

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
Rich Inman ... 388-1564

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
<https://gvbch.bchmt.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

POKER RIDE : JULY 8, 8:00 AM

Bridger Bowl

TUESDAY TRAIL CREW : JULY 4, 11, 18, 26

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : JULY 5, 12, 19, 26

Contact Lew Goodpasture, 575-639-9091

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW : JULY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Contact Dan Porter, 539-0879

BIG SKY COUNTRY STATE FAIR : JULY 19-23

Gallatin County Fairgrounds

BOARD MEETING : JULY 20, 6:00 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

GENERAL MEETING : JULY 20, 7:00 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

BUFFALO FORK : JULY 24-29



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Poker Ride, Poker Ride, Poker Ride. It is here and set for July 8th at Bridger Bowl. Registration is on line and the only way to guarantee a lunch. There will probably be limited availability on the morning of the Ride at the registration table however we will still be capped at the total number of riders allowed and the lunches will probably be sold out by then. We plan on having a 50/50 raffle and already have some great prizes for the winning poker hands. We are going on the South route out of Bridger Bowl which will involve more forests, going by Schlausman's Lift and avoiding Brackett Creek Road.

Trail crews are going now with the snow melted and the trails drying out. There is a lot of work to do there and Dan Porter and Lew Goodpasture are eager to have people participate. John Mutter is also available to have people work on the Madison side for when he can schedule trail crew work. Later events this summer include a trip to Ramshorn Lake to work on the corrals there, a BBQ work event at the Cache Creek corrals up Taylor Fork and Absaroka-Beartooth pack trips up Slough Creek in support of the US Forest Service.

Summer is short, live it to the fullest and I hope to see you on the trails

—Chris

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 15

Roll Call: Chris Nygren, Henry Glenn, Kathy VanDyke, Carmen Matzick, Carl Blaskovich, Sid Boswell, Kelly Jacobs, Rich Inman, Dan Porter (proxy for Laurie Connelly), John Mutter (proxy for Bob Criswell), Dan Marsh

Called to order by Chris Nygren.

MINUTES OF MAY 2023 MEETING

It was noted that the June meeting date was inaccurate and should be changed. Carl moved to approve the minutes as amended; Henry seconded; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Carmen reported on the chapter's savings and checking accounts. Rich moved to approve the report; Dan seconded; the motion passed.

Dan presented a food bill for the Spanish Creek corral project (\$109.46); Henry moved that Dan be reimbursed; Carl seconded; the motion passed.

Carmen announced that Larry Thomas will be inducted into the Montana Teamster Hall of Fame on June 24 in Deer Lodge.



OLD BUSINESS

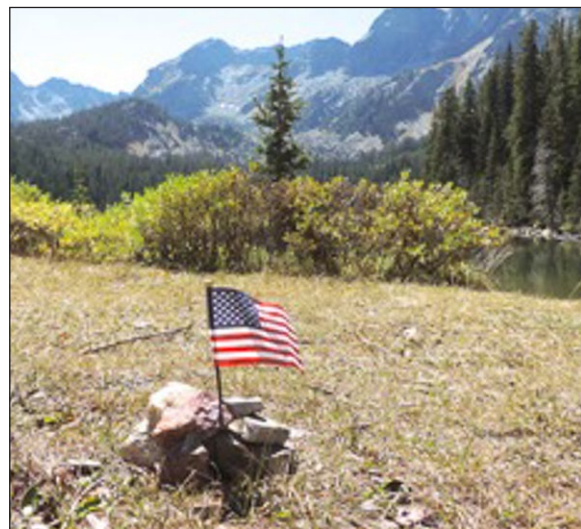
Poker Ride: We discussed a variety of Poker Ride details. The Ride will be further discussed at the general meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Road closure: The east fork of Hyalite Road will be partially closed for road work this summer per the Forest Service.

Adjournment: Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting; Carmen seconded; the motion passed.

—Secretary (acting): Kathy VanDyke



From parades to the Olympics to farm yard and ranches,
To the Army and all of the military branches.

At picnics and rodeos, and on lots of T shirts,
or in a pile of rocks, stuck strong in the dirt

From mountings on houses in back and front yards
Our flag, she stands mighty and always on guard.

Through blazing sun, freezing snow and cold rain
through whipping wind, our flag still remains.

God Bless the USA and all of those that have
helped to protect our country every day.

