

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
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UPCOMING EVENTS:

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY : JUNE 3

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

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

Contact Lew Goodpasture, 575-639-9091

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW : JUNE 3, 10, 17, 24

Contact Dan Porter, 539-0879

BOARD MEETING : JUNE 18, 6:00 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

ICE CREAM SOCIAL : JUNE 18, 6:30 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

GENERAL MEETING : JUNE 18, 7:00 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Roads

WILDERNESS FIRST AID MSU : JUNE 19-20

BIG SKY DRAFT HORSE EXPO : JUNE 23-25

Deer Lodge

RENDEZVOUS CAMPOUT AT MONTURE RANGER STATION : JUNE 23-25

Monture Guard Station Cabin, Cottonwood Lakes Rd, Ovando

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The mountains are calling and we must go! Horses are looking forward to the fresh, green grass and trails need to be cleared and maintained. With the whole summer and fall ahead of us, it is the best time of the year thinking of all the possibilities before us. Sorry, but after a long winter I tend to wax poetic.

Wednesday trail crew kicks off on 5/31 and Saturday trail crew will shift to more trail clearing. Our Poker Ride on July 8th is coming up and we are meeting at Janice's place for the June and July monthly meetings. More information will be put out regarding those plans including trail clearing, flagging and other trail riding opportunities. We also have some corral and hitching post work to do including work on the Ramshorn Lake corrals. There are pack trips into the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness in July and August and a barbecue meal at the Cache Creek trailhead in September. All these events are on the calendar posted on our web site. All the required training classes have been held in April and May, although there may be other opportunities depending on what needs to be completed.

Pretty much every week there are least one or two opportunities to ride and get out in those mountains. We also have Madison Valley trail clearing possibilities and John Mutter is the contact for arranging those trips. Living in the Gallatin Valley provides plenty of places which are within a short drive to go riding and get out of the smoke we are presently living with. We can just hope and pray it is a good fire season not only here, but everywhere that sends smoke our way.

Make sure to stay in touch with Lew, Dan Porter, Henry and John on these great day trips or extended stays and also help our chapter be able to pull off another successful Poker Ride, this time to the south of Bridger Bowl.

—Chris

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 18

Roll Call: Henry Glenn, Carmen Maztick, Dan Porter, Lawrence VanDyke, Carl Blaskovich, Dan Marsh, Rich Inman, Lew Goodpasture, John Mutter, Bob Criswell, Vern Campbell, Laurie Connelly, Chris Nygren

Chris called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

MEETING MINUTES

Carmen moved to accept the minutes as published in the April newsletter; Henry seconded the motion; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Carmen reported on our savings and checking accounts. There were no new bills or payments. Carl moved to accept the report as stated; Laurie seconded the motion; the motion passed.

BUSINESS

Carmen represented us at the Rocky Mountain Supply Outdoor Expo. It was a windy day and not a lot of foot traffic but she did meet a few potential new members.

Larry and Carmen drove Larry's team at the Farm Fair where all the area fourth graders came to see where their food comes from.

TRAIL REPORT

Dan P lead two fun rides. Rich, Dan and Laurie built some water-bars on the Hellroaring trail. We should be able to start hitting the trails with stock soon, weather permitting. Dan M will lead a crew out on the 24th on the #407 and Dan P will lead the corral repairs and clean up at Spanish Peaks Trailhead/ campground on the 27th. That will be followed by a ride. You do not need a horse to help at the TH. Bring gloves, shovels, manure forks, wheel-barrows. Lunch will be provided. Let Dan P. Know if you will be coming to help.

POKER RIDE

Rich has organized the lunches, 200 bags, with Town and Country. They will be \$6.50/ person. That could potentially increase by \$1 depending on the fruit availability.

Registration for the event will remain the same at \$25.

Our next meeting will be at Janice Cartwright's at 1655 Harper Puckett Rd. in Bozeman. It will be an ice cream social as well.

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

Chris adjourned the meeting at 7:03pm

—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly



A HUGE Thank you to everyone that braved the weather and came out to replace rails on our "Home Ranch" corrals at Spanish Creek. A special Thank you to Lew, who picked up the rails at Murdochs and spent Friday night at the trailhead alone reserving a campsite and also bringing along his grill to cook dogs and burgers for "the crew".

