

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
pbrantr@gmail.com

BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 581-3160
webmaster@bchmt.org
<https://gvbch.bchmt.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : TBD

Lew Goodpasture, 575-639-9091

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW : TBD

Dan Porter, 539-0879

BOARD MEETING : OCTOBER 16, 6:30 PM

First Security Bank

GENERAL MEETING : OCTOBER 16, 7:00 PM

First Security Bank

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Fellow Members,

Fall has arrived, and with it some of the best riding weather of the year. September was full for our chapter — from the Spanish Creek BBQ and picnic to steady trail work and three successful Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness trips. Events like these remind me how strong our chapter is when we come together. Thanks to all who participated. Special thanks as well to Chris Nygren for hiking with the Gallatin Forest Partnership and our legislative staffers in support of the Greater Yellowstone Conservation and Recreation Act.

We're also entering election season for our club. At the October board meeting, a nominating committee will be appointed to prepare a slate of candidates for 2026 officers and directors. Elections will be held at the December meeting. We can especially use new directors — it's a great opportunity to learn more about the club and get involved.

Convention planning remains front and center as we prepare to host the 2026 BCHMT State Convention in Bozeman on March 27–29, 2026. Thank you to all who have already volunteered — there will be many opportunities this fall and winter to contribute, whether it's helping with programming, logistics, or outreach.

I look forward to seeing you at our October meeting at First Security Bank on Thursday, October 16 — Board at 6:30 PM, General at 7:00 PM. We also have a great program lined up, and I want to thank Janice for her work scheduling these programs throughout the year.

See you on the trail, Sid Boswell, PRESIDENT, GVBCH



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 18**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 18**

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

CALLED TO ORDER BY SID BOSWELL.

MINUTES OF AUGUST 2025 MEETING

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Elizabeth reported the chapter's savings and checking, two CDs that are accruing interest, and some miscellaneous income and expenses incurred since the last report. Chris moved to approve the report; Laurie seconded; the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Board member status: Sid reported that Bob Criswell remains in the hospital and that calls to him would be appreciated.

TRAIL CREW

Lew will lead a group at Sage Creek on Wednesday, Sept 24; Dan P. continues to lead Saturday groups.

WILDERNESS TRIPS

The Slough Creek trip (final trip of the year) went well with significant cleaning and rehab completed on the cabin.

BBQ

The fall BBQ at Spanish Creek went well. Several people had good rides that day, the evening BBQ was attended by 23 people.

LEGISLATIVE GROUP

Chris reported on the hike with Montana congressional staffers last month. The group included 5 staff members and 7 people representing various groups supporting the Greater Yellowstone Conservation and Recreation Act.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating committee: The Committee will be set up next month and will need to present a slate of officers and four directors.

ADJOURNMENT

Henry moved to adjourn; Laurie seconded; the meeting was adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

PROGRAM

Jackie Stewart, the person who started the mounted patrol unit for the Sheriff's Department, presented a program about "equine air scenting" for use in rescue situations.

CALL TO ORDER BY SID BOSWELL.

MINUTES OF AUGUST 2025 MEETING

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Elizabeth reported the chapter's savings and checking, two CDs that are accruing interest, and some miscellaneous income and expenses incurred since the last report. Janice moved to approve the report; Denise Stark seconded; the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

BCHMT Annual meeting: Molly discussed planning for the state convention on March 27-29, 2026. She is working on speakers and has confirmed several vendors. The theme will now be "Historic trails and campfire tales".

Trail Crew: Lew will lead a group at Sage Creek on Wednesday, Sept 24; Dan P. continues to lead Saturday groups.

Wilderness trips: All three trips went well. The recent Slough Creek trip resulted with significant cleaning and rehab completed on the cabin. The November program will consist of a slide show memorializing the trips.

Legislative group: Chris reported on the hike with Montana congressional staffers last month.

Volunteer hours: Dan Marsh needs to receive everyone's hours by the end of the month. He also needs to receive mileage reimbursement forms.

Programs: The October program will provide info on hemp products (supplements and bedding); The November program will be a wilderness trip slideshow. The Christmas party is set for December 13 at Eagle Mount.