—Janice Cartwright

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 15

Called to Order by Chris Nygren.

PROGRAM

Janice Cartwright gave a brief talk about bridles, brow bands and horse comfort, and introduced several new members.

MINUTES OF MAY 2023 MEETING

It was noted that the June meeting date was inaccurate and should be changed. John Mutter moved to approve the minutes as amended; Carl seconded; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Carmen reported on the chapter's savings and checking accounts. Jim Martin moved to approve the report; Corinne Martin seconded; the motion passed.

Janice presented a bill for ice cream for tonight's "Social."

Carmen announced that Larry Thomas will be inducted into the Montana Teamster Hall of Fame on June 24 in Deer Lodge.

NEW BUSINESS

Road closure: Chris announced that the east fork of Hyalite Road will be partially closed for road work this summer per the Forest Service.

Rams Horn Lake project: Chris announced that there will be a "recon trip" to Rams Horn Lake on June 23 to determine the scope of the corral work. The project will be completed in August or September.

4-H Project: Jim Wing noted that the 4-H horse show will be the weekend of July 15. Several members have volunteered to help with the show in the past and our participation is much appreciated. Jim will send an email to the members about this event.

OLD BUSINESS

Trail crews: Dan Porter and Lew Goodpasture reported on the corral and trail projects completed thus far this year.

Wilderness cabin projects: Henry reminded everyone of the Buffalo Fork and Slough Creek cabin projects this summer. Get in touch with Henry if you're interested in participating.

Poker Ride:

(1) Advertising: We discussed several ideas for advertising and several members took posters to put up around the valley. Janice and Rich will do their annual KBZK tv promo.

(2) Kathy led a discussion about volunteer opportunities and numerous members signed up to help.

(3) Trail clearing: Wed., July 5 at 9:00 (or Thurs., July 6 if rainy). Contact Henry if you want to help.

(4) Trail flagging: Fri., July 7, time TBD. Contact Janice if you want to help.

(5) Advance riders: Sat., July 8 at 6:30 am. Contact Janice if you want to help.

(6) Sweep riders: Sat., July 8 at 10:30 am. Contact Kathy if you want to help.

(7) De-flagging: Sun., July 9 at 9:30 am. Contact Dan Porter if you want to help.

Set-up will occur on Fri., July 7 beginning at 4:00 pm. A potluck will follow with Henry providing the pulled pork. Call Kathy with any questions (406) 209-0613

Adjournment: John Mutter moved to adjourn the meeting; Janice seconded; the meeting was adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke



Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen provide volunteer
trail and trailhead facility maintenance on public
lands throughout Southwest Montana

35th Annual POKER RIDE JULY 8 2023 ● Bridger Bowl

Poker Hand Prizes^{⊕*}

Montana Canvas
Madison River Propane
Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply
Rocky Mountain Hat Company
Four Corners Saddlery
Kenetrek Boots

Online registration available!
250 rider limit.

\$25 Adult

includes Poker Hand, Prizes, Lunch

\$10 Children[★]

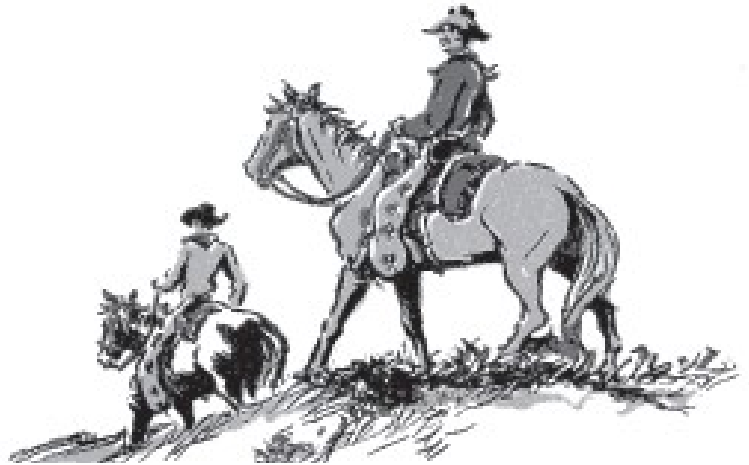
(under 12) includes Lunch

No DOGS - STALLIONS - DRONES

Check In/Depart 8 - 10 am



Public Welcome!



