

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  
mutterranch@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

Harry Huntzinger ... 580-2788  
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:

4-H CLINIC 4 : MARCH 26, 9:00 AM

BOARD MEETING : MARCH 17, 6:00 PM  
Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : MARCH 17, 7:00 PM  
Springhill Church

BCHMT STATE CONVENTION : APRIL 1-3

Holiday Inn, Great Falls

More Information: [HERE](#)



#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Last month, I was complaining about the winter weather. This month, I'm changing my tune.

I saw a Robin yesterday and our grass is turning green. Barb and I even went for a short ride in the afternoon. I guess we can all stop holding our breath, Spring is on its way. Although you might still want to hold your breath while you curry your horses. Shedding season is here too!!!

It will be a while before the snow is gone from the backcountry so now would be an excellent time to start riding your trusty steeds on back roads and low lying hills to start getting them in shape and to work on any training issues that didn't get addressed last season. It's nice and dry here in Three Forks and I would like to invite any and all of you to come ride with us here. I've got several places that are fun to ride and have pretty good footing for unshod horses. Although I haven't ridden there yet, the Three Forks Rodeo Grounds seem to be in pretty fair shape as well. If you're interested in riding here with Barb and me, just call (285-0516) and we'll set it up.

I don't have much else to mention except maybe the State Convention in Great Falls this April 1st through 3rd. Early registration is \$90. After March 10th it's \$95. If you've never been, it's great fun and very informative to see what goes on at the State level. Our National Director will speak on issues from the BCHA perspective as well.

I'd better go. I'm trying to re-seed in my pasture—again!

Respectfully submitted, *John Mutter*

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 17

John Mutter called the meeting to order and took roll call.

Sharon Fraser, Tamara Erickson, Chris Nygren, Carl Blaskovich, John Mutter, Henry Glenn, Rich Inman, Sue Geske, Carmen Matzick, Dan Marsh, Mike Haugan, Lawrence VanDyke, Beth Merrick, Jim Allbright, and Harry Huntsinger were in attendance.

### MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING

Sue Geske made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting, Chris Nygren seconded, and the motion passed.

### FINANCE REPORT

Sharon Fraser reported two new bills: The first was a general liability insurance policy bill. Chris Nygren mentioned that he has checked on prices, and the quote received is a good one. Rich Inman submitted a printing bill for horse etiquette cards, as requested at the last meeting. A motion to pay the bills was made by Tamara Erickson, was seconded by Sharon Fraser, and the motion passed.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Sharon reported the club received two cards from the Forest Service regarding a resolution to oppose the sale of Federal Lands, and also a Bitterroot BCH Chapter newsletter.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

No standing committee reports were made due to a short meeting so that the board could participate with the Wild Game Feed.

### OLD BUSINESS

Errors and Omissions Insurance for Officers & Board: Chris Nygren reported that the quotes submitted last month are the best set of quotes available. A discussion ensued about whether or not the board should obtain E&O insurance. Some questions were asked and answered, including the differences between the types of policies quoted, and which would be most suitable. In summary, E&O insurance will cover board members from personal liability in the event that GVBCH is sued, and board members are attached in the lawsuit. Carl Blaskovich made a motion to obtain insurance at a \$545 premium annually, Harry Huntsinger seconded, and the motion passed.

Annual Report to Secretary of State: Sharon Fraser submitted the annual report to the Secretary of State, and e-filed taxes to the IRS.

RAC Grant: Henry Glenn has been in touch with the Forest Service. There is a possibility of obtaining money for a new RAC Grant, but someone needs to head it up. Henry is willing to head it up, but needs to know which projects

to apply for. He would like support from the board in choosing a project. Several ideas were discussed but no project was decided upon, and it was decided that an RAC Grant would possibly not be applied for this year.

RTP moneys from last July: Rich Inman stated that all RTP Grant money payouts, including reimbursements to the treasury, have been made.

Safety training: Rich Inman stated that Defensive Horsemanship Safety Training, required for all volunteers clearing trails for the Forest Service, has been scheduled and calendars should be marked. The training will be divided into two segments. The first segment of the Defensive Horsemanship Training will be provided with a video presentation at the May 19th General Membership meeting during the program. The second segment will be held on Saturday May 21st at the fairgrounds. Members may or may not be required to bring their horses on Saturday, which will be determined at a later date.

### NEW BUSINESS

Identify delegates to State Convention (Apr. 1, 2, 3): Eight delegates are needed for the State Convention, and a list of interested members was compiled. Lawrence VanDyke made a motion to approve the eight delegates submitted, Sue Geske seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

\$50 Auction item for State Convention: Rich Inman agreed to provide an auction item.

2016 Poker Ride: Tamara Erickson asked for volunteers to form the 2016 Poker Ride Committee. Sue Geske, Carmen Matzick, Rich Inman, Dan Marsh, Harry Huntsinger, Henry Glenn, Mike Haugan, Beth Merrick, and Rich Inman volunteered to serve on the committee. The first meeting will be held in March, and results will be reported at the March General Meeting.

A motion was made by Tamara Erickson to adjourn the meeting, Sue Geske seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

—Submitted by Tamara Erickson

### Editor's Note:

Two photographs in the February Newsletter were incorrectly credited to John Porter. The photos were by Dan Porter. I apologize for the error.

— Brant Robey

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 17

John Mutter called the meeting to order and welcomed several guests, including the presenter for next month's program, which will be human and animal/carnivore interaction in our area.

