

**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  
[webmaster@bchmt.org](mailto:webmaster@bchmt.org)  
<https://gvbch.bchmt.org>

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

National Trails Day : June 1, 9:00 am

Spanish Creek

Wednesday Trail Crew : June 5, 12, 19, 26

Saturday Trail Crew : June 8, 15, 22, 28

Board Meeting : June 20, 6:30 pm

Springhill Church

General Meeting : June 20, 7:00 pm

Springhill Church

Poker Ride : July 6, all day

Bridger Bowl



**Greater Yellowstone Preservation & Conservation Act:**

<https://bchmt.org/wp/gvbch/files/2024/05/GYCRA-Legislative-Briefing-April-2024.pdf>



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Hello Everyone,

The weather is challenging the trail crews but they both have been out working. Contact Dan Porter or Lew Goodpasture if you can help them. We have lots of miles of trails to clear this year, so please help when you can.

We have several requests for packing projects this Summer. If you can pack a horse or mule, contact Lew to get the details.

We were asked by the State Board to host the 2026 state convention. Our board accepted the challenge, and we will be hosting the state convention in Bozeman in March 27, 28 & 29 2026. This is a huge commitment and I hope as time gets closer that everyone will help us make this the best convention ever! Molly, Stacie and Carmen are the planning committee so if you have ideas please let them know.

The Poker Ride is just around the corner. As Laurie and Devon put the finishing touches on planning I want to encourage you to attend the meeting at Janice's place in June. We will be clearing the trails at Bridger Bowl on July the 3rd in preparation for the Poker Ride on July 6th. Please help distribute the Poker Ride posters, we are hoping for a good turnout this year. Also please invite all your horse friends.

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, John Mutter

Called to order by Henry Glenn.

#### MINUTES OF APRIL 2024 MEETING

Dan Porter moved to approve the minutes as written; Bob seconded; the motion passed.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Carmen reported on the chapter's savings, checking and certificate of deposit. She also reported that there are funds from the 2020 RAC grant and from the 2022 RAC grant that both need to be used in 2024. Laurie moved to approve the report; Bob seconded; the motion passed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Trail Work: The Forest Service will pay \$6,600 in 2024. There are sample mileage tracking and other forms available (e.g., BCHMT mileage, trail boss).

Poker Ride: The volunteer sign-up sheets will go around at the general meeting tonight. Posters are ready for distribution. Trail emergency kits are available for purchase, and one will be donated as a door prize. We plan to have a first aid kit at each pop stop, and in the trail crew boxes. A general discussion followed regarding other issues (hand-washing station for food service regulations). NW Energy donated \$500 and will be a sponsor.

Legislation: The proposed Greater Yellowstone Preservation & Conservation Act is available online. There will be 3 "launch parties" and Henry will make sure everyone is notified of the dates.

#### NEW BUSINESS

State convention: GVBCH is next in line to host the 2026 convention. Henry has been in touch with the Grantree. It would be a good facility for the event, and he was quoted good prices. Discussion was held whether we want to host as it's a lot of work, both in advance of and during the convention. It would be held from March 27-29, 2026 (Friday noon to Sunday noon). Carmen, Stacie and Molly have agreed to serve on an exploratory committee. Dan Porter moved that GVBCH host the 2026 annual convention; Laurie seconded; the motion passed. Nanci moved that the committee be able to spend up to \$500 for initial work; Laurie seconded; the motion passed.

National Trails Day: June 1 at 9:00 at Spanish Creek. Lew will take a look to see what work needs to be done. Members of the Gallatin Forest Partnership may also be involved.

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

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

#### PROGRAM

Lew Goodpasture and Dan Porter, the trail bosses, presented some chapter history (adopted trail 407/411), talked about trail work, how and why we do it. We discussed ideas on how to recruit more trail crew folks, and talked about requirements for volunteers (horse safety training, 1st aid/CPR, risk assessment). We also discussed forms to record odometer/mileage and noted that each person must track their own mileage for reimbursement (forms available on website).

