

BOARD MEETINGS:  
3rd Thursday, 6:30 PM

GENERAL MEETINGS:  
3rd Thursday, 7:00 PM

First Security Bank  
2046 Cattail St & 19th St

**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.

**2025 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR****PRESIDENT**

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

**VICE PRESIDENT**

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

**TREASURER**

Elizabeth Heppler ... 209-2063

**SECRETARY**

Kathy VanDyke ... 209-0613

**DIRECTORS****TWO YEAR TERM**

Bob Criswell ... 595-8150  
Dan Porter ... 539-0879  
DC Stark ... 307-690-9905

**ONE YEAR TERM**

Laurie Connelly ... 579-2859  
Nanci Marx ... 763-4172  
Lew Goodpasture ... 575-639-9091

**STATE BOARD DIRECTORS**

Dan Marsh (1 year) ... 581-3160  
Chris Nygren (2 year) ... 546-7550  
Sid Boswell, alternate (1 year) ... 595-7197

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Brant Robey ... 223-3077  
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**BCH WEB MASTER**

Dan Marsh ... 581-3160  
[webmaster@bchmt.org](mailto:webmaster@bchmt.org)  
<http://gvbch.bchmt.org>

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

SWEET PEA PARADE : AUGUST 2

Mark DeOpsomer: [deopsomer@gmail.com](mailto:deopsomer@gmail.com)

PACK OUT THE MONDAY FOREST SERVICE FROM SPANISH LAKES : AUGUST 4

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : AUGUST 6, 13, 20, 27

Dan Porter, 539-0879

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW : AUGUST 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Lew Goodpasture, 575-639-9091

BUFFALO FORK WILDERNESS TRIP : AUGUST 10-16

BUFFALO HORN FOREST SERVICE PACK IN: AUGUST 18

BOARD MEETING : AUGUST 21, 6:00 PM

1655 Puckett Road

GENERAL MEETING : AUGUST 21, 7:00 PM

1655 Puckett Road

BUFFALO HORN FOREST SERVICE PACK OUT : AUGUST 22

AB WILDERNESS TRIP : AUGUST 24-30

OVERNIGHT N FORK SPANISH CREEK : AUGUST 29-31

WILDERNESS TRIP : AUGUST 24

SPANISH LAKES USFS CREW : AUGUST 28

BBQ AT SPANISH CREEK : SEPTEMBER 6

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Hello GVBCH,

We're just coming off another successful Poker Ride, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who pitched in to make it a great event. A special shout-out goes to Laurie Connelly and Devon Kerley, who once again carried the bulk of the planning and logistics. We couldn't have done it without their hard work and leadership.

Thanks also to Henry and Molly Glenn for the outstanding BBQ, Janice Cartwright for running the flagging operation, and to all of you who helped with the pop stops, registration table, cook tent, silent auction, 50/50, and setup. These events take a team, and we have a great one.

Looking ahead, we'll be shifting focus toward the 2026 BCHMT State Convention, which our chapter will host in Bozeman next March. August's meeting will center on planning and discussion. If you've been thinking about getting more involved, now's the time—whether it's helping Molly, Stacie, and Carmen with planning, organizing prizes, coordinating the photo competition or saw contest, or pitching in wherever needed. Many hands make light work, and we need plenty of hands to make this a successful State Convention.

Also, our Wednesday Trail Crew is still going strong but could really use some more helping hands. If you're free, even just once or twice, please reach out to Lew Goodpasture to join in.

Thanks again to all who make this chapter run strong. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

— Sid Boswell, PRESIDENT, GVBCH

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JULY 17

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

JULY 17

Roll Call: Sid Boswell, Henry Glenn, Elizabeth Heppler, Kathy VanDyke, Laurie Connelly, Devon Kerley (self and as proxy for Bob Criswell), Lew Goodpasture, Nanci Marx, Dan Marsh, DC Stark, Chris Nygren

Called to order by Sid Boswell.

### MINUTES OF JUNE 2025 MEETING

Henry moved to approve the minutes as written; Devon seconded; the motion passed.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Elizabeth reported the chapter's savings and checking, and two CDs that are accruing interest. She also reported on Poker Ride income. Laurie moved to approve the report; DC seconded; the motion passed.

