

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.

#### 2017 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

Sue Geske ... 581-6058

Mike Haugen ... 539-0538

Lawrence VanDyke ... 586-2440

TWO YEAR TERM

David Crisp ... 239-776-6279

Dan Porter ... 539-0879

Carl Blaskovich ... 388-4640

#### STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Rich Inman (1 year) ... 388-1564

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

Jim Albright (Alternate) ... 763-4241

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Brant Robey... 222-5971  
pbrantr@gmail.com

#### BCH WEB MASTER

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

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : MAY 17, 24, 31

Contact: Larry Thomas 586-6878

FS VOLUNTEER MEETING : MAY 17, 6PM – 8PM

Bozeman Ranger District, 3710 Fallon St C

BOARD MEETING : MAY 18, 6:00 PM

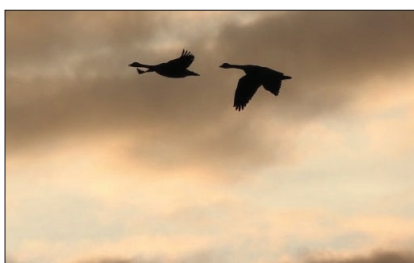
1655 Harper Puckett Road

GENERAL MEETING : MAY 18, 7:00 PM

1655 Harper Puckett Road

4-H CLINIC 6 : MAY 20 **CANCELED**

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY : JUNE 3



#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hello everyone,

It looks like another winter has passed and Spring is finally upon us. I for one am glad and so, I think, are our horses!

We've been to the Vet to have their annual checkup, teeth checked / floated and vaccinations brought up to date. Bill was out Friday afternoon and now our boys have shiny new shoes too. About all we have to do now is check the trailer out and pack the wheel bearings. Our tack is in pretty good shape because we went all through it during the course of the winter. If not, we'll be checking out the tack swap at Janice's just before our next meeting. Remembering the rule of 7P's, I think it's wise to go through things before riding season starts so that any potential problems are spotted before you get on and have a big wreck. I hope you all do, too!

Let's not forget about our partners here. They're a big part of this equation. Riding a bit on easy, safe ground just to remind our horses which end goes in front and to "Leg them up" a bit before asking for anything strenuous is always a good idea. I know I'm out of shape, so I'm pretty sure our horses are too. We'll be getting serious soon enough so I'm planning to start a little get-in-shape program this week.

Spring is always a time of preparation before the summer season starts. Get ready early, so you can enjoy it when it comes.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all out on the trail soon.

*John*



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 20

### ATTENDEES:

John Mutter, Dan Marsh, Sharon Fraser, Tamara Erickson, Dan Porter, Rich Inman, Dan Porter, Carmen Matzick, Harry Huntsinger and Carl Blaskovich. Rich Inman is standing proxy for Sue Gueske and Lawrence VanDyke.

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

Dan Porter made a motion to approve the September board meeting minutes, Carl Blaskovich seconded the motion, the motion passed and minutes were approved.

### FINANCE REPORT:

Sharon Fraser reported on the bank account balances and that there were two new memberships in the mailbox. Dan Porter submitted a bill for new membership cards.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

Public Land Water Access Association (PLWA), Public Annual Membership Meeting will be held Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 10 AM at the GranTree Inn in Bozeman. Dan Porter attended the meeting last year and agreed to represent GVBCH once again this year.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### MEMBERSHIP:

Report will be handled at General meeting.

#### ISSUES:

Dan Marsh stated that there are no pressing concerns or new issues to report at the moment and gave a brief update on past issues.

Meeting: The May Board and General meetings will be held at Janice Cartwright's. Janice will present a program on tack and she will host a tack swap for those who would like to participate. The June meeting will also be at Janice's for the Ice Cream Social and Poker Ride meeting.

#### OLD BUSINESS

4-H Packing Clinic: Carmen Matzick reported on the last clinic held at Rafter K Arena and said it was a huge success. Carmen and Mike Haugan prepared and served lunch, which was delicious by all reports. There was a big turn out with lots of help and participation.

State Convention: Dan Marsh reported on several issues discussed at the State Convention including the following:

Chapters were warned about an email scam that has been going around consisting of a message that is sent to chapter treasurers appearing to have come from the BCH President requesting the treasurer to transfer funds into a fraudulent bank account.

Funds have been donated by members in support of the packing scholarship, the application period has been closed and several applicants are being considered.

It was GVBCH's turn to submit an article for the BCH newsletter. Henry Glenn wrote and submitted an article about the cabin restoration project. GVBCH was also asked

to submit names of members who have passed away over the past year.

Volunteer reports have been submitted by all chapters and the data has been compiled. Over \$11 million dollars in donations were received last year. We have been asked to track how many hours were spent packing for the Forest Service versus trail clearing.