You are my heroes! Happy Trails, —DP

Dan, thank you for your time and effort as well. You spent a good deal of time lining up the rails with Murdoch's, running around making sure we had screws and rounding up groceries. Could not have done it without you. Thanks to the volunteers and looking forward to having your help again as we get into the summer work days. I'll be in touch with a plan for this coming Wednesday. —Lew

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 18

MEETING PROGRAM

Sidney and Cassie, Animal Nutrition Consultants from Rocky Mountain Supply, gave an informative presentation about equine nutrition. Great information and if anyone has questions please don't hesitate to connect with them at Rocky Mountain Supply. They are always available to answer your questions and/or help you find the correct product for your needs.

Chris called the meeting to order at 7:48pm

MEETING MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Carmen reported on our savings and checking accounts. There were no new bills or payments. Carl moved to accept the report as stated; Laurie seconded the motion; the motion passed.

CROSS-CUT RECERTIFICATIONS

Henry will provide the recertification training at Spanish Creek TH on 5/20. Chain-Saw certification will be also on the 20th but will be at the District Office in Bozeman from 8-12.

There will be a trail crew going out on the #407 at Spanish Creek on the 24th. Larry has identified two major down-falls early in the trail that will need work. Dan Marsh will lead that crew. Saturday, the 27th will be a corral repair and manure removal day at the Spanish Creek TH campground. You do not need stock for this work party. Lunch will be included so let Dan Porter know if you will be there. Bring gloves, water, shovels, manure forks, wheel-barrows. Dan will lead a trail crew up one of the trails for water-bar work after the work party.

WILDERNESS TRIPS

As you know Henry leads two or three trips into the AB Wilderness each year for Forest Service work. This year, prior to the trips, he and Molly will be hosting a Dutch Oven Cooking Training session at their place. The date for this is yet to be determined but he will keep us posted. They are hoping to train up so additional cooks so he and Molly can share these duties a bit.

TRAIL CREWS

Watch your emails for notifications of times and places as we begin our trail clearing rides.

Ramshorn project will be on June 23rd.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be at Janice Cartwright's house at 1655 Harper Puckett RD in Bozeman. Board meeting at 6pm ICE CREAM SOCIAL @6:30 and General Meeting at 7pm. Bring a chair and rain and/or wind jacket as the weather is unpredictable.

FARRIER RECOMMENDATION

If anyone is looking for a farrier, Henry and Molly highly recommend Justin Ward at 507-450-4543. He is new to the area.

POKER RIDE, JULY 8

Kathy has been busy organizing the event. Wednesday, July 6, is a clearing day led by Henry. Friday is the flagging day led by Janice and is followed by a BBQ in the Bridger parking lot that evening. Henry cooks the BBQ, everyone else bring sides please. Saturday is the ride. Sunday is the deflagging. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer. Please let Kathy know if you can help. Our next meeting in June will be final preparations. If you will be at the ride and have a pop-up tent you could lend, we would appreciate it as shade for folks after the ride to enjoy their lunch. The parking lot doesn't provide a lot of shade.

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

Chris adjourned the meeting at 8:38pm

—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly

DEFENSIVE HORSEMANSHIP SAFETY CLINIC
WITH JANICE CARTWRIGHT

We have some new members that have to pass the Defensive Horsemanship Safety Clinic. It can be done online but, with new members, I am requiring that they bring their tack and horses to me for me to see if they appear to be safe riders with sane horses.

These 2 women, Eugenia (Slim the mule) and Elizabeth came on Friday. I am trying to avoid any more mishaps/accidents this coming season. The past year was a bit rough.

I expect to have 4-6 more completing the course with me.—Janice Cartwright



New GVBCH members in "action" with their mounts





Devon Kerley & Drover



The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Well, because that's the way they built them in England, and English engineers designed the first US railroads. Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the wagon tramways, and that's the gauge they used. So, why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that same wheel spacing. Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break more often on some of the old, long distance roads in England. You see, that's the spacing of the wheel ruts. So who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since. And what about the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match or run the risk of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome , they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a specification / procedure / process and wonder 'What horse's ass came up with this?', you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses. (Two horses' asses.) Now, the twist to the story: When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds. So, a major Space Shuttle design feature, of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system, was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's as. And you thought being a horse's ass wasn't important? Ancient horse's asses control almost everything.

—Janice Cartwright with credit to Fifty Shades of Life / Facebook

ANDERSON RANCH SPRING RIDE
RIDING THE WIDE OPEN



HORSESHOE HILLS/ROUND MOUNTAIN RIDE



**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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Clearing Gallatin Trails since 1985

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