

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Greetings,

Our 2020 BCHMT convention, as most all members know, is soon to happen in Hamilton Mt. Once again, I would remind you all, that your board voted to reimburse each board member \$100 for registration fees, one per family. We also added \$500 dollars to be divided equally amongst any other general members families, who would attend. Up to \$100 per family.

The State Director's meetings start at noon on Friday 20th with the 18 Senior State board delegates, during a luncheon, will vote to nominate our next State Officers and National Directors.

The general meetings will start 8:00 am Saturday morning. The past history of the general membership meetings is such, that the conference room will be set up with several tables and chairs. Each chapter will be supplied with a minimum of one table, set up with 8 chairs, to seat the maximum of 8 delegates from that chapter. It is beneficial for those 8 to set together and be able to discuss the issues. Some years there have been very critical votes, such as two very qualified members vying for the same elected position, those will be a secret ballot. A voice ballot calls for one person, usually the chapter president, to announce the tally of their table's votes. The delegates will be allowed to speak to the chamber on the current issue that is on the floor to be voted on. The Beartooth will be asked to vote first.

All BCH MT. state members are invited to attend all meetings especially the General event. Extra tables and chairs will be available for these extra chapter members. All members in attendance will vote on the National Delegates.

It has been traditional that on Saturday morning all of our Beartooth club's members meet for a conference and decide who will be this year's voting delegates. The four BBCH officers have had the first choice to say Ya or Na and then other board of directors or our members at large have filled the rest of the seats. These 8 voting delegates will need to commit to serve Saturday and Sunday morning.

The BLM folks told us that the Scoping time for the logging, thinning, restoration project in the Strum trail area will be from March 15 to April 15, 2020. They hope to award the bid for the project in the

BBCH DIRECTORS

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President- John Simmons
328-4163

Vice President- Randy
Thomsen
328-7355

Treasurer- John Jenkins
855-0238

Secretary- Nancy Thomsen
328-7355

Director- John Chepulis
322-4823

Director- Bonnie Chepulis
322-4823

Director- Cathy Reck
690-9066

Director- Mary Sybrant
328-9112

STATE DIRECTORS

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Director- John Simmons
328-4163

John Jenkins (Alternate)
855-0238

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

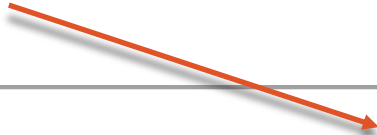
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John Chepulis
322-4823

Fall near September; there will be 3 years to complete the logging job and they project five more years for the restoration to recover the landscape.

They hope to hear individual letters from our membership as well as a letter from our board of directors. I haven't worked on a letter and we haven't discussed a letter yet in our board room, although there was a lot of Support for the project from our general members at the last general meeting. We will have time to compile a letter from our board in April.

~ John Simmons



There will NOT be a GENERAL MEETING in
MARCH!

Next Geeral Meeting: April 20th ~ Potluck @ 6:30;
Meeting @ 7:00 p.m..

2020 BBCH Dues – are Due!

Individual: \$35 Family: \$45

Business: \$50, which includes your Business Card in the Newsletter

Our Treasurer, John Jenkins, will gladly take your checks at the next General Meeting, or drop your check in the mail:

BBCH, PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001





“The County Roads are calling – time to leg up your equines for Spring.”

Please send any submissions for the Newsletter to Robin Morris,
junkerette@msn.com, by the 5th of each month. Thanks!

Have you visited <http://www.bchmt.org/> lately? There is a lot of useful information and the latest Back Country Horsemen of America [newsletter](#) and BCH Montana Decker Dispatch [newsletter](#) are available! The Decker Dispatch has some great articles...several submitted by our own Chapter members! Click on the links and check it out.

BBCH AND ABSAROKEE-BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS FOUNDATION TEAM UP FOR TRAIL MAINTENANCE

By John Jenkins, Treasurer BBCH

The BBCH had a pretty busy summer working with the Absarokee Beartooth Wilderness Foundation or ABWF (abwilderness.org- also linked in the advocacy group section of the BCHMT home page). The ABWF is a Red Lodge, Montana- based non-profit wilderness stewardship organization that fosters appreciation for the AB Wilderness and engages in projects to help maintain this particular wilderness area. Theirs is a similar mission to ours, just without the equines. According to David Kallenbach, the CEO, this was the busiest and most challenging year yet for the ABWF. The volunteer projects include trail building and maintenance, weed eradication, LNT education at trailheads and many others.

The ABWF has been in existence for several years, and our chapter has assisted them for a few years now. As they have become busier, so has the BBCH. The Beartooth Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of Montana was largely started to assist in reopening the main Stillwater River trail in the AB Wilderness after the 1988 fires. This was a multi-year project by the founding BBCH chapter members. Most of our projects are in this wilderness area and the surrounding non-wilderness public land. So, the BBCH and the ABWF are very similar in their focus on the Absarokee Beartooth Wilderness.

For many of the ABWF projects volunteers fly in to Montana from all over the country (and world) to assist in trail building and maintenance and the other projects. These are usually multi-day projects that are coordinated between the ABWF and the USFS trail management personnel. Frequently there are both volunteers and USFS personnel working side by side. When we assist, our job is to pack in the gear for the volunteer trail crew on the trail maintenance projects. The ABWF makes it easy for their volunteers. You just drive or fly in with your backpack, hiking boots and work gloves, and they do the rest. They provide the tools and grub. I think it's called working for "room and board", or maybe just a vacation.

