

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  
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**

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**BCH WEB MASTER**

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

BOARD & GENERAL MEETINGS AT 1655 HARPER PUCKETT ROAD

FIRST AID/CPR TRAINING FOR SAWYERS : JUNE 2, 5:00-8:00 PM

Bozeman Ranger District 3710 Fallon St #C

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : JUNE 3, 10, 17, 24

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW : JUNE 13, 20, 27

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY : JUNE 6

MULE DAYS : JUNE 12 - JUNE 15

Hamilton

ENDURANCE RIDE : JUNE 14-15

BCHMT RENDEZVOUS : JUNE 18-21

BOARD MEETING : June 18, 6:00

1655 Harper Puckett Road

ICE CREAM SOCIAL : June 18, 6:30 PM

GENERAL MEETING : June 18, 7:00 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

BCHMT RENDEZVOUS : JUNE 18- 21

Monture Ranger Station

PONY POKER RIDE: JUNE 20

Sitz Angus Ranch 37 Sitz Rd, Harrison

FS PACK-IN TO HELLROARING NORTH FORK JUNCTION : JUNE 22

Hellroaring Creek Trailhead

FS PACK-OUT FROM HELLROARING NORTH FORK JUNCTION : JUNE 25

Hellroaring Creek Trailhead

BIG SKY DRAFT HORSE SHOW : JUNE 26-28

LITTLE JO E-70 PARK : JUNE 26

POKER RIDE : JULY 11

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Summer is here, and it shows. The trails are calling, the horses are ready, and GVBCH has plenty going on over the next few weeks.

Our May meeting featured a presentation from Gastro Gnome, a local maker of freeze dried trail meals who treated us to samples and genuine ice cream. We also had Kristen Ulery, recreation planner with BLM, share information about their partnership with the Montana Conservation Corps and a number of upcoming opportunities for public involvement. It was a good reminder of the strong relationships we have with our land management partners.

A few important dates coming up:

CPR training is Monday, June 2, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at the Bozeman District office. This training is required for sawyers (spell check kept changing this to lawyers...). And recommended for everyone. The skills you learn are useful well beyond your time on the trail.

National Trails Day is Saturday, June 6, and we will be doing our part. GVBCH is hosting a work day at the Sage Creek trailhead corrals, replacing worn rails, clearing manure, and tightening up gates and posts. It is a good mix of skilled and unskilled work, so there is something for everyone. We will have food and we need an accurate headcount to plan for it. Please RSVP to Sid at [Sid@sidboswell.com](mailto:Sid@sidboswell.com) if you plan to attend.

The Eagle Mount Western Rendezvous is Saturday, June 13. Tickets are available at <https://e.givesmart.com/events/Ouj/>. Eagle Mount does tremendous work and this is a worthy event to support.

The BCHMT Rendezvous is June 18-21 at Monture Ranger station. The weekend includes a USFS fence-building volunteer opportunity, a horsemanship clinic with Wade Murphy on Friday, and a communal dinner on Saturday. Mail payment is due by June 5. For more information visit [bchmt.Org/wp/event/2026-bchmt-rendezvous/](http://bchmt.Org/wp/event/2026-bchmt-rendezvous/).

Trail crews are working most Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout the summer. Watch for announcements from your trail bosses, or reach out to them directly if you want to get out and contribute. Wednesday crews contact Lew Goodpasture, Saturday crews contact Dan Porter.

Our June, July, and August meetings will be held at Janice's property at 1655 Harper Puckett Road. In June, board meeting at 6:00pm, ice cream social at 6:30pm, and general meeting at 7:00pm. In July and August, board meeting at 6:00pm and general meeting at 6:30pm. Come and enjoy the summer evenings.

See you soon, *Sid Boswell*, President, GCBCH

Roll Call: Sid Boswell, Henry Glenn, Elizabeth Heppler, Kathy VanDyke, Chris Day, Lew Goodpasture, Devon Kerley, DC Stark, Dan Marsh, Chris Nygren

**CALLED TO ORDER BY SID BOSWELL.**

**MINUTES OF MARCH 2026 MEETING**

Chris N. moved to approve the minutes as written; Chris D. seconded; the motion passed. [Note: We did not hold a meeting in April thus no minutes to approve.]

