

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:

BOARD MEETING : OCTOBER 19, 6:30 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : OCTOBER 19, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Fall colors everywhere! Shorter days and crisper nights! Preparing everything for the coming winter months! I just love Fall and could live with at least 9 months of it a year. It also reminds me of all that needs to be wrapped up and Fall days are very precious. Please put these items are your to do list.

*Complete your volunteer hours summary and submit to Dan Marsh by 10/6

*Complete your mileage reimbursement form and submit to Dan Marsh by 11/27

The forms are available at <http://gvbch.bchmt.org/> and through Dan's email of September 22nd along with instructions.

The other thing I want to put on people's radar is being a Chapter Officer or Director on the Board for the next year. We need to fill the President, Vice-President and Secretary with new faces and we also need to fill at least 4 Board Director positions. It is through the work of these volunteers that GVBCH is able to keep going and provide opportunities for everyone in the chapter and the greater horse community to make a difference in our area and have recreational opportunities for all! We will be developing a list of candidates in the next couple months and I encourage everyone to reach out to Sid Boswell, Rich Inman and Carl Blaskovitch with any questions or to express an interest. For that matter, reach out to any current officer of Board member and we will connect you with the right people to increase your involvement.

—Chris Nygren

P.S. Christmas party is December 2nd at Eagle Mount on Goldenstein Road.



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21**

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

Chris called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

MINUTES OF AUGUST MEETING

Janice moved to approve the meeting minutes as published in the newsletter; Carl seconded the motion; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Carmen reported on the chapter's checking and savings accounts. The Forest Service Mileage Reimbursements have been received and checks have been sent out to those members who have submitted mileage. If you have a check please cash asap.

BUSINESS

TRAIL CREW WORK

The Ramshorn project materials have been taken up to the lake. Chris will connect with Forest Service to see if they want to get the work done this year or wait until next year. He will get back to us on this.

Dan Porter's Saturday crew is done for the season.

Both crews got a lot of work done this year. Thank you to everyone that volunteered and worked hard out there.

END OF SEASON BBQ GATHERING

The BBQ at Henry and Molly's place was very nice and appreciated.

John Mutter opened a discussion about the process by which the sight of the BBQ was changed. He requested that in the future we keep to the schedule on the calendar which is decided in January. He and four other members did go to Cache Creek but on the following weekend and did work on the corral. He reported that there is still work to be done and he would like to see us again put this officially on the calendar in January.

A suggestion to keep the annual gathering at Spanish Creek was proposed. No vote was taken on this at this meeting.

COMING ELECTIONS FOR POSITIONS ON THE BOARD

We have several positions opening up for the December elections. Please consider how you can help the chapter in this way. Outgoing Board members will be the Nominating Committee. Others can also volunteer for this so let Chris know if you are interested.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Janice secured a spot for us at Eagle Mount for December 2nd. She has volunteered to be the coordinator. We just need to decide on the menu...brisket or prime rib. Please be considering your choice.

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

Chris adjourned the meeting at 7:02pm

—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly



Catherine & Gaucho on the Moser trail ride with Janice



Eugenia & Slim on the ranch ride with Janice and Excel

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 21

The program tonight was canceled by the presenter due to things out of their control.

As an alternative to the scheduled program, Molly reported on the work done in the AB Wilderness on three separate trips this summer.

Janice presented some ideas for future programs. If you have any ideas or subjects you would like presented please let her know.

Chris called the meeting to order at 7:30.

MINUTES OF AUGUST MEETING

John moved to approve the minutes as published in the newsletter; Janice seconded the motion; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chris reported (for Carmen) on the chapter's checking and savings accounts.. All the mileage reimbursement checks have been sent out. Please cash yours asap as this has to be reported.

Laurie moved to approve the report; Carl seconded the motion; the motion passed.

