

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 ... 586-2440

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... 222-5971

pbrantr@gmail.com

BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578

webmaster@bchmt.org

<https://gvbch.bchmt.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

BOARD MEETING : MARCH 21, 6:30 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING: MARCH 21, 7:00 PM Springhill Church

**Dan Marsh needs your photographs
for the GVBCH Convention booth.**

[HTTPS://BCHMT.ORG/WP/EVENT/BCHMT-2024-STATE-CONVENTION/](https://bchmt.org/wp/event/bchmt-2024-state-convention/)



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hello everyone,

We have kicked off another new year. Thanks to Chris and team for doing a great job the past three years.

Our February wild game dinner was a great success and thanks to all who brought your favorite dish. Always a good time to visit with the Forest Service employees who we work with throughout the year. Thanks Josh, Chris and Tony for attending. We will be planning our summer work projects soon.

March will be our Poker Ride planning meeting and I hope there will be lots of participation. This is our only fundraiser and so the chapter depends on it for our revenue.

The state convention is coming right up March 8th, 9th and 10th at Fairmont Hot Springs. We have 8 delegates, I want to thank our chapter for always being active in our state Back Country Horsemen.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Brant for a great job as newsletter editor!! We have the best newsletter in the state and we are very thankful to Brant for a wonderful job. Her work behind the scenes is invaluable to our chapter.

Time to do the Snow dance.

—Henry

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15**

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

Called to order by Henry Glenn.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 2024 MEETING

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Carmen reported on the chapter's savings and checking accounts. She noted that she received the 2023 mileage reimbursement check and she's sent checks out to individuals. She also noted that the audit committed performed the annual audit today. Devon moved to approve the report; Dan Porter seconded; the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Audit: Sid reported that the audit committee reviewed records performed the audit today and explained the procedures used. Dan Porter noted that bank statements should also be reviewed. The audit did not reveal any problems with chapter finances.

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting will consist of Poker Ride discussion and planning.

NEW BUSINESS

Investment: It was suggested that the chapter put some of its savings into a CD or money market account to earn more interest. Sid made a motion to put \$15,000 in a 6-month CD with automatic rollover; Laurie seconded; the motion passed. Dan Porter noted that no discussion was held relative to the motion and requested discussion. Sid made a motion to rescind the previous motion; Laurie seconded; the motion passed. Carmen and Henry will do some research before the March meeting and present info then for discussion.

FIREARMS

Dan Marsh reported that those members who wish to carry firearms while doing BCH work in the woods need to renew their "Permission to Carry" permits.

THANKS

Carmen extended a big thank-you to Dan Marsh for the extensive work he does for the chapter. His many contributions are invaluable.

ADJOURNMENT

Carmen moved to adjourn the meeting; Dan Porter seconded; the motion passed.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

2024 MEMBERSHIP
RENEWALS ARE DUE
[HTTP://GVBCH.BCHMT.ORG/](http://gvbch.bchmt.org/)

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15

Prior to the general meeting we held our annual Wild Game Feed.

PROGRAM

Josh Kinsell with the Forest Service talked about plans for the 2024 season. They will be short on trail crew this year so our efforts will be much appreciated and he asked if we find any problems with the trails that we let him know. He provided Volunteer Agreements for signature and noted that the FS provides Worker's Comp coverage for volunteers working on the trails. Josh also noted that anyone desiring a firearm qualification will need to renew this year.

Chris and Tony from the Madison Ranger District also spoke about projects in their area. They noted that they'll have a very small trail crew this year, and many miles of trails so any help we can provide would be appreciated.

Call to Order: Henry Glenn called the meeting to order.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 2024 MEETING

Janice moved to approve the minutes as printed; Carl seconded; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Carmen reported on the chapter's savings and checking accounts. She noted that she received the 2023 mileage reimbursement check and she's sent checks out to individuals. Chris moved to approve the report; Janice seconded; the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

March meeting: The March meeting will consist of Poker Ride discussion and planning.

April meeting: The April meeting will be headed up by the trail crew bosses and discussion held regarding trail projects for the season.

Audit: Sid reported that the audit committee reviewed records performed the audit today and noted that the audit did not reveal any problems with chapter finances.

MEMBERSHIP

Henry reminded everyone to renew their membership.

STATE CONVENTION

The convention is March 8-10 at Fairmont Hot Springs. Chris has raffle tickets for sale.

PROGRAM

Janice noted that we need a program for May. She would welcome suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS

Sweet Pea Parad: Janice noted that several people have shown an interest in riding in the parade. Let her or Mark Deopsomer know if you are interested. Janice will offer de-spooking and parade prep sessions prior to the event.

ADJOURNMENT

Carl moved to adjourn the meeting; Carmen seconded; the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

UNDERSTANDING THE KEY TRAIL FUNDAMENTALS

Part 2: Understanding the Key Trail Fundamentals (what we need to know to monitor implementation of the Trail Classification System).

Background: As we established in Part 1, the new Forest Service Trail Classification System changed standards for pack and saddle stock trails that evolved over, and were time tested for, nearly a hundred years. When BCHA first got involved in the process, we were concerned that managers would assign trail classes and design parameters that would not accommodate pack and saddle stock on trails that were historically accessible to stock. The task ahead is to determine if that has taken place through the implementation of the new system, and if it has, whether the agency has involved the public and followed an approved land management planning process as agreed in the court decision.

