

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
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BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578
webmaster@bchmt.org
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UPCOMING EVENTS:

FS CHAINSAW TRAIN THE TRAINER : MAY 2-5

FOREST SERVICE CHAINSAW RECERTIFICATION DAY : MAY 6, 9:00-12:00 PM
Hellroaring Trailhead on Hwy 191 [Tentative]

FIRST AID/CPR : MAY 13, 9:00-12:00 PM
Bozeman District Office

HORSE HEALTH EDUCATION DAY : MAY 13, 8:30AM
Eaglemount, 6901 Goldenstein Lane

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : MAY 17, 24, 31
Contact Lew Goodpasture, 575-639-9091

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW : MAY 20, 27
Contact Dan Porter, 539-0879

CROSSCUT AND CHAINSAW : MAY 20
SPANISH CREEK [TENTATIVE]

BOARD MEETING : MAY 18, 6:30 PM
Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : MAY 18, 7:00 PM
Springhill Church

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

What a difference a month makes. First we have some warmer weather, followed by 3 feet of snow and now temperatures expected to hit 70 degrees by the end of the month. What all this means to fellow backcountry stock users is we don't know for sure when we can be riding and working in the mountains and with the snowpack there is a good chance extensive riding won't happen until June!

However, your BCH chapter does have quite a few things planned for the month of May to include First Aid Training if needed, saw recertification for those whose card has expired, Poker Ride pre-event work as organized by Kathy, horse tune-ups through Janice and trail crew/corral repair planning for the summer. On top of that is getting your own stock and personal tack/equipment ready to go. Don't blink as time just flies by.

That said, this past month we were delighted to have our own Rich Inman honored with the State BCH Founders Award, given to one person each year who demonstrates the BCH core values of service, education and volunteerism in support of responsible and wise use of stock in the backcountry. No one else from the Gallatin chapter has won that award and Rich joins elite company in being recognized statewide. A tip of the hat to Rich and next time you see him, feel free to congratulate and thank him for all he does in support of our chapter.

Make sure to get out and I look forward to seeing all of you on the trail, at our meetings and all around the valley.



—Chris

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 20

Roll Call: Carmen Maztick, Chris Nygren, Henry Glenn, Laurie Connelly, Kathy VanDyke, Lew Goodpasture, Carl Blaskovich, Vern Campbell, Bob Criswell, Rich Inman, Dan Porter, John Mutter, Vern (proxy for Kelly Jacobs), John (proxy for Sid).

Chris called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Meeting minutes

Henry moved to accept the meeting minutes as published in the March newsletter; Bob seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Treasurer's report

Carmen reported on the checking and savings accounts. She paid Payne West \$760 for our event insurance.

Business

Tom Lamb resigned from the board. Chris moved to appoint Rich Inman to fulfill the remainder of Tom's term; Vern seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Forest Service Trainings

First Aid/CPR training for sawyers will be Wednesday 4/26 at 5:30 pm followed by a second offering on Saturday 5/13 at 9:00 am. Both will be held at the Forest Service Bozeman Ranger District Office, 3710 Fallon St Ste. C. Bozeman, MT. This is for volunteers that will be sawyers or the required one person on a trail crew that needs to be certified. Please let Chris or Lew know that you would like to do this.

Sawyer and Cross-Cut Certification: This is a Forest Service certification not a training for beginners. These dates are tentative and will be confirmed when the FS gets back to us. Tentatively they are planned for May 6 and May 20. If you need this certification set these dates aside.

Sports Expo

Rocky Mountain Supply will be having a Sports Expo on May 6. They have inquired as to whether we would like to host a table. It will be from 10 am to 3 pm. Carmen and Kathy both have supplies that can be used for this, bulletin boards, pamphlets, etc. Please let Chris know if you would like to volunteer for this out-reach opportunity.

Ramshorn Project

The campsite corrals up at Ramshorn Lake need major repairs. Our chapter has volunteered to do this. The Forest Service is helping to coordinate the project. Lew has researched the cost of a helicopter delivery of supplies. Our grant moneys will cover this. We will have a ride up to do a site visit between June 15-30. We will notify all when the date is confirmed. The project will be the 1st or 2nd week of August. It will be a 2 nights, 3 day project. Again, we will notify all of the confirmed dates once set.

BCH MT Convention

The convention was a great success. Lots of learning, visiting and fun was had by all who attended. The resolution we informed you of last month was voted down. Our delegates were unanimous in voting not to accept. The official vote of all chapters was 91 against and 11 in favor.

Mark Himmel was elected Chair of the Back Country Horseman of America.

Brad Pullman was elected as Montana's representative at the Back Country Horseman of America.

Membership Roundup

Kathy reported that we added 4 new memberships, 2 family memberships and 2 individual memberships. We currently have 42 members.

