

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

Seems like we are getting over the hump with this pandemic. We will be getting on with business pretty much as usual with some adjustments. Like social distancing, hand sanitizer and optional masks if you are inclined. I want to share the board of directors' ruminations about our activities this year. A tentative schedule is included elsewhere in this newsletter.



-The Spring Clinic and possibly a poker ride will be a little later in the year for better weather.

-More trail rides or campouts, including a **Late Summer Rendezvous** at Meyers Creek. The USFS cabin there has been rented (max 6) if you do not want to sleep in your tent, trailer, or a camper. We will have pack projects with the ABWF and trail clearings as usual.

-More dedicated education sessions at the monthly meetings.

- In-person meetings resume in April. No potluck yet; be patient. We will try to plan some outside meetings again when the weather is warmer. They were some of the best we have had. Nothing beats sitting around a campfire talking.

- INVITATION TO PAST MEMBERS: I and the board would like to extend a personal invitation to past members. We are sending you a couple of months of courtesy newsletters as an invitation. Come join the fellowship and rides.

Spring Training Tips

Time to start leggin' up your ponies. Spring is almost here. If your horses and mules have been lazy couch potatoes all winter like mine, standing around munching on hay, they're a bit out of shape. Muscles and

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

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tendons have tightened up. I worry about just hitting the trails most weekends in the spring without proper conditioning – thanks to my day job. Here are my thoughts on getting your equines in shape during Spring Training. It is more or less common sense.

Start slow, mainly walking, with shorter distances at first, including longeing before riding. Walking builds muscle tone without too much strain. Some articles recommend 20-30 minutes of walking daily for a week at first. You may have to work up slowly to consecutive days. A written schedule can help. Be consistent and progressive. Move on to “cardio” next. Hill work and gaits faster than a walk build cardiovascular fitness. It takes at least 4 weeks to condition a horse. More for older, less healthy, or more-deconditioned-before-winter animals. Remember, you are probably starting at ground zero after three months of inactivity. If you think you are pushing it too hard, learn to take your horse’s pulse. You are pushing it too hard if the pulse rate does not return to normal 10-15 minutes after a workout. I am still trying to figure out a way to leg up my pack mules that are not ridden - without saddling up the whole string and leading them out every few days.

Hope to see you in April!

John Jenkins, BBCH President

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.

CONTRIBUTORS WANTED!

What’s Your Favorite Ride?

Dale Olson, current president of the Shoshone Chapter Back Country Horsemen, Wyoming is organizing horse trails guidebook or handbook for our area. Something like what you see for hiking trails but specific for trail riders. As it is conceived at this point, the project will be a handbook with brief descriptions and important information for the “equine tourist” who enjoys trails in northern Wyoming and south-central Montana. The handbook will cover his club’s area, northern Wyoming, or the Shoshone National Forest our club’s area the Absarokee and Beartooth mountains, and possibly extend west as far as the Gallatin Valley. It may not be comprehensive, that is, every trail in the region. He is looking for contributors. This will be organized by drainages in the respective areas. He is looking for as many contributors as possible. Dale would like to see more than one description/summary on a particular trail. If you have a particular trail in mind, or a favorite you would like to share, contact Dale and he will provide you with the format. Contact Dale at daolamr@yahoo.com or 307-272-5210.

NOTICES

INVITATION TO PAST MEMBERS

The BBCH Board of Directors would like to extend a personal invitation to all former members. This is a reminder that we have survived CoVID, are still active and would like to see you again. Come join the fellowship and rides. We are sending you a couple of months of courtesy newsletters as a reminder and an invitation.

GENERAL MEETINGS RESUME IN APRIL

We are resuming in-person general meetings. The next general meeting will be Monday, April 19th, Fishtail Community Center Hanna Hall. 7:00 PM. Not potluck yet.

HELP WANTED

We are still looking for committee members to help plan, organize or lead projects or trail rides. The standing committees are Activities, Education, Membership, Communications, and Issues. Contact us. Randy Thomsen (minemechanicrt@gmail.com). John Jenkins (john.k.jenkins@gmx.us). At beartoothhorsemen@gmail.com. Or any board member.

RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE

There are still raffle tickets to be sold through March 19. All proceeds this year go to the BCHMT. Most board members have them. Contact any board member.

FIRST AID/BASIC LIFE SUPPORT

A minimum of one member on a work project should have this certification. For the purposes of volunteer work with the USFS, the 2-year certification has been extended one year. If you were certified 2 years ago, and are due this year for re-certification, the certification will remain valid through this year.

IT'S "THAT" TIME OF YEAR...

WIZARD OF ID



ZITS



BBCH SCHEDULE (some dates are tentative)

**We have lots of projects scheduled and need you.
“Many hands make light work.”**

Monday, April 19: Meetings resume third Monday of the month in Fishtail.

May, June: Trail clearings, Stillwater and Island Lake Trails, others. Spring Clinic. Dates to be determined. The Main Stillwater trail clearing will be followed within 2 weeks with a trail ride on the trail.

June – September Other trail rides to be determined.

