

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen

Trail Tales

PRESIDENT'S PEN

As I sit down to write this, winter finally arrived. It's snowing outside my window now. I was beginning to wonder if winter would arrive this year. But this obvious seasonal change made me reflective about the changes we have had in the last year in light of the pandemic, and what that means to this club. Before I get into that below, I would like to thank all the members who served on the



BBCH Board of Directors last year and introduce this year's board. I also serve as Junior State Director. Randy Thomsen is Vice President. Nancy Thomsen is Secretary. Melissa Codner is Treasurer. John Simmons (also Senior State Director). John Chepulis, Charles Spencer are also board members. John Chepulis also serves as National Director. One board member spot is open due to a recent resignation (she moved). The Board will act soon to fill that position.

I would also like to particularly the outgoing president, John Simmons. He has always been an asset in the public affairs/issues arena. I really appreciated his last "President's Pen" recounting the projects we accomplished. That was much more than many clubs. And it was no small feat given the uncertainty of the circumstances when the pandemic first began. No one knew what to expect. Or what to do. Or how to go about doing it. But it shows what we can do if we set our minds to it, even in the face of uncertainty.

I also enjoyed John's sports analogy of a team or situation that needs a rebuilding year. The pandemic has hit the country hard and lots of things need rebuilding, even as we still grapple with existential questions; To mask or not to mask? Two masks or not two mask? (pun intended). I actually saw someone recently with two pair of rubber gloves on and three masks! Who would have thought a year ago it would be a daily occurrence to be walking into a bank wearing a cowboy hat with a mask or two on?

I'm very optimistic, though, that this will be good year. Sure, we are all tired of the limitations imposed by the pandemic last year, especially with our in-person meetings being canceled and cancellation of some ABWF and USFS projects. But look at John Simmons' list of accomplishments last year. Fortunately, we don't have the same problems as a sports team that has lost its best or senior players. We have the team and the playing field; we just have to adapt to the situation a little more. Like coming out in the second half of a football game and

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

BBCH DIRECTORS

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President- John Jenkins
855-0238
Vice President- Randy Thomsen
328-7355
Treasurer- Melissa Codner
308-390-0465
Secretary- Nancy Thomsen
328-7355
Director- John Chepulis
322-4823
Director- Charles Spencer
860-1483
Director - Open

STATE DIRECTORS

•••

Senior Director- John Simmons
328-4163
Louise Jenkins (Alternate)
855-0237

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

•••

John Chepulis

adjusting the offence. And I'm optimistic the board and the club will be able to do that this year with a lot of up-front planning. But we need the members input too. The board has been discussing how to meet together outdoors or indoors with appropriate safety. I know we all miss the fellowship, catching up with old friends and potluck at our monthly meetings. Since we know a little more about what's safe and what's not, we'll probably be trying a few new things regarding meetings this year. So, stay tuned. But there are a number of important things you'll want to make a note of now.

First, other than general meetings, the really first big even of the year is the yearly State Convention. Unfortunately, it will be held virtually again this year in late March. I hope for the last time. Again, we'll miss the fellowship, auctions, food, entertainment, updates and information. And maybe most of all the Crosscut Saw Competition. But tune in if you can as there is business to be handled like voting on national directors' elections and other proposals. Our own John Chepulis is on the ballot for National Director again. This is a plug for John. Raffle tickets are available now too. More on that elsewhere in this newsletter.

Second, a lot of members pay dues at the general meetings monthly. Since we're not meeting in person right now, go ahead and send in your dues to our PO Box. The BCHMT and BCHA are requesting that the membership list be updated continually so they don't waste money on sending paper communications like the BCHA newsletter to non-members. You'll be dropped from their lists soon if chapter dues are not paid.

Third, the board has been working on the routine business of the club. But regarding input on other matters, we're not getting that like we did at the in-person general meetings. This is the time of year for planning, so we need to get your input on committees, projects, and other activities. We would like to get volunteers for the Education, Activities, Audit, Membership Committees as well. I would like to enlist the membership to contact me or anyone else on the board with your ideas. My email is john.k.jenkins@gmx.us. Randy Thomsen's is minemechanic.rt@gmail.com. Or talk to any board member. We'll bring those to the board meetings and discuss them. I would hope that much of our planning could be done this winter and early spring, and that we can once again get back to the projects we enjoy in the outdoors and to the wilderness we love so much. And meet again. I will put in a plug here for the few outdoor meetings we had last year. They went off well and were enjoyable. We'll probably do those again when the weather permits, or possibly meet in some larger indoor spaces where social distancing can be maintained.