#### CALL TO ORDER

Henry Glenn called the meeting to order.

#### MINUTES OF APRIL 2024 MEETING

Dan Porter moved to approve the minutes as written; Laurie Connelly seconded; the motion passed.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Carmen Matzick reported on the chapter's savings, checking and certificate of deposit. She also reported that there are funds from the 2020 RAC grant and from the 2022 RAC grant that both need to be used in 2024. Janice Cartwright moved to approve the report; Jim Martin seconded; the motion passed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Trail crews: Work will start on Wednesday, May 22.

Legislation: Henry reported that there will be several "launch parties" hosted by the Gallatin Forest Partnership and relating to the proposed Greater Yellowstone Preservation & Conservation Act. Henry will provide info re dates as it become available.

National Trails Day, June 1 at 9:00 am at Spanish Creek.

Parade: Per Janice, practice is going well.

Poker Ride: Laurie passed around a volunteer sign-up sheet and passed out posters. Devon reminded people to collect door prizes and bring to the June 20 meeting.

Ramshorn Lake corral project: This project will be done from July 11-14. Everyone is welcome. Bring your own camp (tent, sleeping bags, etc.) and food. Supplies and tools for the work project will be provided.

#### NEW BUSINESS

State convention: GVBCH will host the 2026 state convention. Molly, Stacie and Carmen have agreed to serve on the exploratory committee.

Adjournment: Jim Martin moved to adjourn the meeting; Sid Boswell seconded; the motion passed, and the meeting adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

## SWEET PEA PARADE PRACTICE

Parade Practice...otherwise known as Janice puts out whatever she can dig up, find, think of that might be weird for the horse/ rider pairs to figure out how to handle it.

What started as an interest in our club participating in the Sweet Pea Parade has morphed into a good tune up session before moving out onto the trails. The members attending are asked to move into the indoor arena and walk their horses around with halters to look around. The instructions are to see if there is anything that your horse is concerned about. If you recognize this concern, decide whether to ignore it and walk by numerous times focusing on other things or to invite your horse to investigate the item of concern. Forcing a meet up with a hanging tarp or pompoms over their heads or stepping on weird things on the ground....can escalate their "fear" of the unknown. As riders, we need to figure out how to keep ourselves calm when our horse gets alarmed and then how to help our horses get through or past the obstacle. It's a matter of trust and understanding.

After the halter round, we mounted up and did the same things while on top of the horse. Leading from the ground is a whole lot different, in the horse's mind, than leading from on top, in the middle of hit back, in the saddle. We also practiced a bit of backing up since that may be a skill needed...in the parade and out on the trails.

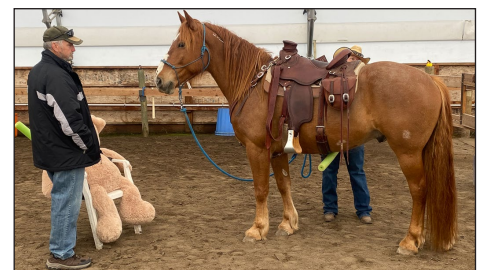
Once all horses had been introduced to the indoor items, we moved to the outdoor arena. There, we practiced moving in pairs and rating our horses to walk at the same speed as their partner. Trail horses are not always used to riding in sync, beside one another. We also talked about what to do if our forward movement is delayed at times. Turning some small circles might be better than trying to make a nervous horse stand still. They want to move their feet so let them, just determine how and where to move. The packers with 2 horses will turn together in a larger circle as needed.

We'll head out in parade formation in our field, in the future, and continue with many new meet and greet or ignore items in the outdoor area in our additional sessions. I ask that all participants attend a minimum of 3 sessions. We have had 2 already and I plan to offer 4 more sessions over the course of the next 2 months...week day nights and week-end days. We will avoid Wednesday and Saturdays, as much as possible, since they are clearing days.

Anyone's horse that is not ready is invited to walk/ride along with us in the parade. Our goal is to have riders and horses as prepared as we can get them to do this safely.

