

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.

**2024 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR****PRESIDENT**

Henry Glenn ... 578-2084  
sedancowboy@outlook.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Sid Boswell ... 595-7197  
sid@sidboswell.com

**TREASURER**

Carmen Matzick ... 600-1379

**SECRETARY**

Kathy VanDyke ... 209-0613

**DIRECTORS****ONE YEAR TERM**

Bob Criswell ... 595-8150

Dan Porter ... 539-0879

Devon Kerley ... 704-562-5021

**TWO YEAR TERM**

Laurie Connelly ... 579-2859

Nanci Marx ... 763-4172

Lew Goodpasture ... 575-639-9091

**STATE BOARD MEMBERS**

Chris Nygren (1 year) ... 546-7550

Dan Marsh (2 year) ... 587-7578

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Brant Robey... 223-3077  
pbrantr@gmail.com

**BCH WEB MASTER**

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578  
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<https://gvbch.bchmt.org>

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

POKER RIDE CLEARING : July 3

Poker Ride : July 6, all day

Bridger Bowl

POKER RIDE CLEANUP : July 7

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW : July 4, 11, 18, 25

RAMSHORN CORRALS : July 11 - July 14

Truman Gulch FS Pack-In : July 16

BIG SKY COUNTRY STATE FAIR : July 17-July 21

BOARD MEETING : July 18, 6:30 pm

1655 Harper Puckett Road

GENERAL MEETING : July 18, 7:00 pm

1655 Harper Puckett Road

BUFFALO FORK : July 21-July 27

Thompson Lake FS Pack-In : July 29

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Hello everyone:

Summer is here and GVBCH are in full swing. Poker ride coming up and right after that the Ramshorn Lake Corral project we partnered with FWP and Forest Service. We could use all the help we can get. So please consider volunteering where you can.

Invite all your horse buddies to the Poker Ride July the 6th. We are clearing the trail Wed July the 3rd and setting up on the 5th at 5pm. Please come and support your chapter.

The trail crews are geared up for a busy summer and I hope you can join them on a few occasions this year.

The A-B Wilderness trips are fast approaching and if you are interested please let me know which one you would like to go on. Details are on the calendar.

Thanks to Janice and Dan Marsh for a great interview with Jane McDonald on KBZK. Check it out.

We are participating in the Gallatin Forest Partnership launch of the Greater Yellowstone Conservation and Recreation Act. Chris Nygren spoke at the Bozeman Launch and I am speaking at the Livingston Launch at Neptune's Brewing July 8th.

Take the time to be safe and check all your gear and tack before going out on the trails.

Happy Trails, Henry

Roll Call: Henry Glenn, Sid Boswell, Carmen Matzick, Kathy VanDyke, Bob Criswell, Dan Porter, Nanci Marx, Laurie Connelly, Lew Goodpasture, Devon Kerley, Dan Marsh, Rich Inman, Chris Nygren, John Mutter

Called to order by Henry Glenn.

#### MINUTES OF MAY 2024 MEETING

Laurie moved to approve the minutes as written; Nanci seconded; the motion passed.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Carmen reported on the chapter's savings and checking accounts. the CD will roll over soon. She received a Paypal deposit for Poker Ride sign-ups; she has also paid the Poker Ride insurance premium and several other miscellaneous Ride-related expenses. Devon moved to approve the report; Laurie seconded; the motion passed.

It was suggested that RAC grant money be used to buy a chainsaw. Following discussion, Carmen moved to contact the FS with the request; Devon seconded; the motion passed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Trail crews: The Saturday crew has gone out for the past five weeks; the Wednesday crew has also gone out several times.

The crews need additional silkie saws and loppers. Lew will make a list of necessary items for Josh (what and where to purchase) so they can be purchased with RAC money.

#### POKER RIDE

On-line registration has been slow with about 25 participants thus far. The health permit has been received for food service. Henry will check on the Forest Service permit and will also contact Bridger Bowl. Trail clearing will occur on July 3. Janice may not be able to participate in flagging so alternate plans may be necessary.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Henry suggested that Kay Tate be made an honorary member of GVBC. Chris moved to approve this request; Laurie seconded; the motion passed. Kay will now be listed on the roster as an honorary member.

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

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke



Program: We did not have a program tonight but instead had an ice cream social.

Henry Glenn called the meeting to order.

