

BOARD MEETINGS:  
3rd Thursday, 6 PM

GENERAL MEETINGS:  
3rd Thursday, 7 PM

Springhill Church  
4769 West Babcock, Bozeman

#### 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.

#### 2016 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR

##### PRESIDENT

John Mutter ... 285-0516  
mutteranch@q.com

##### VICE PRESIDENT

Carmen Matzick ... 600-1379  
cmatzick@msn.com

##### TREASURER

Sharon Fraser ... 539-2783

##### SECRETARY

Tamara Erickson ... 451-8186

#### DIRECTORS

##### ONE YEAR TERM

Steve Thienes ... 578-2124  
Chris Nygren ... 546-7550  
Carl Blaskovich ... 388-4640

##### TWO YEAR TERM

SUE GESKE ... 581-6058  
Mike Haugen ... 539-0538  
Lawrence VanDyke ... 586-2440

#### STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Rich Inman (2 year) ... 388-1564  
Henry Glenn (1 years) ... 578-2084  
Dan Marsh (Alternate) ... 587-7578

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Brant Robey... 222-5971  
pbr@wispwest.net

#### BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578  
webmaster@bchmt.org  
<http://gvbch.bchmt.org>

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

BOARD MEETING : JANUARY 21, 6:00 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : JANUARY 21, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church

Program will set the calendar for 2016 so bring the dates of events to post

4-H PACKING CLINICS : JANUARY 14 & 28



#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hello everyone,

Thank you for having enough faith in me to elect me President. I hope I can do a decent job. Sometimes I have my doubts but I promise you that I will do my very best. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and I hope the coming New Year is prosperous and at least as productive as last.

Plans are underway for the 4H project. We have 5 clinics scheduled and we're changing the emphasis to include more horsemanship skills than in the past. Our first clinic is just a few weeks away.

I'm sure the Forest Service will give Larry a full slate again. If you haven't been on one of our Wednesday trail crews you don't know what you've been missing. Yes, it's a bit of work but we have a ton of fun doing it. Maybe this year we can coordinate a few weekend trail projects. Give me some input and we'll see what can be done.

I'm pretty sure Henry will put together one or two projects involving the Forrester Service cabins in the AB wilderness. These trips involve overnight stays, sometimes 3 or 4 days. We'll keep you posted.

I'm looking for someone to help me with our Equine Safety Program. We haven't offered a formal class in some time. We need to do that.

I'm also looking for someone with experience editing video. I have a project in mind that will require some expertise in that area.

That's about all I can think of right now. I'm not used to doing this so if you don't mind I'll sign off.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Mutter  
President, GVBCH

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 17**

Dan Marsh called the meeting to order and took roll call. Dan Marsh, Sharon Fraser, Tamara Erickson, Larry Thomas, Chris Nygren, Carl Blaskovich, Harry Huntsaker, John Mutter, Henry Glenn and Dan Porter were in attendance.

**MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING**

Chris Nygren made a motion to accept the minutes from the November Board meeting, Larry Thomas seconded the motion, the motion passed and the November Minutes were accepted.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Sharon Fraser reported. One new bill was received, an expense report from Dan Marsh.

The RTP check was received, as well as the October local reimbursement check from the Forest Service.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Eagle Mount sent a letter requesting a donation and the Montana Wilderness Association, CDT Montana Group sent a letter requesting a donation.

A discussion was had regarding whether or not the club should make a donation to the CDT.

John Mutter made a motion that we table the decision about supporting the CDT with a donation until we find out if the club has done so in the past. Tamara Erickson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

A discussion was had regarding whether the club should support Eagle Mount with a donation. It was decided that in the past, the club has supported other charitable organizations with labor and a helping hand and not with monetary donations.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Dan Marsh reported that he believes one new membership was submitted. There was a discussion as to whether or not the guests from last month signed up for membership.

**ISSUES:**

Dan reported that the LWCF bills passed, but was funded for half of what it was previously. They haven't been signed yet.

**PUBLICITY**

Harry Huntsinger reported. He is working to get Larry's group and the bicycle group on TV to speak about the work being done to maintain Gallatin Valley trails.

Packing clinic flyers were made. A discussion was had regarding the OTO Ranch's participation with the 2016 packing clinic. Harry reported that Havre and Missoula 4H programs are interested in adding a trail riding and general horsemanship program, which was sparked by the success of the packing clinic.