For information and registration visit our website at:

<https://gvbch.bchmt.org/poker.htm>

For Information or Questions, contact Kathy VanDyke at:

mulewoman59@gmail.com or (406) 209-0613

- ★ **All minor children** must have a release signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- * **Poker hands** must be reported to Registration before 3 pm or draw before riding to win.
- ⊕ **Prizes** Need not be present to win.
- ★ **Registration** is not refundable.

SPANISH CREEK CORRAL PROJECT
MAY 24



SPANISH CREEK

MAY 31

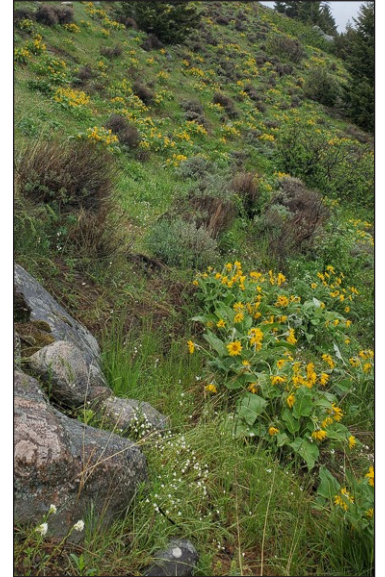
We had 9 members meet at Spanish Creek trailhead this past Wednesday for a day in the Wilderness. Much thanks to all volunteers that helped out this week. Group 1 consisted of Rich who worked alone (he and his combi) up Trail 401, clearing water bars and doing trail maintenance. He worked until about noon before heading home.

Group 2 was Dan M, Jim, Kenji, and Bruce who travelled up Trail 407 and onto Trail 413, going past Pioneer Falls approximately 1 mile. They encountered several downed trees, some rather large. With crosscuts and Silky saws they cleared 8 trees from the trail. They travelled about 8 miles roundtrip and arrived back at the trailhead about 3:00.

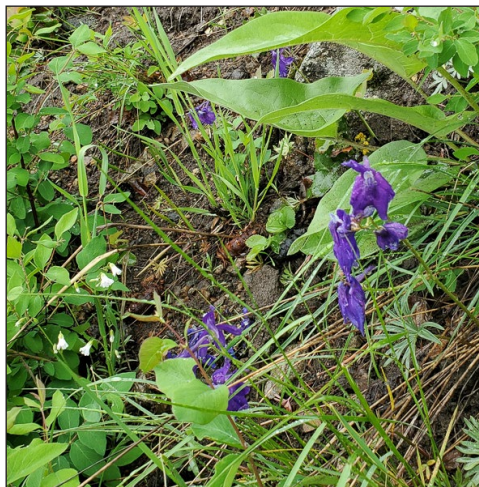
The 3rd group, consisting of Laurie, Lew, Tom and Mark (for the last 3 hours) We travelled Trail 407 past the junction at Tr 413 and followed the South Fork Spanish Creek. At the first bridge (across Falls Creek) we decided to not try to cross the high and fast creek and tied up there. Walking on we went about 3/4 mile to 2nd bridge crossing the South Fork and on for another 100yds. With crosscuts and Silky saws, we cut out about 15 trees from the trail before turning back. Mark met with us as we stopped for lunch, all riding back to the trailhead, arriving about 2:30. Laurie, Mark and Lew then swapped crosscuts for chainsaws and took off up Little Hellroaring Trail. We rode about 2 miles up, cutting 20 trees to clear the trail before turning back. We arrived back at the trailhead at about 4:45.



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY
JUNE 3



These “Sugar Bowl” wild flowers also known as “Vase Flower” are early season bloomers that were everywhere along the 401 trail yesterday as Lew and I hiked in with combies , loppers, and silky despite the constant light rain yesterday. We cleared sediment from several water bars that were clogged with sediment and not functioning and replaced others that were rotted out with either new logs or rocks. We left the trailhead at 10:30 am and returned at 6:30 pm for a full day enjoying the cool weather. On the drive out through the Turner Ranch we saw bison, elk, deer, sandhill cranes, and several male Bobolinks.—DP