We usually meet the ABWF volunteers and their crew chief at the trail head first thing in the morning. We get all the gear together and they head out, hiking up the trail with small day packs. We'll pack in the tools in Utah bags, the gear in soft panniers or manted loads, and the food in hard panniers. We'll usually pass the hikers along the trail somewhere. Four to six days later, we'll meet at the trailhead again, ride in and pack them out.



Packing out old pungeons

The Beartooth Chapter did several of these projects this year. Coordinating between different volunteer organizations can be a challenge. Then there is the “coordination” for packing out a crew when they are in the mountains and cannot be reached with 2-way communication. “Did anyone remember to coordinate the pack out before they went in?” I might be a bit of an organizational control freak, but that flew out the window this summer. I learned that 9 AM at the trailhead is a pretty universal concept between hikers, horsemen and packers. I’ll run through a few of the “adventures”, err, projects, here.

At the end of spring, mid-June, four of us with 4 pack animals rode up Paradise Valley (Yellowstone River Valley north out of the Park). This is quite a drive from our usual stomping grounds. We were tasked with packing out old pungeons from a foot bridge on the West Fork of Mill Creek. The ABWF had

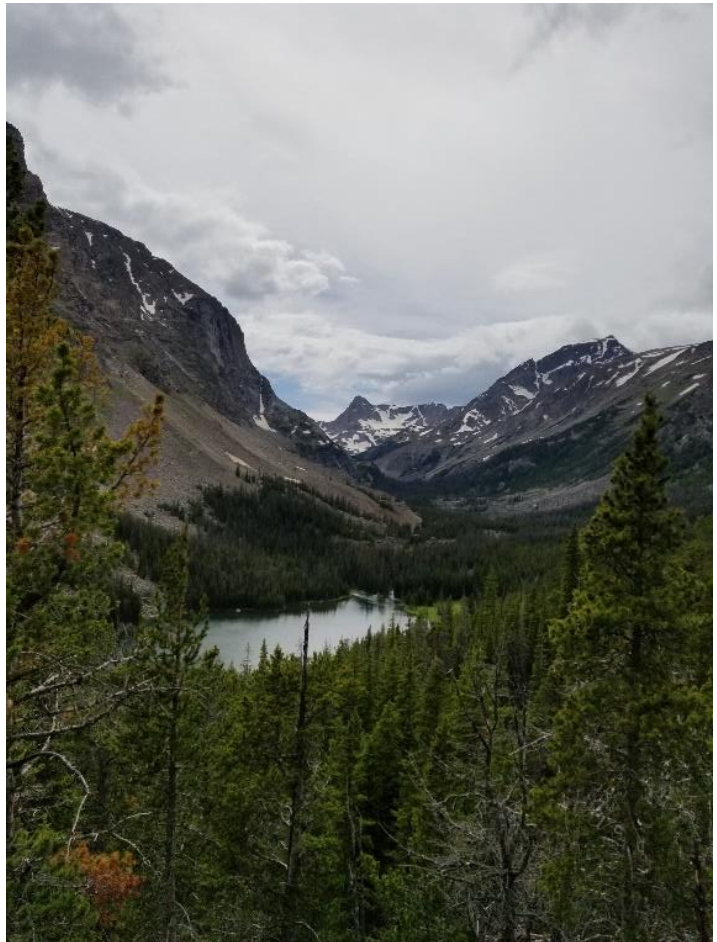
two years earlier repaired a section this trail leaving behind a pile of old timbers. Well, I had never packed anything like this, or close to it. Or seen it done. I don’t think my partner had either. Bure we were game. Going in I almost rode right past the pungeons piled on the side of the trail in thick spring undergrowth. They were heavy. And there were just two of us to do the heavy lifting for a pile of about 90 timbers. Needless to say, we didn’t get it all done.

The hillside was very steep where we loaded, and was generally steep from side to side on the trail as well. Our club’s youngest member, Josie Thomsen, only 12 years old, held stock while her father Randy and I loaded in a light drizzling rain. Or maybe she just blocked the trail and kept our stock from trotting back to the trailhead. We needed a 7 ft man on the downhill side and a 4 ft tall man on the uphill side for loading the pack stock. But we managed. On the trail out our uphill load of two pungeons tended to drag the steep uphill side of the trail. Fortunately, the ride was only about a mile and a half. The upside is that it rained on us to cool us off, and my wife’s saddle horse learned to pack. And he learned to pack pungeons. And he learned to do it with a borrowed pack saddle that was too small for him. And too small for the pungeons as well.

And so, the summer went. We were a little short on pack animals for some of these trips. A BBCH past president Dave Heinle (who it seems to me has lots of pack stock) has led many of these trips with the BBCH-ABWF in the past but was unavailable for some this summer. He also gave me some pointers on the pungeon packing when I told him my problem later in the summer. So, this novice and a few others stepped up. And did the best we could using a combination of any packing methods.