ELECTIONS

There are several positions open for next year: President, Vice President, Secretary are all termed out as well as several board positions. Three of the outgoing board members are the Nominating Committee for the next election. They will be making calls to members during October to see who may be interested in volunteering for any of these positions. Please consider this rewarding opportunity to contribute to the chapter. The ballot is established in November and the vote is in December.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Janice has secured a spot for us at Eagle Mount for December 2, a Saturday. She has also volunteered to coordinate the evening as she has done so often in the past. She'll be looking for volunteers to help. We need to decide on the menu...Brisket or Prime Rib? We will vote when we get closer.

VOLUNTEER HOURS AND MILEAGE

Every year-end we need to turn in data for the Forest Service Mileage Reimbursement and to show our work for the grants we have received.

A discussion was engaged to clarify this data reporting.

Chapter members should report mileage for attending and participating in Chapter events such as trail work, Defensive Horsemanship course, Poker Ride and certifications. If it was something you volunteered to work or had to complete in order to work then it counts. If you have questions please ask Dan Marsh.

Volunteer hours are USUALLY kept by the Trail Boss or the leader of an event you may have worked. If you did something on your own that benefited the chapter you can report those hours.

The forms for these can be found at <http://gvbch.bchmt.org/>. Please submit them to Dan Marsh. He needs Hours by end of October and Mileage by end of November.

TRAIL CREWS

Lots of work was accomplished this year despite lower numbers of volunteers (busy lives). Thanks to all who were able to hit the trails for work, especially our Trail Bosses Dan Marsh, Dan Porter, Lew Goodpasture and John Mutter. And of course Henry who leads the week long outings to the AB Wilderness.

Ramshorn Lake materials have been delivered to the lake. Work will probably be next year due to the lateness of the season but Chris will check with the Forest Service to see if they are planning to attempt a work crew with our help before mid October. Otherwise the work crews are finished for the season.

Janice motioned to adjourn; Carl seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Chris adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm

—Respectfully submitted by Laurie Connelly

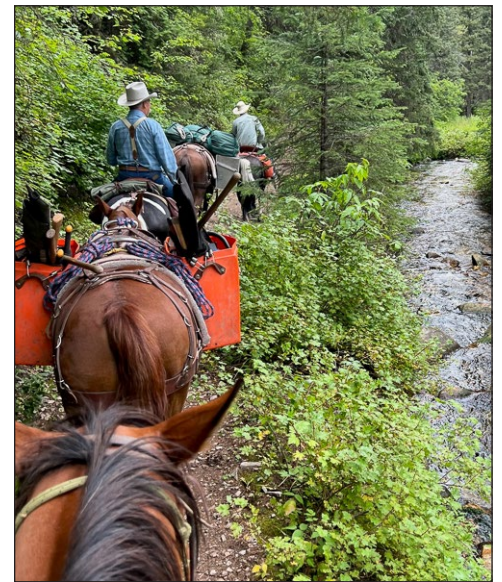
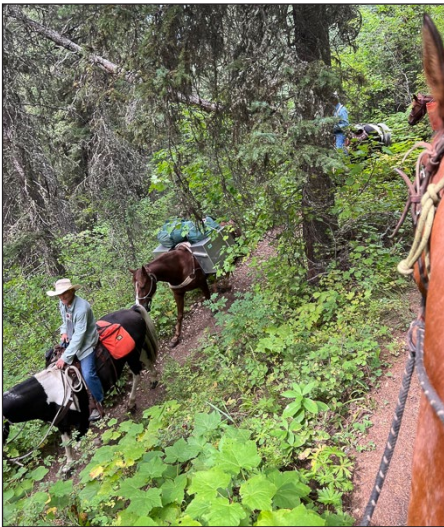
N.B. Janice reported that wool products from Full Circle Wool are not sponges and face pads. The large ones were wool trivets and the smaller ones were the sponges. Someone asked if she could make the trivet ones into horse pad liners, Janice is inquiring further.



SOUTH COTTONWOOD
AUGUST 28 & SEPTEMBER 1

Dan Marsh, Mark DeOpsomer and John Mutter met a USFS trail crew at the South Cottonwood trailhead. After we loaded their considerable pile of gear onto 3 pack horses, we headed up South Cottonwood to the Blackmore and Storm Castle Ridge Trail junction where we left them to set up their camp. The round trip was about 17 miles. We had to clear out 5 trees along the way to their camp.