### NEW BUSINESS

BCHMT: The chapter has been asked for a donation for a BCH exhibit to be placed in the National Forest Service Museum in Missoula. Chris made a motion for a \$1000 donation; Laurie seconded; the motion passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

Wilderness trips: The dates have been set, and Buffalo Fork will be the first trip on August 10. Henry will discuss further at the general meeting.

### RECRUITING

Recruiting has been going well and the chapter now has nearly 100 members.

Trail Crew:

Crews have been going out regularly and also doing some packing. We discussed the purchase of battery-operated loppers; Lew will do some research and we'll revisit at the next meeting.

Sweet Pea Parade: Mark Deopsomer has paid the entry fee and has reserved a parking lot. We'll discuss further at the general meeting.

Adjournment: Devon moved to adjourn the meeting; Laurie seconded; the meeting adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

Tracy James

These two gals...the moment we walked in...nothing but genuine people. Sometimes all it takes is a hello in such a way that makes you feel like you met your best friend. Ended up giving my sheet to my buddy as I was ponying a youngster and it was just easier to make the stops. It fell out his pocket but I didn't care. Having these two ladies meet me at the very beginning made my day. Thanks y'all....what a super group of people. I can't thank you enough.

24 Like Danke

We did not have a program at this meeting; however we were treated to an ice cream social.

Sid Boswell called the meeting to order.

### MINUTES OF JUNE 2025 MEETING

Dan Marsh moved to approve the minutes as printed; Laurie seconded; the motion passed.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Elizabeth reported the chapter's savings and checking, and two CDs that are accruing interest. She also reported on Poker Ride income. Henry moved to approve the report; Chris seconded; the motion passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

Poker Ride: The Poker Ride was held on July 12 and was a great success. Nearly 200 riders and 36 volunteers took part, the weather cooperated, and good food and a good time was had by all.

August 21 meeting: The meeting will be held at Janice's place and will include ice cream and a program. The focus of the general meeting will be planning for the state convention in 2026.

Wilderness Trips: The trips will begin on Aug. 10, Aug. 24 and Sept. 7, and Buffalo Fork will be the first trip. Let Henry know if you're interested in participating.

Trail Crew: Crews have been going out regularly and also doing some packing. There's always room for more workers, especially for the Wednesday trips.

BCHMT: The board approved a donation for a BCH exhibit to be placed in the National Forest Service Museum in Missoula.

Sweet Pea Parade: The parade will be on August 2. Mark Deopsomer has paid the entry fee and has reserved a parking lot. Meet at 8:00 am at the parking lot. There will be a practice session at Janice's before and there will also be a float. Let Mark know if you'd like to participate.

BBQ: The event will be on Sat., Sept. 6 at Spanish Creek. You're welcome to park at the cabin on Friday night.

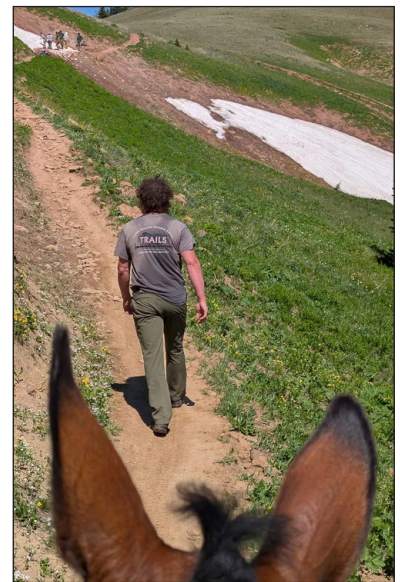
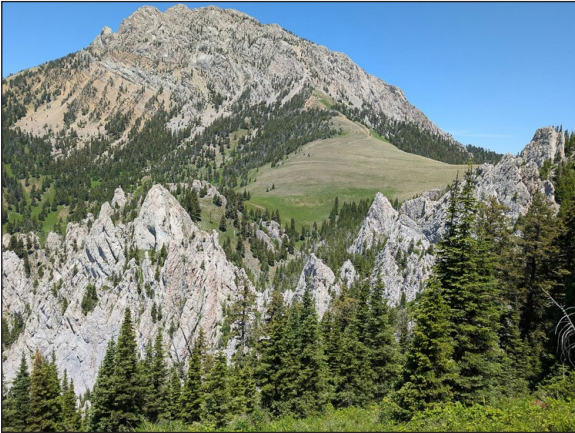
Adjournment: Janice made a motion to adjourn; Laurie seconded; the meeting adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke



