

BOARD MEETINGS:
1st Thursday, 7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETINGS:
3rd Thursday, 7:00 PM
Belgrade Alliance Church
205 West Cameron

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.

2012 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR**PRESIDENT**

Henry Glenn ... 578-2084
glennhavenranch@3riversdbs.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Harney ... 548-4217

TREASURER

Brenda Kessler ... 763-4241

SECRETARY

Marianne Meyer ... 388-2676

DIRECTORS**ONE YEAR TERM**

Clark Kinney ... 599-4330

Rich Inman... 388-1564

Mike Haugan ... 539-0538

TWO YEAR TERM

John Mutter ... 285-0516

Larry Thomas ... 586-6878

Beth Merrick ... 388-4047

STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Marsh (2 years) ... 587-7578

Rich Inman ... 388-1564

Stacy Bragg (Alternate) ... 222-0077

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Brant Robey... 222-5971

pbr@wisptest.net

BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578

webmaster@bchmt.org

http://gvbch.bchmt.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

BOARD MEETING : DECEMBER 6, 7:00 PM

Belgrade Alliance Church

GVBCH & GS & HC CHRISTMAS PARTY: DECEMBER 8

Lee Hart's Ranch, 73800 Gallatin Road, Gallatin Gateway

BCH STATE BOARD MEETING: DECEMBER 8

Guest House Inn, Missoula

GALLEP CHRISTMAS CAROLING: DECEMBER 18, 12:15-2:45

Senior Center, 807 North Tracy

GENERAL MEETING : DECEMBER 20, 7:00 PM

Belgrade Alliance Church

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Hello to all GVBCH,

I hope each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Hunting season. We will be busy this season as we have a Christmas Party and go through our election process for new officers. Please participate in the election and let your voice be heard. Thanks to all the nominees who have agreed to run for a office. Without these people our club can not function.

I also want to invite each of you to the Christmas Party at Broken Hart Ranch, details are on Page 3 of the Newsletter. The more people who show up, the more fun we can have. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Now that winter is here and trail work and other projects are finished doesn't mean that we don't have things going on. We use this time to plan next year's activities. If you have a project in mind, please let me or someone on the board know, so we can discuss it. We have our annual calendar meeting in January.

See you at the Christmas Party!

Henry, President

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 1, 2012

Meeting was called to order by Henry Glenn, President. Officers, directors, and state board members present were Michael, Brenda, Clark, Rich, John, Larry, Beth, Dan Marsh, Marianne, and ex-officio Jim Allbright. Also present were members Sonya Berg, and state alternate Stacy Bragg.

Minutes from the October board meeting had not been read by everyone so a printed copy was handed around for review and approval later.

TREASURER'S REPORT/BILLS/CORRESPONDENCE

Brenda received a bill for chainsaw maintenance from Ron White for \$42.95. John made a motion to approve payment, Rich seconded and all voted in favor.

MEMBERSHIP

Memberships include 65 paid and 1 honorary. A couple early renewals have already come in for 2013!

TRAIL CREWS

The USDA sent the renewals for our Volunteer Agreement which must be signed and sent back. Henry will review the document, fill out, and send back.

PROGRAMS

Rich is still working on a program for November's general meeting. A couple of suggestions were made by the board.

OLD BUSINESS

The board went over the procedures necessary to get revisions to the chapter's constitution approved. They must be published and approved by a 2/3 majority vote, provided a quorum is present.

Christmas Party reminder: December 8th. RSVP and PAY by December 3rd. Connie Lien's email is no longer valid so to contact her, use the phone # 586-2885. Send payment to our PO Box.

NEW BUSINESS

The nomination committee for elections defaulted to Clark, Rich, and Mike as they are the outgoing officers and no volunteers were found. Nominees are needed for all officers (4), three directors, one state director, and one alternate state director.

