

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.

2026 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

Laurie Connelly ... 579-2859
Lew Goodpasture ... 575-639-9091
Devon Kerley ... 704-562-5021

ONE YEAR TERM

Chris Day ... 580-3005
Maddie Mason ... 540-940-4890
DC Stark ... 307-690-9905

STATE BOARD DIRECTORS

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

PARADE PRACTICE TUNE UP : JULY 29 OR AUGUST 2

FS PACK-OUT FROM MIRROR LAKE : AUGUST 3

Spanish Creek Campground

AB WILDERNESS HELLROARING CABIN : AUGUST 3-8

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : AUGUST 5, 12, 19, 26

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW : AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

SWEET PEA PARADE : AUGUST 8

Downtown Bozeman

PACK IN THOMPSON LAKE AT MILL CREEK : AUGUST 11

BOARD MEETING : AUGUST 20, 6:30 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

GENERAL MEETING : AUGUST 20, 7:00

1655 Harper Puckett Road

SLOUGH CREEK : AUGUST 17

AB WILDERNESS BUFFALO FORK CABIN : AUGUST 17-22

PACK OUT THOMPSON LAKE : AUGUST 18

PACK IN BLACKMORE : AUGUST 24

PACK OUT BLACKMORE : AUGUST 28

GVBCH BBQ : AUGUST 29

Spanish Creek Cabin

BLM/MADISON CONSERVATION DISTRICT AXOLOTL
LAKES TOUR : AUGUST 29

Contact Kristen Ulery if you plan to attend
406-490-9044 kulery@blm.gov



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The Poker Ride is behind us and it was a hot one. We had 143 riders at Bridger Bowl on July 11, plenty of positive feedback, and no major complaints. The trail was well received, we had no significant issues with cyclists on the trails, and the mounting blocks were a hit. Thank you to Laurie and Devon for leading this effort, to Henry Glenn for running trail clearing, to Janice for the flagging, and to everyone who turned out for flagging, setup, and ride day itself. An event this size only works because so many of you show up.

A special thank you to Henry and Molly for putting on lunch. As usual, the BBQ chicken was a hit.

Thank you as well to the businesses and individuals who donated door prizes and silent auction items. We will be sending our thanks directly, but it deserves saying here too.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We had planned to present a \$1,000 donation to a local equine nonprofit at the ride and did not get it done that day, so we voted on it at the July general meeting. Nominees were Eagle Mount, Windhorse Equine Learning, Heroes and Horses, and the Sheriff's Posse for horse rescue equipment. The vote was unanimous for Windhorse Equine Learning. On top of that, a generous donor gave \$2,000 at the ride with the stipulation that half go to the nonprofit of choice and half to GVBCH, so Windhorse will receive \$2,000 total. That is a good outcome and a reflection of the generosity of this community.

Looking ahead, August is busy.

The Sweet Pea Parade is Saturday, August 8. This year's theme is America 250. We need a minimum of 10 riders to participate, so we need commitments. Wear blue jeans and white shirts. Janice will host practice sessions at her place for anyone interested. If you plan to ride, contact either Janice and Mark DeOpsomer.

Dan Marsh has packing opportunities with the Forest Service. Thompson Lake at Mill Creek is a pack in on August 11 and pack out on August 18. Blackmore is a pack in on August 24 and pack out on August 28. Contact Dan if you want to get in on any of these.

Wilderness trips are underway. The August 3 trip to Hellroaring has eight people going, bring work gloves and your own water bottles. The August 17 trip to Buffalo Fork has seven signed up. Contact Henry for details on either.

Our August meeting is Thursday, August 20 at Janice's place, 1655 Harper Puckett Road. Board meeting at 6:30pm, general meeting at 7:00pm. The club BBQ is Saturday, August 29. We are shooting for Spanish Creek and will follow up once we have the permit in hand.