## ROSS PASS WITH MCC – JULY 1

Four members from Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen met the MCC trails group along with USFS trails coordinator Josh Kinsel at South Brackett trailhead. The members were Curt Settergren with his two mules, Rick Ramler with his horse and two mules, Lew Goodpasture with his two mules and Clint Schwalm with his horse. After loading the tools, gear and food on four of the mules we departed the trailhead. Our destination was just beyond Ross Pass where the MCC crew was working on trails for a week. Once again, the scenery was fantastic. Near the pass a stretch of lingering snow blocked the trail, but the MCC crew and Josh had already arrived and, without the tools we were packing, kicked and stomped the snow and grabbed nearby rocks to shore up the trail, making it an easy crossing for the horses and mules. From the pass we headed down about 1/2 mile to the work site where we dropped the tools and supplies and had some lunch. We arrived back at the TH around 4 pm. Thanks to Clint, Rick and Curt for helping to get this done. —Lew





## BUFFALO HORN TO DAILY PASS & RAMSHORN LAKE – JULY 2

A group of 7 members of Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen met at Buffalo Horn TH to clear some trails in the area. We split into two groups for the day and got a late start, leaving the TH about 9:30. The first group was Curt Settergren, Eugenia Razzano and Tim Butler. They rode Buffalo Horn trail to Daily Pass then back down the ridge to Teepee pass then back by the old cabin to the trailhead for 11.9 miles. They cleared a total of 36 trees from the trail with many multiple tree pileups. They returned to the TH about 5:30. The second group was Clint Schwalm, Evan Schwalm, Elizabeth Heppler and Lew Goodpasture. We rode Buffalo Horn Trail for 4.2 miles then onto Ramshorn Lake Trail for 2.3 miles to the lake. After a late lunch there we proceeded onto Buffalo Horn Pass trail about 1:30. That trail was a mess. Several of those multiple tree pileups were encountered and it took some skilled saw work from Clint to clear. After working 1/2 mile for 2 hours and cutting 20 trees we decided at about 3:30 we better backtrack to the lake and head back down. We arrived back at the TH about 6 pm, having ridden 14 miles.

Much thanks to the volunteers in helping to keep trails open for all. — *Lew Goodpasture*





## 37<sup>TH</sup> GVBCH POKER RIDE — JULY 12

The 2025 Poker Ride is in the books...with 193 riders and 30+ volunteers working to make it a success. A beautiful day, good food and a safe ride made for a wonderful event. A big shout out to Hardaway Veterinary Hospital and Dr. Stacie Boswell for being available for any animal issues.



Hello fellow GVCBH members,

I had hoped to get this out prior to today but here goes. Pulling off the annual Poker Ride really does take a 'village'! While Devon and I were 'the organizers' we couldn't have accomplished anything close to what actually happened without each and every one of you that contributed. Whether it was putting up posters, soliciting a door prize or silent auction item, obtaining poker hand prizes, obtaining permits, clearing the trail, flagging the trail, organizing the food and bringing the food, drink, ice, COOKING THE FOOD, advance riding, sweep riding, deflagging, manning pop stops, manning registration tent, manning door prize tent, manning food serving tent, holding horses, greeting riders, cleaning manure, putting up signs, wrangling runaway horses, doctoring horses, the complete set up on Friday and pulling it all together on Saturday and the dismantling of the entire set up. I could go on and on. It really is quite incredible. I know who each and every one of you are that helped in any way. I remember you even better this year as my life, while still a bit hectic, was much less emotionally draining as this time last year. We had 19 volunteers for Friday set up, 36 volunteers for Saturday Poker Ride.

Just so you know, I was keeping a list of suggestions for next year. If you have a constructive criticism or suggestion please feel free to let us know. I hope to continue to volunteer as organizer as long as you will have me.

The official stats...rider numbers, funds raised etc. will be available at the July meeting.

Devon and I want to THANK YOU ALL from the bottom of my hearts for contributing in whatever way you did, big or small. It is an honor to be a member of this organization for all the work we do but also because of the people who are doing it.