Rich has been communicating with Scott regarding 2013 projects at the Slough Creek, Buffalo Fork, and Hell Roaring cabins in the Absorakee Wilderness north of YNP. The Buffalo Fork cabin will be celebrating its centennial. These projects will need to be part of our January planning/calendar meeting. Larry suggested scheduling some work on weekends to include more members. Rich will stay in touch with Scott.

Dan went over the requests from both BCHM and BCHA who want to know how members would like to receive their newsletters. The options are electronic (receive a link by email) or hard copy (receive a paper copy by snail mail). If we make our email addresses available to BCHM, they promise the list will not be shared outside of the organization. If we make our email addresses available to BCHA, there is a good chance they will sell the list as a way to bring in some income. Dan will send an email to our membership asking EACfi MEMBER to reply with their preference. NO REPLY means sharing your email address with BCHM is ok. One other option is that they email the link just to Dan Marsh who can then send it out to everyone in our chapter.

Clark wanted to remind folks that there are often opportunities to pack in gear prior to work projects (such as the cabins mentioned earlier). To get more folks involved who feel they might not be ready, we could have get-togethers before.

At this time everyone had a chance to review the October board meeting minutes and Marianne made a motion to approve minutes. Clark seconded, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Clark moved to adjourn the meeting, Larry seconded, all voted aye, and motion carried.

Submitted by Marianne Meyer

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 15, 2012

Gretchen Furlong started off the meeting with information about her consignment store at 91 N. Kennedy, Belgrade. She brought some sample consignment items including an antique saddle, wool vest, chaps, and antique books. Regular hours at the shop are 10-4 on Wednesday or anytime by appointment. Call 539-7224 to set up a time to meet Gretchen at her store, Little Shop of Horses. In her spare time Gretchen is an endurance rider and she's hoping to make connections with like-minded folks in Gallatin Valley. Both Gretchen and the Little Shop of Horses are on Facebook.

After the presentation, Michael Harney called the meeting to order. Officers, directors, and state board members present were Rich, Dan, Clark, Mike, John, Larry, Beth, Marianne, and ex-officio Jim Allbright.

Dan moved and Beth seconded to approve the minutes from our last general meeting. All voted aye motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT/BILLS/CORRESPONDENCE

Jim had the treasurer's report from Brenda and reported \$3,793.57 in checking, \$15,013.96 in savings and a check for \$964 not deposited yet. Correspondence included a statement from Insty-Prints showing a credit balance of \$44.05 (we paid a year's worth of newsletter printing in advance). There was also a past due statement from Montana Standard in the amount of \$49.00 indicating that without reply the bill would be turned over to collections. Rich Inman offered to take the bill and contact Montana Standard to get this cleared up.

MEMBERSHIP

A new 2013 membership came in bringing total to 67.

ISSUES

Dan Marsh gave an update on John Chepulis (BCHM member) who had been severely injured in a horseback accident while hunting. He was rescued thanks to (among other factors) having two SPOT units available to trigger and Summit Air Ambulance who flew to the precise GPS coordinates in the back country, picked him up, and had him at Bozeman Deaconess within 2 hours of the accident. John suffered a flail chest and punctured lung and likely would not have come out of the backcountry alive any other way. He is recovering and has been moved to rehab.

The Gallatin County Planning Board had a public hearing on Tuesday night and members from GallEp were present to fight changes proposed for the Gallatin County/Bozeman zoning district. For example, the county planning staff proposed a Conditional Use Permit process for equine facilities, any time they change the intensity of use. (e.g. a horse event resulting in more traffic, etc). GallEp argued that this was singling out horse facilities from the rest of agriculture. GallEp was successful and the Planning Board voted NOT to impose the new CUP process.

TRAIL CREWS

Larry recently went up South Cottonwood and the trail needs work again. They'd cleared that trail three times over the summer, and already there is more work to be done. Next, Larry presented the "Horseman of the Year Award" to Wally Becker. The award is a heavy-duty set of reins, with the words "Horseman of the Year 2012" tooled in. Wally said in 2012 he rode about 350 miles of trail! Larry said that the trail bosses could sure use input from the membership for future recipients of this award as there are many fine horsemen and—women in the club who don't necessarily make it out on the trail with the work crews. The award was started in 2011 by Clark Kinney.