In the past we have had some very busy work project schedules and fewer fun rides and camp outs. While I personally enjoy the packing, the board has repeatedly discussed getting back into the swing of having many more of the fun rides and camp outs. I think that will be much easier this year since I suspect some of the projects coordinated with outside groups including the federal agencies might still be limited. Let us know where you would like to go and what you would like to do. Since we aren't yet meeting in person, please drop us an email or give one of us a call.

Looking forward to seeing you all in person this spring.

John Jenkins

President BBCH 2021

We will not be holding a General Meeting in February. The Board of Directors will meet - we will keep you up-to-date and informed through the Minutes.

FIRST AID/BASIC LIFE SUPPORT TRAINING

This is a two-year certification that is due late this winter. Our last certification was in February of 2019. The BLS or Basic Life Support certifications will not be extended due to the pandemic like some other certifications. The training will need to be done with masks. We will try to set this up in the late winter or early spring. An email will be sent out as soon as possible with the date and location.



A cowboy is special in some of his ways,
Like his love for his horse and the smell of fresh hay!

He seems to like winters and drizzling rain and he rather make his living with his back not his brains.

He will work long hours to make himself a buck.
Then often loses it quickly by trust in luck!

Oh! He likes to dream dreams that are bigger than life and seldom tells anyone but his horse and maybe his wife!



He loves big, tall mountains with valleys and streams and sound of bugling elk with their ear-piercing screams

But sometimes I get tired of the stereo types of drinking and cheating that just not right.

So guess it boils down to opinion you see of what cowboy is or really should be.
But I reckon, I'll just be, who I have to be and if that's not a cowboy, I just be me!

By David Edwards

BBCH – BOARD MEETING MINUTES – 1/12/2021

“Goto Meeting” called to order 7:08pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members in attendance were John Simmons, Randy Thomsen, Nancy Thomsen, John Jenkins, John Chepulis, Charles Spencer, and Melissa Codner.

Minutes for November were corrected to read “John Simmons will send a list for the website of deceased members with some pictures” in the paragraph about the website. John Simmons moved to approve Minutes with corrections. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed.

Acknowledgement of new board members.

Vice President report: Randy Thomsen was contacted by Dale Olson, Dale wanted additional brochures and business cards to give out, so those were sent out. Randy Thomsen also sent the “letter of intent” and support to Allie Wood for the upcoming year. Letter is in Minutes.

Treasurer’s report: John Jenkins sent Treasurer’s report via email, that report is in the Minutes. Current balance is \$27,548. Membership is down, he will send reminder of dues to Robin, to be put in Newsletter. John Chepulis moved to accept Treasurer’s report. Charles Spencer second. Motion passed.

Activities- Committee views this year as a rebuilding year. The last years have been working years, this year the Chapter will cut back on trail clearing and packing, and more focus on activities and getting members more involved. A “Spring Clinic” could be scheduled later in the year. John Chepulis moved to reserve some cabins for summer activities. John Jenkins second. Motion passed.

Issues- John Simmons called Ken Coffin in a continued effort to get Lodgepole road fixed. The road is not a priority for the Forest Service.

John Chepulis rescinded his motion to give BCHA a donation of \$1000 to go towards Randy Rasmussen’s wages.

Discussion on donations.

Mary Sybrant sent an email of resignation since she has moved out-of-state. A member will need to be nominated to fill her seat for 1 year.

Board elections were held.

President- Randy Thomsen nominated JOHN JENKINS. John Simmons second. John Chepulis moved to elect John Jenkins by acclamation. Motion passed.

Vice President- John Jenkins nominated RANDY THOMSEN. Charles Spencer second. John Chepulis moved to elect Randy Thomsen by acclamation. Motion passed.

Secretary- John Chepulis nominated NANCY THOMSEN. John Jenkins second. John Simmons moved to elect Nancy Thomsen by acclamation. Motion passed.

Treasurer- Randy Thomsen nominated MELISSA CODNER. Charles Spencer second. John Chepulis moved to elect Melissa Codner by acclamation. Motion passed.

2021 BBCH Elected Members

John Jenkins, President, Junior BCHMT Director

Randy Thomsen, Vice President

Nancy Thomsen, Secretary

Melissa Codner, Treasurer

John Simmons, Past President, Senior BCHMT Director

Louise Jenkins, Alternate BCHMT Director

John Chepulis, BCHA Director

Charles Spencer

Mary Sybrant, resignation to be determined.

A list of Board Members will need to be sent to BCHMT. The signature card at Yellowstone Bank will need to be updated. John Jenkins, Randall Thomsen and Melissa Codner will need to be added to the signature card. John Simmons will need to be removed from the signature card. A copy of these minutes, signed by at least two board members, will be given to the bank.