The next project was an early summer trip to September Morn Lake near Red Lodge. This lake is high up in the Beartooth Mountain range about 1300 ft under Sundance Pass, which is at 11037 ft. The trail head is a few miles south of Red Lodge before heading up the Beartooth Highway and Pass. It initially follows the raging Lake Fork of Rock Creek headed west. It tops out over Sundance Pass and turns northeast, ending at the West Fork of Rock Creek. This circuit is surrounded on all sides by plateaus at about 10000 ft (Silver Run, Red Lodge Cr, Hell Roaring and E Rosebud Plateaus). This trail is a 26-mile, one day ride, if you are up to it and can leave a vehicle at each end of the trail. The Lake Fork of Rock Creek is aptly named for the lakes along the way. A mile in is a rocky creek side beach good for watering stock on a hot summer's day. A little farther up is a shallow, slow moving wide spot in the creek called Broadwater Lake. I've ridden this trail yearly for a few years to within 2 miles of September Morn Lake for trout fishing in Lost Lake and Keyser Brown lakes which are just a little way off the trail, but had never ridden up to September Morn or the pass from this side. There are other lakes are off to the south of the trail that I haven't yet explored.

We packed a nine-member trail crew in to September Morn to work with an FS crew already in. The crew was helping with water bars maintenance on the switchbacks up to the pass above September Morn. Then we packed them out 5 days later.



One view going up to September Morn Lake



Mary Sybrant, John Simmons and Wendy Galvin behind my string headed into September Morn

On the pack in, the trail crew hiked ahead and we were left in the parking lot loading. John Simmons and I were putting hard panniers on my molly mule Easter with Wendy Galvin holding her. Suddenly we all started coughing and gagging. Wendy thought a can of bear spray had discharged in a hard pannier. But that didn't turn out to be the case. John investigated and discovered that some hikers upwind in the parking lot had "tested" their bear spray. I think they figured out they had done something wrong when we approached. I didn't hang around long for the ensuing discussion. John Simmons seemed to handle well the introduction to proper trailhead etiquette on "testing" bear spray upwind of a parking lot full of stock and horsemen.

Oh, and did I mention it hailed or rained on us on both rides out on this pack project? The last mile or so up to the lake angles across a steep slope at high altitude. Wouldn't you know, in the rain and hail

we had to repack a load there on the way out. But farther down our reward in a gentler rain was rainbow that danced across the trail in front of me for about a ½ mile as we rode. It seemed to move along right in front of me. And we saw a cow moose and calf, safely across the creek.

Other trips later in the summer went much more smoothly than the first couple. We packed a trail crew up to Red Lodge Plateau, seven, I think. The ride up 7 miles or so was entirely uneventful. The trail starts around 6500 ft and tops out at just under 10000 ft on red Lodge Plateau. I don't think there was so much as a single load adjustment on the way up. On the pack out, I was leading my wife's saddle horse (I had a borrowed and better fitting Decker by this time) followed by my two mules. Randy Thomsen, our most recent past president, was leading



John J at September Morn Lake, 9698 ft

two pack animals right behind me. We were headed down empty, off the plateau through an area with a lot of close small saplings and small timber. The trail was narrow. My mules did the “bread ‘n butter” thing around a small sapling. Stop, dismount, tie up, straighten the mules out, remount. All the while squeezing around the close saplings and timber. I was pretty proud of myself on this trip until then. As soon as we headed out again Randy’s two pack animals did very same “bread ‘n butter” thing around the very same sapling. Stop, dismount, ... you know the drill. What’s the odds of that? I think the FS needs to move that tree!

A late August trip involved packing an ABWF volunteer crew up to Meatrack Meadows. It’s west of the Boulder River, up Meatrack Creek to a large meadow where I’ve camped a number of times. Two other trails meet there climbing out of the meadow, and needed maintenance for erosion prevention on the steep sections and switchbacks. This trip turned out to be about as much work cutting timber as some of our trail clearing projects. I also figured out a few tips and tricks when we’re a little short of packers.



John Simmons and Mary Sybrant helping pack the ABWF Crew out of Sept Morn Lake

We enlisted the help of the ABWF volunteers in sorting gear and preliminarily weighing loads. They are usually eager to learn and help in any way they can. They can do a fine job with the duffels and panniers if you give them a few pointers. We’ll have to think about giving them their own pack scale and some duffels for future use because they were so helpful in prepping loads. Some volunteers can hold animals safely while you load with a few instructions. I think next year we might even put a saw in the hikers’ hands and give them a good head start before we ride out!

The ABWF staff and volunteers are always grateful for the help packing in all their gear. It’s hard enough just hiking many of these trails without a heavy backpack, and many of the volunteers come from near sea level elevations. We always make it a point to thank them for the work they do on the trails as it benefits us horsemen too.

I still consider myself a novice at this, but my skills improved a lot this summer. I still learn something on every trip with experienced packers. I rode some places I haven’t been and saw some new country in the AB Wilderness. I’ve been in the Snowies, Crazies and Pryors a little each, the Gallatins west of the ABW, and the Bob Marshall once for a very short trip. But it’s hard for me to decide to travel across Montana from Billings when such a

primeval, rugged, scenic, beautiful and wild area like the Absarokee Beartooth Wilderness is at my backdoor. I suppose that's why I'll use an excuse like volunteering to help pack in a volunteer trail crew to get off work and ride in the ABW. And it's sure nice to have a like-minded organization such as the ABWF to partner with. And I highly encourage each chapter consider partnering with a like-minded organization in your area to foster stewardship of public lands.