ADJOURNMENT

Janice made a motion to adjourn; Molly seconded; the meeting adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke



LIGHTNING LAKE — AUGUST 18

Curt Settergren, packing tools along with Euginia Razzano, Clint Schwalm, and Tim Butler cleared to Lightning Lake in Taylor Fork. They made a 12-mile round trip and cleared out about a dozen trees. We had gone in earlier and cleared the trail to Tumbledown and Bill Bennet of the Gardiner District had requested we also clear to Lightning Lake. The folks trailer pooled with Euginia hauling in 174 miles round trip, so the other folks only needed to get to the Jump on Hwy 191.



I hauled the GVBCH trailer up to the Spanish Creek cabin for the annual overnight event. Carmen rode along and helped with the gate and unhitching.

On Saturday, Carmen, Marianne and I carpooled to Spanish Creek planning to meet Lew for a pack in of additional water dams on the 401 trail. In the general parking lot I met and talked with the 5 man crew from Wild Montana. They hiked in the 401 as planned to install some of the water dams that we had previously packed in. New members Mark and Lori had arrived Friday and were camped at the cabin. With all six of our members working together we loaded two mules and headed up the 401 where we dropped off the loads about 1.75 miles from the trailhead. We rode on a short distance before stopping for a quick lunch and then traveled another mile or so before returning to the Spanish Creek cabin. On the way up and back we passed the Wild Montana crew. They had installed 8 water bars and were still working on clearing brush, removing berms, clearing water bars of sediment and resetting the water dam located at the FS boundary. It had been installed much too high and was creating a "high step".

GVBCH members began arriving at the cabin around 4pm and by dinner time a group of approximately 20 were able to enjoy a nice dinner complete with barbecue , salads, appetizers and desserts.

I arrived home at about 8:30 pm and loaded my truck for the Sunday trail project at Deer Creek. Sunday morning I met Maire Oneill at Murdochs/Four Corners and we arrived at the Deer Creek trailhead with 18 fence rails, ten posts, gas generator, extension cord, 3 spud bars, two post hole diggers, a sickle, a sledge hammer, 3 claw hammers, chain saw, silky saw, two cross cuts, 2 boxes of lag screws, two battery powered drivers, 3 sets of gloves , 2 shovels, 2 Mcleods, two "Please don't cut the trail" signs, and a ton of other items I thought we might need to get the job done. A second Wild Montana crew of 9 arrived as Maire and I were just setting the first post. They had brought their own assortment of tools, hard hats, gloves, etc.

After introductions and a safety discussion by Dean Center we split in to 3 groups and went to work. One group headed up the trail to carry back logs and brush for covering up the short cut. A second group went to work with sickles and hoes to uncover and reestablish the switch back, and Maire and I with several Wild Montana volunteers went to work digging post holes for the new fencing. This proved to be the most difficult part of the project as we encountered many rocks of which some were 100+ pounders that had no desire to move from their current resting places. The other two groups soon had their portions of the project completed and joined us in the excavation of nine holes. The rails went on easily using my battery powered driver and the project was completed by 2:30 pm.

On our return, we drove in to Spanish Creek to retrieve the GVBCH trailer that was still at the cabin. The new tenants had arrived by then but greeted us in hopes that we might have extra mantles for their lantern.

So ended a productive and fun weekend , with more trail maintenance accomplished on the 401 Cherry Creek Trail and the re-establishment of the switchback at Deer Creek making that trail just a little more horse friendly.

Thank you everyone that participated in the trail work as well as showing up for the annual get together with delicious barbecue and potluck side dishes. —*Dan Porter*

New ride for Chris



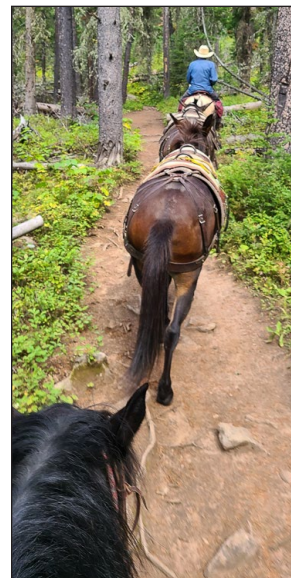
BBQ — SEPTEMBER 6

GVBCHers gather for dinner and fellowship at the Spanish Creek cabin this past weekend...including one "uninvited guest" whose identity was in question. I researched "It" today. It turns out this is known as a "White Spotted Sawyer", Spruce Sawyer or Spruce Bug. It is a native common wood boring beetle found throughout North America. —*Dan Porter*