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

Chris adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm

—*Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly*

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 20

Announcement

Rich Inman has been appointed to finish the board term of Tom Lamb. Tom has resigned his position.

Founders Award

Rich Inman was honored at our annual convention by being selected for the Founders Award. This is an award given to a member who has shown dedication to the mission of the Back Country Horseman, is active in the organization and has been a consistent leader in the chapter. Rich is all of these things. I well deserved recipient.

Program

We had no official program tonight. Janice addressed several important items.

Defensive Horsemanship. This is a certification that is required every three years to volunteer with the Forest Service trail crews. The materials are all available on our website. You only need to read the materials then bring your horse with tack to Janice's barn and have a pretty quick check through so she can 'pass you' and provide you with your certification card. Janice can be reached 406-579-3445. Her barn is at 1655 Harper Puckett Rd in Bozeman. She has a couple folks coming over this Friday 4/28 at 2:30 if you want to join that check off session. Just please call her in advance.

Season Reminders

As we are coming into the riding season Janice has a few recommendations/reminders.

This is a good time to check and clean all your tack before we hit the trails.

Check over your horse's entire body, watching for rain rot and scratches which are both common in this wet season.

Welcome to Steve, Eugenia and Q, all either new members or visitors tonight.

Chris called the General Meeting to order at 7:32pm.

Meeting minutes

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

Treasurer's report: Carmen reported on the checking and savings account. She paid Payne West \$760 for our event insurance. The first installment (\$3210) of our Forest Service mileage reimbursements was received. Just FYI, at the end of the year the Forest Service pays each volunteer a reimbursement for mileage accrued to get to the trails for our work. This year's reimbursement has taken a bit longer to process but will be coming to volunteers soon.

DC moved to accept the treasurer's report; Carl seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Business

Forest Service Training:

Josh from the Forest Service will be holding certification classes for Chain Saw and Cross-cut use. These are not training sessions for beginners. They are certifications making sure you are aware of FS requirements. The tentative dates are May 6 and May 20. We will send out an email when these are confirmed. Please let Chris or Lew know if you are interested in this.

Cody from the Forest Service will be conducting the First Aid/CPR training. These are for sawyers and a volunteer that would be designated as the one First Aid/CPR trained volunteer on the trail crew. Please let Chris or Lew know if you need this. The dates for this are April 26 at 5:30 and a second option of Sat May 13, 9-12. These will be at the Bozeman Ranger District Office at 3710 Fallon St. Ste C.

Sports Expo:

Rocky Mountain Supply is having a Sports Expo May 6 from 10am to 3pm. They have offered our chapter to host an information table at the event. Carmen and Kathy have information boards and pamphlets available if someone would like to volunteer to man the table. This would be a great out reach project. Please let Chris know if you would like to volunteer for this.

Ramshorn Project:

Ramshorn Lake corrals need lots of update and repairs/replacements. Our chapter has volunteered to help the Forest Service get this done. It will be a 2 night 3 day project either the first or second week of August. We will do a site visit in advance, sometime between June 15-30. We will keep you posted as to exact dates so you can join us.

Back Country Horseman Convention:

14 members from our chapter attended. It was a great convention with lots of visiting, learning, and fun had by all and of course a little bit of business. The resolution we told you about last month was voted down, 91 no votes to 11 yes votes. Our delegation were unanimous in voting no. Our chapter will be responsible for the convention in 2027. Next year the Convention is at Fairmont Hot Springs March 8, 9, 10, 2024.

BCHMT Midsummer Rendezvous will be June 23-25 in Monture Mt. Please refer to Chris's email for further details.

Pack Clinic:

Henry reported on the 2 hour Packing Clinic he conducted at the MSU Snippet this month. It was well attended and there were several members present to assist with the demonstration.

If anyone is looking for a Farrier, Henry has a few recommendations. Please contact Henry if you are interested.

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
CONTINUED

AB Wilderness trips:

1. Slough Creek 8/14- 8/22. 9-10 day trip. We camp at a Forest Service cabin. You can choose fewer days but if so you would need to ride out on your own.

2. Buffalo Fork. This is a trip for approximately five people. July 24-29 to work on the FS cabin.

Please let Henry know if you are interested either of these trips.

Poker Ride:

July 8. We will begin working on the details and looking for volunteers as we get a bit closer.

Chili Feed:

The Gallatin Saddle and Harness Club Chili feed and drive is Saturday April 29 at 5485 Spaulding Bridge Rd. At Jeanie Anderson's place. It starts at 11 am for the wagon ride with lunch to follow. If the weather is not good, we will be able to be inside the barn for the chili feed. The club will provide the chili and the rest will be potluck. No dogs please.