Happy Trails



Randy Thomsen up on Red Lodge Plateau, not much farther now

TENTS, TENTS, TENTS

By Dale Olson

I like tents. So many designs, so many choices. What's the right choice for you? My first recollection of a tent was when I was 3 or 4 years old. We had a fitted cloth that fit over a card table and was painted like a house complete with little flowers around the edges and a slot for a door. Sometimes it was in the house and sometimes we took it outdoors. I could take my stuffed toys and a blanket and spend what seemed like hours hidden away in this secret hiding place. Somewhere along the line this tent and Puff the Magic Dragon were cast aside.

By the time I reached 12 I was ready for a real tent. I saved up enough money from stacking hay for neighbors that I could now afford to buy a pup tent. Sears and Roebuck advertised a neat little pup tent for \$7.00. I barely had enough money for both it and postage. I hurriedly filled out the order form and sealed my money in an envelope and peddled my Hiawatha down to the mailbox. In about a week the package arrived. I remember thinking that sure is a small package. When I got it set up, I was completely satisfied. The fact that it did not have a floor or a door did not dampen my excitement. I spent many nights sleeping in that little tent.

My folks were farmers, there was not time for camping. They could not understand why anyone would want to give up a nice soft bed to sleep on the hard ground with hordes of mosquitoes and other crawling things that could bite or sting you. I must have a gene that surfaced after many generations of being repressed by civilization marching forward to new and modern convenient things like houses and beds that begged me to come back to the days of old.

After a few years I once again turned to the good old Sears and Roebuck catalog. I needed a bigger tent, one that I could stand up in. There I found a green canvas wall tent, 6 foot by 8 foot. Just right for me and a couple of buddies. I scraped together my hard-earned money from working for the neighbors and sent \$15.00 plus shipping of about one dollar off to them. Oh yah, this was the cat's meow. No floor but it had a door that you could tie shut. The farm had a creek with trees and hills, a perfect place for boys to explore and camp in. There were a couple of summers I know I slept in the tent more than I did my bed.

Now of course once you buy a tent you must purchase gear for camping. So, you guessed it, back to good old Sears. They made a lot of money off me. I already had an army surplus mess kit and canteen, but now I needed something to cook in. They had a great cook kit that nestled into each other with aluminum plates and plastic cups included. I think this cost me somewhere around \$7.00. My buddy bought one from Montgomery Ward's for about a dollar less. We quickly realized mine was the better quality one. This was back

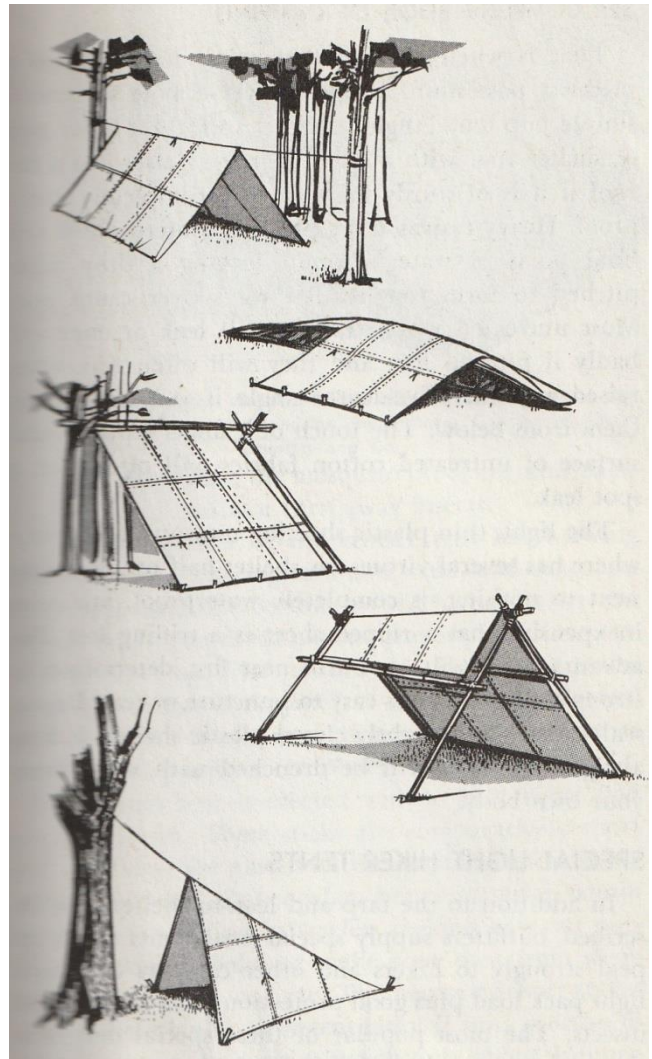
around 1960, I still have mine intact minus the cups and still use the coffee pot on nearly every campout. Good stuff.

As the years passed and work and family became the main focus my camping gear became play things for my kids. My tent was soon in shreds, the mess kit and canteen left outside in the trees, air mattress and sleeping bag succumbed to the elements. That was alright though as they need to be upgraded.

My next tent was a lean-to. This was alright, the kids were small enough that they fit next to the roof and kept it up off me. I found however that it was hard to get dressed inside of this tent. The roof was probably only 4 or 5 feet high at the peak.

Next, I bought a tepee. I was into the mountain man rendezvous at this time. Kids didn't need sleeping bags just throw a hide or two over them and they were happy. Lots of room but bulky to pack around and then there is the matter of poles. You had to drive to where you were going to erect it. There were times I went to the opposite extreme and slept many nights under a tarp or just under the stars.