Mark DeOpsomer, John Mutter, and Kenji Aoki riding shotgun returned the following Friday, September 1st with only 2 pack horses to pack them out. With a short side trip to the Fox Creek Cabin the return trip was about 19 miles. Dan was off hunting Grouse in Plentywood. The FS crew had packed a lot of the gear into the space that their food had taken going in. John was skeptical whether or not we could get everything that required 3 horses going in onto only 2 horses coming out, but we managed. The FS crew did a bang up job while they were there. They managed to open the Storm Castle Ridge trail all the way up to the top. Good work guys!



TWIN CABINS —PORCUPINE MEADOWS—ELKHORN—RED CLIFF CAMPGROUND
SEPTEMBER 13

On September 13 the Wednesday crew led by Dan Marsh along with Tim Butler and Kenji Aoki started at Twin Cabins then to Porcupine Meadows and on to Elkhorn to the Red Cliff Campground for an 11-mile clearing project. We cut out 37 trees and did some brushing when we stopped to clear the trees. We went through 2 batteries for the electric chainsaw and half a tank of gas in the Johnsrud. We ran across a hunting camp up on top of the meadows and found a couple of bad mud bogs along the way. We also got to some puncheons on the Elkhorn trail that were newly installed, but the horses wouldn't use them because they had foot long gaps in between 3-foot puncheons which to the horses looked like a cliff. Luckily there wasn't any mud or water near the puncheons, so the horses just went around them. We left at 9:00AM and got back to Twin Cabins at 4:45PM. We were in rain off and on most of the day and the trail was really muddy on the Elkhorn trail.



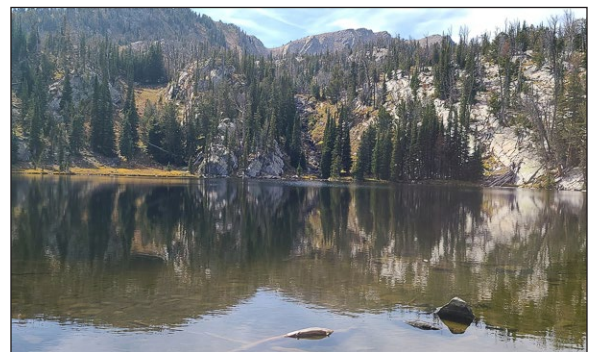
CACHE CREEK TRAILHEAD CORRALS
SEPTEMBER 14 & 15

The corrals at the Cache Creek Trailhead have been in disrepair for years. All of the gates sagged and most of the bottom rails and some of the middle rails were broken off. Other users, over the years, had tied them up with bail string and wire. All in all, it was a mess.. So..... I went up Friday afternoon Sep 15th to get it done. Saturday morning I was met by Lew Goodpasture, Larry Thomas, Curt Settergren, and Tim Butler. They came ready to work. We re-hung all 4 gates correctly and then re-attached most of the bottom rails with 3/8"x8" lag screws. Many of the other rails needed to be re-attached with lags as well. With 5 of us working, it didn't really take too long to complete the project. So, afterward, we sat around my camper and told stories until it was time for everyone to head home. I stayed over till Sunday and added a few more lags where I thought they would do the most good. All in all, the corrals look to be in good shape. They're certainly better than they were before. I personally think it's important to keep structures that we built and have our name on, in good shape and looking good for the public. Call it pride if you like but if you put your name on it, you own it!