Now we can start concentrating on the Convention. Because those organizers, Stacie, Molly and Carmen, will need all of us stepping up for that as well.

Happy Trails to you all, *Laurie and Devon*



## RAMSHORN LAKE — JULY 16

A crew headed out to finish the Buffalo Horn to Ramshorn loop. The crew led by Dan Marsh with Clint Schwalm, Rick Ramler, and Laurie Connelly headed out on a cool overcast day with an electric and gas chainsaw along with other tools. The ride up to the Ramshorn junction went by with everyone wearing a sweater or coat but those were removed not far up the trail as we hit the trail that had not been covered on the last trip. We cleared around 24 trees by the time we reached the top of the ridge and started on the trail down to Ramshorn Lake. It was past noon at that point, but the clouds were all around us and not a pleasant place to take lunch, so we proceeded down the trail. We encountered a bunch of trees on the way down with many multiple tree piles along the way. Clint was again the main sawyer from his last outing taking out 47 trees total on his first trip. We stopped on the way down when the sun broke through the clouds and had lunch. This time around we took out 53 trees total and were glad to see the creek where the crew had got to last trip. We had both the electric and gas chainsaw going at most stops. I did a quick search at the rebuilt corrals for a crowbar I left up there last summer, but we couldn't find it. We headed back to the trailers this time to warmer temps and more horse flies. We got back, had a cold drink, and headed back trying to beat the 5:00 rush from Big Sky. We covered 16.5 miles and cut 53 trees on the 7.5-hour ride. Many thanks to our efficient crew that made the busy day go by in a flash.

*—Dan Marsh*





## JEROME ROCK LAKES— JULY 16

Six members of Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen split into two groups. Group one, Mark DeOpsomer and Lew Goodpasture met at Spanish Creek trailhead. Mark brought a friend/guest to help us through the day. Sam turned out to be the workhorse of the three, partly because he's in his late twenties and has lots of muscle. We cleared 9 trees between Mirror Lake junction High Lakes Trail junction, riding up Hermit Creek trail. We made it to Jerome Rock Lakes then headed back down Falls Creek trail, arriving back at the trailhead around 6:00, having travelled 16 miles. Thanks to Sam and Mark for helping with this valuable work.

Group 2 met at the Buffalo Horn Trailhead and had a huge day of clearing which Dan has already reported. Thanks to those volunteers, Clint, Dan, Laurie and Rick for the work they put in.

It's always a pleasure to work with good, hardworking, and fun folks. If you haven't volunteered for one of these workdays don't hesitate to get involved. I'm sure you won't regret it. —Lew