Melissa Codner will need to get the key for PO Box from John Simmons. Nancy Thomsen also has a key for the PO Box.

New Business- John Simmons sent an article/letter to BCHMT newsletter about our Chapter work projects. John Chepulis will send out information about Chapter work hours to newsletter.

Bitterroot BCH have sent out raffle tickets for BCHMT convention. The convention will be held on Zoom again this year. John Simmons has tickets if you would like some to sell.

Discussion on website. Questions on change of logo. John Simmons has not sent list of deceased past members.

John Jenkins would like chair, and member volunteers for committees and member volunteer for position replacement on board at next board meeting. Committees- Activities, Education, Issues, Fun Rides, Youth/New Membership.

Discussion on Social Media. Jesse Erickson is heading website update. John Chepulis is administrator, Randy Thomsen and Louise Jenkins are editors on Facebook account. Melissa Codner will be added to Facebook account as an editor.

John Simmons moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed.

No General meeting in January

Next Board meeting will be Monday, February 8th 7pm Goto Meeting

2021 BCHMT STATE CONVENTION

MARCH 27 @ 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The 2021 State Convention *to be held March 27 via Zoom.*

2021 CONVENTION CANCELLED – Well, Pretty Much. In many ways 2020 is still biting at our heels. Vaccines are now coming available, but even with the most aggressive of timelines it isn't likely the number of doses given and population reached will provide an environment where most would feel comfortable with an in-person convention yet this March. The Bitter Root chapter is disappointed – yet again – to have to say Montana's annual convention has been cancelled. Many hours were spent last year preparing an exemplary meeting: location, layout, speakers, breakout sessions, banquet, and of course the more social portions: evening gatherings, auctions, and vendors. We were excited to once again showcase the Hamilton area, which included a tour of the historic Daly Mansion. Our convention committee forged ahead again last fall with hopes that all would calm down and allow the 2021 convention to take place but, alas, it wasn't meant to be.

Though the convention has been cancelled, the State will host a board meeting via Zoom to conduct all necessary business. Primary participants of these meetings are the State Officers and State Directors, though any BCH member in good standing is welcome to audit the meeting. There has been a whisper of hope that perhaps a get-together could be scheduled later this summer; keep your fingers crossed and be ready to offer assistance should this work out. Smoke Elser suggested a get together (rendezvous style) in August that would allow us to gather, socialize, ride and perhaps hold a couple other activities at Monture Ranger Station. We all thought this was a great idea and will be putting together a committee to work on it. If you have an interest in being on that committee, please reach out to Sherri.

There IS one portion of the convention that will still take place: the annual raffle! The Bitter Root chapter will be donating all profits from the raffle to BCHMT. The State usually receives the proceeds from the live auction items, which consists of an item donated by each chapter, plus its share of the 50/50 drawing. They lost funding last year, and the Bitter Root does not want to see that happen two years in a row. A packet has recently been mailed to each chapter, which contains raffle tickets and instructions. You can help in two ways: grab some raffle tickets to sell to friends and family – yes, strangers, too! — and purchase some yourself! Contact your chapter president or treasurer to obtain the tickets. We hope to make tickets available online; a link will be added to the State's website if we are successful (<https://bchmt.org/>). The raffle drawing will be held at 4pm Saturday March 27 via live feed. We invite you to join us online during the live drawing. There are three great raffle prizes available! The raffle poster follows - let's work together selling raffle tickets to raise a boat-load of funds for the State.

The Bitter Root chapter will now pass the convention baton to the next chapter in line. We look forward to seeing you all next year in a new location! Thank you for all your support through these trying times. The convention committee wishes you and your loved ones a safe and healthy 2021!



2021 Back Country Horsemen of MT
State Convention Raffle Items



3 CHANCES TO WIN!

ONE-NIGHT STAY AT TRIPLE CREEK RANCH

- ✓ Value: \$1,625
- ✓ All-inclusive luxury ranch resort
- ✓ 5 Star service in a unique Montana setting in the beautiful Bitterroot Valley



ONE-STAY AT QUINN'S HOT SPRINGS RESORT



- ✓ Value: \$229
- ✓ Natural mineral water hot springs with fine dining
- ✓ Nestled in a majestic canyon on the Clark Fork River near Paradise, MT

MONTANA SILVERSMITH JEWELRY – NECKLACE, EARRINGS, BUCKLE

- ✓ Value: \$150
- ✓ Stunning ensemble:
heart earrings & necklace, double heart buckle
- ✓ What more could you want for yourself or your sweetheart?



