Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

PRESIDENT'S PEN

June - early summer in Montana. The weather is getting much warmer, some folks call it hot when it gets to 80° here. We have friends in Bullhead City Arizona, there the Average high temperature in July is 122°. It was 105° just east of Phoenix at my Son's home a week ago.

A few years ago, near the end of June. On the phone visiting with my Bullhead City friend. He asked me if I had been riding on the trail, we both knew about here, near Bad Canyon. I told him no it has been 90° here for several days. His response was "Why don't you just put your coat on and go for it?" Well so much for whining; I guess we need to remember there is always someone who has problems that may be worse than ours. This Covid-19 deal has been difficult for all, some worse than others. I like a certain amount of social distancing, but I hate to see that we horse club members cannot have our get togethers and potlucks. I am thankful that we are able to live here and normally, recreate in this great country. We have great Wilderness landscapes to visit, great fishing, and hunting, lots of rock hounding and a popular, high, rugged mountain that lots of folks like to climb. Our mission to help keep the Back-country trails open for travelers sends a great message to all who live here and to our many visitors. Our legacy image shows off a great deal of pride

BBCH DIRECTORS

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

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Director- Mary Sybrant 328-9112

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Director- John Simmons 328-4163 John Jenkins (Alternate) 855-0238

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

• • •

John Chepulis 322-4823

in our Home. Even in this social distancing time we have had crews out cleaning trails. Thanks All.

Of course, we members all enjoy the horse trips and camping, but we have to pay the dues to those Equine members of our family, they can create a lot work in our daily lives. The fencing, corrals, trucks, trailers, and the responsibility of their health. This lovely green grass that we now see can be a serious problem for the horse's wellbeing. It takes a lot of riding time and /or dry lot time to keep them from turning into a puffball. I

once read a message from a horse trainer / trader in Wyoming. He said the first thing he did with a new horse is to pen them up and take some weight off them, 75 to 150 pounds was not uncommon.

Hopefully in the previous month or two you have visited with your Veterinary about the equine spring maintenance medications that many of us use to help keep our equine partners healthy and trim. I like to do that when my stock is due to be exposed to the stress of new surroundings or new or un-familiar livestock.

Take Care and Keep your eyes open in the Tall Grass John Simmons,

Our June General Meeting is next Monday, June 15th, starting at 7:00 p.m. - no Pot Luck. We will meet in Columbus, at the far end of Itch-Kep-Pe Park, near the Kiosk, or nearby. Bring your own refreshments.

2020 BBCH Dues – are Due!

Individual: \$35 Family: \$45



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

Mail your check to: BBCH, PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001



May 28th, Elk Lake, 3 ½ miles up the East Rosebud's "Beaten Path"

For those that haven't explored this trail, it's an amazing ride with a multitude of gorgeous Mountain Lakes. You can ride clear to Cooke City – should you desire, or stop along the way to fish and/or just relax. Elk Lake, 3 ½ miles; Rimrock Lake, 6 miles; Rainbow Lake, 8 miles; Lake at Falls, 9 miles; Big Park Lake, 10 miles; Duggan Lake, 12 ½ miles; Dewey Lake, 14 miles; Fossil Lake, 16 miles; Windy Lake, 17.1 miles; Skull Lake, 17.8 miles; Bald Knob Lake, 18.4 miles; Ouzel Lake, 18.8 miles; Russell Lake, 20 miles; Kersey Lake, 24.5 miles and Clarks Fork TH, 26 miles. So, if you like lakes, this is a must-ride trail. The parking lot fills up on weekends, and yes, hikers often take over the stock parking area – which is small. Several times I resorted to parking just across the bridge in the boat lot, which is generally empty. Directions: From Highway 78 (that runs between Red Lodge and Columbus), head to Roscoe, drive past the Grizzly Bar and continue for 2.3 miles, cross the bridge and turn right (south) onto East Rosebud Road. Drive 10.6 miles. The road will deadend at the Trailhead. The road, unless freshly graded, is rough! The beauty of this, and the other two trails (Spread Creek and Phantom Creek) up the East Rosebud more than make up for the rough drive in.

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

RECON AND TRAIL CLEARING MAY 18TH, MAY 26TH, MAY 30TH & JUNE 13TH

Submitted by: Robin Morris

May 18th, 2020: I headed to Island Lake, out of Dean to recon and see what trail work was needed. My little brown dog, Aghy joined me and Beau. The weather was warm, just a little breeze, and we had the trail all to ourselves. Aghy was excited to run and explore a new trail and let me know it by flipping in circles and anxiously barking for me "get going." She chased a





squirrel up a tree, crossed some deep water (I had her long-line on - just in case), and got to see her first bull elk – actually there were two, a 5 and a 6-point. I was pleased she stuck with me and didn't run after them. You never know how they will react until the moment arrives.

