing 16 y.o. Molly mule for sale. Give her a call if you are interested.

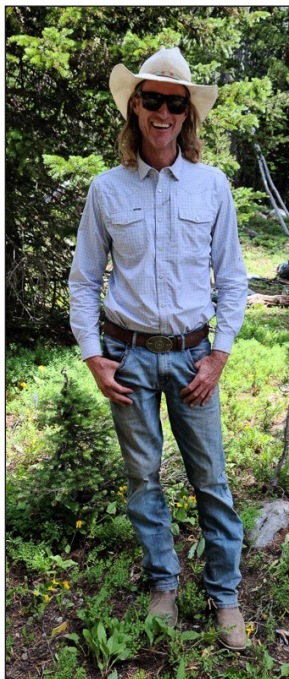
Vern motioned to adjourn the meeting; Stacie seconded the motion; the motion passed. Chris adjourned the meeting at 1838.

—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly



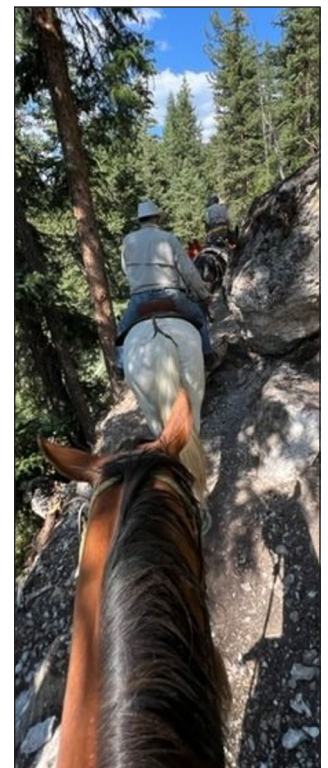
AUGUST 1: FOREST SERVICE PACK-IN BEAR BASIN

Dan Marsh, Lew Goodpasture, Mark DeOpsomer, and John Mutter with Laurie Connelly and Kenji Aoki riding along, packed in the Forest Service crew up Bear Basin about 7 miles to a camp they would work out of for a week. My usual horse I take, Big, had some lameness issues so I took my new horse, Cecil and he had not pulled a pack horse full of noisy tools before and Laurie helped me out by taking my pack horse for a mile or so until Cecil got used to the racket. The Forest Service crew were going to do a lot of tread work so they needed a lot of pry bars, hammers, picks and shovels to do the work. Bear Basin is a nice trail but the trailhead parking lot is not big enough to hold 4 trailers and a FS vehicle so the Lone Mountain Ranch graciously allowed us to park at their parking lot near the ranch and ride on their trails to Bear Basin. A big shout out to Brian the wrangler; they allowed to go with us to navigate their trails, who ended up going all the way in to the camp with us. On the following Monday, August 8th, we hauled the crew back less one pack horse since John was going on a Bear Creek ride on Tuesday. The crew was glad to see us as they had a hard week and got rained on for most of Friday and Saturday.



WEDNESDAY AUGUST 3: TWIN CABIN

The Wednesday crew led by Lew along with Dan M, Laurie, Jim, Tim and Bruce cleared from Twin Cabin to Porcupine Meadows to Elkhorn about 11 miles. We cut out 42 trees and created 1 water diversion. We left the trailhead at 8:45 and got back at 4:30PM. We had to shuttle vehicles between Twin Cabin and Red Cliff to get everybody and their horses back to their trailers.



AUGUST 8 MONDAY : FOREST SERVICE PACK-OUT AT BEAR BASIN



AUGUST 9 TUESDAY : MIDDLE FORK BEAR CREEK

Connie, Lauri, Ken, Clark and I finally got to ride up the Middle Fork of Bear Creek about 7 1/2 miles to its intersection with the Helmet Pass trail. We cleared several trees and one particularly difficult tangle. Unfortunately, we had to leave 2 overhead trees that we were uncomfortable cutting out but Connie was able to remove the branches so riders can pass underneath.