Winner need not be present to win

Tickets \$5 each or 5 for \$20

Draw Date: March 27, 2021, in Hamilton, MT

Hosted by Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen Chapter www.bchmt.org/bitterroot

Need more raffle tickets? Questions? Nancy Pollman 406-546-6492 or npollman20@aol.com

All profits from the raffle ticket sale will be donated to Back Country Horsemen of Montana to help with annual operating expenses.

BBCH – 2021 DUES

Yearly dues for 2021 are:

- Business Membership \$40
- Family Membership \$35
- Individual Membership \$25

Since we will probably not be having meetings for at least a couple of months, or possibly even longer, please send your checks to **BBCH, PO Box 614, Absarokee MT 59001**. Please send updated email, address if your contact information has changed. This information is only used for the BBCH and BCHMT Newsletters and is not shared.

TOP TRAIL JOURNEY – 1ST QUARTER CHALLENGE TO BENEFIT BCHA



Sign up for a Top Trail Journey and support BCHA! There are quarterly, virtual challenges open to all!

Visit the website to learn more and sign up: <https://www.toptrailjourneys.com/>

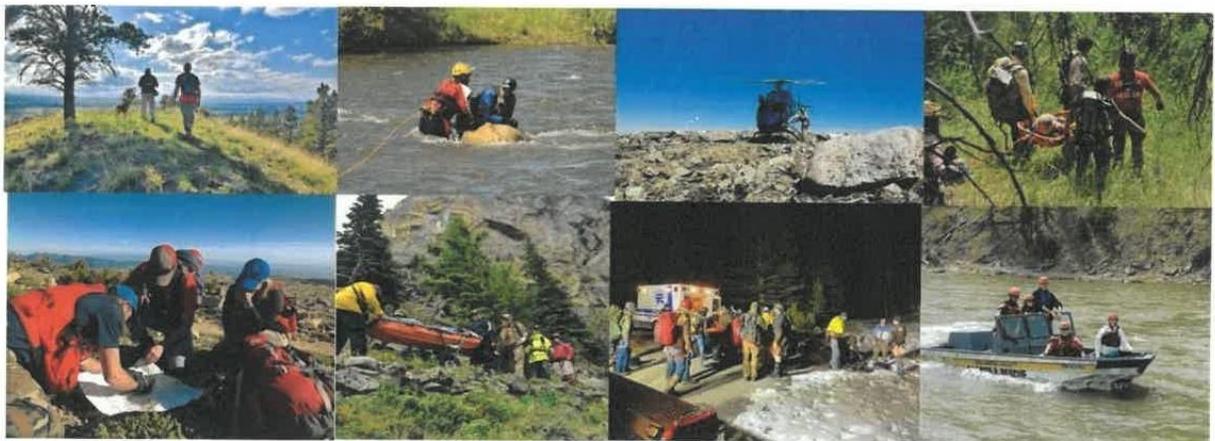
Each virtual challenge will have a designated non-profit who will receive a portion of the net proceeds and the first one to benefit is BCHA! Join the Facebook group, sign up for a challenge and log those miles! We need your help spreading the word and making this a success!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/193522089068357>

Top Trail Journeys Virtual Challenges are associated with Top Trail Horse. They are a wonderful group and the challenges award participants for completing the challenge – it is not competitive. If you want competition – visit www.toptrailhorse.com. Beau and I have been affiliated TTH since 2016.



**JOIN US FOR OUR
OPEN HOUSE & RECRUITMENT EVENT
FEBRUARY 13TH 2021, AT 32 E PIKE, COLUMBUS, MT
FROM 1:00-3:00 PM.**



Stillwater County is very privileged to have some of the most dedicated search and rescue volunteers in the state.

If your not familiar with our organization, Stillwater County SAR is a group of volunteers who dedicate themselves to assisting those who may be lost, hurt or in distress. Our volunteers dedicate many hours to training in everything from lost or missing hunters, hikers, children, and elderly to swift water, mountain, ice, and high angle rope rescue.

If you think this demanding, yet rewarding lifestyle sounds like something you would be interested in please come see us at 32 E Pike on Saturday, February 13th 2021, Columbus, MT from 1:00-3:00 pm

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



January 6th, 2021 – Riding the trails on our Ranch

I love riding in the winter ~ especially after a fresh snow. With the ground *finally* frozen, I can enjoy our trails without wrecking them. They were muddy for the longest time and I did not want to tear them up as Frank enjoys hiking them on foot.

Det finnes ikke dårlig vær, bare dårlige klær. "There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing." - Scandinavian proverb, attributed to Roald Amundsen.

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

Thank you to these local businesses for their continued support!



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