BLACKMORE TO ELEPHANT HEAD SADDLE PACK IN — SEPTEMBER 8

Dan Marsh with one pack horse and Curt Settergren with two mules packed in a Forest Service Crew of three to work on the Blackmore trail near the Elephant Mountain saddle. Curt had come from Billings, so he had 218 miles of driving to get to the trailhead. None of us, including the Forest Service, had been to where we were going so it took a while to get our bearings, but we made it into the camp site about 4 miles in and 2450 feet up. It was one rocky trail that was an elevation gain with every step. We packed in a set of hard panniers with 65 pounds on a side and one set of food boxes each with 65 pounds, with the help of some sledgehammers along with a set of soft panniers at around 50 pounds each. We met a lot of folks on the trail that were walking and biking and one gal that ran the whole way up past where we stopped and back. That impressed the heck out of me! Once again, I forgot to take pictures until we were sitting down to lunch. —*Dan Marsh*



BLACKMORE TO ELEPHANT HEAD SADDLE PACK OUT — SEPTEMBER 11

Dan Marsh, with one pack horse and Curt Settergren, with two mules packed out the 3 person Forest Service crew that had been in since Monday working on the switchbacks in the Elephant Head saddle. The weight going out was just a few pounds of food lighter than going in. There was a tree down a little way from their camp that people have been going around for a while, so we stopped on the way back for them to clear out the tree and put brush on the rerouted trail to keep people from using it. We got to the camp a lot quicker than last time mostly because we came in empty, so we required fewer stops to give the horses a breather. We left at 9:50 and got to the camp around 11:15. Since we were early the crew was still up working on the trail so we weighed up what we could and had lunch. The crew showed up around Noon and after loading a few more items we were out of there by 12:15. This is the Bozeman District Forest Service Crew's last hitch of the year, and we are grateful for what they have been able to accomplish this year, and we are looking forward to them coming back next year. Curt once again had to head back to Billings after a brief stop to see his daughter. My pack horse lost a front shoe but Issac, one of the crew found it and handed it to me, so Diego is going to slap it back on Monday. — *Dan Marsh*



SPANISH CREEK — SEPTEMBER 13

Mark DeOpsomer and I traveled to Spanish Creek on a partly sunny and cool day. Tacking up in an empty parking lot we were joined by equestrians Ryan and Sid from Belgrade. They planned to ride up the 407 to Pioneer Falls. They saw our GVBCH Trail Maintenance sign and thanked us for what we do. They also said they enjoy doing trail work to which I gave them a card with our website and invited them to attend our meetings and join us.

Mark and I headed up the 401 with Stihl, Silky, one lopper and one combi to repair one of the many sections of tread in need. We rode passed the 12 treated dams waiting to be installed. At just past the 3.1 mile mark we parked the horses and spent about 4 hours cutting and installing new water bars and dams to replace failed ones or add new ones where needed. The Stihl made cutting new logs a cinch but installing them using the combi was all work. We were glad we had only one combi between the two of us and we took turns operating it in short bursts of energy. On our return trip we stopped to cut and remove limbs and deadfall that had previously been cut but were left still encroaching in to the 8' wide trail specification for equestrian trails.

All in all it was a productive day for the two of us with just enough precipitation to encourage deployment of our rain gear. Thank you, Mark for another great day maintaining our trails. —*Dan Porter*