The Middle Fork trail goes around the North side of the Helmet and on to the Cougar Creek and McAtte Creek trails deep in the heart of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. Our trail was a bit difficult to follow at times due to all the Thimble Berries but all in all it was a beautiful day and we were in the shade most of the day so it never really got too hot. I'm looking forward to getting back there next week. Come join us!—John Mutter



AUGUST 13 SATURDAY : TRAIL 401 & 409 CLEARING

Five GVBCH members rode in the 401 then split up at the 409 junction. Carmen, Bruce and I headed to Big Brother Lake to finish clearing any deadfall on that portion of the trail system. Thunder warned of the approaching weather but we took a chance and persevered to reach the lake around 2pm. After a quick lunch, with the storm threatening, we built a rock cairn to mark the very faint trail leading down to the lake. We had encountered a group of joggers below who asked about the lake. They had already jogged right by it and missed it completely. We returned home with only enough rain falling to convince us to don our rain gear. It stopped within seconds and we enjoyed blue skies, cool temps, and a nice day in the saddle.

The 409 trail is fast becoming overgrown by evergreen saplings that are already whipping against horse belly and stirrup. The water bars on this trail have not seen any maintenance to speak of for many years. This may be a good 2023 project.

Tim and Wayne rode on to the North Fork to clear trail as needed. At this time, how much deadfall they encountered has not been reported. Posters at the trailhead informed us that streams in that North Fork area are being treated to get rid of non native trout this coming week and advised not to drink the water in that area.

Thank you Bruce, Carmen, Tim, and Wayne for helping to keep our trails open!—DP

NO PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE

AUGUST 16 TUESDAY : HELMET PASS TRAIL

Wayne Frederickson and I headed up the Trail Fork of Bear Creek. We had intended to go to McAtee Creek but since it was just the two of us and we were feeling spunky, we wound up going up Helmet Pass Trail and down the other side. This took us all the way around the Helmet. To quote Wayne, it was an "Awesome" ride. At the pass, the Sphinx was just a couple hundred yards away and we literally put our hands on the rock face of Helmet. The views from up there are spectacular! A word of caution: Don't plan to ride all the way over the pass. The first 100yds of the trail is washed out on the back side of Helmet and it's STEEP!—John Mutter



AUGUST 20 SATURDAY : HELL ROARING TRAIL

Six members met at Hell Roaring Trail head bound for the North Fork. In the saddle by 8:36, we crested the first ridge above the highway in 18 minutes with Carmen Larry and Curt leading the way. Only one deadfall was encountered until after we reached the North Fork turn off. From there on, the frequency and size of trees down across the trail increased until we were cutting 16" diameter logs at every turn. Just after 2pm all agreed it was time to quit...by aprox. 5pm, happy to have a beautiful safe ride on a challenging but awesome trail.

Thank you Ken, Wayne, Larry, Curt, and Carmen for helping to maintain our trails!

"If you go", the trail up the North Fork offers a lot of sidehill across steep slopes and massive rock slide boulder/scree at times. The stream itself is a series of crystal clear pools and the sheer size/slope of the surrounding ridges (if you dare to take your eyes off of the trail) is impressive to say the least. If you reach the lake you will have passed on your right a huge rock outcropping resembling a native american bust and at the right season the beautiful sky blue flowers of the Gentians. The lake itself lies in a wide open alpine meadow that is spectacular in its own right, and just above it on the bench are the Chilled lakes...seldom seen by passers by. Arctic Gentians, white cousins of the blues, can be found at the lower end of the lake as you enter the meadow. The trail forks here after you cross the creek, with the right fork heading up "steeply" on to Indian Ridge and back past Arrow Lake to Spanish Creek.