The first two clinics will be held at the fairgrounds, the next two will tentatively be held at Circle L and then will move back to the fair grounds for the fifth session.

**NEWSLETTER:**

Dan Marsh reported and reminded everyone to continue submitting stories and photos.

**TRAIL CREWS**

Larry Thomas reported that it is cold and snowy.

**PROGRAM**

Upcoming programs to be determined. Rich Inman and Janice Cartwright were not present to report. February is typically the wild game potluck and that is tentatively scheduled.

Henry Glenn stated that the Forest Service has eliminated the coordinator position, which he disagreed with. He stated that he plans to ask them to reconsider and that a dedicated coordinator from the Forest Service is a necessity.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY WRAP UP**

Henry Glenn reported approximately sixty-five people attended the Christmas party and all seemed to have a good time.

John Mutter mentioned that we need to reserve a date for the Christmas party early next year so that it doesn't get left to the last minute.

**POKER RIDE WRAP UP**

Tamara Erickson will send out an email to schedule a poker ride wrap up meeting in early January.

John Mutter reported that Rich Inman has been hospitalized due to complications from a head injury that occurred earlier this year. He is currently doing well and is expected to recover. Chris Nygren made a motion to send a get well gift of up to \$100 and card to Rich; Carl Blaskovich seconded and the motion passed. Tamara Erickson agreed to handle getting it sent out.

**INSURANCE**

Chris Nygren reported that he has looked into insurance and made a motion to have it investigated, which was seconded by Tamara Erickson. The motion to investigate insurance policies passed. It was also discussed that an officer needs to be appointed to administrate insurance, especially in light of the new AirMedCare membership program, which will require some organization. Tamara Erickson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

A discussion was had regarding the necessity to make clear to all members that GVBCH membership does not automatically include AirMedCare membership. They

must sign up individually. Chris agreed to write an article that will be submitted to clarify the issue in the next newsletter.

Dan reported that the sign up paperwork is nearly complete for club participation in the AirMedCare membership program and that a registration form will be available on the GVBCH website.

No new information was found on the Butte Air Ambulance Life Flight program and Henry Glenn offered to gather information to see if it might also be an option to offer club members.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Henry Glenn volunteered to handle elections during the general meeting.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE ON JANUARY 1ST.**

Henry Glenn has agreed to take over Steve Theines position on the board, but there may also be individuals who may be interested. Because someone needs to be replaced, it is the board's prerogative to appoint someone to fill the position and in this case, an election is not necessary. Henry suggested the issue be tabled until after the elections at the next board meeting, which will also give him time to contact Steve.

#### 4 H PACKING CLINICS

Organization meetings are soon starting up again. Volunteers are needed and are asked to contact Harry Huntsaker for more information.

Dan Marsh moved to adjourn the meeting, Tamara Erickson seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

*Submitted by Tamara Erickson*

Renew your GVBCH Membership [HERE](#)

### State Convention, April 2016



Dan, outgoing president



Marianne Meyer & Dan Marsh



Walter Becker hand-tied halter won by Marianne Meyer



Tamara, Dan & Carmen



Jim & Dave



Ron, Larry & Dan



**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 17**

Dan Marsh called the meeting to order.

A motion to accept the November general meeting minutes as posted in the newsletter was made by Jim Allbright, seconded by Carl Blaskovich and the motion to accept the minutes passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Sharon Fraser reported there were several new bills resulting from the Christmas party that were paid.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Eagle Mount sent a letter requesting a donation and the Montana Wilderness Association, CDT Montana Group sent a letter requesting a donation. The donation requests are being considered by the board.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Marianne Meyer reported that membership stands at 58, with one new membership added before the meeting began.

**ISSUES**

Dan reported that the LWCF bills SB338, SB890 and HB1844 passed but they haven't been signed yet. He explained some details regarding the bills including the fact that there was some opposition and that it has been some time since the account was fully funded.

**PUBLICITY**

A new poster for the packing clinic flyers was created by Harry Huntsinger. Dates have been scheduled. The first two clinics will be held at the fairgrounds, the next two will tentatively be held at Circle L arena and then will move back to the fairgrounds for the fifth session. Volunteers to help with the clinics will be needed. Members interested in participating are asked to contact Harry Huntsinger for more information.

