

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.

#### 2023 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR

##### PRESIDENT

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

##### VICE PRESIDENT

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

##### TREASURER

Carmen Matzick ... 600-1379

##### SECRETARY

Laurie Connelly ... 579-2859

#### DIRECTORS

##### ONE YEAR TERM

Sid Boswell ... 595-7197  
Carl Blaskovitch ... 388-4640  
Tom Lamb ... 908-670-1162

##### TWO YEAR TERM

BOB CRISWELL ... 595-8150  
KELLY JACOBS ... 589-3205  
KATHY VAN DYKE ... 586-2440

#### STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Marsh (1 year) ... 587-7578  
Chris Nygren (2 year) ... 546-7550  
Kathy VanDyke (Alternate) ... 209-0613

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

#### BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578  
[webmaster@bchmt.org](mailto:webmaster@bchmt.org)  
<https://gvbch.bchmt.org>

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

MSU EQUINE EDUCATIONAL SNIPPET PACKING, APRIL 13, 6:00-8:00 PM

Miller Livestock Pavilion, West Lincoln Street, Bozeman

BCHMT CONVENTION : APRIL 14-16

Majestic Valley Arena, Kalispell

BOARD MEETING : APRIL 20, 6:30 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : APRIL 20, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church

GSHC CHILI FEED & WAGON RIDE : APRIL 29, 11:00 AM

5485 Spaulding Bridge Rd, Belgrade



#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Thanks to everyone for the successful Membership Roundup last week, especially Kathy and Kelly for the organizing and spreading the word about the event. As this was the first time to hold such an event, I think it was not only helpful for potential new members but also for current members to be reminded on what our chapter does and opportunities for everyone to be plugged in somewhere. It always amazes me the breadth and quantity of work and events we do in support of our vision of improving backcountry stock use, educating the public of our efforts in doing so and becoming trusted partners of the U.S. Forest Service and other government agencies.

In April and May we plan on getting caught up on required training and certifications, supporting the State BCH organization and convention and planning major events to include repairing corrals at Cache Creek, Ramshorn Lake and possible other public corrals, fun activities with BBQ food and, of course, our primary fundraiser of the Bridger Bowl Poker Ride. With this snow, I predict trail crews will not really be able to start in full swing until the beginning of June.

One last note, the only absolutely required training needed to participate on the USFS volunteer trail crews is to have taken the Defensive Horse Safety course which are not planning to hold a large group session this spring since we did it last year. However, our website has the course materials which anyone can access, watch the course and reach out to Janice Cartwright who will complete the certification for you. That way you can fully participate in trail crew events this summer and spend more time riding, companionship with other horse people and helping the USFS and the public use their trails. Janice's email is [janicecartwright@montanahorsesense.com](mailto:janicecartwright@montanahorsesense.com).

—Chris

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 16**

Roll Call: Carmen Matzick, Sid Boswell, Dan Porter, Rich Inman, John Mutter, Carl Blaskovich, Bob Criswell, Kelly Jacobs, Kathy VanDyke, Chris Nygren, Henry Glenn, Dan Marsh and Laurie Connelly. Dan Porter, proxy for Tom Lamb and Carmen Matzick, proxy for Jim Wing

Chris called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

Meeting minutes: Kathy moved to accept the minutes as published in the Feb. newsletter; Henry seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Carmen, as proxy for Jim, reported on the checking and the savings accounts. There were no new bills or payments to report. Carl moved to accept the report; Kelly seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**BUSINESS**

Chris announced that he received Jim Wing's resignation from the treasurer's position. It was an oversight that he had already served three years in the position so by constitutional rules is unable to serve currently. Carl moved to accept Carmen Matzick as his replacement; Kathy seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Chris announced that we currently have 13 members going to the Convention in Kalispell in April.

Laurie Connelly, Sid and Stacie Boswell, Kathy and Lawrence VanDyke, John Mutter (and possibly his wife Barb), Dan and Alice Marsh, Henry and Molly Glenn, Mark DeOpsomer, Chris and Julie Nygren. Our eight delegates will be Laurie, Sid, Kathy, John, Alice, Henry, Molly and Julie.

We will be voting on a resolution at the convention. A copy has been sent to the members. We will have further discussion at the convention but please read and consider it.

Chris has maintained a presence with the Gallatin Forest Partnership and brings a request they have of our chapter. They have asked if we as GVBCH would join them in their official lobbying of the Montana legislature as regards the Forest Service Plan that came out late last year. After a discussion of the pros and cons Laurie moved that GVBCH should not join the GFP in official lobbying efforts; Carl seconded the motion; the motion passed. This motion does not prohibit any member from joining the lobbying efforts but they would be doing so as a private citizen and not as a representative of GVBCH.

Kelly announced that she has spoken with and obtained a commitment from a professor at MSU to facilitate having a marketing student work with us in the fall. More on that as we get closer.

Meeting was adjourned by Chris at 7:00pm

*—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly*

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 16**

Kathy called program to begin at 7:22

Tonight's program was a Membership Rodeo. We had a great showing of potential new members, folks interested in what we are all about. Wonderful snacks were had by all. A slide show was scrolling throughout the presentation that represented well the work and fun of our chapter.