One more to put on your calendar. Erin Lyons shared details on a ranch ride at Liz and David Richards' Reese Creek Cattle Company on Saturday, September 19. It is roughly seven miles through grain fields, open pasture, water crossings, and aspen groves, open to English and Western riders alike, with a jump course for those interested. Registration opens at 8:30 with ride out times from 9:00 to 11:00. Proceeds go to a local equine nonprofit. Registration will be available online beforehand. Contact Erin at erinns@gmail.com or 415-994-4202 with questions.

Finally, we still have some remaining sizes of both vests and T-shirts for sale. Contact me if you would like one. See you August 20.

—Sid Boswell, President, GVBCH

Kayla brought Domino over for her safety check.
They are ready.



BOARD MEETING MINUTES**JULY 16****GENERAL MEETING MINUTES****JULY 16**

Roll Call: Sid Boswell, Henry Glenn, Elizabeth Hepler, Chris Day, Laurie Connelly, Lew Goodpasture, DC Stark, Maddie Mason, DC Stark, Dan Marsh

CALL TO ORDER by Sid Boswell.

MINUTES OF JUNE 2026 MEETING

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

TREASURERS REPORT

Elizabeth reported the chapter's savings and checking accounts, and two CD's accruing interest. She also reported on the Poker Ride results. Chris D. moved to approve the report; DC seconded; the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Laurie reported on the Poker Ride. It went very well with 143 riders. Sid recommended that we send thank you notes for the donations. There were no major complaints with lots of positive feedback. The tee shirt sales were popular. There were several requests for digital maps for the routes.

The \$1000 donation for an equine non-profit was not presented at the Poker Ride, so we will have a vote with the members at the general meeting to decide who will receive the donation.

Evaluation valuation forms were handed out at the Poker Ride. The results were discussed. The majority of the forms contained positive feedback. Everyone liked the mounting blocks.

NEW BUSINESS

A canopy was damaged by the wind at the Poker Ride. It was suggested that we purchase a sturdy canopy for the club. Sid will look into options.

We would like to participate in the Sweet Pea Parade on August 8. We will need a head count for interested riders.

Erin Lyons discussed a fall fun ride hosted by Liz Richards of Reese Creek on September 19th on their ranch. Proceeds will be donated to a local equine charity.

Adjournment: Henry made a motion to adjourn; DC seconded; the meeting adjourned.

—Submitted by Chris Day

PROGRAM : Tonight we had an ice cream social.

CALL TO ORDER by Sid Boswell.

MINUTES OF MAY 2026 MEETING

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

TREASURERS REPORT

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

OLD BUSINESS

Poker Ride : The \$1000 donation to a local horse non profit did not happen at the Poker Ride. We will vote at the general meeting tonight on who will receive it. The nominated charities are Eagle Mount, Windhorse Equine Learning, Heroes and Horses, and the Sheriffs Posse for horse rescue equipment. In addition, someone generously donated \$2000 at the Poker Ride, stipulating that half will go to the the non- profit and the other half to GVBCH. The vote was unanimous to donate to Windhorse Equine Learning.

Comments on the Poker Ride included that the flagging was very good and there were no issues with bike riders.

Wilderness Trips : Henry discussed the August 3rd trip to Hellroaring. 8 people are going. Bring work gloves and your own water bottles. The August 17th trip to Buffalo Fork has seven people signed up so far. Contact Henry for more details.

NEW BUSINESS

The Sweet Pea Parade will be on August 8th. The theme this year is "America 250". We need a minimum of 10 riders. Wear Blue Jeans and White shirts. Janice will host practice sessions at her place if anyone is interested. Contact Janice AND Mark if you plan to participate.

We still have vests and tee shirts for sale. Contact Sid if you would like one.

Erin Lyons shared information on a Ranch ride on September 19th at Liz and David Richard's ranch at Reese Creek. The ride will be about 7 miles on their large ranch. It will be for both English and Western riders. Any proceeds will go to a local horse non-profit.

The August 20 meeting will be held at Janice's place. The club BBQ will be on August 29th.

