

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

Jim Wing ... 579-3230  
wingit\_4@msn.com

##### SECRETARY

Laurie Connelly ... 579-2859

#### DIRECTORS

##### ONE YEAR TERM

Sid Boswell ... 505-239-2606  
To Be Determined ...  
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) ... 586-2440

#### 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:

PLANNING MEETING : JANUARY 7, 9:00-12:00

Springhill Church

BOARD MEETING : JANUARY 19, 6:30 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : JANUARY 19, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church

2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS  
ARE DUE

[HTTP://GVBCH.BCHMT.ORG/](http://gvbch.bchmt.org/)

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

As I write this column, the temperature outside is 50 degrees, five days after it was 40 degrees below zero. Welcome to winter in Montana! It is a good season to sit back, take what mother nature gives and look forward to the riding and packing days coming up next year. Storing up the snow this winter allows more riding in the summer, fishing the streams and hopefully avoiding smoke filled skies.

This past month was a good opportunity to gather together at the Christmas party at Eagle Mount, eat smoked beef brisket and unwrap prize gifts. We also elected officers and board members for the next year, congratulations to Kathy, Bob and Kelly, followed by a discussion about trails crews which helped educate people as to the complexities of working with the USFS as far as paperwork is concerned.

Saturday, January 7th between 9 and 12 in the morning we will have our annual strategic planning session at the Springhill Church. It is an opportunity to discuss what our chapter can accomplish this next year, the fun events we participate in and ideas we can share to attract more members to continue all the good work we do. Please come prepared to toss around ideas and ways to accomplish the BCH vision.

Our regular meeting is still the 3rd Thursday the 19th and will be the calendar meeting for creating a calendar of the upcoming year events. Also, in the next month hopefully we will have our wild game feed with USFS trail crew signups.

Enjoy the warm weather while it is here as I'm sure we will have at least a couple more blizzards before Spring.



—Chris

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**DECEMBER 15**

**ROLL CALL**

Henry Glenn, Kathy VanDyke, Jim Wing, Vern Campbell, John Mutter, Dan Porter, Sid Boswell, Laurie Connelly, Dan Marsh, Chris Nygren, Marianne Meyer, Dan (proxy for Tom Lamb), Kelly Jacobs.

Meeting called to order by Chris Nygren at 6:33pm

Meeting minutes of December 2022 meeting:

Henry moved to approve the minutes as published in the December newsletter; Laurie seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jim reported on the checking and savings accounts. Kathy moved to approve the report; Dan P. seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**BUSINESS**

Elections: Chris brought to our attention the constitutional requirements of board members to be sure and designate a proxy if you need to miss a meeting. Board members cannot miss more than 3 meetings per year. If you have a designated proxy (arranged prior to the meeting) that will not count as a miss. Please call another member prior to the meeting requesting they sit as proxy for you and then please let one of the officers know who that will be. This requirement is in place to assure there will always be a quorum present at the meeting.

The State Board of Directors of the BackCountry Horseman meeting is this weekend in Missoula from 10a-3p.

Coming soon: January 7 we will be having our annual 'calendar meeting'. This is a meeting open to all members where we would like to brain-storm plans for the coming trail work season. The meeting is at our usual meeting location at the Springhill Church from 9:00 until Noon.

Please come join us.

Annual Wild-Game Feed: Henry will meet with the Forest Service and let us know which meeting they would like to attend. We like to have the Wild-game Feed at the same meeting that we sign the Forest Service volunteer agreement forms. Watch for the date. It is always yummy!

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

Chris adjourned the meeting at 7:06

—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 15**

Chris called the meeting to order at 7:15.

**MEETING MINUTES**

Dan Marsh moved to approve the meeting minutes as published; Karl seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jim reported on the chapter's checking and savings accounts balances. A donation from the Vaughan W. Brown Foundation of \$500 was received. Also a donation of \$200 from the BWAGs (Bozeman Women's Activities Groups) was received. Jim sent a note of thanks to both.

As a reminder, your Annual Dues are due. \$35 for individual and \$45 for family membership. Please submit to Jim asap.

**STATE BOARD MEETING**

The State Board Meeting is this coming weekend. Dan M will attend by zoom. Rich is unable to attend. Chris will attend in his place by zoom if no one else would like to substitute.

**CHAPTER ELECTIONS**

There is only one candidate running for each position. Dan Marsh moved to have a vote by acclimation; Karl seconded the motion; the motion passed. Chris moved to a vote by acclimation of all candidates on the slate for Officers, Directors and State Directors. All candidates were elected by acclimation.