OLD BUSINESS

Rich Inman, Mike Haugan, and Clark Kinney, as outgoing directors, made up the nomination committee for upcoming elections. All three have been making phone calls and Rich presented the slate they've put together so far. He then made the first call for any additional nominations from the floor. Dan Marsh nominated Debbie Moran for Treasurer. Beth seconded and the nomination was approved. Rich made the second call for any additional nominations from the floor and Dan nominated Clark Kinney for Alternate State Director. Michael seconded and this nomination was approved as well. Rich made the third and last call for other nominations, there were none. Jim Allbright made a motion to close nominations from the floor, Michael Harney seconded, all voted in favor and motion passed.

A ballot will be included in the December newsletter and will also be emailed to members. Voting/elections will transpire at the December meeting.

Next, Michael summarized the amendments to GVBCH's constitution. The amendments have been published and include: revised purpose statement, new section for expulsion, new membership category for youth, revised voting guidelines, and other minor wording changes. It was determined that a quorum was present to vote on approving the amendments. John Mutter made a motion, Larry Thomas seconded, all voted aye and the amendments were approved.

DECEMBER 8 CHRISTMAS PARTY details:

5:00 pm Social Hour
6:00 pm Potluck Dinner
Entertainment after dinner

\$10 per person
(guests are welcome, same price).
RSVP and PAYMENT must be received by December 3rd and mailed to Box 3232, Bozeman 59771.

NEW BUSINESS

January is our calendar meeting. Show up and have a say in what events get scheduled for 2013 and when they will happen. May be YOU have an event or ride you would like to put on the calendar. Just remember, if you put it on the calendar it is your baby. You will need to organize it, run it, and communicate updates on it.

Finally, Dan reminded members to expect an email from him regarding their preferences for BCHM and BCHA newsletters.

Beth Merrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dan seconded, motion carried, and meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Marianne Meyer



GVBCH 2013 BALLOT

PRESIDENT:

Henry Glenn

VICE PRESIDENT —Vote for One

Jim Allbright

Mike Haugan

SECRETARY:

Marianne Meyer

TREASURER:

Debbie Moran

DIRECTORS: —Vote for 3

Stacy Bragg

Dan Porter

Steve Thienes

Jim Wing

STATE DIRECTOR:

Jim Allbright

ALTERNATE STATE DIRECTOR:

Clark Kinney



To read the new GVBCH CONSTITUTION, click or visit:

<http://www.bchmt.org/gvbch/documents/GVBCHConstitutionNov18-2012Final.pdf>



Gallatin Valley
Back Country H

Documents

- Membership Application
- Videos
 - Trail Etiquette
 - HiRes LowRes
 - Trail Clearing
 - 2011 Poker Ride KBZK
- Membership Letter
- Travel Requirements
- Constitution
- Expenditure Guidelines

Meetings

Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM in the Belgrade A Cameron and Hoffman in Belgrade.

Purpose

The Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen Club (GVBCH) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to perpetuate enjoyable, common sense use of horses in the back country, assist government agencies in maintenance and management of the resource, ensure that the Public Lands Resource remains open to recreational stock use, and educate, encourage and solicit

Backcountry Ad
Click on this link to find re information on our first an Backcountry Adventures p

Christmas I



2012 HORSEMANSHIP AWARD



Wally Becker was presented with the Horsemanship Award for 2012. Larry Thomas presented the award and commented that Wally has been riding and training horses all of his life. Most of what he learned has come from real life experiences. Wally has always shared his knowledge with others in hopes that they will learn how to be safe around horses and also become better horsemen. At 80+ years of experiences, Wally still mounts his horse like he has springs in his boots. Way to go Wally. Keep on riding and happy trails.