#### MINUTES OF MAY 2024 MEETING

Janice moved to approve the minutes as written; Larry seconded; the motion passed.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Carmen reported on the chapter's savings and checking accounts. The CD will roll over soon. She also reported that the insurance premium and miscellaneous Poker Ride-related bills have been paid. Chris moved to approve the report; CD seconded; the motion passed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Ramshorn Lake corral project: This project will be done from July 11-14, leaving the trailhead at 8:00 a.m. for the 6-mile ride. Everyone is welcome. Bring your own camp (tent, sleeping bags, etc.) and food. Supplies and tools for the work project will be provided.

#### POKER RIDE

Devon asked for additional volunteers for several tasks. There are lots of good prizes. Please bring a shade canopy if you have one. Also bring coolers on Friday if you want BCH to fill them with ice or bring them pre-filled with ice on Saturday morning. Friday night set-up will begin at 5:00 pm; Henry will provide the meat and everyone else should bring something for the potluck.

The local news station will be filming at Janice's on June 25 and again at the station on June 27. Dan Marsh volunteered to help with the project.

#### WILDERNESS TRIPS

Buffalo Fork is July 21-27. Hellroaring is August 13-20. Slough Creek pack-in is August 27-Sept. 3. Contact Henry for additional info.

#### TRAIL CREWS

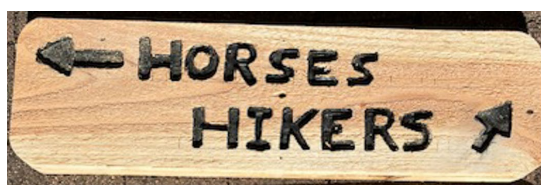
Both the Saturday and Wednesday crews will go out next week.

#### NEW BUSINESS

The July meeting will be held at Janice's place.

Adjournment: John moved to adjourn the meeting; Janice seconded; the motion passed, and the meeting adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke



Trail signs soon to be installed by Wild Montana for placement on a short section of the Cliff Creek Trail where the upper route is not so horse friendly. Thank you to Wild Montana for thinking of equestrians and trail safety. —Dan Porter

# SWEET PEA PARADE PRACTICE



SWEET PEA PARADE PRACTICE — CONTINUED



## NATIONAL TRAILS DAY : LITTLE HELLROARING

Saturday, a group of folks gathered at Spanish Creek TH to volunteer their time for a day of cleanup, repair and trail maintenance. Dan Marsh and John Mutter joined later by Kenji, Jim, DC, and Michael worked to reset a gate post at the gate going to the cabin, which appears to have been pushed over by a vehicle. No eyewitnesses have come forward on that one so we may never know. They gave it their best shot to get the post set deeper but a big rock about 24" down, despite having been hammer drilled to a depth of eight inches multiple times, would not break off. They tamped it down really good and it is much more solid now. Corinne Martin, DC Stark, Jim Wing, Kenji Aoki, Carmen Matzick, Michael Protz, Dan, and Larry Thomas worked on corral cleanup. The corrals are in good shape now for the summer. Broken rails had been changed last year. The Corral and Gate crew finished up around 11:30 so Larry and Carmen took a ride and the rest headed back home. Jim Martin, Rich Inman, Lew Goodpasture, Chris Nygren, Kaytlin Begley, Erin Steva (Greater Yellowstone Coalition) walked up Trail 407, along with Zeke and Yukon carrying tools. Those guys and gals cleared sediment and modified / updated 12 water bars / diversions and rebuilt or built new, 5 more. Lots of combi and pick work there. They added a water bar at a spot in the trail just before the sign to Pioneer Falls that Rich said has been needing one for years. A suitable piece of timber was cut and installed.

—Lew Goodpasture

Curt Settergren and I rode in the Tr. 400 Little Hell Roaring packing 8 precut step bars on one of Curt's mules. We installed them in the trail approximately 1.5 miles from the trailhead, then returned approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to where deadfall of the appropriate size was readily available. There we cut over 25 steps and two longer logs for packing up to locations where needed. We then packed 4 steps and two water bars back up the trail and installed them as needed. We stacked the additional steps along the trail for installation later and returned to the trailhead at approximately 4pm.

Thank you, Curt, for supplying the pack mule and a productive day on the trail. It was a productive day, and everyone's efforts and time are much appreciated.

—Dan Porter



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY : LITTLE HELLROARING — CONTINUED



Curt Settergren packing in water bar/steps for trail maintenance



The purple flowers in this one photo are growing right next to the trail and I have seen them there in prior years. They are in the orchid family and called *Calypso Bulbosa* as first identified and named by Linnaeus in 1743 and otherwise known as "Fairy Slippers". Curt's new mules did a great job packing in steps and water bars.