HELLROARING & INDIAN RIDGE TRAILS

JUNE 7

The Wednesday Crew split up with the crew led by Dan going up Hellroaring Trail #81. Joining Dan was Mark DeOpsomer and a guest, Kyle, along with Kenji Aoki. We got going a little before 9:00 AM and went to the junction of Hellroaring Creek and the North Fork of Hellroaring Creek. We cut a half dozen trees before the Wilderness Boundary with an electric Chainsaw and cut out five more in the Wilderness with a crosscut and Silky. There was a forecast of thunderstorms for the afternoon so after having lunch at the junction we decided to head back instead of proceeding up the North Fork. The trail after the bridge was very muddy with no place to really drain the water off the trail. The tread could use some work in the sidehill section just before the junction as the horses were having a hard time keeping their feet on the trail. My horse Cecil seemed like he was tripping more than normal and when I got back to the trailhead, I noticed he had lost his front left shoe. He lost his other front shoe in the pasture the next day, but the farrier got them put back on Friday. We got back to the trailers around 2:30 PM with a 10-mile round trip. The forecasted thunderstorm turned out to only be a sprinkle.

Lew met with a second group including Clint, Bruce and Tim at Indian Ridge TH and rode up Trail 444 about 5 miles to the junction with Little Hellroaring Trail 400. We got into some deadfall along the way but also a couple of live trees that had come down. We cleared all of it away and, with loppers, cleared some small trees and branches that had grown too close to the trail. We made it to the junction about 1 pm, had some lunch, and got rained on for a short time. We turned back at that point and arrived back at the trailhead about 2:45.

Much thanks to both groups for their efforts this week.—Lew



SPANISH CREEK #401

JUNE 10

Yesterday, under cloudy skies, six GVBCH members, Carmen, Tim, Tom, Kenji, Mark, and myself rode the #401 trail west from the Spanish Creek Campground with one packhorse in tow. We carried silky saws and our chapter's Stihl battery powered chain saw. We made good time, reaching the North Fork Crossing just before 2 pm after clearing 16 deadfall from the trail. It was noted that most of the water bars we had maintained last season are still functioning fairly well but many others need total replacement or maintenance. The weather turned ugly just as we cleared the last tree from the trail and at one point we resorted to waiting it out in a sheltered location until the thunder and lightening and hail had passed before returning to the trailhead just before 5pm through rain and hail.

All in all it was a great day in the outdoors with a fun group of BCHers giving back to the resource we love. —DP



SPANISH CREEK #4017, #413

JUNE 16

A crew co-led by Dan and Lew, along with Clint and Tim headed up Spanish Creek Trail #4017 then to Trail #413 towards Jerome Rock Lakes. Lew had to get home by 5 so he left us a little after lunch. We had to cut out a few new trees that had fallen since we were up there a couple of weeks ago. In all we cut out 23 trees of varying sizes. We had a couple of doozies that required a lot of limbing and multiple cuts. On the switchbacks we ran across one that nobody would have been able to get around on a steep slope. We met a number of hikers and a couple of youngsters with skies on their backs running up to the blaze. We also met some folks on horseback that would have had to turn around if we hadn't got the switchback cleared. We had lunch and kept running into more trees after Lew went back and by the time we got to the creek crossing around 3, going in 5.5 miles and cutting out a bad leaner we were worn out and decided to turn around. Even though we didn't make it all the way to the lake we got through the worst part of where the downed trees would cause a problem. Kenji couldn't make it, so you have to deal with photos from Lew and Dan. We got back to the trailers around 5PM and headed home.



WATER BARS WITH THE USFS

JUNE 20

Lew, Dan M. and I met with Bill Miller from the Forest Service at Spanish Creek to learn more about the "right" way to install water bars...We "thought" that we already knew. As it turns out, there are lots of ways to install water bars...too high, too short, too low, wrong angle, wrong place...and then there is the right way!

We hiked up the 401 and Bill pointed out the good, the bad, and the ugly. We reworked the trail as we went and ended up about 1 mile in by completely replacing a rotted water bar.

At first Bill's comment was "pretty good"...then, later the comment was "really good", then it was "very nice", then "excellent", and on our final attempt we heard Bill softly say "Perfect". I am sure we will receive certificates for the use of combies. All kidding aside, we spent a very worthwhile morning learning from Bill the finer points of water control on trails...and we are eager to show our fellow GVBCHers what we have learned.—DP



Dan Marsh, Dan Porter, and Lew Goodpasture headed to Spanish Creek to meet up with Bill Miller of the Forest Service to learn how to make the perfect water bar. Under threatening skies and cool temperature, we went up the #401 trail about 1.5 miles to look at and critique the existing water bars and put in a new one. We grabbed a couple combies, a Pulaski, a pick, and a silky and hiked up the trail cleaning out a few water bars as we went. We learned that we needed to bury the log for the water bar so only the top few inches are above the grade. We learned that we need at least 45 to 60 degrees angle with the trail. The idea is to dig down below the trail with a wide



basin, so the water doesn't use the log as a diversion. We also talked about not using rocks instead of a log because they are harder to place properly and not have water go through the cracks between them and stay in place. It was a very instructive training session, and we now have a lot better understanding of how to make the perfect water bar. We got back to the trailhead and had lunch and Bill went to meet up with the rest of the crew that headed down the #407 trail.