Smoke Elser was awarded the 2016 Founders Award. Ken Ausk's widow was awarded the 2017 Founders Award.

RTP Grant submission rules have been reconsidered and should be a little more flexible this year. If a chapter can't use the funds, they will go to a chapter that can.

Board meeting dates have been chosen. No meeting will be held in May. The Missoula meeting will be held Dec. 2nd.

Gallatin Forest Partnership Update: Dan Porter attended the last meeting and reported on progress. He brought several maps for memberships to view.

RAC Grant: Dan Porter reported that there was some left over money from the Cache Creek Corral project that must be used this year at Cache Creek. John Mutter suggested building two hitch rails instead of more corrals. The project would have to be complete by August.

There was brief discussion about where the hitching posts should be located, the first thought being near the corrals. Dan Marsh suggested placing them near the trail head. No final determination was made.

New Grant Opportunity: BCHA sent an email about a National Wilderness Trail Stewardship grant. GVBCH is eligible to apply, but someone must first agree to spear head the project. John Mutter asked for volunteers. Dan Porter agreed to work on the grant if we can come up with a project. Rich Inman warned that this type of work can be very time consuming and recommended that each grant submission be handled by a different individual to help prevent one person becoming overloaded.

Meeting Organization: John proposed some new rules regarding meeting organization to try and make board meetings more efficient. He asked everyone to please let him know if they can't make a meeting and that if you can't make a meeting, to please ask someone to stand in as proxy in case there is an issue to be voted on.

Jack Creek Preserve: We have been asked to do a two hour presentation. If someone would like to volunteer their time, you can choose a topic of your choice. John Mutter asked that everyone keep in mind that this would need to be done in a professional manner.

John Mutter adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by *Tamara Erickson*

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 20

John Mutter opened the meeting and welcomed two guests Marilyn and Dave from Coeur d'Alene.

Jim Wing made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes, Larry Thomas seconded the motion, the motion passed and the minutes were approved.

### PROGRAM:

Tammie Parrot, Equine Veterinarian, gave a very interesting and informative presentation on Equine Dentistry including a power point presentation and video. She did a great job and spent time answering questions.

### MEMBERSHIP:

Marianne Meyer has membership cards intended to be issued to all members. There are some local business that generously offer discounts to GVBCH members. Please renew your membership if it has expired and see Marianne for your GVBCH member card.

KGLT Radio Public Service Announcements: A big thank you to Janice Cartwright for arranging Public Service Announcements to be broadcast in hopes of encouraging awareness, membership and participation in GVBCH.

KBZK Morning Program: Janice arranged an appearance on KBZK's morning news program hosted by Chet Layman and Missy O'Malley once again this year to generate awareness about GVBCH and the Poker Ride. Contact Janice if you are interested in appearing on TV in representation of GVBCH!

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

John briefly reported information given to him by Sharon Fraser.

### TRAIL CREW:

Larry Thomas reported that not much planning has begun since it won't stop snowing. Dan Marsh was contacted by someone from Heroes and Horses hoping for suggestions on usable early trails to begin conditioning horses. Dan suggested Red Bluff, Copper City and Gallatin River Ranch trails as possible dry areas to begin conditioning, as most local trails are still wet.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

Public Land Water Access Association (PLWA), Public Annual Membership Meeting will be held Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 10 AM at the GranTree in Bozeman. Dan Porter attended last year and agreed to represent GVBCH once again this year.

### PROGRAMS:

Next three meetings in a row will be held at Janice Cartwright's.

May: Janice will present a program on tack and is organizing a tack swap for members interested in participating. She has also arranged for Dan Figgins, the State Brand Inspector, to be present. Dan will answer questions about requirements and inspect horses by pre-

arranged appointment.

June: 30th Annual Poker Ride Meeting and Ice Cream Social.

July: The program will be presented by farrier Katie Curry who will give a presentation including information on trimming and things to know about going barefoot.

August, September, November and December programs have been determined. Ideas are welcome for the October program.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT:

4 H: Rich Inman reported on the last clinic held at Rafter K Arena and said it was a huge success. Carmen Matzick and Mike Haugan prepared and served lunch, which was appreciated and enjoyed by all attendees. There was a big turn out with lots of help and participation.

Gallatin Forest Partnership: Dan Porter reported. He brought maps that show wilderness areas and welcomed questions and feedback from members. The partnership is gathering feedback from local outdoor groups and will offer recommendations to the Forest Service in hopes that the collaboration will earn a greater voice. GVBCH is participating in the group effort and will also submit a separate recommendation in addition to the Gallatin Forest Partnership recommendation. Wildlife Preservation, Timber Harvesting, Trail Preservation and other outdoor related topics are open to consideration.

State Convention: Dan Marsh reported, which was held in Polson. Representatives from the BLM, Forest Service and Park Service gave presentations.