JEROME ROCK LAKE TRAIL SEPTEMBER 20

The Wednesday Crew led by Lew Goodpasture along with Dan Marsh, Larry Thomas, Laurie Connelly, Tim Butler, and Bruce May on a tip from Larry that there were down trees on the Jerome Rock Lake trail headed out to do some clearing. We started on #407 and turned onto #410 had lunch at Jerome Rock Lake and decide to go back via High Lakes trail #413 to #407. The total trip was 17.4 miles with 3500 feet of elevation gain, and we cut out 23 trees varying from saplings up to 24 inches in diameter. The air was brisk below 40 degrees when we started but ended up being a comfortable 70 degrees as the day went on. We started out at 9:00AM and got back to the trailers at 5:30PM. We cut out around ten trees before we got to Jerome Rock and another 13 on the High Lakes trail. Overall, it was a wonderful day for a ride, and everyone got some good exercise removing deadfall.



Now that we have our hay,
In the barn and all put away,

Now that the 2023 poker ride of the year,
Is totally behind us, we packed up all the gear,

Seemed right to get out for a BCH function,
And do some trail maintenance execution.

Four members and a guest met at the Karst creek trailhead,
Ready to ride at nine, it was hard to get out of bed.

Up and up we rode clearing trees along the line,
Crossing bridge and stream, and passing by the old mine.

At noon on the ridge we stopped for lunch,
Admiring views of the Crest, there were quite a bunch.

Then on up the ridge, it's a steady climb to be sure,
A cool breeze in summer we were thankful for.

At two it was time to turn around,
We stopped on a rockpile, then headed back down.

—Dan Porter

RAMSHORN LAKE CORRAL PROJECT

Greetings to all,

A good number of you have heard about the Ramshorn Lake Corral project and we've discussed it in some meetings. I would like to lay out some kind of outline of events to start and finish this project. But, to do that I need to know how many would seriously consider volunteering to help. So this email is to describe, in vague detail, what this project would require from us.

The mission is to rebuild and enlarge the existing set of corrals which are the first corrals you come to as you ride up Ramshorn Lake trail and approach the lake. There are two corrals, one is a bit east of the other which we are not working on. We are only working on the west most set of corrals, which I'll refer to as "corrals". The existing corrals are approximately 60' x 40'. Presently it is only one lot with no partition fence. Almost all of the existing fence is leaning or already on the ground. The existing posts are probably 6' posts set in the ground 2 ft for a 4' tall fence (it's easier to pack 6' posts than 8'). When we finish the existing corral will be divided into two corrals and we are adding additional fence to make a third corral lot. This will extend back into the timber to the south of the existing lots. We will add new gates to each of the three corral spaces. The work will include either pulling existing posts straight or pulling them out, digging out existing holes, then putting old posts back in. Most of the fence rails will be replaced once posts have been straightened or reset. New posts into new holes will be required for the new partition fence in the old area and some at the old south existing end fence that will become the partition fence to the new area. And then the new area will require new posts (in new holes) & rails on three sides. The new extension to the existing corral will extend beyond the existing corral about 35'. All of the fence posts, rails, and screws have been delivered to the site via helicopter. We will need to pack necessary tools, overnight gear, food and any other necessities by horseback. We can use electric tools, chain saws, generators, etc as this area is not in a wilderness area

I want to find out who and how many might be interested in working on this project next summer. It will be the best use of our time to camp there near the lake for 3 or 4 days each time we go.

I would like to ride to the corral site on Sunday this week to assess the project and get some input from you as to how to proceed. I may take a post hole digger and shovel to do some exploratory digging while we're there.

Please let me know if you are interested in riding to the work site this week and/or working on the project next summer, most likely after July 4th, 2024.

We will be ready to ride on Sunday at 9 am, meeting at the Buffalo Horn Trailhead.*

Thanks for thinking about this. We could really use the help and the input.

Please reply if you have any comments or suggestions.

Thanks, Lew
575-639-9091

* It looks like Sunday will not be a good day to ride. I won't have another opportunity until possibly mid-October so I'll let you know later. And, if you can see yourself being available next summer to spend a night or two or three on this project just let me know.

—Lew

**GVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2023 POKER RIDE**

Stacie Boswell
Bridger Bowl
Dreamers and Schemers
Four Corners Saddlery
Kennetrek Boots
Madison River Propane

Montana Canvas
Murdochs
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