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW WORK: SUMMER JOURNALING BY BRENDA KESSLER

JULY 11, HELLROARING TRAILHEAD: Resuming their weekly schedule after the holiday, met about 8:30 to 9:00. At the trailhead, two cars and another trailer of horses from the local dude ranch joined us. It was still cool as Larry, Rich, Ron Rohletter, Jim and Brenda started up the trail ahead of the dudes. About 30 minutes up the trail, we found our first tree down and made three cuts to get it off the trail. It was at the third downfall that the dudes caught us and made their way around us. Shortly after finishing our cut, and starting up the trail, we passed them resting back in the trees. Taking the North Fork trail, we started up the switchbacks which become rocky and quite steep (making for moment of gratefulness towards your trusty steed). Crossing the creek, we found many down falls and stopped counting after 30 to 35 cuts. About 4:00, a thunderstorm caught us with lightening, thunder and wind. It had become quite hot so the storm cooled the air considerably and was a welcomed relief. Larry, at that point, asked the group if they wanted to continue to Thompson Lake which was about a mile further up the trail. The consensus of the group was mixed with Jim wanting to continue. However, the group turned back as it started to rain and slickers were required. Around a corner, about 6 miles from the trail head, was what looked like a huge brand new tree down across the trail. We complained: "Now we have to cut our way out," as we stopped and took the crosscut saws out of the panniers (and the area was too steep to get around). It looked like we were going to be there for hours but the boys cut through within thirty minutes. Back in the parking lot at about 6:45, we headed for home.

JULY 18, NEW WORLD GULCH TRAIL: Found the crew of Larry, Rich, Gary Jones, Jim and Brenda starting about 9:00, taking the "Moonshine" segment of this trail. It was already warm and was promising to be a hot day. At 9:30, the first small log across the trail was cut. It wasn't until about 10:30, the next cuts were made on another small downfall. At 11:30 a "serious" tree was across the trail and required more time. Soon we could see Mystic Lake but continued past towards the Bear Lakes: Cutting and trimming when necessary. In a meadow below us, Rich sighted a cow moose and calf grazing. Then Larry led us off the trail to a small lake in which we could see the fish swimming around and of course, jumping as the bugs were out in abundance. On the way back, we went around Mystic Lake, checking the trail around the lake: Beautiful ride. Back at the trailhead about 6:00, we recorded another long day but a good ride with trail maintenance completed.

JULY 25, HYALITE CANYON: Another Wednesday and the crew of Larry, Rich and Gary, Jim and Brenda met at the bridge on the road above the Langohr Campground. Driving together up this road until a nice pullover was found; Mandy was packed with the saws, shovels, Pulaski's, etc. We then, rode the horses up the road until the trailhead, which went over the ridge to South Cottonwood, was found. Once on the trail, several small trees were found across the trail and were quickly dispatched. Then, the wide meadow on the ridge included building several cairns (a pile of stones set on a hill or mountain to mark a spot for walkers or climbers). Then, it was a hunt for the tree blazes for the rest of the trail. By lunch time, we had made it down to Cottonwood Creek. Starting back, the job became marking prominent trees to designate the trail. This work went quickly with Larry and Rich handling the axes. Soon, the group was back on the road where Rich found an old cow watering trough still working with water from a spring. The horses investigated and drank. Back at the trailers, the day was discussed and the crew loaded up. It was another beautiful ride and plenty of work completed.

AUGUST 1, ELKHORN TRAILHEAD: Rich, Jim and Brenda met behind the Red Cliff Campground. As we were unloading the horses, one of the campers with camera in hand was upon us, asking if pictures could be taken. Asking who we were and what we were doing, generated the explanation and purpose of the Back Country Horsemen. And, of course, the camper being from Florida, a discussion about the Florida Back Country Horsemen ensued. Being a retired pathologist and now a professional photographer, a most interesting conversation followed. This occurred while one trailer and truck was being ferried back to the campground behind the Rainbow Ranch (and of course, while the packing and saddling). The plan was to ride a loop up the Elk Ridge Trail, to Trail 199 and then catch the Twin Cabin Creek Trail to the Rainbow Ranch. Another noteworthy comment was the fact that this was Molly's (Jim's mule) first endeavor with Jim and the Back Country Horsemen.