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

Chris adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm

—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly

Spring turkey by Dan Porter



Mark & I stopped in Big Fork on the way back from convention to see past GVBC member Bob Conti —Dan Porter

Larry brought his sheepherder's camp stove/oven to the meeting. It took 3 cellphone flashlights and a lot of "figuring and posturing" to get it set up correctly. Lou and Mark were the doers while Henry and Kay advised, while Chris and I observed. —Janice Cartwright



NOMINATION FOR FOUNDERS AWARD
RICH INMAN

With great respect, it is my pleasure to nominate Rich Inman for the Montana Backcountry Horseman's Founders award. As an active member and leader of the Gallatin Valley chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen for more than 25 years, Rich is the backbone of our local organization, providing a steady and calm presence, encouraging the development of future leaders and encouraging the building of relationships with public land managers and other user groups throughout Southwest Montana. To say that Rich has been the heart and soul of BCH in the Gallatin Valley for the past quarter century is not an exaggeration and well known in our chapter.

Rich came to BCH in the Gallatin Valley sometime before 2000 and by 2002 was part of the Board of Directors, followed by an extended period as the Chapter President, Vice President and the maximum service possible as our representative to the BCH Montana Board of Directors. During this time, Rich, along with Larry Thomas, was the leader of the Chapter's trail clearing crew averaging between 200 to 300 miles of trail clearing, trail maintenance and countless water bars and trail building throughout the Gallatin National Forest and the associated four wilderness areas. The trail clearing program he developed is recognized as the largest and longest serving program within Region 1 of the USFS.

The original partnership between local 4H chapters and a Backcountry Horsemen chapter in Montana originated in the Gallatin Valley due in no small part to Rich's efforts. He, along with a small group of BCH volunteers, worked with local 4H leaders and developed a program to teach common sense equine use, trail manners and usage as well as basic packing skills to local youth. With Rich it was never about developing a program by himself, but instead creating and developing a team which worked together to form the best trail crews, create the best youth education classes and put forth to the general public the best face of GVBCH.

Rich came to GVBCH during an extensive career with the USFS, ultimately culminating as the Forest Supervisor for the Gallatin National Forest. As evidenced in log books found in the guard stations found in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, he was an active backcountry wilderness ranger during his time in the USFS and continues to showcase the great credibility our organization has with the USFS and other land managers in the area including the Montana FWP, USFWS and BLM. In particular, the USFS knows that any support it needs for its own trail crews and projects, it only needs to reach out and Rich and other BCH packers can help and work together to improve maintain trail access throughout the forest.

He has also been on the forefront of forming coalitions between GVBCH and other user groups such as the Southwest Montana Mountain Bikers, Wild Montana and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. A prime example is the Gallatin Forest Partnership which successfully advocated for a proposal adopted by the Custer Gallatin National Forest in the latest Forest Plan revision. Joint trail work crews with mountain bikers were formed under Rich's leadership, multiplying the amount of trails cleared and increasing the effectiveness of those crews. Through his efforts, the profile of GVBCH has been raised in the valley and become a sought after partner in advocacy efforts for wilderness preservation and expansion.

Rich Inman embodies the principles of the founding members of the Backcountry Horsemen: to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of stock in the backcountry, to assist government agencies in maintaining and managing the resource and to encourage and solicit active participation by the general public in the wise and sustained use of stock as part of our heritage. In recognition of his lifelong service to these backcountry horsemen principles, his public service with the USFS and his forward thinking in regard to taking a cooperative and team building approach to natural resource management, Rich Inman is well deserving of the Montana BCH Founders Award and the values for which it stands.



—Chris Nygren,

President of the Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen Chapter



Why do I ride with BCH? The reasons are many so I'll start at the beginning.

I was born a city kid from that state you're not supposed to be from. I always wanted a horse but our family simply could not afford one. In those days there were riding stables where a person could rent a saddle horse by the hour. There was one near my home, close enough that I could ride my bicycle to it. That's where I got my first chance to ride a bit. I couldn't afford much but occasionally, throughout my childhood and into my teen years, my friends and I would rent horses for an afternoon. Then came a stint in the Air Force after which I moved to Mammoth Lakes and became a Ski Bum. It was there that I learned the value of horses in the back country.

There was and still is a packing outfit in Red's Meadow. I'd done a lot of back packing while I was in the Boy Scouts and all through High School but didn't really want to carry everything on my back anymore. A friend had an Appaloosa that was too old to ride but was otherwise sound. The folks down in Red's Meadow encouraged me to load my back pack gear onto that horse and "Head out". So I did, on foot. We went up and down the John Muir Trail all summer long. That would be the end of my contact with horses for the next 20 years.