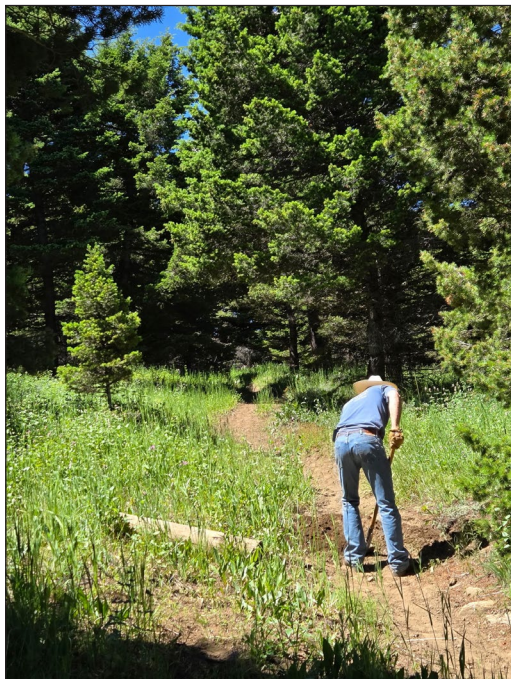
Janice made a motion to adjourn; Erin seconded; the meeting adjourned.

—Submitted by Chris Day

TRAIL 401
JULY 4

Three GVBCH members celebrated Independence Day by riding in on the 401 to install the water dams that had been previously packed in. Clint, Marianne, and myself left the trailhead around 10 am. Leaving behind a crowded parking and camping ground we immediately had the trail to ourselves. It was noted that Hoary Allyson continues to multiply and move farther up the trail displacing our native wild flowers. A report at the trailhead of two bears sighted along the paved road on the Turner Ranch caused us to watch as we led two pack horses up the first pitch. The sun was higher by then and the temperature already moving up so we didn't see any bears. We parked horses well off the trail at the first group of 4 water dams, expecting other trail users to pass by. Clint and Marianne went to work with the combines and in short order four new water dams were installed. We took our lunch break at 11:45 and then headed farther up the trail to the drop off point for the remaining 8 water dams. Many of the "old" water dams installed cooperatively by BCH and bike club members a number of years ago had rotted and were in various stages of disrepair. They had helped to protect the trail for many years. The new treated dams we were installing would now continue to save the tread, reduce erosion, and preserve the trail for many years to come. Clint and Marianne tackled the remaining dams and we were finished by 1:30. At that point we decided to get in a few more miles of riding so we proceeded on to the 409 JCT, took a short break, and returned to the trailhead at approximately 5pm. We had seen only one other trail user on the 401 the entire day, a single person backpacking in.

Thank you, Clint for providing the manpower needed to install all 12 water dams, and thank you Marianne for always being ready to jump in and work to maintain our trails on our public lands. —*Dan Porter*



MTN NEWS & POKER RIDE TRAIL CLEARING
JULY 8



<https://www.kbzk.com/news/annual-poker-ride-helps-gallatin-valley-back-country-horsemen-keep-remote-trails-open>



38TH POKER RIDE
JULY 11



TWIN CABIN TH-ELKHORN-RED CLIFF CAMPGROUND

JULY 15

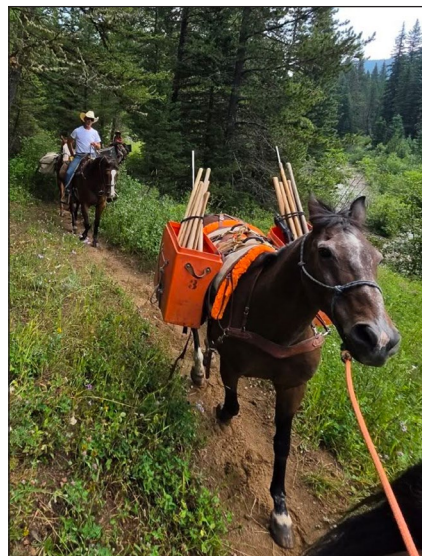
A small but mighty crew headed out of the Twin Cabin trailhead for an 11.2 mile clearing to Elkhorn ending at the Red Cliff campground. The crew consisted of Dan Marsh, along with Kevin Voller, all the way from Wilsall and Tim Butler. Dan had his pack animal Big with 120 pounds of tools an electric chainsaw and a gas chainsaw. We started at 9:30AM after dropping off Dan's rig at the Red Cliff campground to bring everyone back to Twin Cabin. The sky was overcast and we ran into rain about midway. We cut out a total of 55 trees with most of them being multiple cuts and lots of limbing. We stopped around 1PM to have a short lunch before turning toward the Elkhorn trail. We had already cut over 20 trees and expected we might run into a few more before the end of the day! The Elkhorn trail had a downed tree waiting for us about every 100 yards or so. The rain stopped and the clouds thinned out making for a hot and muggy ride back to the trailers. The steep bank portion just before the trailhead had quite a few trees down that were not passable on the steep slope. We got back around 5:30PM had a cool beverage and headed back to Twin Cabin. We saw a bunch of Moose tracks and signs of bear activity and a number of mule deer bucks in velvet along the path. We were too busy cutting trees to get any pictures of removing the trees so all we have is us riding. We even managed to use a combie and shovel to fill in a hole left by a large root ball where a tree tipped over in the trail.