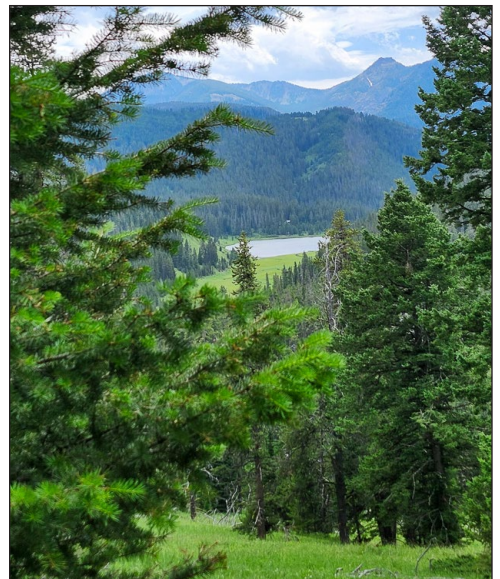




## NEW WORLD GULCH — JULY 19

Six GVBCH members met at the New World Gulch trailhead at 8:30 am and were in the saddle by about 9 headed for Mystic Lake. We hoped to see blooming Bear Grass along the way but as it turned out we were a week or so too late as the few that flowered this year were finished. We turned up the Moonshine trail and noted how severely eroded and gullied out much of the uphill section is. Along the way to Mystic, we passed only a few hikers, bikes, and dogs. Just before Noon we arrived at what was once the North end of the lake prior to the dam being breached. We parked the horses while we enjoyed our lunch. We had cut only 5 deadfalls on our way in but planned to remove encroaching saplings on our return trip. Absent the Bear Grass blooming, we did enjoy the blossoms of Cow Parsnip, 6' high Delphiniums, Orange Mountain dandelions, Richardsons Geraniums, Pine Drops, and the ride favorite, Prince's Pine (aka Pipsissewa). Photos included are the remnant of Mystic Lake as well as Clint, Carmen, Marianne, Michael and Eugenia on the trail, Marianne putting the finishing touches on a section of trail we cleared, and a close up of one of the Prince's Pine we found while clearing deadfall. According to W. Tilt, this plant was used during the Civil War to treat rheumatism and kidney disorders! We reached the trailhead at about 5pm, just in time to see an E-bike doing wheelies down Bear Canyon Road. We were amazed at how quiet the e-bikes are. We pulled up chairs and relaxed together for cold drinks, leftover Poker Ride cookies, and a recap of the day before heading for home.

Thanks for a great day on the trail with a cool breeze and great companions to ride with. — Dan Porter



*Chimaphila umbellata*, the umbellate wintergreen, pipsissewa, or prince's pine, is a small perennial flowering plant found in dry woodlands, or sandy soils. It is native throughout the cool temperate Northern Hemisphere.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chimaphila\\_umbellata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chimaphila_umbellata)





## SPANISH LAKES — JULY 26

Eight members of GVBCH met at Spanish Creek with plans to clear trail to the Spanish Lakes in preparation for the pack-in of Forest Service gear on Monday. I picked up Marianne and Clint, Eugenia brought new member Jessica, Mark and his son Chase arrived, and Tom Lamb hauled all the way from Sedan, for a great crew of eight. The car parking lot was nearly full and a number of equestrian sites were also being used by their intended users. Our rigs basically filled the trailer parking. After a quick discussion about safety, we were in the saddle by 9:45, packing 2 crosscut, 2 silkys and 2 pruners in our new scabbards. No pack horse was needed. We stopped at the campsite between the forks at 11:30 for a quick break and decided to eat lunch early since this is a great place to park horses away from the trail. Multiple groups passed during this time including foot and equestrian. One member returned home at this point, having a prior commitment. Proceeding on, we worked our way up the 411 trail toward the lake, encountering foot traffic and at one point hikers accompanied by 3 or 4 pack llamas. They agreed to leave the trail and skirt around us, so we avoided any interruption in our mission. We encountered a number of deadfall but arrived safely via the steep and extremely rocky trail at the lake around 2pm. We parked horses again at an established campsite away from the trail. Many years ago Tom and Jean Griffith packed in a full camp to this site, complete with bacon and eggs for our overnight GVBCH trail maintenance weekend.

All members walked the short distance up to the lake, admiring the high elevation wildflowers including Pink Mountain Heather, Trappers Tea, Marsh Marigold, Fireweed, and the elusive Pink Elephant head. (photos included). Fish were rising everywhere on the lake and we surmised that they were feeding on mosquitoes, which were thick in the air and attempting to feed on us!

Returning we cleared several more logs and leaners that were impacting forward progress for a total of nine in all. I walked my horse down from the lake and cleared saplings and brush using the new pruners for about 5 miles. Several large leaners were bypassed as requiring professional treatment. One horse threw a shoe which meant its owner was afoot also. The two of us arrived back at the trailhead approximately one hour later than the other 5 and were appreciative that they had waited for us.

It was a long day and a hard pull for our equestrian accomplices, but we accomplished our goal, had a great day on the trail with friends, and returned home knowing it was a job well done.

Thank you, crew members! Happy Trails until we meet again...at the Parade? —*Dan Porter*