About 150 feet up the trail was our first downfall. Chainsaw running made short work of this but about 200 feet was another, then the third obstacle was a huge root ball. This took some work with breaking up the dirt and shoveling and then sawing. At one point, Jim had to fly (like a flying squirrel) backward to miss getting hit but fortunately, he landed safely without going over the cliff. This was not Jim's only adventure, as later Molly, the new mule and Koda, Jim's horse, were not on the same wave length when going across a boggy water situation. Koda jumped the whole mess, and Jim chose to hang on to Molly, despite the fact that she was still standing in place. The cinch ring broke on the saddle and Jim ended up on his back, muddy, but unhurt in the bog. "So much for that day's adventures!" Regardless, Jim and Rich continue to work on downfall after downfall, too many to count, hoping to eat lunch in the meadow by the creek. But by 1:00, still working on a side hill above the creek, the crew finally ate their lunch. Working until about 4:00 and still not even halfway, it was decided to turn back and finish sometime in the future. (Rich had walked ahead and discovered tree after tree down across the trail.) Very tired, back in the campground, Jim and Rich transported back to get the other truck and trailer. Despite not accomplishing what had been hoped for, it was a full, hard, work day, a great ride, great weather, beautiful country and eventful, with the crew leaving the campground about 6:00.

AUGUST 8TH, TAMPHERY CREEK TRAILHEAD: Found Rich, Larry, Ron Rohletter, Ron Rassley, Bonnie Hammer, Jim and Brenda meeting. (This trail head is several miles up the road across from Moose Flats on Highway 191. Again, the pack animals were mules, Molly and Mandy, both seeming to enjoy their assignments. Starting up this trail about 9:00, downfalls were encountered almost immediately. The crew worked consistently (using two chainsaws) encountering downfalls after downfalls until the lake. By then it was lunchtime, and lunch was enjoyed along with a needed rest. Bonnie and Ron went ahead to check the trail on, up to Windy Pass. The crew met them coming back about 4:00 to find out that only one more downfall was ahead with the meadow opening up behind this. The crew found this downfall and made short work of it, deciding not to continue to the cabin. Again, back at the trailhead about 6:30, the three trailers were jockeyed around in the only spot available and headed for home.

AUGUST 22, ELKHORN TRAILHEAD: Found the Wednesday Crew of Rich, Larry, Ron R, Jim and Brenda to finish what the earlier crew (August 1st) had not finished. This was now Molly's third trip out and everything seemed to be going more smoothly. Larry mentioned that he thought people had been exaggerating about the number of downfalls cleared but changed his mind after riding the trail in for several miles. Jim, also remembering the boggy mud bath, walked his horse very tentatively across each boggy stream. It wasn't long before we were at the spot where the crew had ceased working on downfalls. Then, it again, became work as expected until lunch at the meadow along the creek. The downfalls became less frequent and up on top, no overt work noted. In fact, at this point it became a pleasure ride with beautiful panorama of mountains and valleys. Soon, it was the challenge of going steeply down the rocky trail (Twin Cabin Creek) to the valley below. Once at the trailhead behind the Rainbow Ranch, the dilemma of getting back to our trailers at the Elk Ridge Trailhead addressed us. Jim was excited about riding back to the other trailhead but other members of the group nixed that idea. And, fortunately, finding two hikers with a car, we convinced them to give Jim and Rich a ride up the road to the other trailhead. Soon we were on our way, home, again with the satisfied feeling of another trail cleared and an 18 mile ride.