Chris introduced the Board Members and Officers. He then gave a brief review of the history of the BackCountry Horseman. Dan Porter presented an overview of what we do on the trail crews. Henry spoke about the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness cabin work-extended outing trips. And Kathy spoke about the Poker Ride Fundraiser and other fun rides conducted by the chapter and all the educational opportunities that are provided throughout the year. It was a great evening!

Chris called the business meeting to order at 8:18.

**MEETING MINUTES**

Molly moved to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter; Janice seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**TREASURE'S REPORT**

Carmen, as proxy for Jim, reported on the checking and the savings accounts, with no new payments or bills.

Laurie moved to adjourn the meeting; Molly seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Chris adjourned the meeting at 8:23

*—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly*



### WHAT IS THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS (SRS) PROGRAM?

SRS provides necessary funding to over 700 counties across the U.S. and Puerto Rico that goes toward roads, schools and other municipal services.

- The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act was passed in 2000 to stabilize funds available to rural counties.
- Payments are divided into 3 categories:
  - I. **Title I:** Roads and Schools
  - II. **Title II:** Projects on Federal Lands
  - III. **Title III:** County Projects



### CALLING PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS...

Are you someone who wants to make a **positive change** in your community? If so, becoming a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Member might be for you. People of *all* ages, ethnicities, races, genders and disability statuses are encouraged to apply.

### WHAT IS A RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

- RAC members review and recommend Title II projects for the Forest Supervisor and comment on Title III projects.
- Every RAC has balanced representation in 3 main interest areas: commercial, environment, and local.
- RACs are made up of 9-15 members.
- Members are required to reside in the state in which the committee has jurisdiction.
- You don't have to be an expert to apply ... all that is required is a strong interest in community or environmental wellbeing.



### THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE TO BE HEARD.

#### Contact Information & Link to More Information

- For more information, please contact: [timothy.schumacher2@usda.gov](mailto:timothy.schumacher2@usda.gov)
- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/custergallatin/workingtogether/advisorycommittees>



This is an outreach flyer from the Forest Service regarding serving on the Resource Advisory Council which Esther, Mark and I have served on for the last 4 years. Our terms have expired however it is helpful if GVBCH has representation on this important Council.

Please consider volunteering to serve. Mark and I plan to reapply however new insight would be more than welcomed.

Thanks, DP



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# EQUINE FIRST AID



<p><b>R+</b></p> <p><b>Positive Reinforcement</b> Adds something pleasant.</p> 	<p><b>R-</b></p> <p><b>Negative Reinforcement</b> Removes / releases something unpleasant (such as pressure).</p> 
<p><b>P+</b></p> <p><b>Positive Punishment</b> Adds something unpleasant.</p> 	<p><b>P-</b></p> <p><b>Negative Punishment</b> Removes something pleasant.</p> 

STALL AND STABLE

**GIVING MEDICATIONS TO YOUR PET: HOW TO PUT THE TREAT INTO TREATMENTS**

**FEAR FREE HAPPY HOMES**  
Helping pets live happy, healthy, full lives



At some point in your pet-owning life, you will need to give prescribed medications or treatments to your pet. That can be stressful for you and cause fear or anxiety in your pet, but we have some tips to make home care easier on both of you.

**HOW TO PILL YOUR PET WITH KINDNESS**

**FEAR FREE HAPPY HOMES**  
Helping pets live happy, healthy, full lives



You can teach your pet to tolerate and even enjoy taking a pill. This is an important skill for young puppies and kittens to learn, and adult dogs and cats can benefit as well. Avoid this training if your pet is apprehensive or aggressive about having touched near the face. Here's how to get started.

COWBOY DRESSAGE SNIPPET



Janice Cartwright



RON RASSLEY, FOUNDING MEMBER OF GVBCH



Gallatin Valley BCH Members,

I am sorry to report that one of our founding members of the chapter, Ron Rassley passed away on Sunday March 19th at the Spring Creek Memory Unit in Bozeman.

On March 23rd, 1985, Ron & Ruthie Rassley and Barb Martin attended the National BCH convention in Libby, MT and officially joined the BCH of America and received our charter. Barb was the chapter president for the first 2 years and Ron was president in 1987-1988 and again in 1998. Ron was also a very active member of the Gallatin Saddle and Harness Club. Ron, in addition to serving in different officer positions, also served on the board and was active at the state level. Ron was a part of the "Bridger" trail maintenance crew back in the day and helped with the bridge project at Spanish Peaks as well as many other projects.

Ron will truly be missed and wish him Happy Trails.

Condolences may be sent to the family at:

Mike Rassley and family  
1001 Gallatin Ave  
Belgrade, MT 59714.

Or

Vonnie Gae Rassley and family  
99 Frank Road  
Belgrade, MT 59714

**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  
Rocky Mountain Hat Company



FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK



Clearing Gallatin Trails since 1985

PO Box 3232  
BOZEMAN, MT 59772 - 3232