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Elizabeth reported the chapter's savings and checking accounts, and two CDs accruing interest. She also presented an extensive convention financial report and noted that the chapter was "in the black" for the convention. Devon moved to approve the report; DC seconded; the motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

RAC Grant: Lew reported that all of the approved equipment has been purchased using RAC money.

Board Vacancy: The board currently has a vacancy which the constitution requires to be filled. Sid will raise the issue at the general meeting, and also has someone in mind who might be interested.

National Trails Day: The corrals at Sage Creek are in need of repairs and we decided that we'd use National Trails Day (June 6) for that purpose. Sid will find someone to do some recon regarding materials needed. As with last year's project, a dump trailer and tractor would be helpful.

Vests: We have a number of GVBCH vests from the convention and offer them for sale to members for \$100 each.

CPR training: The Forest Service will hold a training session on June 7 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Poker Ride: Devon confirmed that trail clearing will be on July 8. She asked about including a philanthropic aspect to the event by presenting a donation to a horse-related charity (e.g., Eagle Mount, Windhorse, etc.). The potential recipients will be discussed at the June meeting. Chris N. moved to provide \$1,000 for the charitable gift; DC seconded; the motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Constitution Committee: The chapter constitution has not been revised in many years. Some changes are necessary including adding the ability to vote electronically rather than solely in-person. The committee will consist of Sid, Chris N. and Kathy, and revisions will be presented to the membership for a vote before the end of the year.

Day of Service: Sid has been contacted by several entities interested in doing trail work as a "day of service." Sid will talk to the trail bosses for project ideas.

**ADJOURNMENT: CHRIS D. MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN; DC SECONDED; THE MEETING ADJOURNED. —Submitted by Kathy VanDyke**

Tonight's program was a presentation by Gastro Gnome, a local maker of freeze-dried trail meals. We were treated to samples and some good ice cream.

**SID BOSWELL CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.**

**MINUTES OF MARCH 2026 MEETING**

Janice moved to approve the minutes as written; Carmen seconded; the motion passed. [Note: We did not hold a meeting in April thus no minutes to approve.]

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Elizabeth reported the chapter's savings and checking accounts, and two CDs accruing interest. She also presented an extensive convention financial report and noted that the chapter was "in the black" for the convention. Janice moved to approve the report; Devon seconded; the motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

State board report: Chris N. and Dan reported as follows: The 2027 state convention will be in Billings on April 2-4; the 2028 meeting will be in the Hamilton area; the 2029 meeting will be in Polson on April 6-8. The 2026 BCHMT Rendezvous will be held at Monture Creek in June. State membership numbers are down with 308 memberships including 470 members.

State Convention report: Molly reported that evaluations from the convention were very positive. It was a successful event by all accounts.

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Board Vacancy: The board currently has a vacancy which the constitution requires to be filled. Please let Sid know if you are interested in serving.

BLM Report: Kristen Ulery, recreation planner with BLM, told us about their partnership with the Montana Conservation Corps, and discussed numerous upcoming events that will include public involvement.

Technical large animal rescue: Several members recently attended this training.

National Trails Day: We will be repairing the corrals at Sage Creek on June 6 (National Trails Day). As with last year's project, a dump trailer and tractor would be helpful.

Poker Ride: The ride is on July 11. Trail clearing will be on July 8; flagging, set-up and the potluck will be on July 10. There will be two routes available. Posters were available at the meeting. Devon also announced the horse-based charity donation that will be part of this year's event.

Hellroaring Wilderness trips: The June 22 and August 3 trips still have openings so talk to Henry if you're interested. The August 17 trip is full.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The June, July and August meetings will all be held at Janice's property.

**CPR TRAINING**

The Forest Service will hold a training session on June 7 from 5:00-8:00 p.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned.

*-Submitted by Kathy VanDyke*



New members, Breuklyn and Lua, passed their trail safety check with a few "tips" thrown in.

## HELLROARING

MAY 1

Clint and I cleared Hellroaring yesterday up to the junction (N Fork).