Soon I had an 8x12 wall tent an umbrella tent and an assortment of back packing tents of all sorts of shapes and sizes. Two-man back packing tents are like sleeping in a jail cell, and breaking out of them is about the same. Try to unzip the door and bug screen in a hurry and you can almost count on the zipper getting caught in the material, and for some of us old folks that have to get up in the night the urgency to escape this cocoon is immediate and patients are short, oh, and the fact that you can't stand up in them adds to the frustration.



When I finally get settled down for the night in this compact little house, I remove my sheath knife, pistol and bear spray, it makes it a little lumpy to sleep with them on my belt. So, I lay these all out in a row along with my flashlight. I place them within reach so I will

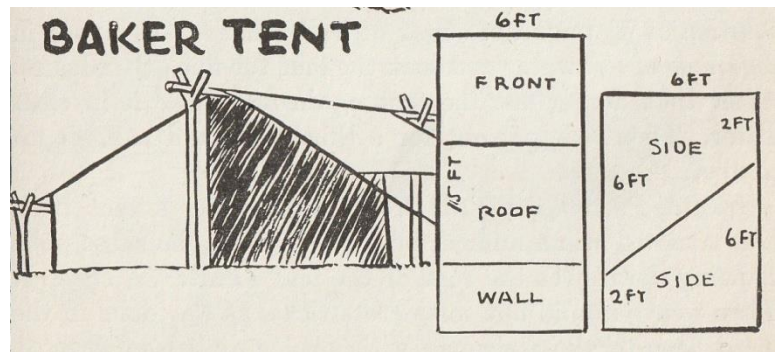
be able to find them if necessary, inevitably when I reach for the flashlight it never is where you left it!

Oh, foolish me! This got me thinking, most of my camping is within the Yellowstone Ecosystem the home to the largest concentration of grizzly bears in the U.S. That's why the bear spray. Now if an old grizzly bear came a snooping around my tent in the middle of the night just how in the world do, I think I'm going to get up, fumble with the flashlight, try and find the zipper to open the door and shine the flashlight around. You know the zipper is going to get stuck. Then what? In all the excitement just hope you don't discharge the bear spray in the tent. So, what's next. Bear comes and puts his humongous paw on your tent and collapses the thing with you wrapped up nice and snug like a bug in a rug. Can't shoot, might hit him in the butt or paw. Now he's extremely ticked off. What good is the knife with this big Teddy Bear lying upon your chest? Might just as well put these thoughts out of your mind and get some sleep.

Now this brings me to what I think is the ideal tent. Some of you may never have heard of the Baker Tent. This tent has been around for a long time, sometimes called the Hunters Tent. This is simply a lean-to with straight sides and a 1 to 2-foot wall on the back side with an awning in the front that can be cooked under or dropped down sealing the front of the tent in inclement weather. Why seal yourself in when you can clearly see what is going on around you, if you have horses you just have to prop yourself up on your elbow and see what is happening.

I believe the perfect size for 1 or 2 people is 6-foot-deep by 8-foot-long with a 2-foot wall and 6 foot at the ridge. High enough to stand up in to pull your pants on. I also think removable side curtains on the awning would be nice if it's raining

or the wind switches directions making it almost like another room. With a fire build under the awning you can be snug and comfortable in most any weather. Be sure to always pitch your tent with the back facing the prevailing winds otherwise it might bellow up like Aunt Bertha's dress. Happy camping.



Montanans: ‘Rep. Gianforte, Support Full, Dedicated Funding for LWCF’

JACOB FOSTER

POLICY AND ADVOCACY COORDINATOR

Montana Wilderness Association

On Tuesday, March 3, around 80 Gallatin and Park County residents united at the Rally to Fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund to call on Representative Greg Gianforte to strongly and publicly support full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

While Montana Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines have both been strong supporters of LWCF, cosponsoring a Senate bill that would ensure full and permanent funding, Rep. Gianforte has yet to support similar legislation in the House. Rally participants made clear that they want to see Rep. Gianforte join Sens. Tester and Daines in backing legislation that would secure dedicated long-term funding.

The rally took place under unseasonably warm blue skies at Cherry River Fishing Access Site on the banks of the East Gallatin River in Bozeman, one of about 50 LWCF-funded sites in Gallatin County. The lunch-hour crowd, many of them bearing signs calling on Rep. Gianforte to support full and permanent funding, came clad in mud boots to ward off the early-spring snowpack that was rapidly melting, turning the parking lot into a slushy sinkhole.

Shauna Stephenson of Montana Mountain Mamas, the afternoon’s MC, opened the event by noting the impact that LWCF has had on every Montanan by virtue of its broad public-lands funding mandate.

“Who likes to fish? Who likes to hike? Who likes to bike? Who likes to birdwatch? Who likes to ski? Who likes to skateboard? Who likes to hunt?” asked Stephenson, as the crowd cheered in response to each question. “If you answered ‘yes’ to any of these questions, you have personally benefited from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, whether you know it or not.”

Stephenson, a mother, also spoke about the importance of LWCF to maintaining the outdoor way of life that is so central to our Montana way of life.