RAMSHORN LAKE CORRALS
JUNE 23

Buffalo Horn Trailhead with MT FWP and USFS people to check out rebuilding the corrals. GVBCH members Henry Glenn, Kew Goodpasture and Chris Nygren led them on this site reconnaissance trip. Narrowly avoided massive rain showers and canyon traffic. Saw goats and sheep which made biologist Julie Cunningham happy. We had a good trip and helped build better relationships with the government agencies.—Chris Nygren



SPANISH CREEK

JUNE 25

Kenji, new member Quirine, and I rode in the 401, leaving the Spanish Creek trailhead at 10 am sharp and with already cleared trail reached the 409 junction just before noon time. After a quick lunch break, we headed up the 409 clearing deadfall using the Stihl and stopping at 3pm just short of the wilderness boundary. The water bars on the 401 are functioning well for the most part but are in need of maintenance. On the 409 the need is much greater, with many runs where the diversions are long gone beginning to experience erosion of the trail. We returned to the Spanish Creek trailhead right at 5pm having enjoyed perfect weather, meadows of early season wild flowers, a Gray owl crossing our path, and two bull elk as well as clearing an unknown number (Kenji said over 50) of deadfall. Leaving the campground on the road through the ranch we were slowed several times by large groups of buffalo stopped on the road. Thank you Kenji and Quirine for a great day on the trail!—DP

South Fork Spanish Creek Trail about 4-5 miles in then cleared about 50 downed trees about 2.5 miles on the Camp Creek trail until approximately the wilderness line. Trail work was done by volunteers of the GVBCH. Lovely trail with great views. Wild life spotted: a big grey Owl and some Elk. Trail is in good condition, muddy sections close to the creek crossings, overall mostly dry. Lovely day, we lucked out with weather, it started raining when we pulled out.—Quirine Krol



Across the 401, from Spanish Creek they rode,
there was no padlock, no fence... or gate code.
Three horses all from various lineage
One Appy, one Mustang...and one of unknown Kineage.
They stopped for lunch at the 409 junction,
The wildflowers blooming in quite a Kabunction.
Then up the 409, the Stihl was a humming,
Clouds overhead said the rain was a coming.
Just short of the wilderness, already 3pm,
The crew said it was time...I agreed with them.

Back down the trail, no packhorse in tow,
We made good time, our horses did go.
All the rain and the hail, it had just missed us,
The horses were tired and didn't raise a fussus.
Made it back to the trailhead just at five,
and headed for home, only a 1 hour drive.
We had a great day together.. clearing the 409.
Thank you Kenji and Quirine.. for a day spent just fine.

—DP

A COWBOY'S PRAYER

Oh Lord, I've never lived where churches grow.
I love creation better as it stood
That day You finished it so long ago
And looked upon Your work and called it good.
I know that others find You in the light
That's sifted down through tinted window panes,
And yet I seem to feel You near tonight
In this dim, quiet starlight on the plains.

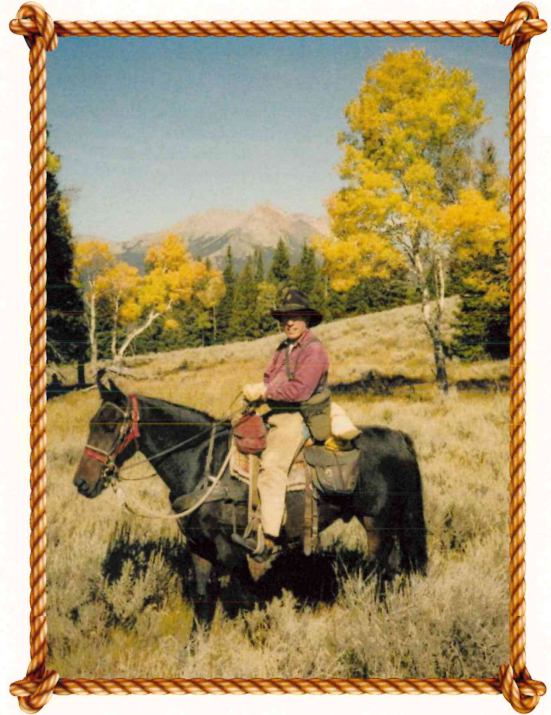
I thank You, Lord, that I am placed so well,
That You have made my freedom so complete;
That I'm no slave of whistle, clock or bell,
Nor weak-eyed prisoner of wall and street.
Just let me live my life as I've begun
And give me work that's open to the sky;
Make me a pardner of the wind and sun,
And I won't ask a life that's soft or high.