## LITTLE HELLROARING TRAIL #400

Five GVBCCH members and one guest met at the Spanish Creek trailhead for a full day of riding, packing, and trail maintenance. After a group discussion about horse safety, bears, staying alert to trail conditions and first aid kits we loaded Mark's packhorse with 8 pre-cut 42" step bars and headed up Trail #400 Little Hellroaring at approximately 9:45 am. Riding past the 25 or so step bars Curt and I had previously cut last week, we proceeded on up to the planned installation site just below the first summit. Mark and guest Scott McDermott dropped the steps off at this point and headed back down the trail to pick up another load from those previously cut and stacked.

Meanwhile, after a short demonstration of how to install a "step", Elizabeth, Marianne, "Q", and myself went to work. Mark and Scott returned just as we were putting the finishing touches on the first 8 steps and we went to work on the 16 new steps they had brought further up the trail. By 11:45 all 24 steps were installed. What a great trail crew! We then headed on up the trail in search of deadfall. Numerous opportunities were observed at this point for pruning back aspen and pine saplings that were slapping the sides of horse and rider.

At 12:30 I was reminded that we hadn't stopped for lunch.

Thinking quickly, I encouraged the crew to ride just a short distance farther up the trail. I knew of a small meadow lying in a little bowl that is a perfect place to tie up and relax for lunch. At the meadow we enjoyed a short lunch break with blue sky, snow-capped peaks in view and great company. Proceeding on after lunch we reached the snowline and were forced to turn back due to deep snow drifts. We removed one large downed tree that was creating a hazard and pruned back saplings in that one area as well. We returned to the trail head at approximately 4pm. It was a great day to be riding in the mountains. Only one Clark's Nutcracker was spotted but wildflowers are beginning to paint the landscape as we observed Arrowleaf Balsam Root, Fairy Slippers, Larkspur, Bluebells, Ballhead Waterleaf, Mountain Douglasia, Forget me Nots, Wyoming Kittenails, Pasque Flowers, Sugar Bowls, Oregon Grape and Heart-leafed Arnicas in full bloom.

Congratulations to Mark, Scot, Elizabeth, Marianne, and "Q" for earning their "Certified Step Bar Installer" designation. (-: The trail appreciates you!

If all goes as planned we will have two pack horses available next Saturday, June 15 and will continue work on the Trail #400, packing logs further up the trail to locations badly in need of tread protection.

We will also pack in pruners to provide opportunities for those members who would like to remove saplings.

Happy Trails. Maintain them...or lose them.

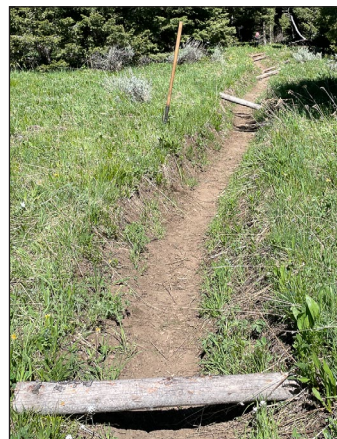
—Dan Porter

After

Before



During



## SPANISH CREEK

Seven GVBCH members met at Spanish Creek for a day of trail maintenance and riding. Parking was definitely in short supply as one outfit over 50' long had parallel parked rather than backing in, and had also set up his portable corral in the parking lot. Many of the individual camp spaces were being used and the corrals were occupied. We rode in on the 401 and stopped at the Cuff Creek crossing to work on returning the stream to its original course, and off of the trail. We then cut and installed multiple steps and water bars in the section of trail on past Cuff Creek, replacing several that were rotted or gone completely. We had a short lunch afterwards with our stock tied safely off the trail due to multiple groups of riders coming behind us. We then rode on to cross the North Fork, stopped for a snack at the old hunting camp, cleared one deadfall, and headed for home while pruning saplings and junipers from a section of trail as well.

We reached the trailhead at 5:30 pm, a long 8 hour day put in by a great trail crew. Scott Parsons, son of former members Brown and SammyLu, was headed up the 407 to ski the Blaze the next day.