“When we talk about full and permanent funding for LWCF, we’re talking about protecting the future of Montana,” she said. “I want my kids to grow up in a place where they can pull trout out of a blue-ribbon stream, ride horses on mountain trails, or play on the playground

with their friends. By supporting LWCF, we're supporting the rights of future generations to love the same places that we love today."

Jim Klug, the owner of Yellowdog Flyfishing Adventures, called on Rep. Gianforte to join Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines, both cosponsors of a Senate bill to secure full and dedicated funding, in pushing for the same thing in the House.

"Step up and co-sponsor legislation that matters to Montanans," said Klug. "More than 75% of Montanans support LWCF, and right there, that's all you need to know as far as getting on board."

The third speaker, Montana State Representative Zach Brown, spoke about the local impact that LWCF has had on Gallatin County communities like Bozeman, Manhattan, Three Forks, and West Yellowstone, and emphasized the importance of securing full funding moving forward.

"An underfunded or eliminated LWCF would be a dereliction of duty by Montana's congressional leadership," he told the onlookers. "It would be a failure to the people of Gallatin County and Montana as a whole."

Dan Gigone of Livingston's Sweetwater Fly Shop closed out the rally by emphasizing the importance of the public access that LWCF helps provide for regular people, including himself.

"We need to think beyond the drift boats and the guide trips," he said. "We need to provide more opportunities to those who can't afford a boat or a guide. LWCF, if fully funded, will allow

Montanans and visitors from all walks of life to receive the many benefits of the outdoors. My story is one of lifelong depression, and if I hadn't had the solace of moving waters, the life-affirming tug of the trout, the whitefish, the bluegill, or the eagle's flyby, I might not be standing here today...apparently, Greg Gianforte doesn't remember that my story, or your story, or the stories yet to be written, are important."

As the crowd dissipated into the March afternoon, the ripples from the rally, and from months of on-the-ground work preceding it, were being felt as far away as Washington D.C.

Around lunchtime, while Jim Klug was speaking on the banks of the East Gallatin, President Trump issued a tweet calling on Congress to pass a bill supporting full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

We have issued the following statement in response:

“Montana wilderness association would like to thank Montana senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines for their leadership in supporting full, dedicated funding for the land and water conservation fund. We are also glad to see that, in the face of bipartisan pressure, president trump has backed down from his proposed 2021 budget, which would cut 97% of LWCF funding, and yesterday called on congress to pass full and dedicated funding for LWCF.

While we are heartened to see congress and the president take action to pass LWCF, we are disappointed that representative Greg Gianforte still does not support full funding for this important program. Montanans have made it clear that they expect strong leadership on public lands, and we urge him to join his Montana colleagues and the president in supporting full and dedicated funding for LWCF.”

The executive branch’s newfound support for LWCF is proof that our grassroot work here in Montana is beginning to tell. After years of taking phone calls, receiving emails, reading letters to the editor, and attending rallies, our elected officials are feeling the pressure to fund LWCF, and they’re communicating that pressure all the way up to the highest echelons of government.

UPDATE: On Wednesday, March 4, less than a day after the rally to fund LWCF, a bipartisan group of senators, including Montana senators Jon tester and Steve Daines, announced legislation that would secure full, dedicated funding for the land and water conservation fund (LWCF).

It’s pretty incredible to see months of our on-the-ground action in Montana, culminating with the rally to fund LWCF, be adopted into national policy in a matter of hours.



The Back Country Horsemen of Montana 2020 Convention is just weeks away! Our Chapter has nine members registered to attend – but there is still money available to cover the cost of registration for several more attendees! A draft Agenda and Registration information follows.



Montana State BCH Convention 2020



Agenda

Friday, March 20, 2020

Ravalli County Fairgrounds in Hamilton, MT

Time	What's Happening	Location
7:00am – 11:00	Vendor Set up	FIB – Vendor Area
11:00am – 7:00pm	Convention Registration, Raffle ticket Sales	FIB – Corral Area
12:00pm	Nominating Committee Meeting	Arts Bldg.
12:45pm	Marcus Daly Tour, Meet @ 12:45pm	Main Gate
1:00 – 4:00pm	State Board Meeting (Pre-Convention)	Arts Bldg.
4:00pm – 7:00pm	Photo Registration & Chapter Displays	FIB – Corral Area
6:00pm – 10:30	Social Meet & Greet ➤ Live Background Music by Steve Tolson ➤ No Host Bar	FIB - Main