I always carry, at least, my Silky saw when I head to the Forest or Wilderness. It came in handy as I needed to clear a few, drop a few and then cut a big one - there was no way around it. Folks that know me will understand - I set a goal, I make it, and the goal was to recon all of Trail #37 to Island Lake. Then we came to a tree I have worried about for years and the sound "Ruh-Roh" came out of my mouth. Yep - I Scooby



Dooed it. I tried to go around it uphill - no dice, so we headed downhill. After breaking off a few branches, I was able to lead Beau under the downed tree. I am sure glad we can use chainsaws on this trail! There were a few more - but nothing compared to the "big" one.

Then it was to the lake to fish! The water was low and murky - no casting and "hitting the ground" to hide from the fish was necessary! Third cast - fish on! Then within 15 minutes...two

more "fish on." Aghy just sat on the bank and watched me. She was happy when I invited

here down to check out the fish on my stringer. Yes, I had trout for dinner.

May 26th, 2020: I headed back up the Stillwater, solo, to recon the trail between the Overlook and Big Park (11.5 miles in). I was able to move several smaller downed logs off the trail. There is one tree across the trail just before the Meadows, that I was able to cross. There are lots trees that need to be limbed, and dogwoods (and other trail invaders) to be lopped. I also noted a few places where water run-off could be easily diverted with

May 30th, 2020: BBCH Members, John & Louise Jenkins, Keith Brighton, Randy, Nancy and Josie Thompson, John and Sean Chepulis, and Charles Spencer and headed back to clear the trail. They cleared the lower loop, taking the Twin Lakes Fork (37A) to Island Lake as the creek was too high to safely cross. They took out about 10 trees and did a bunch of lopping. The Big Tree will have to wait for another trip.

a shovel.

June 6th, 2020: To celebrate National





Trails Day, John Simmons, John and Louise Jenkins, and John Chepulis cleared the Ernie Strum Trail up the West Rosebud. They cleared up to the creek crossing, lopping a bunch of small branches, and removed rocks from the trail.

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BBCH BOARD MEETING - APRIL 6TH, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:45 via GO TO MEETING app

In attendance via app: John Simmons, Randy Thomsen, John Jenkins, Nancy Thomsen, Mary Sybrant, John Chepulis, Bonnie Chepulis

February Board meeting Minutes: John Chepulis moved to accept Minutes, John Jenkins second, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report- Balance \$26,673.41, approximately \$2450 in deposits. Approximately \$710.70 in withdrawals. 18 memberships have been paid.

John Jenkins reports that he is still receiving correspondence from the state in regards to recertification of the license plate.

Mary Sybrant and Marilyn Simmons volunteered for the Audit committee.

Randy Thomsen moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Bonnie Chepulis second, motion passed.

Vice Presidents Report- An email was received from the ABWF requesting assistance with 3 of their work projects. John Chepulis will call and try to set up requested meeting with Dave Kallenbach.

Education- Ken Coffin would like to address the membership as soon as another general meeting is scheduled.

John Jenkins moved that currant officers on signature card remain on card at Yellowstone Bank. Mary Sybrant second, motion passed. Currant officers on card are Randy Thomsen, John Simmons, and John Jenkins.

Mary Sybrant gave a presentation on her research into an emergency satellite GPS messenger for the Chapter.

The Spring Clinic has been cancelled.

Mary Sybrant moved to cancel the Poker Ride due to the COVID-19. John Simmons second, motion passed.

First Aid certification has been extended 120 days and chain saw certification has been extended another year due to COVID-19.

Region 1 USFS proposed firearms policy was discussed.

John Jenkins and John Chepulis will be the committee to discuss work projects with Jenny Alexander, BLM Outdoor Recreational Planner.

Randy Thomsen moved to donate \$500 plus annual rent to Fishtail Community Center. Mary Sybrant second, motion passed

Bonnie Chepulis moved to donate \$250 each to Columbus, Absarokee, Red Lodge, Joliet, and Laurel Food Bank, with an additional \$500 to the Billings Food Bank. Mary Sybrant second, motion passed.

Mary Sybrant is signed up for the Nine Mile Pack Clinic.

John Jenkins moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:12pm, Randy Thomsen second, motion passed

BBCH 2020 - WORK PROJECTS/SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Any changes or additions will be emailed to all members and updated in the Newsletter monthly.

June 11^h: Face of the Mountain trail clearing. Meet at the TH on the Meeteetse Trail Road at 8:45.