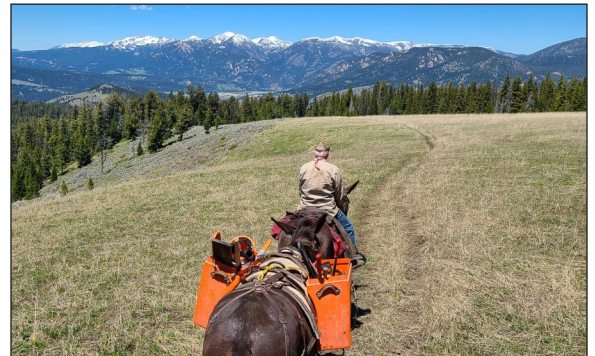
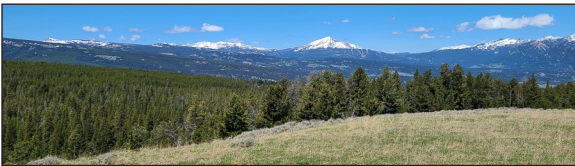
—Dan Porter





## TWIN CABIN

On June 5th, the Wednesday Crew headed to Twin Cabin consisting of Dan Marsh who led the group of Mark DeOpsomer, Clint Schwalm, Michael Protz, and Curt Settergren packing with his mules. We got a late start due to all the road construction going on the way in. We brought Curt's rig down to Red Cliff so we could go back and get the rest of the rigs. Or so we thought! We got going down the trail around 9:30 loaded up with one gas and one electric chainsaw, a combi, rope winch, and axe. It was a beautiful clear day and there was a little breeze. We only ran across 6 trees in need of removing but the day wasn't without some excitement. I had a new horse that had not been on a mountain trail in 6 years and Curt had mules he just bought less than a year ago. Things went well until we came to a steep water crossing and Michael's horse would not go over it no matter what he tried so we found a better place to cross and got out of that predicament. While we were crossing one of the Porcupine Meadows, Curt's riding mule decided he had an itch to scratch and went down on all fours and rolled not once but twice with the saddle! Curt managed to get out from under him both times without injury. We then went to the end of the last meadow and ran into a huge snowbank that we couldn't get around. We had lunch and headed back around 1:00PM. My new horse decided he wanted to play hopscotch every time I tried to get on him so that provided a lot of entertainment for everyone. We got back to the trailers and picked up Clint's rig and loaded up and headed home. Or at least to Gallatin Gateway where there was yet another half hour delay waiting for the traffic to get moving again. Overall, it was a good Spring ride but a little too early for Elkhorn.



## SPANISH CREEK, TRAIL #401 TO CAMP CREEK #409

On June 19th, the Juneteenth four Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen celebrated the holiday when we met at Spanish Creek and cleared 14 miles of trail round trip. The crew was led by Dan Marsh with a pack horse along with Mark Deopsomer, Tim Butler with a pack horse and Clint Schwalm headed up trail #401 then on to Camp Creek #409. We started out right at 9:00AM and it was a beautiful cool day and even with rainfall on Monday and Tuesday the trail was dry but not dusty. All the way to the Camp Creek turnoff and one and half miles after that we are out of the Wilderness so we packed an electric chainsaw and two crosscuts along with pruning saws, loppers, axe, and a combi thrown in for good measure. We saw several deer on the way in and stopped to listen to elk cows talking when we reached the upper meadows. We cut 5 trees and did some brushing on the way to Camp Creek and 10 feet after the turn we started cutting trees on the Camp Creek trail. We had 31 trees cut before we hit the Wilderness boundary and took out another 15 after that. We stopped at Noon for lunch then mounted back up to see how far we could get. After around 7 miles we ran into snow covering a steep hillside section of the trail and since it was 3PM we decided to head back. The spot we turned around was a good place to put in some tread work because there is barely enough tread to turn around on and certainly not enough for 2 horses to get by. I couldn't get the pack horse turned around so Mark had to come over and lead him out until there was enough room to get 2 horses next to each other. We did a little more brushing on the way back and got to the trailers around 5PM. With Tim taking the lead out of the Wilderness and Clint taking the lead on the #401 we didn't waste any time getting out of there.



## TRAIL #400 LITTLE HELLROARING

Three Amigos rode in Trail #400 Little Hellroaring for one more day of dirt work on that trail in 2024. Curt's mule packed the logs we cut part way up the trail and Tim's packhorse carried our tools. We installed 14 steps and two water bars, cleared six water bars of sediment, opened up a few drains and removed some berms and also did some light pruning before storm clouds convinced us to head for home.



## TRAIL 407 ONTO TRAIL 410 TOWARD PIONEER FALLS

This past Wednesday, June 12th, nine volunteers met at Spanish Creek trailhead to get some trail work done. We started up Tr 407 about 9:30 then veered onto Tr 410 toward Pioneer Falls. It was easy riding to the Falls and beyond into the aspen stands. About a mile or so beyond the Falls, we were stopped by a good bit of blow-down blocking the trail. We tied up and cut through the first bunch and then walked on up the trail, encountering more downed timber. We kept on up the trail and finally turned back not too far below the creek crossing. From there, five of us walked most of the trail back to the Falls. Dan, Chris and Clint cut the bigger aspen trees, Lew cleaning/adding some water diversions and Jim using loppers to cut brush and saplings. Tom brought up the rear cutting what the guys ahead didn't get. Larry, Carmen and Michael helped wrangle horses. All counted, we cut 19 trees, brush/sapling, cut about 1/2 mile of trail and covered 10.7 miles, arriving back at the trailhead just before 4 pm.