We got that big tree laying in the trail just past the 2nd bridge and cut another 11 trees up to the junction. Could have used a few other folks, Clint and I were starting to wear out up there. The N Fork was so low we could have kept riding/clearing that way, but it was 4pm, so we decided to turn back. Great day to be in the mountains.



## ASBESTOS CREEK TRAILHEAD

MAY 6

We rode up Asbestos Creek TH 4.5 miles and cut 24 trees today. Luckily, most of the big ones were not in the Wilderness! The crew was Clint, Sam and myself. Clint and I both had the new electric saws in the saddle panniers. They worked great and that gave me an extra horse for Sam to ride and help out. We rode up into the snow until we couldn't find the trail anymore. Beautiful day in the mountains. No complaints! —Mark



## TWIN CABIN TRAIL

MAY 13

We rode up Twin Cabin Trail, then turned right towards Elk Horn Ridge, then took the 2nd right turn to avoid that rocky uphill that goes to the top. We almost got to the top where this outfitter trail meets the main Twin Cabin trail at 4 miles, but decided to turn back because nobody wanted to go down that route. So we turned west towards the outfitter trail that starts about 1/4 from the TH and followed it down. Total trail cleared 8.0 miles. We cut 28 trees.

We still need to go back and ride the main Twin Cabin trail up and over to Elkhorn Creek and down to Red Cliffs ( our normal route). —Mark



## SPANISH CREEK TRAILHEAD

MAY 16

Eight GVBCH members and a guest met at the Spanish Creek Trailhead for a day of volunteer trail maintenance. There was one other horseman parked there when I arrived at 9am. "Justin" was heading up the 407 with his two mules and a bear tag in his pocket but no strong desire to shoot a bear. I held the lead rope to his pack mule while he mounted and gave him a GVBCH biz card. He has heard of BCH and may join us soon.

The day was cool and overcast with a winter storm advisory in the forecast. After a group discussion regarding safety on the trail and the forest service acronym OHLEC, we crossed the South Fork and headed up the 407 with Mark in the lead. Shortly thereafter, my new packhorse decided to entertain the group with several demonstrations of his bucking horse prowess. With no harm done and the tools still in their paniards we worked on up the 407, took the turn on to the 410 and passed Pioneer Falls. Up to this point it was noted that most of the water bars are in need of sediment removal and once on the bench, above encroaching aspen saplings were brushing at our stirrups. We proceeded on, clearing deadfall until noon when we stopped along the trail for a short lunch break. A hint of snow was in the air but the crew was bent on clearing more trail so we rode on until almost 3pm and cleared just over 6 miles of trail. At this point falling snow had become more persistent so the decision was made to head for home. Our trusty steeds agreed and we made good time returning as the snow increased with flakes like silver dollars and the temperature dropping fast. All were happy to reach the trailhead by 5pm...very cold and very wet.

Clint, Mark, and I were glad to have younger members jump in to tackle the 30 deadfall that we cleared along the way.

Thank you Eugenia, Dagny, Dean, Kenny, David and Sam. It was a great day to be helping to maintain our public lands. —DP

SPANISH CREEK TRAILHEAD  
MAY 17



## SPANISH CREEK TRAILHEAD

MAY 20

A group of seven members led by Mark DeOpsomer left the Spanish Creek parking lot around 10AM and headed up Trail # 407. Rick Ramler provided a pack horse along with Lew Goodpasture who packed his mule. The other members consisted of Clint and Evan Schwalm, Dan Marsh, and Euginia Razzano. A black bear was spotted by some of the members on the way in. The trail had been cleared to the Falls turnoff so we made good time to that point. There was still some snow and wet trails from the Saturday snow storm that went through the area. It didn't take long after the Falls turnoff to encounter downed trees. Since we were mostly in Wilderness, we packed a bunch of Crosscut saws and Silkies. In all we cut out 54 trees of varying size. We stopped around Noon for lunch and soon after Lew needed to be back at the trailhead by 1PM for an appointment. The rest of us kept going until around 3PM when it looked like the weather was going to turn and we were tired so we headed back. We got back to the trailers in short order shot the breeze with a few beverages and head back home around 5PM. It was a wonderfully cool day for doing crosscut work. —*Dan Marsh*



PHOTOS ON FOLLOWING PAGE

## SPANISH CREEK TRAILHEADS

MAY 23

The day dawned clear and cool with the promise of great things to happen on our trails. The Spanish Creek Road was in good condition, several thousand buffalo could be seen in the distance and a wolf sighting was reported. The view driving in of "the peaks" was nothing short of phenomenal. Thirteen riders, members and guests combined, arrived at the Spanish Creek Trailheads for a day of riding and trail clearing.