**NEWSLETTER**

Dan Marsh reported that Brant Robley has agreed to continue her work editing the newsletter in 2016 and reminded everyone to continue submitting stories and photos. Please email items to Brant within five to seven days after the general meeting date so that she can get it out by the first of the following month.

**TRAIL CREWS**

Larry Thomas reported that trail work has been suspended due to cold and snowy weather. It was announced that the Forest Service has decided to not provide the club with a coordinator for the upcoming season. Several members voiced concern about that decision and plan to ask the Forest Service to reconsider. The coordinator assisted with several issues, such as communicating with Larry about which trails are in need of clearing and helped coordinate training.

**PROGRAM**

The 2016 calendar will be set during the January General Meeting and members are asked to please bring ideas for events, rides and the program. Members are reminded to please be sure that a trail boss is assigned to lead any trail rides that are planned.

Janice Cartwright has agreed to work in tandem with Rich Inman again in 2016 for organizing the program. Henry Glenn mentioned that wildlife biologists always provide interesting program presentations and the Hay 101 presentation by Dr. Emily Glunk was also a favorite with the members.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

About sixty-five GVBCH and Saddle club members participated with the Christmas party. Dan stated that it would be best to do a better job planning ahead next year to avoid last minute scrambling. Carmen Orr stepped in to organize the party this year and it was suggested that someone be put officially in charge of heading a committee to organize the party in the future. Dan also asked for feedback regarding the Christmas party location and suggested holding it at the Springhill Church.

**POKER RIDE WRAP UP**

Tamara Erickson will send out an email to original poker ride committee members to hold a poker ride wrap up meeting in early January.

**ELECTION:**

Ballots were cast before the meeting commenced. Chris Nygren tabulated the ballots and announced the results, which are as follows:

President: John Mutter

Vice President: Carmen Orr

Treasurer: Sharon Fraser

Secretary: Tamara Erickson

Directors: Sue Geske, Mike Haugan, Lawrence Van Dyke

State Board: Rich Inman

State Board Alternate: Dan Marsh

**INSURANCE**

Dan Marsh reported that the club is in the process of investigating 2016 insurance.

AirMedCare: Dan Marsh reported that AirMedCare Membership will be made available to GVBCH members for a reduced cost of \$55 per year. Registration forms will be available online through the GVBCH website, or you may also contact Dan for a paper copy. Please fill out a registration form and send it directly to AirMedCare if you are interested in participating. However, please send payment for your membership to GVBCH in order to receive a GVBCH discount. The club will then send

one check for payment on behalf of club members who have paid for a membership, as per the agreement with AirMedCare.

John Mutter reiterated that GVBCH membership does not automatically include AirMedCare membership, which is an individual membership program and is provided at an additional cost.

#### STATE BOARD MEETING

John Mutter reported on several items of interest.

There was a request for a women's belt buckle to be created and several designs have been proposed. It will most likely be a smaller version of the current men's buckle. They will be available at the online store for the Montana Back Country Horseman branch.

The Forest Service basically treats GVBCH as employees, they provide training and members are covered by Forest Service insurance when participating on trail crews.

Items of interest in the National Directors report included the fact that they would like to hire an executive secretary to perform tasks such as preparing paperwork. They are also looking at hiring a corporation that handles administrative tasks for non-profit companies such as sending the newsletter, tracking membership and website maintenance.

The Sustainable Trails Coalition is a group of bicyclists that are starting to become active and are gaining recognition that has potential to change the wilderness act.

The RTP Grants will be funded again.

Connie Long has offered a scholarship for an individual between 18 and 25 to work with her packing organization and learn to become a professional packer.

The BCH state constitution is under review and changes in syncing the elections for state board officers and directors to streamline state convention delegates.

Resolution committee — if you have any resolutions that you believe the GVBCH should incorporate in the constitution, it will go to committee and be considered at the state level.

The revised saw policy will be released in late March.

State Convention will be held on April 1, 2016 in Great Falls. John said the state conventions are fun and a great way to bring people up to speed at the state and national level. He encouraged member to attend. Admission for up to eight delegates from each chapter are paid. There are great raffle prizes, educational opportunities, a photo contest, etc. Please contact John Mutter for details and rules if interested in the photo contest or raffle tickets. Raffle prizes include a Decker pack saddle, a \$500 gas gift card and a rifle engraved with a BCH motif.