June 12th: Optional camping, Bear Canyon Road, Pryor Mountains. Details were included in recent email.

June 13th: Ride/hike, Valley of the Shields. 10:00. Drive south of Bridger, turn right on HWY 72, head south for 5 miles, turn left on Golden lane, drive 1.4 miles. There will be a sharp left turn, take the road headed up hill across the yellow cattle guard (cottonwood road), continue for another 10.6 miles, the trailhead is on the left. You may also access Valley of the Shields from Warren, taking Cottonwood Draw Road (westside of HWY 310) for 9.6 miles. Hike or ride your horse – your choice, but plan on leaving the trailhead at 10:00 a.m. If there is time and folks want to explore other canyons in the Pryors, that will be an option.

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen has committed to provide stock support for the ABW projects highlighted in "green." Local contacts to sign up for those projects will be listed as they come up on the schedule. The ABW is looking volunteers for each of the projects that follow. It is a great opportunity for members that do not have horses and/or no longer ride, but still want to spend time and help in the Back Country. To volunteer for any of the ABW projects, sign up is on their page: www.abw.org under "Volunteer."

June 13th & 14th, Saturday/Sunday - Line Creek Trail #7A - Community Trails Day

- Work: Sawing out trees across the trail; tread work (widening and grading the trail)
- Description: This may well be a trail few people know about, so add this trail to your bucket list and learn more about it by helping improved it! It's on the south side of the Line Creek Plateau and starts outside of Clark, Wyoming. (If you went up and over the plateau from the Corral Creek Trail/Piney Dell Resort, you'd end up at the Line Creek trailhead. Every year the ABWF calls upon the Red Lodge/Billings communities to join us for some trail repair and improvement
- Group size: Unlimited; this one is outside Wilderness; bring a friend!
- Meeting time & location: 8:00 a.m. Beartooth Ranger Station, 6811 South Hwy 212.
- Bring: water, lunch, snacks, sun protection; bear-spray; a friend. Pack for car-camping if you intend to stay over. There's good camping in the area and we'll plan on grilling on the campfire.

July 25th – 28th, Thursday-Monday - Pine Creek Trail #627 to Palmer Mountain

- Location: Northeast of Gardiner/Jardine—Gardiner District
- Work: A lot of Brushing and extensive tread work; adding fill to rutted trail; might need to shift the trail over in some places; tree-clearing as needed.
- Description: A multi-day project, with nearby camping in Timber Camp site.
- Camping: We'll car camp for the duration in the Timber Camp undeveloped site (there is a toilet) up the Bear Creek Road. All Food is provided.
- Group size: 10 max
- Meeting time & location: 9:00 a.m. Gardiner Ranger Station, 805 Scott Street, Gardiner.
- Bring: Boots, long pants, day pack, work gloves. Car camping.

July 23-27, Thursday-Monday Trail: W. Fork Stillwater Trail #90/Breakneck Meadows

- Location: West of Nye, Montana (Stillwater Mine/Absarokee area)—Beartooth District
- Work: A lot of Brushing (lopping/sawing brush growing over the trail; Sawing out trees across the trail as needed. Plus, tread work (widening and grading the trail)
- **Description**: We'll be hiking up the beautiful and reclusive West Stillwater Valley 8.5 easy miles along the W. Fork of the Stillwater River to Breakneck Meadows where we'll set up camp for four nights. Each day we'll be working within roughly 2-miles of camp. We'll be doing a lot of brushing and trail grading. There will horse-packing support to carry in our heavy food, tools and camping equipment. Breakneck Meadows is a gorgeous destination!
- **Difficulty**: Moderately strenuous. Hike in is moderate. **BBCH Horse Support. Elevation**: 7500'
- **Group size**: 10; this project takes place in Wilderness;
- **Meeting time & location**: 8:00 a.m. We will gather together at the Old Nye Picnic Area just before you get to the Stillwater Mine. Then we'll carpool/caravan to the Trailhead, which is a very rough road for passenger cars as it winds up and above the Mine to Initial Creek Campground and the W. Stillwater TH.

July 31-Aug 3, Friday-Monday (4 day) Trail: W. Fork Boulder River Trail #41. High School only!

- Location: Southwest of Big Timber/McLeod; SE of Livingston—Yellowstone Ranger District
- Work: Extensive brushing of lodgepole saplings obscuring the trail; Sawing out trees across the
 trail. Age appropriate work. This area burned a decade or so ago, and the lodgepoles came back
 with a vengeance!
- **Description**: This trip is for High School kids only! This is the <u>fourth</u> time the ABWF has successfully led a group of high school aged kids into the wilderness backcountry to engage in this type of service-learning work. Our group will be hiking about 6 miles before we set up camp in pretty meadows along the stunning West Boulder River for 3 nights. From camp we'll hike 2-miles or less each to where we'll do our work to make this trail much more passable. We'll also spend time in the evenings talking about conservation issues and the value of our public lands and wilderness. **BBCH Horse Support** to carry in our heavy food, tools and camping equipment.