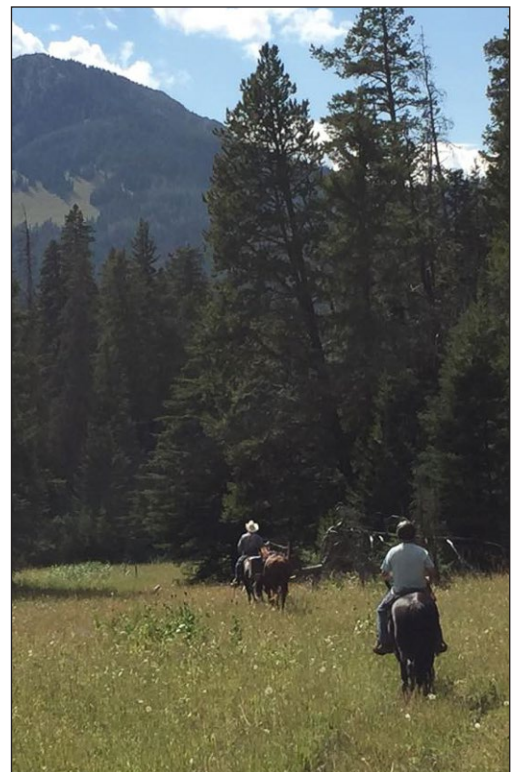
If you Continue straight up Hell Roaring you would need to cross a gnarly section of trail that passes by Summit Lake and then drops down past Mirror Lake and in to Spanish Creek as well.

Happy Trails, DP



AUGUST 23 TUESDAY : SPHINX TO MCATEE CREEK

Connie, Tim, Wayne and I rode around the south side of the Sphinx to the cabin on McAtee Creek. It was a great day with some beautiful views. We didn't expect too much down timber and were correct in that assumption but we did remove 5 or 6 trees and cleared a reroute around 1 particularly nasty White Bark Pine blowdown. Also, I finally got to measure for the stove pipe that needs repair at the cabin so we can get that done sometime in the future. It will be an easy fix. —John



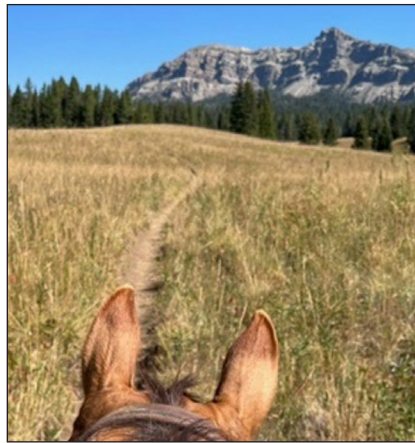
AUGUST 24 WEDNESDAY : LITTLE HELLROARING

Wednesday crew with Dan M packing the tools and Kenji taking pictures and using his Silky and the other end of the crosscut cleared Little Hellroaring up to the Indian Ridge junction. We brought a chainsaw but didn't have anything to clear until we hit the Wilderness boundary. It is about 5 miles to the junction and offers some spectacular views along the way. Lew and his crew cut logs earlier for the MCC crew to put in water diversions and we can report they have held up very well. Some tread work on the last 1/2 mile to the Indian Ridge trail could be done as it was quite narrow in places. We stopped for lunch around Noon at the Indian Ridge trail and debated going over to Arrow Lake but both of us had been there and the weather report was for thunderstorms coming through around 3 so we decided to head back. We only had to cut out 7 trees and it looked like someone else had been through recently. We figured it would take a couple hours to go back but we were at the trailers in 1.5 hours. We started right at 9:00AM and got back at 2:15PM. We had to go through 100's of Bison on the road on the way in but they had moved over to the grass for the drive out.



AUGUST 31 WEDNESDAY : BUFFALO HORN TO RAMSHORN LAKE

The Wednesday crew, led by Dan M. along with Tim Butler, Kenji Aoki, and Ken Lorenz, went to Ramshorn Lake from the Buffalo Horn trailhead. It was a brisk 40 degrees when we started and 95 when we headed home. We had a report of 12 trees down on the way to the lake and we needed to scout the lake area for lodgepole pine to use for the rails on the 2 corrals on state ground. The scouting report didn't mention the trees were mostly 20+ inches requiring multiple cuts. We got to the lake a little after Noon, had lunch then went looking for lodgepole. We only found about a half dozen lodgepole in the immediate area but figured we could use some not so brushy fir to get the corrals repaired. We left the trailhead a little after 4PM and ran into the traffic leaving Big Sky. That traffic was nothing compared to the traffic I ran into on Kagy on the MSU campus however!



**GVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2022 POKER RIDE**

Stacie Boswell, DVM
Bridger Bowl
Four Corners Saddlery

Kenetrek Boots
Madison River Propane

Montana Canvas
Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply
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