Pink Elephant head

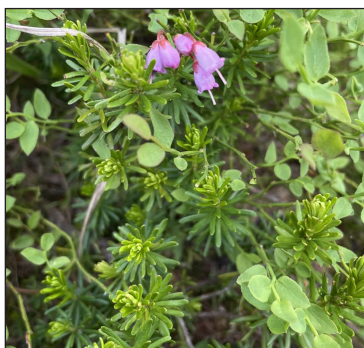


Marsh Marigold

Trappers Tea



Pink Mountain Heather



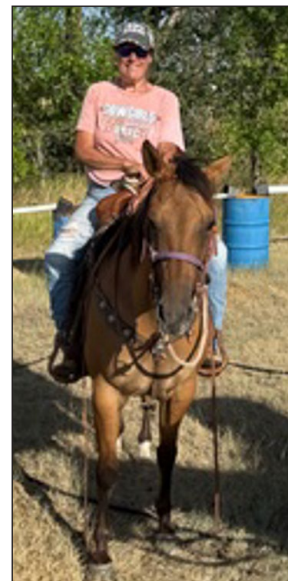
Fireweed





## SWEET PEA PARADE TRAINING — JULY 27

Janice Cartwright offered parade training on July 27 and July 28 for the Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen. We will be riding in the sweet Pea Parade on August 2nd on Main Street.





## SPANISH LAKES — JULY 28

Dan Marsh, Rick Ramler and Lew Goodpasture met an 8-member crew from USFS at Spanish Creek Trailhead. The crew had a week-long project near Spanish Lakes repairing, re-routing, and making new trails. The trails there are mostly rock, so it requires some heavy tools, i.e. hammers, picks, Pulaski's, demolition bars (spud bars), shovels, combis. They unloaded tools, their personal gear, tents and food. It totaled about 500 lbs. We got busy and loaded it all onto Rick's two mules, Lew's mule and Dan's packhorse and headed up the trail. The crew had gone ahead of us by about 45 minutes. Most of them beat us to the lake. That trail is very rocky from the South Fork Creek crossing and for the last 3 miles it's rocky and steep. These crew members are TOUGH! It's right at 8 miles to the lakes and they walked it almost as fast as the horses and mules, with backpacks! Now they have a week of hiking down the trail up to 2 miles every day, carrying and swinging those heavy tools in, sometimes, very hot and/or very wet weather, and eating light meals. I will say they are working in some of the most beautiful countryside on the planet. No doubt that helps. We can't thank them enough.

—Lew Goodpasture

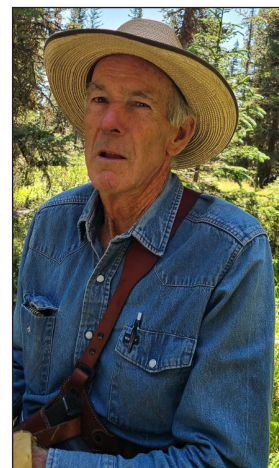




## TAYLOR FORK — JULY 30

Four members of GVBCH met at Taylor Fork Trailhead in the Taylor Hilgard Forest. Evan and Clint Schwalm, Lew Goodpasture and Dan Marsh took to the Tumbledown Trail, leaving the TH about 9:30am. The first 4 miles were not in the wilderness, so we made good use of the Stihl battery powered chainsaw. We were happy to use it too, encountering several 18"+ trees across the trail. We cleared 35 trees through that stretch with most requiring 2 - 5 cuts. Once in the wilderness we switched to the hand saws and cleared another 7 trees. We arrived at the lake in Tumble Basin around 2:30. We were all in awe at the spectacular peaks surrounding the basin. Another interesting sight was that the water draining from the lake ran about 200' and then disappeared into holes in the rock structures. We turned back at that point, arriving back at the TH about 4:15. Thanks to the volunteers for a good day's work. — Lew

**On another topic, a small crew went out to Twin Cabins and did some clearing but they had a Silky Saw fall out of its scabbard so if anyone out there has come across a Silky Saw in that area please reach out to us.**





**GVVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS  
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2024 POKER RIDE**

Backcountry Medical Supplies LLC  
Bar 3 BBQ  
Bridger Bowl  
Cafe M  
Big Sky Mohair Cinches  
Carter's Boot & Repairs  
Dreamers & Schemers  
Four Corners Saddlery  
Ingram Quarter Horses/Spur Cross Ranch  
Kennetrek Boots  
Madison River Propane  
Montana Canvas  
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Rowan Coffee  
Sawdust and Steel  
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Spur Cross Ranch/Ingram Quarterhorses  
Tactic Montana  
TLC Services  
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Stacie Boswell  
Karen Cox  
Janice Cartwright  
Esther Fishbaugh  
Elizabeth Heppler  
Rich Inman  
Dan Marsh  
John Mutter  
DC Stark



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