After a good discussion about safety on the trail including OHLEC it was decided that a portion of the crew would head up the 407 and ride towards the Spanish Lakes and Mirror Lake while a third group would clear trail up Little Hellroaring #400.

Lew and Mark led their crews up the 407. Their full reports will follow.

With 3 "OLD sheets" to the wind, Clint, Curt and I made for the #400 with hopes of reaching the "top", dragging two pack horses along with chainsaws, loppers, Silky KatanaBoys, and two of the dreaded combies. We were stopped at the only stream crossing on the trail, Little Hellroaring, within a rifle shot of the trailhead, by a large 24 "D deadfall that was completely blocking the crossing and 30 feet of trail beyond. It took nearly two hours for the 3 of us to remove that one tree. We took a "quick" lunch break at 11:45 and then proceeded on up the trail, our progress impeded frequently by lodgepole deadfall. The pack horses did great with only minor crow hopping when soft packs slipped to the side. At one location the lavender blooms of several Fairy Slippers were noted along the trail. By 2 pm we had killed our 4 batteries as well as running out of energy ourselves and our tally was 33 trees removed. We considered installing water dams at several locations in need of those structures but the trail home beckoned and we answered the call.

At the trailhead it was noted that several campsites close to the corrals were occupied by non-horse campers, including one that had their hammocks suspended from the corral posts between the gates! We waited for the other trail crews to return and together we enjoyed homemade treats by Carmen as well as a variety of refreshing drinks shared by members. All agreed that a memorial weekend trail crew day should be an annual event (overnighter maybe) with upgraded food and beverages provided by GVBCH. Elizabeth volunteered her hubby Aaron to be the chef.

Total preliminary count of trees cleared for the day was 73 with the old timer's crew taking home the honors. Youth and strength will never triumph over age and experience! Hmm...Maybe ?

Thank you all who came out to give back to our public land...Carmen, Eugenia, Shannon, Danielle, Elizabeth, Clint, Curt, Mark, Lew, Sam, Kevin(drove all the way from Wilsall), and Tim.

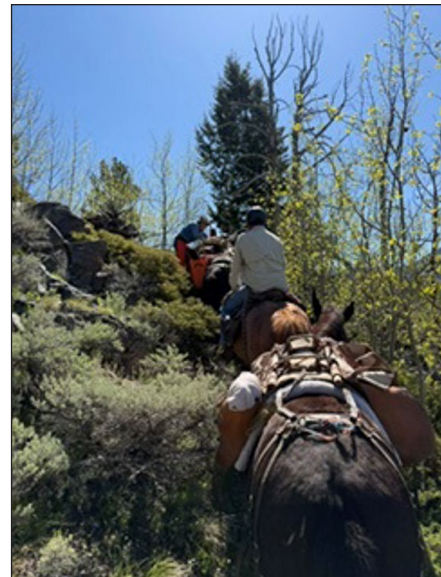


## TWIN CABIN & SPANISH CREEK TRAILHEADS

MAY 27

Eight volunteers worked clearing trails. Clint, Evan and Curt met at Twin Cabin TH and cleared 14 trees and had 5 miles of travel. The other 5 of the group, Eugenia, Dan, Rick, Mark and Lew met at Spanish Creek TH and travelled up TR 400 Little Hellroaring about 4.2 Miles. The first mile had been fully cleared by Dan P, Clint and Curt last week. This group cut/cleared 25 trees from the trail but were stopped by deep snow about 3/4 mile from the Indian Ridge Jct. On the way back down Mark and Lew walked about a mile and cut/cleared a lot of small trees, branches, and brush. It was a beautiful and enjoyable day. Thanks to all the volunteers for coming out and getting some work done. —Lew





GALLATIN VALLEY TACK SWAP  
MAY 3



**GVBCH 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

Murdoch's Ranch & Home  
Northwestern Energy  
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