Saturday, March 21, 2020

Ravalli County Fairgrounds in Hamilton, MT

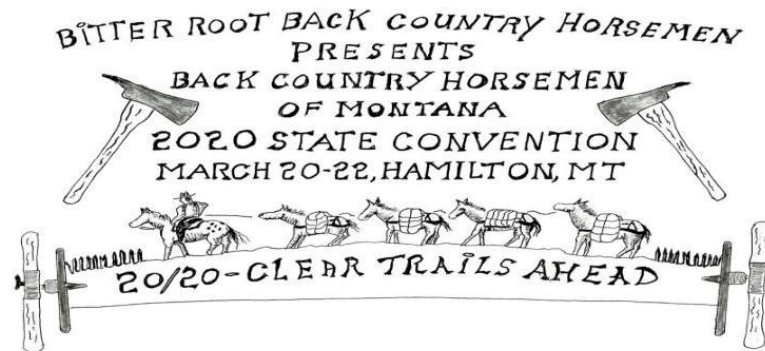
Time	What's Happening	Location
6:30am	Convention Registration, Turn in Raffle Ticket Sales Photos Drop off, Cross Cut Competition Registration	FIB – Corral Area
8:00am	Opening of Convention, Call to Order	FIB - Main
8:05am	Presentation of Flag by American Legion	FIB - Main
8:15am	Invocation	FIB - Main
8:20am	State Chapter Roll Call	FIB - Main
8:45am	General Session Opens	FIB - Main
	~Treasurer's Report	FIB - Main
	~Volunteer Hours Report	FIB - Main
	~Nominating Committee	FIB - Main
10:30am	Silent Auction Opens, Last call for Photos, and Cross Cut Competition Registration	TBD
10:30am	Morning Break	FIB – Vendor Area
11:00am	Leanne Marten – Region 1 Forest Service	FIB - Main
12:00pm	Lunch – Tickets Required	FIB – Chow Line
1:00pm	Silent Auction Opens	FIB – Dry Lot
1:00pm – 2:00pm	General Session Continues, Business session finished for day	FIB - Main
2:10pm – 2:40pm	Breakout Sessions	See locations
	~ Session # 1	Old photo building A
	~ Session # 2	Commercial Building
	~ Session # 3	Floral Building
	~ Session # 4	Under Grandstands
2:45pm – 3:15pm	Breakout Sessions	See locations
	~ Session # 1	Old photo building A
	~ Session # 2	Commercial Building
	~ Session # 3	Floral Building
	~ Session # 4	Under Grandstands
3:20pm – 3:50pm	Breakout Sessions	See locations
	~ Session # 1	Old photo building A
	~ Session # 2	Commercial Building
	~ Session # 3	Floral Building

	~ Session # 4	Under Grandstands
4:00pm -5:00pm	Saw Contest	FIB – Lumber Jack Area
6:00pm	No Host Bar	FIB – Chow Line
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Banquet – Tickets Required	FIB – Main Area
7:15pm	Silent Auction Closes and Last Call raffle Sales	FIB – Dry Lot
7:45pm – 9:00pm	Live Auction, Raffle Drawings, and 50/50	FIB – Main Area
9:00pm – 11:00pm	Live Music by Lolo Creek Band	FIB – Main Area

Sunday, March 22, 2020

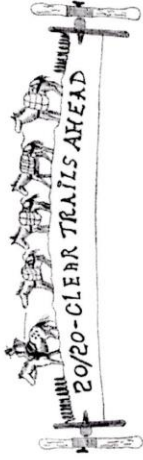
Ravalli County Fairgrounds in Hamilton, MT

Time	What's Happening	Location
6:30am - 7:15am	Cowboy Church	Old photo building A
7:00am	Breakfast	FIB – Main Area
7:00am	President's Breakfast	Old photo building B
8:45am	General Session Reconvenes	FIB - Main
	~Photo Contest Winners	FIB - Main
	~Presentation Mile High Award (saw Contest)	FIB - Main
	~Elections	FIB - Main
10:00am – 10:30am	Break	FIB – Vendor Area
10:30am - Noon	General Session Opens	FIB - Main
	~Next Year's Convention Video	FIB - Main
12:00pm	Adjournment	Safe Journey
12:15pm	State Board Post-Convention Meeting	Old photo building A
2:00pm	Chapter, Agency, and Vendor Display removal	FIB – Main
3:00pm	Vendor Display Removal	Vendor Area



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF MONTANA 2020 STATE CONVENTION

Hamilton, Montana March 20-22, 2020
 Hosted by Bitter Root BCH



Your BCH Chapter _____

Attendee #1 Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Voting Delegate? _____ Yes _____ No

Position(s) Held, if applicable (i.e., Chapter President, State Director, etc) _____

Not attending Friday's State Board meeting? Join us for a free tour of the historic Daly Mansion, Friday 1-4pm (Limited slots - Sign up now) _____ Yes / No

FULL REGISTRATION

(includes registration packet, Saturday lunch and banquet, Sunday breakfast, coffee/snacks)

Payment made before March 1: \$95

Payment made on/after March 1: \$105

... OR ... **INDIVIDUAL CHOICES**

Saturday lunch: \$20

Saturday banquet: \$40

Sunday breakfast: \$20

Total for Attendee #1 _____ \$ _____

PAYMENT DETAILS:

Total Paid \$ _____

Check # _____

Credit Card (online or by phone) _____

Make check payable to BRBCH. Mail form and payment to: Nancy Pollman, 3777 Eastside Hwy, Stevensville, MT 59870

(Payment by check is preferred, but credit cards also accepted, at www.bchmt.org/bitterroot or by phone with Nancy: 406-546-6492)

REGISTRATION FORMS:

If not submitted in full online, mail or email registration form to Nancy Pollman

GENERAL INFORMATION:

All events take place at Ravalli County Fairgrounds

QUESTIONS? Please contact Nancy Pollman

406-546-6492 npollman20@aol.com

3777 Eastside Hwy, Stevensville, MT 59870

Attendee #2 Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Voting Delegate? _____ Yes _____ No

Position(s) Held, if applicable (i.e., Chapter President, State Director, etc) _____

Not attending Friday's State Board meeting? Join us for a free tour of the historic Daly Mansion, Friday 1-4pm (Limited slots - Sign up now) _____ Yes / No