AUGUST 29, PORCUPINE TRAILHEAD: Another beautiful summer day for the Wednesday trail maintenance crew. Ten people presented themselves along with the two mules, Molly and Mandy. Those included in this ride were: Rich, Jim, Brenda, Sandy M, Bonnie, Steve T, Ron Rohletter, Wally, Henry Glenn and Larry, trail boss. It was nice ride and the crew made it almost to Onion Basin. It was noted that the smoke was noticeable from the Millie fire and we were very conscious of planes passing overhead. We assume that these planes were carrying retardant to the fire. However, we were fortunate to have clear skies overhead. We were back at the trailhead about 5:00 with another trail cleared.

SEPTEMBER 5, YELLOW MULE TRAIL: Was this Wednesday's objective. The crew consisted of Wally, John Mutter, Larry, Ron R., Rich, Jim and Brenda along with the 2 mules, Mandy and Molly. Molly is the new mule and still in training. Mandy belongs to Rich and is the seasoned mentor for Molly. We started at Ouzel Falls Trail Head with the 9 animals. It was at the trail head that we encountered a trail worker (for Big Sky) and he acted distressed at seeing all the horses (he was on his ATV) but soon became very nice and commended us on the work we do. We had a nice ride and encountered only a couple of downfalls. We went to Buck's Ridge and then returned by the other or Mule number one trail or as the group would say: "went around the loop." Being home by 6:00 made for another great day.

SEPTEMBER 12, CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN TRAIL: Was unique for the Wednesday crew. Located off Highway 191 on the way to Livingston, it was an experience as several trains went by while the crew was getting ready. The horses noted the noise and commotion, very nervously but fortunately there were no rodeos. The group was small with Rich, Wally, Ron, Jim and Brenda. In the parking lot, a hiker from Livingston, said he had never seen horses on this trail and we weren't sure if he was amazed or distressed. However, he appeared to be reassured when we related to him that we were there to check and clear any trees across the trail. We climbed rapidly and were soon above any sound of the trains. It was from this vantage point that several members looked down to the East in a clearing and saw a bear. We did not get much further when Rich's horse started acting lame so we turned around. (This trail is known for the extreme bikers and it was comforting when we saw a sign on the way down showing a bike with words "SLOW DOWN DUDE". Rich did manage to create numerous water bars on the steep slope coming back. It turned out to be a short day with the day ending about noon but even then, at least five trains were counted as they roared by.

SEPTEMBER 19, HELL ROARING TRAIL: Larry, Wally, Dan Porter, Jim and Brenda, were the crew for this second visit (see July 11). Also, this was Molly's first trip by herself, as Mandy, her mentor was not present. She did exceptionally and carried the saws (cross-saws only) and other equipment proficiently, and proudly. Again, the weather was great, cool in the morning, only to warm up by noon and lunch so that the coats could be shed. Across the creek and heading south, we encountered numerous downfalls and a trail that was at times, overgrown and narrow. Meanwhile, the crew took turns working the cross-saws and clearing the trail. Soon, it was time to turn around and head home. Larry remarked that we were probably close to the lakes or as was mentioned, the Deer Creek Divide but it was too late to continue. Shortly, we were crossing the last bridge, climbing the last small ridge and rambling down, following the switchbacks into the parking lots. It is always nice to see the trucks and trailers waiting after a long days ride.



Molly the Mule

GVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2012 POKER RIDE:

BIG CONTRIBUTORS

Ardeson Boots & Shoes
Montana Canvas
Murdoch's Ranch & Home
Northern Energy Propane
Rocky Mountain Hat Co
DJ Bar Ranch: MULEMAKER

Ag Depot: RAFFLE PRIZE
All West Veterinary Hospital
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Bridger Glass & Windows
Bunkhouse Originals
C'est La Vie
Chalet Market
Double Diamond
Faithful Friends Animal Clinic
Four Corner Saddlery
Freeway Enterprizes

Hardaway Veterinary Hospital
Knife River
Kountry Korner Café
Lee & Dad's
Mama Mac's
Matt's Saw Shop
Montana Equine Medical
Montana Side Saddle
Owenhouse Ace Hardware
R.O. Brooks Custom Leather
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