MIRROR LAKE

JULY 27

We packed in a Forest Service crew to Mirror Lake. The packing crew consisted of Dan Marsh with one pack horse, Lew Goodpasture with a pack mule, Kevin Voller with two pack animals, and Lori Stavropoulos with 2 pack animals. Lori texted me that she had a blowout on her trailer on the way in but she managed to still get there by 8:30AM! They needed a lot of tools for this trip and it was heavier than we could fit in 1 set of hard panniers. We broke down the pick axes and put them in soft panniers along with other gear that would fit. They had 2 food boxes with about 65 pounds per side and we packed as much of their personal gear in the rest of the soft panniers. We had pleasant weather and the FS crew arrived right behind us which was amazing considering the steep climb to the lake. The lake was around 6 miles in, and we averaged 3.4 mph round trip with about 2300 feet elevation gain. Every time I take that trip it seems to get steeper and rockier than the last time! We had a little excitement on the way up when the hard pannier box had a screw work its way out and dropped down with one hook holding it on the saddle, but the horse didn't panic and we got it put back together in short order and headed up. We covered some ground on the way back and arrived at the trailhead by 4PM. We had to bob and weave between the Bison on the way out and we spotted a lone wolf on the side hill. I want to thank our new packers Kevin and Lori (That is new to me not to packing!) for their great job on Monday coming all the way from Wilsall.



DESENSITIZATION TO OBSTACLES

JULY 29

Great evening ride just before a rainstorm rolled in. Thank you Janice R. Cartwright for setting up the desensitization obstacles. Sid's horse Queue really understood the assignment! —*Stacie Green Boswell*



<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1042071464855340>

PORCUPINE CREEK TH — ONION BASIN

JULY 30

We had our typical Wednesday trail clearing today and we got quite a bit done. We, being Tim Butler, Clint Schwalm, Evan Schwalm and Lew Goodpasture. We met at the Porcupine Creek TH at 9 am, and riding fast by 9:30. Clint and Evan, on their gaited ponies set a smokin hot 4 mph pace on our way up Porcupine Crk Trail 34, arriving at the junction to Onion Basin at about 11 am, 6 miles in. The motorcycle-bicycle groups had cleared the trail from the TH on past where Trail 34 turns left and into Onion Basin. Lew and Evan, each armed with battery powered chainsaws, cut our way almost 3 miles farther. Clint and Tim provided much needed advice and muscle to get the job done. We counted 38 trees cleared, some being large and requiring multiple cuts. We had great weather and not many bugs to fight so all in all it was a fabulous day. —*Lew*



**GVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2026 POKER RIDE**

Poker Hand Prizes:

Four Corners Saddlery
Rocky Mountain Hat Co.
Montana Canvas
Murdoch's Ranch and Home

Silent Auction Items:

Rikki's Furniture Gallery
Tactic
Janice Cartwright Montana Horse Sense
Bonnie Hammer
Dan Marsh & Alice Pilgeram
Dan Porter & The Hager Family
Taylor Equine Massage
James Erickson
And all 34 member volunteers!!



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