A chainsaw certification program is being worked on.

Connie Long has offered to instruct a CPR certification course for any chapter that requests it for a nominal fee to cover her gas and supplies.

The Forest Service first aid and CPR training for sawyers has not yet been scheduled.

The saw and scabbard that was donated by GVBCH brought over \$400 at the auction.

Smoke Elser was awarded the 2016 Founders Award. Ken Ausk's widow was awarded the 2017 Founders Award.

Poker Ride Committee: The 30th Annual Poker Ride will be held on July 8th and planning is well underway. GVBCH hosts a well-organized, fun event that has been successful for 30 years because of a core group of dedicated members who so generously give their time and support. Many hands make light work and help is needed, so please consider volunteering to serve the club in our only fundraiser, enabling us to continue providing an invaluable presence in our community serving and preserving the backcountry horsemen's love of an outdoor way of life.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED...

Interested in helping but not available on July 8th? No problem! There are many opportunities to assist both before and after the event. In fact, here are two ideas:

The poster will be printed and passed to members at the May meeting to be posted on bulletin boards around the valley. A volunteer to head up a poker ride poster distribution committee is needed. Please contact Tamara Erickson at TamaraErickson@msn.com or 406-451-8186 if you are interested in serving the club in this capacity.

It is now time to begin gathering poker ride prizes. All prizes must be turned in at the June General meeting and have a 501c3 form attached that includes donor contact information and a detailed item description and value. GVBCH prefers one contact person representing the club to contact local businesses to prevent solicitation by multiple requests, so if you're a new member or have never collected prizes before, please contact Tamara or a member of the Poker Ride Committee before soliciting local businesses. If you have collected prizes from donors in the past, please begin the networking process and make contact. If you are unable to help this year, please find someone else to take over or let Tamara know so that another member can be assigned.

RAC Grant: Dan Porter reported that there is left over money from the Cache Creek Corral project that must be spent this year or it will go to another chapter. John Mutter suggested using the money to install hitching rails, which would be a worthwhile project and easy to install. No objections were made on the hitching rail project idea. John Mutter will handle ordering the hitching rails once a date has been scheduled. Dan Marsh suggested the project for National Trails Day on June 3, but Larry has another idea in mind, once again collaborating with Corey and the bike club.

Webb Lake State Project: A multi-Chapter BCH project that was discussed last year, but failed to materialize. It has been scheduled this year on June 11-17, 2017 and will focus on replacing the corrals but will also look at the water system feeding the corral.

John Mutter adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by *Tamara Erickson*

### from THE COWBOY HAT GUIDE:

**Q: It doesn't seem like a 10 gallon cowboy hat could really hold that much water. Why is it called that?**

**A: Well actually the 10 gallon hat never referred to actual holding capacity of a hat, it was a reference to a mexican term "Galleon" that dealt with the brim size. The hats linings were waterproofed but at most it could hold only a few quarts or half a gallon or so.**

### TACK SWAP - BRAND INSPECTIONS - TACK TALK

6:30pm Carmen suggested a tack swap..so here it is. Bring any tack or horse related items by 6:30pm. There will be tables and saddle stands available. Have your items marked or be ready to barter / bargain.

7pm You never know what might happen when your Brand Inspector shows up...maybe a roping lesson? Dan Figgins will be at our May meeting to update, remind us, share what we need to know before riding season is in full swing and we start venturing out into other counties and states. Did you know that you are supposed to have your Brand Inspection with you when you cross COUNTY lines? Check your paperwork now. IF YOU HAVE A BRAND INSPECTION THAT IS EXPIRED, HE CAN INSPECT YOUR HORSE at the meeting. That is, if you bring your horse. Brand inspections can be done before the meeting starts. Let Janice know if this is your plan.

7:15pm If you do bring your horse and tack, we can look it over since our program is Tack Talk. Let me know if there is a tack topic you'd like me to cover. The meeting will be at our house: 1655 HARPER PUCKER ROAD in Bozeman. Park at the arena, BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS and dress for the weather.

Hopefully, we'll see some Saddle and Harness Club members along with some 4 H families who have some tack to sell, want to buy some tack and/or would like to stay for the program. Remember, our meetings are open to all so bring your horse friends with you.

Janice 406-579-3445 & Ron

Rich Inman (388-1564) has a single standard horse harness to give (free) to someone who could put it to use.

### Trail Etiquette

Basic rules for a safe and pleasant ride with friends include the following.

- Keep at least a one-horse space between riders going single file, and more space at faster gaits.
- If your route goes through a gate, the lead rider generally opens it unless he's on an inexperienced horse, and shuts it again as the other riders wait after going through it. If it's a long line of riders and the group doesn't want to ball up at the gate, the last rider gets off and shuts it.
- Regardless of who shuts the gate, other riders should wait while the gate is shut and the rider remounts—so his horse won't panic at being left.
- If the trail goes through brush or overhanging branches, be careful to never let a branch flip back into the following horse/rider's face. This isn't a problem when there's adequate space between horses, but sometimes a following horse will be insecure and crowding too closely to his buddy ahead of him.
- If you must pass a rider, make sure there's enough room to do so, and announce your intention so the other rider knows you're coming by and can prepare his horse.