In 1994 My wife Barbara and I moved to Montana from Santa Cruz. We wanted to get away from what California was becoming and to live a more rural lifestyle but in the back of my mind I secretly wanted a place where I could live my dream of having my own horse. After settling in to a little 10 acre place, some friends loaned us two decent saddle horses to keep on our little pasture. We rode them in the hills around our home in Clarkston for almost two years before we had to give them back. In 1996 we bought our current place in Three Forks and by the end of the next year we owned our first two horses. Now it's a funny thing living where we do. It seems that every single horse owner around here either uses them for working cows or they rodeo. The last thing they want to do is ride "just for fun". So, finding anyone to ride with is difficult. It was at a horse safety clinic at the Circle L Arena that we were introduced to the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen. Now here was a group of experienced horse people that seemed to have a purpose for riding, liked riding and just being in the mountains with their stock. We joined right then, on the spot!

Our first outing with Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen was with Dan Porter when he led a ride from the Cash Creek trailhead over Inspiration Ridge and around through McAtte Basin then back up Indian Creek to the trailhead again. All and all it was about 24 miles. Our horses were tired, we were tired and we had sore butts but what a way to find out about our group. Barb and I were both hooked.



I was still working at the time but on occasion I would take a day off to go on a trail crew. I got to know Larry Thomas and Rich Inman and all the others. They taught me what trail work was all about. They made me feel more than welcome. They made me feel useful and in the process I learned an awful lot about horsemanship. I've taken lessons, gone to clinics, watched the videos and read the books but nothing compares to actually using your horse to do a job.

I forget the year but the club decided to offer a packing clinic to the public. Rich Inman and Clark Kinney asked if I wanted to be a part of it. Of course, being overly eager and twice as naive, I said yes. My only experience to that point was that single summer, 20+ years earlier leading a pack horse on foot. I guess you can say I got to attend that clinic "on the job". Anyway, after that and working with the 4H kids later, I figured out how to tie stuff on a horse the right way. It's been 27 years since I joined our club and I've cleared literally hundreds of miles of trails. I've had the opportunity to pack into the Wilderness for extended trips multiple times and to even lead my own trail crew.

I recently attended the 50th BCH Montana convention. I feel immense pride, not just belonging to an organization who has done so much and for so long but actually being a productive part of it. If you've never ridden with a trail crew, I highly recommend it. Even if you feel like you have nothing to contribute to the work, you can always be a horse holder. The experience will, without a doubt, broaden your horizons. If you've never been on a pack trip, go on one with us. It's the best way to learn, bar none!

I realize that I'm not the best equestrian in the world but I feel competent and completely capable in the mountains with my horses. This never would have been the case if not for the Back Country Horsemen. They gave me a reason to ride and a sense of purpose.

I'll be forever grateful for the Back Country Horsemen. They literally made my dream come true!

—Jon Mutter

WHAT IS A COMBIE ? ... A WATERBAR?

What is a combie ? ... a waterbar?



These two questions were asked at our New Member Meeting in March so I thought back and realized that I myself had heard of combies and water bars for many years and not known what they were. The following is a brief run down from what I have learned. I have included photos as well. A “combe” is a hand tool that can quickly be converted from a shovel to a hoe to a pick. It is the go-to implement for trail maintenance when all 3 of these are needed to clear water bars of accumulated sediment and improving or restoring tread. TREAD is the FOUNDATION of every trail. Without tread there is no trail. Even wildlife “game trails” have typically very narrow tread. Humans and our 4 legged equestrian companions require a wider tread for safe and efficient travel. If tread is not maintained it can quickly deteriorate making a trail unsafe or even impassable. Restoring a trail that has lost its tread then becomes a major project that could easily have been avoided just by performing regular maintenance.

A “water bar” is one means of helping to maintain tread. By diverting rain water off of the trail it reduces erosion of the tread which also helps to reduce the amount of sediment reaching nearby streams. A water bar is essentially a log placed diagonally across the tread and secured in a way that rain and snow melt are prevented from damaging the tread.



Sediment that builds up on the upper side of the water bar must be periodically removed and ideally deposited on the lower side of the water bar to become new tread surface. Slingsing sediment off and away from the trail means that it is lost from the trail forever.

In May or early June we hope to have some hands on demonstration of how to employ a combie to “Save our trails”. My hope is that anyone interested in participating in trail maintenance will be able to attend.

—Dan Porter



BCH CONVENTION PHOTOGRAPHS



by Dan Porter





EAGLE
MOUNT

Horse Health Education Day

SATURDAY MAY 13 2023

6901 Goldenstein Ln, Bozeman, MT

Doors open at 8:30

- No entry fee
- Cash donations to benefit the Eagle Mount Adaptive Horsemanship Program or an item from the wishlist encouraged for admission



All local horse owners and enthusiasts are welcome | Please bring your own chair!

With Expert Speakers:



zoetis

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

Stacie Boswell, DVM
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Clearing Gallatin Trails since 1985

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