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

- **Difficulty**: work is Moderate. Hike in is moderate **Horse Support**: YES **Elevation**: 6300' ft.
- **Group size**: 10; this project takes place in Wilderness
- **Meeting time & location**: 9:00 a.m. at the West Boulder Trailhead/Campground, which is at the end of the W. Boulder Road just past McLeod. Easy to Google Map.

Aug 19-26, (8-days) Trail: Fourmile/Meatrack Trails #22-23 w/ American Hiking Society

- Location: South of Big Timber, along the Main Boulder Road at Fourmile Creek. Yellowstone RD.
- Work: We will pull non-native hounds' tongue, construct water bars, build check dams and retaining walls out of stone and wood; and finish everything off by brushing the corridor. This is an all-around quite strenuous work project, as we will be working with stone, locally sourced logs, and standard trail tools (shovels, Pulaski's, picks, crosscut saws).
- **Description**: This is our annual project with the members of the American Hiking Society. Our trip starts at the Frosty Freeze in Big Timber, MT. From there we will carpool/caravan up the Main Boulder River to the Fourmile Trailhead. The first and last night of the trip, the crew will camp at the Fourmile Trailhead. On the morning of Day 2, we will hike in the 5 miles and establish a basecamp for the rest of the week. The Beartooth Backcountry Horsemen will pack in our heavy stuff—food, tools, tents, etc.—so volunteers only need to carry a day pack with their clothes and personal items. This is an American Hiking Society trip; you must be registered for through their website: https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trip/absaroka-beartooth-wilderness/. The road down the Main Boulder River gets quite rough beyond 4-mile; most passenger vehicles can make it to the 4-Mile bridge, but it's slow going.
- **Difficulty**: The work is Strenuous. Hike in is moderate to fairly strenuous. **BBCH Horse Support Elevation**: 8000 ft.
- **Group size**: 11; this project takes place in Wilderness.
- Meeting time & location: Whether you are driving yourself or catching a ride from the airport, we will convene at 2:30 p.m. at the Frosty Freeze in Big Timber and drive to the trailhead together.
 This one we need BBCH to pack us in on August 20th in the morning, and pack us out on August 25th, in the afternoon.



Here is the direct to the application:

http://www.bchmt.org/documents/youth/BCHMT%20Youth%20Summer%20Camp%20Application2020.pdf



The Joliet Food Pantry P.O. Box 230, 206 State Street Joliet, MT 59041

May 11, 2020

Beartooth Backcountry Horsemen

Absarokee, MT 59001

Dear Beartooth Backcountry Horsemen,

stretched with other bills or when someone in the family has lost a job. We are grateful to your generous donation, Thank you so much for your recent donation of \$250.00 to our food pantry (and deposited at the Bank of Joliet). Each year, we continue to help about 90 families in the greater Joliet area - Silesia, Edgar, Fromberg, Boyd, and parts of Roberts. Some come every month, and others just a few times a year - when the budget is especially which allows us to serve those in need with something as basic as food.

the massive lines at food banks that have been taking place in other parts of the country, we have definitely seen an We are also especially grateful right now because of an increase in need, due to COVID-19. While we've not seen uptick in the numbers of people coming to our food pantry, and expect that will continue.

sheets ourselves, and then ask them to sit in their cars while we prepare a box. When the food boxes are completed distanced from our clients. When they arrive at the door, we get their name through the door, check their sign-up we place them on a cart outside the door for them to pick up. We are also using gloves and sanitizing constantly. The only guideline we can't follow is to have the volunteers be under 60 - since most of us are in our 70's and Based on guidelines from the Missoula Food Bank Network, we have instituted safety practices that keep us beyond, that would only give us two volunteers. But, I think with these safety practices, we'll be fine.

Thank you again for your generosity and for making a difference in the Joliet area. We so appreciate you.

Thendes be much

Sincerely,

Karen Kinser

Laren

Joliet Food Bank Volunteer (962-3938)

The Carbon County Food Bank (dha the Joliet Food Bank Pantry) is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our tax ID # is 01-0693898. Please consider this letter as your receipt for your donation. If you need additional documentation, just give me a call.