# Equine Teeth

- Shear off forage




Dr. Parrott (Hardaway Veterinary Hospital) gave our Equine Dentistry presentation.

**AAEP** HORSE HEALTH EDUCATION: DENTAL

HOW OFTEN SHOULD A HORSE BE FLOATED?

Typical Examination Schedule:

Juvenile (<5 years):	Day 1, 3 months, then every 6 months
Adult (5-18 years):	Yearly
Senior (18+ years):	Yearly



Dan Porter had a new saw sheath made in preparation for trail clearing season.

## 4H PACKING CLINIC

On Saturday, April 8, the fifth and final 4-H clinic was held at Rafter K arena south of Hulbert Rd. near Belgrade. Instructors from GVBCB included Larry Thomas, Carmen Matzick, John Mutter, Sue Geske, Dan Marsh, Greg Benjamin and Rich Inman. Mike Haugan provided the camp kitchen and Carmen did the cooking for lunch. She also had hot coffee, juice and muffins ready for us when we started the clinic at 0900.

The 30+ 4-H participants (youth and parents) were asked to bring their camping gear, their livestock, and their packing/riding equipment. They were divided into groups with a GVBCB instructor assigned to each group to assist as needed. Each group was told to balance and pack all their gear in panniers or mantes and load it on the pack animals. They also had to saddle the pack animals which some of them never had done. Great learning experience!

Once the pack animals were loaded, the participants mounted their horses and led their pack stock to a small meadow about a half mile south of the ranch. Here, they proceeded to make camp just like they would on a regular back country trip. They also got to practice selecting a spot and putting up their own highline. They all know how to tie a highline knot now. About 1230 they took down their camps, loaded the pack stock and headed to the indoor arena for lunch.

Carmen had spaghetti with salad, rolls, homemade banana cake and chocolate cookies all prepared when we arrived. Great hot lunch on a cool day. Many thanks Carmen.

After lunch, Greg Benjamin gave a short presentation on hobbling and picketing. The rest of the afternoon the 4-H'ers were on their own to ride in the arena or work their horses on a number of challenging obstacles placed in the field outside the arena. Two girls asked to have help in teaching their horses to hobble. One of two horses apparently had been hobbled previously and was quite calm. The other horse did not act like it had ever been hobbled and put on quite a show for all those watching. It really reinforced why we teach that first time hobbling or picketing should be done preferably in a round pen under very controlled conditions.

Rain showers began about 3pm and every one loaded up and headed for home. Thank you to all the youth, parents and GVBCB members who participated. We hope that through efforts like this the packing and horsemanship skills and knowledge will be passed along for generations to come.

— Rich Inman





photos by Sue Geske







**GVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS  
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2016 POKER RIDE:**

TOP POKER HAND PRIZES:

Rocky Mountain Hat  
Madison River Propane  
Ardesson Boots & Shoes  
Montana Canvas  
Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply

SILENT AUCTION PRIZES:

Big Sky RV  
Knife River  
DJ Bar Ranch  
Steer In Trailer Sales  
Rich Inman  
Ace Owenhouse  
Beth Merrick  
Meredith Kresge  
Sorensen Veterinary Hospital  
Montana Equine Veterinary  
Four Corners Saddlery  
Rocky Mountain Truck Center  
Tru Value Hardware Belgrade  
Tim McWilliams

Montana Horse Sense  
Ben Masters  
Steve Thienes

RAFFLE PRIZES:

Treasure State (Mike Haugan)  
Troxel  
Montana Horse Sense  
Boot Barn  
All West Veterinary  
Three Forks Saddlery  
Double Diamond Halter Company  
Dan Marsh  
Rich Inman  
Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply  
Barb Mutter  
John Mutter  
Chalet Market  
Four Corners Saddlery  
Beth Merrick  
Big Sky RV

Montana Equine  
Sorensen Veterinary Hospital  
Rocky Mountain Truck Center  
Freeway Enterprises  
Double Diamond Veterinary  
Rocky Mountain Supply  
Town & Country Belgrade  
Hardaway Veterinary Hospital  
DaBrim  
The Coffee Pot  
Bridger Mountain Plumbing  
Bozeman Saddle Outlet  
Outback Steakhouse  
Kountry Korner Café  
Corral Steakhouse & Bar  
B&B Plumbing

CASH/PRODUCT DONATION

Bank of Bozeman  
Harrington's Pepsi-Cola  
Town & Country Belgrade



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