**Our 2023 Officers**

President: Chris Nygren (his last year of eligibility)  
Vice President: Henry Glenn (his last year of eligibility)  
Treasurer: Jim Wing (his last year of eligibility)  
Secretary: Laurie Connelly (her last year of eligibility)

**Our 2023 Directors**

Kathy VanDyke (2 year term)  
Bob Griswell (2 year term)  
Kelly Jacobs (2 year term)

**Our 2023 State Board Directors**

Chris Nygren (2 year term)  
Alternate Kathy VanDyke (1 year term)  
Congratulations all!

Constitutional requirements of those elected: Officers can miss up to 3 meetings, the 4th miss they shall be replaced.

It is your responsibility to arrange for a proxy prior to the meeting. Chris requests as a courtesy you also let him know prior to the meeting.

If you have arranged a proxy for the meeting it does not count as a missed meeting.

**JANUARY CALENDAR MEETING**

January 7 we will be having a brain-storming meeting to make plans for the upcoming trail work season. All members are welcome. It will be held at the Springhill church. It is a longer meeting then our general chapter meetings so that we can really discuss what the needs are and how we would like to move forward in the year. Please join us if you can.

Jan. 7, 2023 at Springhill Church from 9:00 until Noon.

There was a brief discussion about the Crazy Mountain Land Transfer. Our Chapter does not have an official position on this transfer. Chris has recommended that if anyone is interested in commenting to the Forest Service regarding the transfer that they do that as a private citizen. After further discussion Vern moved that GVBC make a comment to the Forest Service regarding the land swap that we wish to maintain equine access; Kelly seconded this motion; the motion passed. Chris will make a formal comment to the Forest Service that we wish to maintain equine access in the Crazy Mountain Land Swap.

**TRAIL CREW DISCUSSION**

Dan Porter, Dan Marsh, John Mutter and Lew Goodpasture (Our excellent Trail Bosses) led the discussion.

**Forest Service Requirements**

1. All members riding on a trail crew that has any equine must have attended a Defensive Horse Safety class. Janice presents this at a meeting before the trail work season begins.
2. At least one person on the crew must have 1st Aid / 1st Responder training from the Forest Service.
3. In order to be able to use the chain saw you must have Sawyer Training from Forest Service.
4. In order to use the Cross Cut saw you must have Cross Cut training. Henry is certified to provide this training.

Documentation of mileage (with odometer readings), hours on trail, equine brought to trail, equine hauled to the trail. These are all data points the Forest Service requires us to document. Some of this is new this past year and it has been a source of confusion for trail workers as well as the trail bosses. The forms needed to document this information are found on our website.

After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the Trail Bosses need to have this discussion amongst themselves to iron out the kinks and they will bring it back to the membership when they have made it less confusing.

Vern motioned to adjourn; Laurie seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Chris adjourned the meeting.

*—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly*

Happy to provide you with a recap of 2022 and what we have in the pipeline for 2023.

Major 2022 projects, not including general trail clearing and maintenance:

#### JUNE

— Rebuilt approaches on first Hellroaring Bridge, installed running planks to protect decking.

— Lifted washed out bridge out of the creek in Cow Flats on Buffalo Horn and rebuilt rock abutments.

—MCC, with support from BCH, installed 68 log check-dams on trenched out sections of Little Hellroaring

#### JULY

— 1600 Feet of retread on High Lakes Trail #413 (Hermit Creek Section)

— Cleared avalanche debris in switchbacks below Mirror Lake

— Improved 1.5 miles of trail on Deer Creek below the lake. Installed 18 rock checkdams and several reroutes to improve steep, rocky sections. Used rock to harden and improve 3 creek crossings.

#### AUGUST

— Bear Basin: Constructed 80 feet of retaining wall on upper switchbacks, constructed two 100 ft+ reroutes around trenched and rocky sections, 450 feet of retread, brushed 500 feet through willows

— Gallatin Peak Trail: Hardened two creek crossings with French drains, added 7 cairns through treadles meadows, 600 feet of retread,

— Cleared 400 trees from all trails in Cherry Lake/Cherry Creek Cabin vicinity

— SWMMBA, with support from BCH, replaced 10 foot puncheon on Hidden Lake Divide Trail

— Major brushing on Falls Creek and Camp Creek

#### SEPTEMBER

— On Sacagawea, redefined primary route through the scree field to the saddle, rebuilt collapsed retaining walls.