April 28, 2020

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen c/o Dr. John Jenkins

Absarokee, MT 59001 PO Box 614

Dear Beartooth Back Country Horsemen,

those in food insecurity, your contribution helps to feed those in need in Red Lodge and allows us to assist the food banks in both Joliet and Bridger. Our mission is to helped us to feed over 3000 people in our community. Thank you for your help in Thank you so much for your very generous contribution of \$250.00 to BareTooth insecurity is of paramount concern. As we work to fulfill our mission of assisting see that our neighbors do not go hungry. Last year in 2019, donations like yours Cupboards. During this time that our country is experiencing a pandemic, food feeding your neighbors.

We are always looking for ways to reduce our overhead so that we can devote an even greater percentage of our donations to food purchases. One of the ways we hope to do that is to use email communication as much as possible. Would you consider sharing your email address with us for future communications? If so, please send an email with the subject "Please add my email" to baretooth@gmail.com. Thank you.

Your support is truly appreciated.

Gratefully,

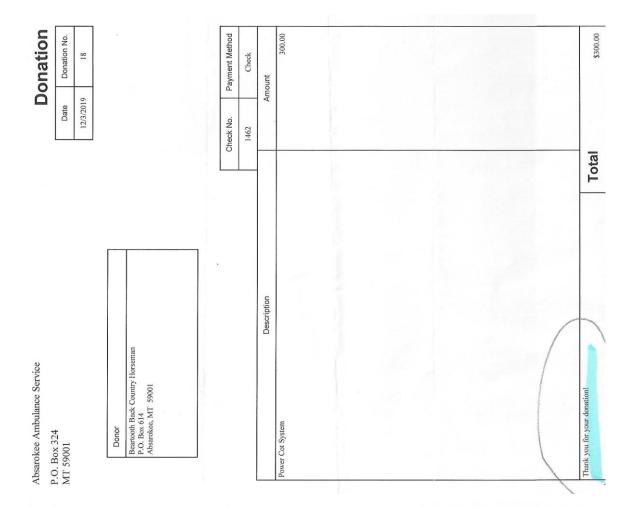
Loi Brem

BareTooth Cupboards Lori Bremer

BareTooth Cupboards has not provided any goods or services in consideration for your donation. Therefore, your entire donation is deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax

ses to be treated with dignity and respect. BareTooth Cupboards is dedicated to reducing hunger in Carbon County by providing Please keep this acknowledgement for your tax records. Tax ID# 81-0496066 Our Mission BareTooth Cupboards Food Bank believes that no one should go hungry and that everyone deser mutritious food to individuals in need and by engaging in outreach and advocacy.

17 East 11th St. * PO Box 665 * Red Lodge, MT * 59068 * (406) 446-1255



April 16, 2020

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen

Thank you for your generous donation of \$500.00 to support the Fishtail Community Center and Park. We regret having to cancel Fishtail Family Fun Day due to the Covid-19. That event is our primary source to raise funds to keep the center and park available for the community to use. We are happy that your organization is able to utilize the center for your meetings,

Again the Fishtail Community Council is grateful for your donation.

Fishtail Community Council

Karen Reiner, Secretary

May 31, 2020

Hi John

My husband and I hiked from Woodbine to Sioux Charley May 27 on a glorious spring/summer day. It had been a few years since I'd been on that trail. I noticed how well the trail was maintained. Recent downfall or blowdown had been sawed to clear the trail. Water from side springs was diverted from running across the trail into a trench along the trail. Rocks lined both sides of one stretch of the trail.

On our way out, I read the sign at the parking lot that said the trail had been maintained by US the Forest Service and the Beartooth Backcountry Horsemen. If your group had something to do with clearing or working on the Stillwater trail, we want to thank you for all your hard work.

We appreciate your hard work!

Mary Parker, Billings

Then you, for your generous donation to the stillwater County Ford Bank. We have usen the impact of COVID 19 in our county. There families are trequesting monthly food whokes. We chave been doubling the amount of bood we iprovide. With usupport from people ilke you, we can continue its assist families in our county. We are chambled thy the kindness of ipeople!

Project Hope

Ree Ellen Strickland

Columbus Thrift store manager

Thank you

so very much for

this generous gypt.

We will put it to

good use.

fun foreman

Ductor.

Community Hope

Laurel

ABSAROKEE

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Absarokee Area Food Bank It is greatly appreciated.

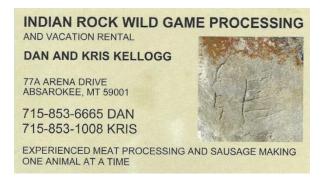
BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

Thank you to these local businesses for their continued support!





557 North Montana Avenue Absarokee, MT 59001 406-328-4159





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