Past BCHA Chair, Mike Reedy, arranged for a Forest Service Trails expert to conduct a two hour training session at the 2009 National Board Meeting. A video of that presentation is available on the BCHA Website. The "Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management Objectives," Training Reference Package used in presenting that program is also available and can be used as a reference source for gaining a more in depth understanding of the new classification system.

TRAIL FUNDAMENTALS

The new classification system establishes 5 trail fundamentals for consistently recording and communicating the guidelines for trail design, construction, maintenance, survey and assessment:

Trail Type—terra (land), snow, or water (normally horsemen will only be interested in terra). **Trail Class** – the development scale of the trail.

Trail Class 1: Minimal/Undeveloped (there are no design parameters for pack and saddle stock use; if a trail is intended to be managed for pack and saddle stock the minimum Trail Class will be 2).

Trail Class 2: Simple/Minor Development (the minimum development scale intended to sustain pack and saddle stock use).

Trail Class 3: Developed/Improved (the fully developed trail intended to accommodate the type and level of use typically found in a backcountry and wilderness environ)

Trail Class 4: Highly Developed (accommodations for passing and double lane when necessary, and other features of a nature not normally associated with wilderness; however all trail classes may occur in all settings).

Trail Class 5: Fully Developed (this class is commonly associated with visitor centers or high-use recreation sites, and normally has a hardened or asphalt surface. There are no design parameters for pack and saddle stock use.)

*The photo examples given in the Trail Fundamentals Training Reference Package are valuable in understanding what the various trail classes actually look like.

* **Managed Use**—the modes of travel actively managed and appropriate on a trail (there may be more than one; for example hiking and pack and saddle) as determined by applicable land management plan, travel plan, or trail specific decision (a specific document that has involved the public and undergone appropriate NEPA review).

* **Designed Use**—the managed use that requires the most demanding design, construction and maintenance parameters (there can only be one designed use per trail or trail segment; where pack and saddle stock is considered an appropriate managed use, it will also generally be the designed use).

* **Design Parameter**—the technical guidelines for the survey, design, construction, maintenance, and assessment of a trail based on its Designed Use and Trail Class (what used to be called design guides or standards)

* **The Trail Management Objective (TMO):** Each trail or trail segment will have a TMO! The TMOs synthesize and document, in one convenient place, the management intention for the trail and provide basic reference information for subsequent trail planning, and management. It is a composite document incorporating the 5 trail fundamentals listed above plus additional information on management intent.

The TMO does not necessarily reflect the actual condition on the ground! It reflects the 'management intent' or 'objective' for the trail—the conditions that would ideally be on the ground if resources were available to manage it as intended.

The TMO form also will list the ROS/WROS Class for the immediate area containing the trail or trail segment. This refers to the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum or the Wilderness Recreation Opportunity Spectrum and relates to the intended experience provided in that setting. ROS or WROS are normally established by the forest plan or wilderness plan. A trail may fall in several ROS/WROS classes. In such a case a TMO will be established for each segment of trail. The Trail Class Matrix in the Training Reference Package suggests typical Recreation Environments (settings) and Experiences for each Trail Class. *However, all Trail Classes may and do occur in all settings!*

"Target Frequency" indicates how often a routine task should be completed to maintain the trail to standard. Lack of budget will often result in this frequency being less than desired or necessary.

The Trail Management Objective must be approved by a line officer (District Ranger or Forest Supervisor) and reflects the guidance in forest plans, wilderness plans, travel management plans or trail specific decisions—a plan that involved the public and complied with NEPA requirements.

The two fundamentals that are of most importance to horsemen are Trail Class and Designed Use. Although it will be of valuable to understand the interrelationship of all five fundamentals, these two will give a good indication of whether the trail will accommodate the type and level of use that was historically accommodated before implementation of the new system!

Trail Class: There isn't a simply 'crosswalk' for comparing the older mainline, secondary or way classes to the current trail classes. Way and secondary trails that were commonly used by pack and saddle stock before the new system was implemented might currently be managed as a Trail Class 2 or 3. Mainline/primary trails will commonly be managed as a Trail Class 3 or 4. Trail class alone will not tell us if the trail will accommodate pack and saddle stock use. For example: a trail managed as a Class 4 for Hiker/Pedestrian traffic might only have a clearing width parameter of 4'—insufficient to accommodate pack animals. Trail class communicates the scale or level of development, not the type of use the trail will accommodate!

Designed Use: Managed and designed use tells us if the trail will accommodate pack and saddle stock. If a trail is managed for pack and saddle stock, the designed use will also generally be pack and saddle stock. If it isn't 'designed' for pack and saddle stock, it will be necessary to search or inquire further to determine the specific parameters to determine if the width and height limits are adequate to accommodate pack and saddle stock use.

Generally, the **red flags** to look for are trails that were historically available for pack and saddle stock use that are currently being designed as hiker/pedestrian trails or TC 1-3 bicycle and motorcycle trails. If there is any question, the specific parameters are listed on the Trail Management Objective form. The specific clearing height and width parameters will give an indication whether or not the trail is adequate for pack and saddle stock.

The Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, Joel Holtrop, has committed to make the information contained in the TMOs available. BCHA has requested a listing of trails on each Ranger District that will give us the managed and designed use for each trail. This information will make it simpler for horsemen to determine if current trail objectives are consistent with historical classifications. This will be the subject discussed in Part 3.

For more information:

<https://www.bcha.org/education/>

**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
Rikki's Furniture
Rocky Mountain Hat Company
TLC Services
Town and Country



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