August 27-29 (date is definite): Late Summer Rendezvous, Trail Ride and Campout at the Meyer's Creek Trailhead. Friday to Sunday. The club will provide the Saturday evening meal. USFS cabin rented and available to 6 people.

The horse corral building project at the BLM cabin on Face of the Mountain Trail is delayed until 2022.

Pack Projects with the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation (these dates are definite)

July 8-14 Thursday to Wednesday. From Lake Abundance up to their Lake Abundance Creek camp. Packing in a trail crew of about 10 that will be rerouting a trail and removing puncheons. This project is in conjunction with the Beartooth Ranger District even though it is adjacent to this ranger district. Will be traveling through Wyoming so current Coggins test and health certificates will be needed.

July 22-28 Thursday to Wednesday. From Lake Abundance to the ABWF Lake Abundance Cr camp. Same as above.

August 5 – 11 Thursday to Wednesday. Pack in/out ABWF trail crew on the main Stillwater trail to Big Park, about 12 mi in. We may need to take 2 days for each the pack in and pack out, staying overnight one night ourselves on each leg. Trail crew will be doing brush back and other trail maintenance.

ABWF ~ Trail Work

2021 Trail Projects

Location	Miles Approach (One-Way)	Miles of Work	Project Description	Volunteers	Trip Length	Trip Start Date	Trip End Date
Lake Abundance Creek/Rock Creek – Trail 389/109	6	0.5	Trail re-route, puncheon removal	0/7	7	Thurs. 7/8/21	Wed. 7/14/21
Lake Abundance Creek/Rock Creek – Trail 389/109	6	0.5	Trail re-route, puncheon removal	0/7	7	Thur. 7/22/21	Wed. 7/28/21
Wounded Man – Trail 90 Main Stillwater – Trail 24	12	4+	Brushing	0/6	7	Thur. 8/5/21	Wed. 8/11/21
North Fork Bear Creek – Trail 364/60 Pine Creek – Trail 627	0	3	Brushing, treadwork, erosion control	0/6	3	Fri. 6/18/21	Sun. 6/20/21
Kersey Lake – Trail 3	0	4	Drainage, turnpike/puncheon construction	0/7	5	Thur. 8/19/21	Mon. 8/23/21
Crow Mountain – Trail 55	0	3	Brushing	0/6	3	Thur. 7/1/21	Sat. 7/3/21
Anderson Ridge – Trail 54	6	3	Brushing	0/6	5	Thur. 9/16/21	Mon. 9/20/21
Suce Creek – Trail 44	0	TBD	Brushing	TBD	3	TBD	TBD
Bassett Creek – Trail 134	0	TBD	Weed control	TBD	1	TBD	TBD
East Rosebud – Trail 3	0	TBD	Weed control	TBD	1	TBD	TBD
West Boulder Meadows – Trail 41	0	TBD	Weed control	TBD	1	TBD	TBD
Lake Plateau	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

These projects are currently open for sign-up:

ABWF ~ Volunteers Opportunities

The ABWF thrives on the good work of volunteers. We believe that getting volunteers like you actively involved in your wild lands connects you in a deeper, more lasting way. And makes all of us better stewards of precious places like the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness!

We work hard to accommodate anyone who wishes to volunteer with a variety of difficulty levels and trip lengths. Groups are welcome as well as families. Whether you are an avid outdoorsperson or a casual hiker, there are many ways to get outside and give back. Supervised children (12+) are welcome on one-day trips. You will be required to sign a volunteer agreement to ensure you are acting on behalf of the Forest Service. If you have any questions, [contact us!](#)

Five reasons you should join us on one of our trips:

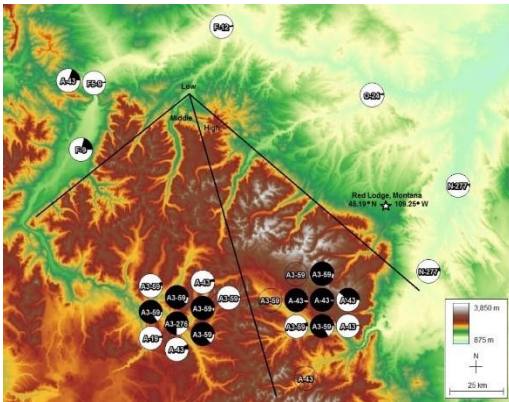
1. **Tangible results.** You will know that you accomplished something at the end of the day!
2. **Safety and Fun in numbers.** Many people who love the outdoors might still be intimidated to spend more than a day out for fear of foul weather, getting lost, or maybe grizzly bears. Participate in our group trips and set those fears aside, learn new skills, and get to know new people.
3. **FREE!** Adventures like this for FREE? That is right! We provide the food on all multi-day trips. All you do is meet us, provide your own camping gear, and we handle the rest. We will even coordinate car-pooling when possible.
4. **Experiences for all abilities.** Our trips vary in difficulty. We offer easier day-projects and citizen science projects, as well as multi-day trips which can be physically quite strenuous! BUT fear not... Every project has tasks that engage all abilities. With everyone is help we get a lot done!
5. **We make it easy!** We have horses pack in all our tools, food—even sleeping bags and tents! You hike in with a much lighter pack. Even if you are not a backpacker or capable of carrying a lot, these trips can still be great ways to see the backcountry and build your wilderness skills.