Next year is our required 3 year Safety Clinic for the whole club. Perhaps an additional day should be considered as Part 2 of the clinic so we can work with our own horses on safety / desensitizing issues. Thoughts?

—Happy and Safe Trails, Janice



## CHILI FEED

On Saturday, May 4th, the Gallatin Saddle and Harness Club and a few Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen met at Andersons Ranch for the annual Chili Feed. It was a beautiful day and we had 2 wagons and a couple riding horses for a trip from the the Anderson Ranch to the Brainard Ranch where they were getting ready for the annual Gallatin Valley Farm Fair where thousands of youth come each year for three days to learn about agriculture. We returned from the ride and had some fantastic chili and a bunch of side dishes and some great conversation. Thanks to all the hard work with another great chili feed and we hope to see more people next year!



## SPANISH CREEK MAY 18

Seven members met at the Spanish Creek Campground/trailhead. Larry, Carmen and Kenji rode the 407 carrying only hand saws. Info provided thus far is that they cut 3 deadfall before being stopped just short of the Falls Creek trail JCT #410 by large deadfall that will require cross cut saws and manpower to remove. Meanwhile, Mark Deopsomer rode the TR # 410 Little Hellroaring leading a pack horse accompanied by Tom Lamb, Bob Criswell and myself on foot. We were equipped with the chapter Stihl battery powered chain saw, two combies, silky saws and pruners, loaded for Bear. We progressed up that trail approximately 1.5 miles while trimming brush, clearing 15 deadfall and maintaining 6 water bars. It was noted that the steps installed on the trail previously have done their job well and are filled with collected sediment. Potential addition of more steps may be advisable to continue rehab of that trail. We talked to several hikers who expressed interest in volunteering and I gave two of them a GVBCBCH business card so that they could go to our website.

Congratulations to Bob who participated in his first day of trail maintenance as a GVBCVH member. He survived a tricky log crossing over the Little Hellroaring Creek and a moderate 1.5 mile climb to get a glimpse of Indian Ridge as well as the several snow drifts still lingering on the trail.

Thanks to Mark for bringing his two horses and patiently waiting for his "ground support" to catch up every time there was a deadfall blocking the trail

It was a great day out to start off the 2024 Volunteer season. Plans for this Wednesday, 5/22 and next Saturday, 5/25 are in the works. Check you email for updates.

It is now snowing at my house and I have accomplished nothing else today.

—Happy Trails, DP



## SPANISH CREEK MAY 25

Two combies proved their meddle today when Sally and I met at Spanish Creek at 9am for a day of "down and dirty" trail maintenance.

Greeted with an incredible view of snow capped peaks on the drive in, we had a short discussion about trail conditions, the need for bear spray, first aid kits, physical handicaps, and trail etiquette in the parking lot, then up the 401 with pruners, combies, and day packs we went. Sally was a quick learner as we moved up the trail clearing water bars of sediment, opening up drains, and rebuilding nicks and swales to divert water off the trail. Light rain threatened at times but we proceeded on throughout the day. We accomplished a lot! Twenty two water bars were cleared of sediment and 33 other diversions (nicks, drains, and swales) were made whole again. We cleared two minor deadfall from the trail, rebuilt 90 feet of tread, and pruned back encroaching shrubs along the entire 1.2 miles of trail that we traversed. Along the way I also took out a large slab of granite that had finally given up it's hold in the hillside and was beginning to slide down and encroach on the trail.

Wildflowers are beginning to bloom in the area. We spotted Arrowleaf Balsam Root, Larks Spur, Ballhead Waterleaf, Biscuit root, and tiny Forget Me nots as well as wild straw berries. A special treat as I stopped to rest for a minute was sighting several of the "Oregon Group" Slate Colored Juncos feeding along the trail.

Congratulations and a huge Thank you to Sally for volunteering on her first "official" day of trail maintenance with GVBCH.

Maintain our trails or lose them.