Program: Brian, Wendy, Lisa, and Cody from the Forest Service presented the program with their annual report. Of note, two new trail projects are in the works this year: a single track horse/ bike trail up Johnson Road in Cottonwood Canyon, and a possible project at Buck Ridge. It is intended as a multi-use ATV trail, and if approved, work on it will begin late summer. Improvements and maintenance on single track trails in the West Bridger and Hell Roaring areas are on the agenda for this year. Members are asked for feedback on other trails that may need work. Please notify Larry Thomas with suggestions.

### MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING

A motion to accept the minutes from the January General Meeting was made by Marianne Meyer, seconded by Dan Marsh, and the motion passed.

### FINANCE REPORT / NEW BILLS

Sharon Fraser reported two new bills: The first was a general liability insurance policy bill. The second was a bill submitted by Rich Inman for printing horse etiquette cards.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Sharon Fraser reported: Two cards were received from the Forest Service regarding a resolution to oppose the sale of Federal Lands, and also a Bitterroot BCH chapter newsletter.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Marianne Meyer reported that membership is currently low because many members have not yet renewed, and dues are past due. Members are encouraged to please renew asap, which can be done either online, or through the mail.

### ISSUES

Dan Marsh reported on several issues:

The GCC (Gallatin Core Committee) will meet on February 23rd at 6:30 at the Bozeman Holiday Inn to compile ideas, which will be later discussed at a public meeting.

BCHMT has a new address:

Back Country Horsemen of Montana: 2130 9th Street W.  
#109, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

BCHA contracted with Association Management Company (AMC), from Connecticut to begin managing correspondence, newsletters, website maintenance, and all other secretarial duties for BCHA

### TRAIL CREWS

Larry Thomas reported that it is muddy and snowy, and trail work is suspended until spring.

Lawrence VanDyke mentioned he is interested in heading up a Saturday trail crew if others are interested in participating. He will obtain all training and certifications necessary to meet trail boss requirements. He also mentioned that he will be participating in a saw sharpening class that will be held the third week of March. If anyone has saws that need work, please contact him.

### PROGRAM

Janice reported that the Forest Service requires Defensive Horsemanship Training for any member volunteering to clear trails for the Forest Service, as outlined in the "Green Book". That training requirement needs to be met, and is planned to be handled in two segments. The first segment will be provided with a video presentation at the May 19th General Membership meeting in lieu of a program, with a follow up segment scheduled on Saturday May 21st. Members may or may not be required to bring their stock to the Saturday training, which will be determined and announced at a later date. The location has not yet been determined, and will also be announced at a later date. This training will be a joint venture between 4-H equine club participants and their parents, GVBCH, Forest Service employees, and the Gallatin Valley Saddle and Harness Club. The video portion can also be viewed online.

Brian asked if a biker/horse safety clinic is planned this year. Several people agreed that it was an effective and worthwhile training. Janice agreed to take a look at the calendar to see if it is possible to schedule another training date involving horses.

### OLD BUSINESS

Errors and Omissions Insurance for Officers & Board: The board has voted to obtain Errors and Omission insurance to protect board members from personal liability in the event that the club gets sued.

John Mutter also mentioned that several members have signed up for membership with AirMedCare, and went over some details about the way the membership works. Please contact him with any questions or for more information to ensure you understand the way the plan works. Also, please note that AirMedCare recently changed their name to Reach.

Janice volunteered to bring goodies next month.

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Janice seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

— Submitted by Tamara Erickson

## MARCH GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM



Hannah Jaicks is an interdisciplinary scientist with an interest in developing stronger avenues of communication and inclusion amongst the public, decision makers and scientists about human-wildlife conflicts and ecosystem management.

Since age 15, Hannah has studied and worked with over 30 species of exotic animals around the world, including: hyenas, bats, giraffes, penguins, warthogs, orangutans, gorillas, and many others. Her work and research are born out of her broader and lifelong interest in understanding how our science and policy measures have a critical responsibility when it comes to mediating coexistence between people and animals in shared environments.

Hannah received her Ph.D. in Environmental Psychology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and she received her B.A. in Biology and Psychology from Swarthmore College. A Bozeman resident, her research has taken her through the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) for the past four years, where she continues to pursue efforts that empower and enable rural agricultural livelihoods to successfully persist alongside healthy and abundant wildlife populations. In this context, she views herself as a broker attempting to integrate the needs of people and wildlife communities alike, and she endeavors to transform stakeholders' opportunities to meaningfully participate in the management of their special places--the places that make the GYE what it is. She is grateful for the opportunity to speak to the Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen and hopes to have it be an open dialogue to learn from everyone in the community.

## AREA EVENTS

Buck Brannaman was at MSU, on President's Day, to help work with the Colt Starting class. Sue Getsky, Madeline Leib, Sonja Berg, Jo Ann Haselu and Janice Cartwright were recognized GVBCH members in attendance. The importance of footfall, turning on the hind and the fore and transitioning the young horses into the use of leg cues were some of the major points demonstrated and practiced. All of this effort is leading up the TOP OF THE WEST Horse Sale on Saturday, April 9, 1:00 pm; 40+ horses will be present. This event is held at Copper Springs Ranch. Call Equine Boosters of MSU at 406-570-4101 for more details.





photos by Janice Cartwright



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

TOP POKER HAND PRIZES:

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Madison River Propane  
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SILENT AUCTION PRIZES:

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Dan Porter  
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  
The Boot Barn  
Barbara Mutter  
All West Veterinary

OTHER DONATIONS:

Bank of Bozeman  
Allegra Printing  
Lee and Dad's  
Big Sky RV  
Lehrkinds Coca Cola  
Bridger Bowl Ski Area



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