For more information, contact the ABWF:

Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation
P.O. Box 392
9 S. Broadway Ave. Suite B
Red Lodge, MT 59068
(406) 445-3037

ABWF ~ Winter Webinar Series

This winter, you can join the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation's education and stewardship programs without needing skis, snowshoes, or to even go out in the cold. That is because we are introducing a monthly series of free, online workshops to help wilderness enthusiasts enjoy (and care for) our snowy backyard wildlands. While we would love to be able to host these workshops in person, we are looking forward to offering these opportunities for learning and being in community while staying safe and physically distant. There are two series remaining: **A-B Science: Past, Present, Future, March 24**, and **CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! Upcoming ABWF Stewardship Opportunities, April 21**. If you are interested, [click on the link to register](#).



A-B Science: Past, Present, Future, March 24

With its unique geography and ecology—from its granitic and volcanic geology to its environments ranging from sagebrush to forests to alpine tundra—the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness has long been a natural laboratory for scientific researchers from a wide range of disciplines. ABWF Executive Director Patrick Cross and guests will discuss past research and its effects on scientific understanding, current efforts and why they are important, and future research needed for continuing scientifically informed management and conservation.

Patrick Cross is the Executive Director of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation. As an ecologist, he has led research projects in the AB Wilderness and published results in peer-reviewed journals. Now at ABWF, he is excited to help it pursue its goal of helping people better understand wilderness ecology by developing relationships with professional researchers and opportunities for citizen scientists too. [Register Here](#).



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! Upcoming ABWF Stewardship Opportunities, April 21

So, you want to volunteer and do something that will benefit the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness? Here is how! Patrick and Ben from ABWF will discuss upcoming stewardship opportunities, ranging from traditional trail work projects working side by side with US Forest Service crews, to expanding our Trail Ambassadors program (important now more than ever with the growing number of wilderness visitors), to our new project helping the US Forest Service collect essential information on how folks are using trails and campsites. We also want to hear from you about what projects you want to participate in (or even

lead!)

Patrick Cross is the Executive Director, and Ben Daley is the Program Director, of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation. They have been busy this winter talking with ABWF members and partners to develop a range of volunteer opportunities, continuing our popular programs, and launching new ones for an even wider range of volunteers to get involved in wilderness stewardship. [Register Here](#).

BBCH – BOARD MEETING MINUTES – 2/08/2021

“Goto” meeting called to order 7:03pm

In attendance: John Jenkins, Randy Thomsen, Melissa Codner, Nancy Thomsen, John Chepulis, John Simmons

John Chepulis moved to approve January minutes with corrections. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s report filed in Minutes. Discussion on 2021 Budget. John Chepulis moved to approve 2021 Budget with corrections. Melissa Codner second. Motion passed. Line-item corrections as follows; for chain saw equipment \$1000, for Post Office Box expense \$96, and all charitable donations \$1500 for the year. Melissa Codner was given permission to spend \$75 on a Quicken program.

Education: A flyer for Stillwater County Search and Rescue open house was sent to Newsletter. CPR certification is due this year. Connie Long has been contacted. Marilyn Simmons and Bonnie Chepulis volunteered for this committee.

Activities: First Club meeting may not be until April.

Discussion on Poker Ride. Members will look into liability or insurance.

Discussion on First aid, crosscut and chain saw certifications.

John Jenkins contacted ABWF. They are hoping to schedule work projects this summer.

Trails scheduled to be cleared this year are Main Stillwater, Island Lake, Ernie Strum, West Fork of the Stillwater, Myers Creek, and Deer Creek.

Activities chairs will meet to set up schedule. (John Chepulis, Randy Thomsen, John Jenkins)

Old Business

Mary Sybrant resigned from the board. Randy Thomsen moved to appoint Ray Longstreth to fill this position for the remaining 1-year term. John Chepulis second. Motion passed.

John Jenkins is still checking in to renting a cabin for a club event.

Next board meeting March 4, 7pm via Go to.

John Simmons moved to adjourn the meeting. John Chepulis second. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 8:40pm

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 is not 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 showcase the Hamilton area once again, 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 was not 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 help 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 us work together selling raffle tickets to raise a boatload 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!

RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE LOCALLY

There are still raffle tickets to be sold through March 19. All proceeds this year go to the BCHMT. Most board members have them. Contact any BBCH Board member.



2021 Back Country Horsemen of MT
State Convention Raffle Items



3 CHANCES TO WIN!

ONE-NIGHT STAY AT TRIPLE CREEK RANCH

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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.*



February 27th, 2021 – Riding the trails on our Ranch.

Beau and I are still enjoying winter riding. There is nothing better than a warm winter day, lots of sunshine and fresh snow in the air. Time to saddle up and ride, before spring and “mud season” arrives.

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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