Let me be easy on the man that's down;
Let me be square and generous with all.
I'm careless sometimes, Lord, when I'm in town,
But never let 'em say I'm mean or small!
Make me as big and open as the plains,
As honest as the hawse between my knees,
Clean as the wind that blows behind the rains,
Free as the hawk that circles down the breeze!

Forgive me, Lord, if sometimes I forget.
You know about the reasons that are hid.
You understand the things that gall and fret;
You know me better than my mother did.
Just keep an eye on all that's done and said
And right me, sometimes, when I turn aside,
And guide me on the long, dim, trail ahead
That stretches upward toward the Great Divide.

© 1906 - Badger Clark

IN LOVING MEMORY



MICHAEL RONALD RASSLEY

November 28, 1936 — March 19, 2023

OBITUARY

On March 19, 2023, dad rode off into the sunset.

Michael Ronald (Ron) Rassley was born on November 28, 1936, in Bozeman, MT to Michael J and Isabella R (Ham) Rassley. He died in his hometown of Bozeman at the age of 86.

He grew up in the Bridger Canyon and Bozeman area and graduated from Gallatin County High School in 1955. He enlisted in the Army and served from June 1955 to June 1958 as a mechanic. He married Ruth Becker from Wilsall, MT on June 12, 1956, while stationed in Schwetzingen, Germany. They had five children and raised them in the Belgrade area.

Dad worked at Yellowstone Pine Mill for about 10 years where he ran the drying kiln. Then he worked for Gallatin County as a heavy equipment operator, most of those years operating a road grader north of Belgrade, retiring in 1999 after 30 years.

His passion was horses. He loved to break, ride, pack, and drive them. He also spent many years riding horses, elk hunting, and camping in the Spanish Peaks area of the Gallatin Range.

He was a founding member of the Gallatin Valley chapter of the Back Country Horsemen. He served as President in 1987, 1988, and 1998. Ron will be remembered for sharing and teaching horsemanship and driving skills to others.

Dad was a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ten Mile Drivers, and volunteered for the Bozeman Senior Center Meals on Wheels.

Dad enjoyed reloading, and leatherworking where he made belts, wallets, purses, and even a clock face for family. He drove wagons in parades, including the Belgrade Fall Festival where he won the overall prize in the Montana Centennial Parade in 1989.

After retiring, he and his friend Kay took many horse-riding trips to Utah and Arizona. They also enjoyed watching the MSU Women's Basketball Team.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brother Jimmy, and grandson Patrick J Rassley.

Dad will be missed by his five children, Connie (Daren) Brown, Bonnie Rassley, Vonnie Rassley, Lonnie (Kurt) Lewis, and Michael (Tracy) Rassley; grandchildren, Sunshine, Trevor, A.J., Corey, Morgan, Mariah, Shelby, Jennifer, and Jerome; and eight great grandchildren.

Dad, 'Papa', will be greatly missed!

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF

MICHAEL RONALD RASSLEY
November 28, 1936 – March 19, 2023



GRAVESIDE SERVICE WITH MILITARY HONORS
Sunset Hills Cemetery
Bozeman, Montana
Saturday, June 17, 2023
1:00 PM

RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE SERVICE
Ryen Glenn Park
1400 W Silver Circle - Belgrade, Montana

ARRANGEMENTS IN THE CARE OF
Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service
113 South Willson Ave - Bozeman, MT 59715
www.dokkennelson.com



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

Stacie Boswell
Bridger Bowl
Four Corners Saddlery

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Madison River Propane

Montana Canvas
Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply
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Clearing Gallatin Trails since 1985

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