— Reroutes along Fairy Lake shoreline trail

#### 2023 OVERVIEW

Our intention for 2023 was to have two crews: one typical maintenance crew and a second funded through the Great American Outdoor Act, to focus primarily on major work on the Bangtail Divide and the trail to Ross Pass. I'm currently in the process of hiring for next season, and right now it looks unlikely that we will have enough people to staff both crews. With the Great American Outdoor Act work as our priority, I am uncertain how many other major projects we'll be able to tackle next season. That being said, we do have a few projects that are tied to our RTP grant for next year, and would benefit from your help packing in to our camps:

Construct turnpike to fix the muddy spot at the end of the meadow at the top of New World Gulch

8 day hitch at Ramshorn lake for general maintenance on all trails in the area. We could also use this time to help cut poles for corral repair.

Work the very back of S. Cottonwood up to the Storm Castle divide, where there are still lingering effects from the Millie Fire: numerous downed trees, difficult route finding, sloughed trails.

The MCC is also funded via RAC grant to re-establish the Langohr Divide Trail. The lower half mile or so of this trail has no existing tread and follows blazes through meadows. One thought we had for this part of the project was to ask BCH to pack in poles for the MCC to install to mark the way as the trail can be tricky to find. We don't intend to build tread through these meadows as we'd like to keep the trail somewhat primitive. I've yet to order poles or even see if our budget will allow for this idea, but I thought I'd mention it now to see if you would be interested if it can work out.

Let me know if you have any other questions, and happy New Year!

—Josh Kinsel

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When I tallied up the work that just our Saturday Trail Crew accomplished, it looks like we worked at least 17 days on nine different trails (WOW!), from the remote North Fork of Spanish Creek all the way over to the incredibly beautiful Cliff Creek Canyon of the Yellowstone. I suspect the Wednesday crew matched or surpassed our contribution, and John Mutter and the Madison Crew made a great start on their side of the "hills" as well. Lew and I are already sharpening our crosscuts and loppers and looking forward to a great year of trail maintenance and "FUN RIDES" in 2023.

We hope many of you can join us...again or for the first time...on the trails. If you have any questions about participating in trail rides and/or maintenance. Timing, How tos, tools required..."when, where, what, or how", etc. feel free to contact Lew or John or myself.

Happy New Year, and Happy Trails to You in 2023.

—Dan Porter



## GVBCH CHRISTMAS PARTY : DECEMBER 5

A great evening with friends for our annual Christmas party! I apologize for some fuzzy photos at the start...wrong ISO setting. Anyway...great food, games, door prizes and a nice evening to catch up with friends. We missed some folks.... hope to see you next year! (if anyone took home a silver pie server...I brought several to cut pies. Please bring it to the December meeting, thanks). —Molly Glenn

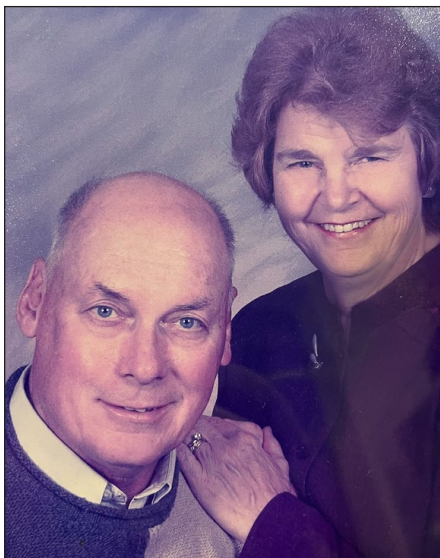


Photos by Molly Glenn, Janice Cartwright, Dan Marsh, Kenji Aoki



Sammylu Parsons passed away on December 9, 2022. She was a past member of GVBCH for many years and served as our chapter Treasurer in 2002 when her husband Brown Parsons was our chapter President. She was buried in a private service in Great Falls next to Brown and they are riding the trails again together now.

From her obituary: She was born in Conrad, Montana to Beverly and Janett Ball December 31st, 1934. She graduated from the University of Colorado with a Bachelors degree. She then worked at the Federal Land Bank for 22 years before ending her working career with Montana Title. She was always active in her church home of First Presbyterian in Bozeman. She also was an active member of the Backcountry Horseman's Club. She loved Arabian horses, all things nature and travelling through the mountains. She is preceded in death by her husband Brown Parsons in 2010. Sammylu is survived by her daughter Jenny (Brandon) Brossard and son Scott (Jamey) Parsons. She is also survived by four loving grandchildren.



Sammy Lu joining in our Sweet Pea Parade GVBCH entry in 2008



Janice Cartwright horse photos

**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



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