FULL REGISTRATION

(includes registration packet, Saturday lunch and banquet, Sunday breakfast, coffee/snacks)

Payment made before March 1: \$95

Payment made on/after March 1: \$105

... OR ... **INDIVIDUAL CHOICES**

Saturday lunch: \$20

Saturday banquet: \$40

Sunday breakfast: \$20

Total for Attendee #2 _____ \$ _____

LOGGING: Blocks of rooms are available until Feb. 20 under name MT BCH at:

HOTELS:

• Bitterroot River Inn 406-375-2525

• Quality Inn 406-363-6670

• Super 8 406-363-2940

CAMPING:

• Black Rabbit RV Park (full hookups) 406-363-3744

• Ravalli County Fairgrounds 406-363-3411

(Both dry camping and electrical hookups are available on the fairgrounds)



2020 Back Country Horsemen of MT State Convention Raffle Items

3 CHANCES TO WIN!

- TWO 2020 NATIONAL FINALS RODEO TICKETS + \$600 cash for travel expenses to Las Vegas
 - ✓ Taking place December 3rd – 12th, 2020 in Las Vegas, NV
 - ✓ Tickets will be for the last night



- 7 DAY PACK TRIP WITH BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS OUTFITTERS: August 2020, 1 person (value: \$2853)
 - ✓ August 5th – 11th, 2020, 7 days and 6 nights
 - ✓ This trip will not only offer excellent fishing, but the scenery will also be outstanding.
 - ✓ This trip has something for everyone.
 - ✓ For more information:
 - ✓ <https://bobmarshallwildernessoutfitters.com/pack-trips/excellent-fishing-and-scenery-tour-2/>



- 251 CC 18" BAR STIHL EZ PULL CHAINSAW WITH ALL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (Helmet, safety glasses, hearing protection, & chaps)
 - ✓ Valued @ \$500
 - ✓ What more could you want?



Winner need not be present to win.

Tickets \$5 each or 5 for \$20

Draw Date: March 21, 2020

Hosted by Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen Chapter

www.bchmt.org/bitterroot

- Any questions please contact Christy Schram-Duggan @ 406-360-5947 (text) or email @ synbarranch@msn.com



2020 BCH of MT State Convention Photo Contest



Welcome and Thank you for entering your photo in our annual contest. Following are the contest guidelines. Please note that the convention attendees will decide the winner.

- Register your photo Friday evening or Saturday morning before 9:00 am
- Photo contest will have 5 (five) categories. Members limited to 2 (two) entries in each category.
- Categories
 - 1) **Stock & Wildlife:** Horses, Wildlife, Dogs, Cats, etc.
 - 2) **Montana Landscape:** Scenery, Mountains, Lakes, etc.
 - 3) **Kids Old/Young:** People Young, Old, Not So Old
 - 4) **Back Country Horsemen at Work:** Work Projects, Club Projects, Activities
 - 5) **Laugh Out Loud:** Comical, Funny, Make Ya Giggle

Photos are to be taken by amateur photographers only and must be BCH members. Photo size shall be 5 X 7 or 8 X 10 and must be mounted or matted (no frames, please). Photographer's name and address shall be attached to the back of the photo. Photos may also be mailed to:

Christy Schram-Duggan, 4780 Hoover Lane, Stevensville, MT 59870

**BBCH GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2020**

DRAFT

Call to Order 7:09

Pledge of Allegiance

No Treasurer's Report

January General Meeting minutes were read. Dale Olson moved to approve minutes as corrected, Carole Olson second, motion passed.

BLM Outdoor Recreational Planner, Jenny Alexander, presented an overview of the Billings and surrounding area, BLM parks and trails. She asked the Chapter for ideas and help to build a coral at the Meeteetsee Cabin that the BLM have been making improvements. She also discussed other trails the BLM is interested in improving.

BLM State Forrester, Ken Reed's presentation was titled "Fiddler Ridge Good Neighbor". He discussed the laws, goals, and benefits of the Fiddler Ridge Restoration Project. Membership is encouraged to send letters of support to the BLM and DNRC. Contact Marilyn Simmons for more information.

President's report- National director will meet with the Forest Service to clarify the need for certification to teach Defensive Horsemanship. Thank you to John Jenkins for all his hard work on the license plate renewal.

Vice Presidents report- State Convention raffle tickets are still available for purchase.

Website- Jessy Erickson will be updating the website.

BCHMT newsletter is now online.

There will be no March General Meeting, State Convention is that week.

Volunteers are needed for an Audit committee. Contact John Jenkins.

Dan Aadland and Lee Schmelzer will be demonstrating packing at the Chamber of Commerce Business and Recreational Sports Expo in Columbus, MT on March 21.

A Facebook message from Chris Garrett of Donkey Sanctuary in the United Kingdom. He is requesting contact information for Bob Hover son. Chris Garrett would like to use Bob Hover son's book for training purposes in other parts of the world.

Meeting adjourned 9:02 Marilyn Simmons moved, Randy Thomsen second, motion passed.

Next Board Meeting March 6,2020 7pm Thomsen home

Next General Meeting April 20,2020 6:30 Potluck

Thank you to these local businesses for their continued support!



Grant Barnard Skiing – Certified Instructor
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406.425.0130 - Red Lodge, MT
gbtelemark@gmail.com

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406-328-4159

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Dan & Emily Aadland
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Absarokee, MT 59001
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