Membership dues for 2016 are due on January 1st.

#### MVP TROPHY

Dan Marsh presented MVP Trophy, which was presented to Tamara Erickson.

Tamara Erickson agreed to provide snacks for the January meeting.

Dan Marsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tamara Erickson seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

*Submitted by Tamara Erickson*



Tamara receiving her Most Valuable Member Award for volunteering for just about everything this past year!

General meeting - Voting - Holiday social - dessert bar





## AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES

The Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen Chapter has entered into an agreement with AirMedCare Network Group to allow members of the Chapter and residents of their household to sign up for air ambulance services under the terms and conditions of the Network. As discussed during the November 2015 general membership meeting, Summit Air provides rotary wing services out of Bozeman and other cities in the region (Cody, Helena etc.) as well as fixed wing services out of Helena for the transport of medical patients. The web site [www.AirMedCareNetwork.com](http://www.AirMedCareNetwork.com) provides the details of such services as well as points of contact for asking further questions.

The Chapter is facilitating the sign-up of any individuals who desire to enter into a contractual agreement with the Network by collecting payments for such services (a reduced rate of \$55 per year) and forwarding them to the Network. However, each individual interested in participating must complete their own application and send it directly to:

AirMedCareNetwork  
P.O. Box 948  
West Plains, MO 65775

The Chapter is not part of the contract between the individual and the Network, however the individual must be a member of the Chapter to get the discounted rate. As a reminder, membership in the Chapter must be renewed starting on January 1, 2016.

The membership form for AirMedCare is available at <http://gvbch.bchmt.org/documents/AirMedCare.pdf>.

photos by Janice Cartwright







MONTANA CRANE SERVICE  
presents  
*Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen*  
**4-H PACKING CLINIC**

**CLINIC I: JANUARY 14, 2016**  
**CLINIC II: JANUARY 28, 2016**  
**CLINIC III: FEBRUARY 13, 2016**  
**CLINIC IV: MARCH 26, 2016**  
**CLINIC V: APRIL 23, 2016**

**COST:**  
**\$20.00 per person**

- Lunch will be furnished during the clinics III and IV.
- 4-H members should plan on attending all clinics in order to be evaluated to qualify for a Back Country Horsemen packing trip.
- 4-H members with horses are welcome and stalling or pens are available.

**Cost:** \$20.00 for outdoor pens or  
\$30.00 indoor stalls, shavings if needed.



**SPONSORED BY**



**Charlie Hoekema Trucking, Lee Eblen**

For more information or questions contact Greg Benjamin: 580-9574 or [gbenjamin@seaeng.com](mailto:gbenjamin@seaeng.com)

**GVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS  
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2015 POKER RIDE:**

**\$200 AND ABOVE:**

Rocky Mountain Hat  
Madison River Propane  
Ardesson Boots & Shoes  
Montana Canvas  
Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply  
Bridger Mountain Plumbing  
Mission Ranch Beef Company  
Steer In Trailer Sales  
Chuteside Veterinary  
Freeway Enterprises  
DJ Bar Ranch  
Rich Inman  
Dan Marsh and Alice Pilgeram  
Bank of Bozeman

Lee & Dad's  
Sorensen Veterinary Hospital  
Café M  
Three Forks Saddlery  
Big Sky RV

**UNDER \$100.00**

Spencer Simons/Joann Hasilieu  
Beth Merrick  
Meredith Kresge  
Farnam Company  
Owenhouse Ace Hardware  
4 Corners Saddlery  
Treasure State  
Montana Horse Sense

Anduril Boarding Kennels  
Dan Porter  
The Loft Spa  
Mountain Arts Pottery  
True Value Belgrade  
Chalet Market  
Rocky Mountain Truck Center  
Kountry Korner Café  
Bozeman Saddle Outlet  
Corral Steak House  
Rocky Mountain Supply  
Ag Depot  
Outback Steak House  
Double Diamond Halter Company  
Jan Elpel  
Big Sky RV  
The Boot Barn  
Barbara Mutter  
All West Veterinary  
Rocky Mountain Truck Center

**\$100.00 - \$199.00:**

Knife River  
Big Sky RV  
Hardaway Veterinary Hospital  
Ben Masters  
Keri McGinley  
Montana Equine  
Montana Horse Sense  
Double Diamond Veterinary



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