—Happy Trails, Dan Porter



## SPANISH CREEK MAY 25

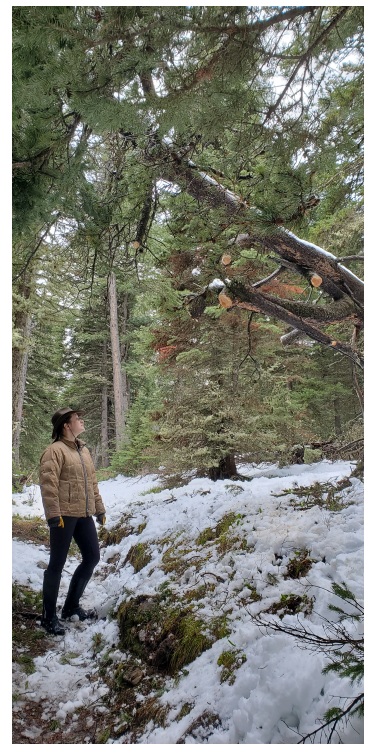
We had a good day of trail clearing yesterday when 7 members met at Spanish Crk TH, saddled horses, loaded tools and headed up Trail 407.

The group included Dan Marsh, Mark DeOpsomer, Elizabeth Heppler, Larry Thomas, Curt and Mia Settergren, Clint Schwalm and myself. We departed the TH about 9:20 am. As reported to me by Kenji a week prior, there was a good size tree across the trail at about 2 miles in. We pulled out some crosscut & Silky saws and started cutting. There were actually one big tree and two more smaller ones. Between the Silky saws and the crosscut saws everyone contributed.

And, thanks to Dan's come-a-long rope pull and several strong backs, we moved a 10'-12' section of about 20" diameter tree completely off the trail without having to make another cut. After clearing that we rode on up 407 and cleared 17 more trees from the trail, stopping just before the South Fork Spanish Crk crossing. We had lunch there about.

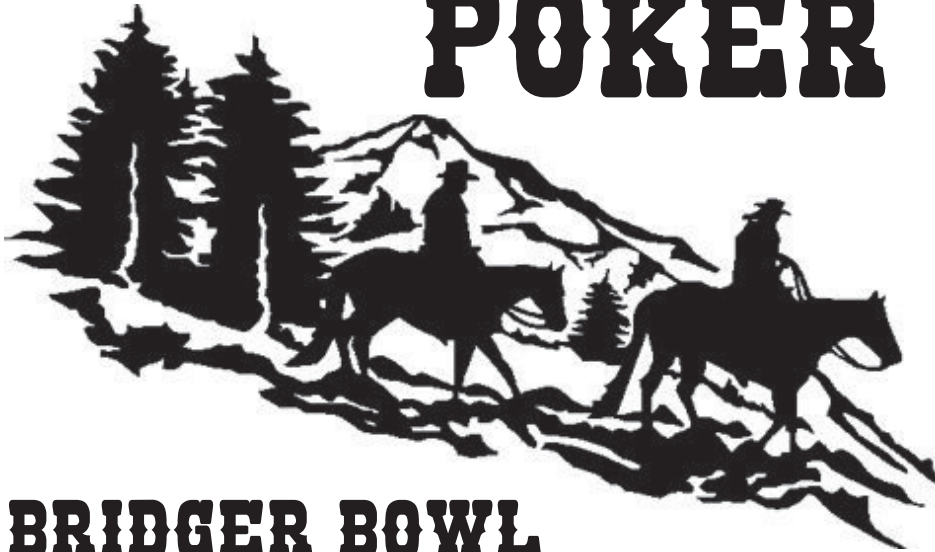
1:00 then the rain started. We decided to turn back at the point, predicting a steady downpour, which it did for an hour or so. We arrived back at the TH about 2:45pm and called it a day. The trail condition wasn't bad. The snow was mostly gone from the trail and there were puddles and wet trail and occasional mud. It was a fun day with good people. Thanks to those volunteers that made it possible.

—Lew



## 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](mailto: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  
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