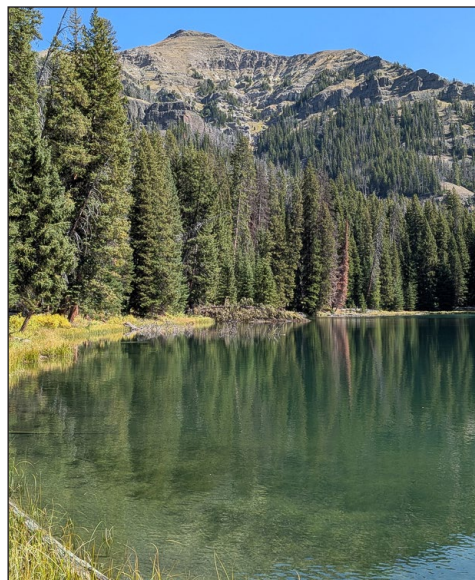


RAMSHORN LAKE — SEPTEMBER 20

The Saturday Trail crew consisting of Carmen and myself rode in to Ramshorn Lake via the Buffalo horn trail. It was a clear Fall day with cool temps in the morning that made the sun feel great as we crossed through meadows of gold, purple, red, and orange. We cleared only two deadfall along the entire route, traversed a number of minor water puddles, and appreciated the newly rebuilt or repaired bridges at several crossings. It was noted that the trail sign post at the junction of the Ramshorn Lake Trail and Buffalo Horn Trail had recently given in to some outside force and is now reclining in the grasses and wildflowers below. We met only two other riders who had stopped at and made use of the Ramshorn corrals. When informed that GVBCH had built the corrals they asked when we would do something about the mud puddles and if we do any work in the Tobacco Roots!!

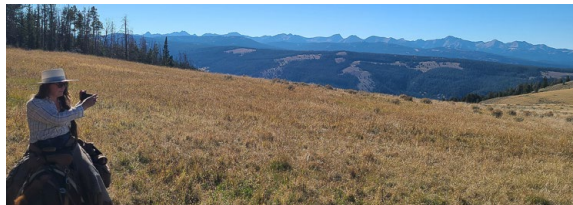
We parked our mounts closer to, but back some distance from the lake, to avoid damaging the resource, ate a relaxing lunch, and then returned to the trail head, noting goats on the Fortress as we passed back by the corrals.

It was a wonderful Fall day to be riding. —*Dan Porter*



SAGE CREEK TO MONUMENT MOUNTAIN — SEPTEMBER 24

The Wednesday crew, consisting of Dan Marsh with a pack horse, Mark DeOpsomer, Dan Porter, Tim Butler, and Eugenia Razzano, met at the Sage Creek trailhead to clear to Monument Mountain. We were all ready to go around 9:00 until my horse lost his shoe getting in the horse trailer. Lucky for us Tim was able to tack the shoe back on and we got started on the trail at 10:00AM. Tim also led a horse to get it some exercise. We had a general idea where we were going but nobody in the group had been there before. We talked to some ranch wranglers a couple of miles in, and they showed us where to go through the ranch gate to get to the trail. We saw deer and a red fox along the way. In all, we took out a bunch of leaners and cut out where folks have been going around creating new trails taking out 21 trees with about half the trail in the Wilderness. When we got to Monument Meadow it was 3:00PM and we needed to clear one last snarl where folks had been making a new trail, and we finished at 3:30PM and headed for home. If you haven't been up there the views are fantastic from Monument Meadow! We got back in about 6.5 miles, and we made it back to the trailers before 6PM. Our average speed out was 3.4MPH. All in all, it was a beautiful fall day and no bugs right up until we got back and the small black flies attacked all of our horses' feet and legs. — *Dan*



UPPER GALLATIN FALL RIDING — SEPTEMBER 27

Four GVBCH members met on a Saturday morning to ride and clear the pack trail that starts from Highway 191 south of Big Sky at 7,203'abs. It follows the upper Gallatin River for ten miles before ascending to Bighorn Pass (8,868'abs) in the next mile. The trail then continues on, following Panther Creek to Indian Creek and eventually Obsidian Creek in Yellowstone. Mark, Carmen, Eugenia and I cleared only 8 deadfall of which several were black from a previous forest fire. Eagles, Redtails, Stellars Jays, an American Kestrel and a number of smaller birds were observed as well as two solitary mountain goats. A bull elk bugled several times as we were returning near the trailhead. Men, women, horses and a mule had a great ride but were glad to be at the trailhead as the sun left the sky to be replaced by the quarter moon. — *Dan Porter*



Photos by Eugenia



**GVBCB IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2025 POKER RIDE**

Carter's Boots
City Brew (Cattail St)
Double Diamond
Four Corners Saddlery
Kenetrek Boots
Madison River Propane
Montana Canvas
Montana Horse Sense
Montana Silversmiths

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