The group included members Chris Nygren, Dan Marsh, Larry Thomas, Carmen Matzick, Clint Schwalm, Jim Wing, Tom Lamb, Michael Protz, and Lew Goodpasture.

Thanks to those volunteers for being there and helping get some work done.



## GVBCH INTERVIEW ON KBZK

Dan Marsh being interviewed with the tools necessary for trail clearing.



## PACKING PROJECTS AND RAMSHORN CORRAL REBUILD — UPDATE

Pack in/out projects: These are projects that USFS needs our support with packing tools, gear or materials.

1) July 8th: This is a request from Josh on June 7th. "The bike club is hoping to replace the puncheon on trail 34 where you dropped the decking last year, just before the junction with 66 to Hidden Lake Divide. I know you all have a full plate this summer, but I wondered if any of you would have capacity to pack more decking into that spot. We're shooting for July 8th for the work day, but it could be packed in anytime the week of June 24 or July 1. Let me know what you think and we can get the materials to the trailhead for you." 16-20 planks – Josh will verify Thursday June 13.

2) July 11-14: Ramshorn Lake Corral Rebuild. We might go in a day early to deliver equipment. Some will camp at the lake and some may ride in for a day.

3) July 16 in-23 out: To Truman Gulch trail West side of Bridgers with Crew and tools/gear.

4) Does GVBCH have the capacity to pack posts for the Bridger sign installation effort? Here are the locations with # of posts needed: Shafthouse: 6; Corbly: 3; Hatfield:11

Currently, SWMMBA has the sign installation tentatively scheduled for Shafthouse on Tuesday, July 18th and Corbly on Tuesday, July 30th. But those dates could be flexible, depending on if you were able to help and when.

The Hatfield project will have to be after we clear trails there. I could not get to Hatfield via Troy Creek. The trail is blocked with several large downfalls and will require a long day to clear. We could haul the posts to the hunting camp on a truck and pack them from there to Hatfield? I need to see a map of where each post is to be dropped off."

5) July 29 in-Aug 5 out: Thompson Lake to rebuild trail between Thompson Lake and Summit Lake- Planning to dynamite some big boulders with Crew and tools/gear.

6) August 13: My name is Arianna Knight and I'm the trails supervisor for the Yellowstone Ranger District in Livingston. I'm reaching out to see if you guys have availability to pack in a MCC up the West Fork of Mill Creek to Thompson Lake (in Paradise Valley) Let me know if you need more details or what you're thinking. Thanks! Arianna

7) August 19 in -23 out: Main Hyalite with Crew and tools/gear.

## 36<sup>th</sup> Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen

# POKER RIDE



**BRIDGER BOWL**  
**JULY 6, 2024**

Take your pick:  
long route or short route

\$35 Adult  
\$15 Children under 12  
—includes lunch—  
Limited to 250 riders  
Check-in/depart 8:00 am-10:00 am  
Return to BBQ social lunch 11:30 am-2:00 pm

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Online registration is strongly recommended  
so we can better plan for food  
more information visit:

<https://bchmt.org/wp/gvbch/event/poker>

Laurie Connelly, lconnelly@yahoo.com or 406-579-2859

Registration is nonrefundable

Poker Hand Prizes donated by:  
Montana Canvas  
Madison River Propane  
Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply  
Rocky Mountain Hat Company  
Four Corners Saddlery  
Kenetrek Boots



Silent Auction:  
Tactic Montana  
Carter's Boots & Repair  
Spur Cross Ranch-Ingram Quarterhorses  
Door Prizes  
50/50

NO DOGS, NO STALLIONS, NO DRONES  
Gallatin Valley Back County Horsemen provide volunteer trail and trailhead  
facility maintenance on public lands throughout Southwest Montana

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

Stacie Boswell  
Bridger Bowl  
Carter's Boot & Repairs  
Dreamers and Schemers  
Four Corners Saddlery  
Kennetrek Boots  
Madison River Propane  
Montana Canvas

Murdochs Ranch & Home  
Rikki's Furniture  
Rocky Mountain Hat Company  
Spur Cross Ranch-Ingram Quarterhorses  
Tactic Montana  
TLC Services  
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