

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

April 2021

It's been a long year waiting out this CoVID business. But we're finally getting out of it. Life seems to be changing around the state and the country. And it appears for the better.

The weather is changing too, like it always does this time of year. The first time I wrote this column barely two months ago there was a veritable blizzard outside my window. Fells like summer today, with a high of 77F. There was a lot of snow in the mountains barely two weeks ago, and 22 inches in Red Lodge. But the forecast is for cool and rainy next week. It's all just a reminder to stay prepared for what life may throw at you, be it the next pandemic or for a Sunday afternoon ride in the mountains. What usually helps me be "feel" prepared is my hat, raingear, jacket, knife, gloves, and snack in my saddle bags. Sure, you can be a lot more "prepared", but my old horse can only carry so much. Maybe I ought to throw an N95 mask in my saddle bags for the next pandemic!

Anyway, the board of directors has been working hard to plan the activities this year. I think we have a pretty full schedule. See the updated list herein. We're getting a later start than in recent years, but that is partly by design. And partly due to CoVID. I think it might be nice to clear trail without the cold for a change.

Hope to see everyone at the meetings in Fishtail that resume this month. Mark your calendar. April 19. Get those horses legged up and saddle bags loaded. And we'll see you out on the trails soon.

John Jenkins, BBCH President



BBCH DIRECTORS



- 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 – Ray Longstreth
406 224 5185

STATE DIRECTORS



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

NATIONAL DIRECTOR



- John Chepulis
322-4823

Potluck

Everyone Brings Something to the Table.

APRIL 19TH – 6:30 P.M. Potluck – Meeting @ 7:00

Fishtail Community Center

Presentation: Ty Williams, Deputy Sheriff Stillwater County, Sheriff's Office,

liaison to the Stillwater County Search and Rescue (SAR)

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.

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

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, 6:30 Potluck – Meeting at 7:00.

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.

LAUGHINGSTOCK

THINGS YOU WON'T HEAR ON A BBCH TRAIL CREW

Contributed by: John Jenkins

I'm kinda getting' the feeling it might be too hot/cold/muddy/wet to clear trail today.

I think I'll quit eating meat and go vegan.

How does that Prius pull your horse trailer?

I think I'll sell this horse and hat, buy me a turtleneck, and get really into frisbee golf.

We'll swing a leg right after brunch. 11:0 sharp! Don't be late.

Do you think my shirt is too LOUD?

Is that Armani after shave?

No beer for me tonight fellas, I'm on a detox.

Those are the cutest chaps. They really bring out the color in your eyes.

MY FAVORITE ANIMAL – SOME PEOPLE CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH

Western Mule Magazine, March 2021

Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said, "Fried Chicken."

She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right, everyone else laughed.

My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried Chicken is my favorite animal.

I told my Dad what happened, and he told me my teacher was probably a member of PETA, or something. He said they love animals very much.

I do too. Especially Chicken, Pork and Beef.

Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office.

I told him what happened, and he laughed too. Then he told me not to do it again.

The next day my teacher asked me what my favorite *live* animal was.

I told her it was chicken.

She asked me why, so I told her, it was because you could make them into Fried Chicken.

She sent me back to the principals' office.

He laughed and told me not to do it again.

I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am.

Today my teacher asked me to tell her, what famous military person I admired most.

I told her "Colonel Sanders".

Guess where the heck I am now...



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; Potluck @ 6:30, meeting at 7.

May 1, Saturday: Absarokee. Spring Clinic, Horsemanship and Fun Ride. Lunch provided by BBCH. This is a **club member only** activity. Details to be determined. All former members are invited to join us again, but you'll need to sign a waiver for the ride.

May 8, Saturday: Main Stillwater Trail Clearing (and bypass)

May 15-16, Saturday, possibly Sunday: Finish the Stillwater Trail, if needed

May 22, Saturday: Fun ride. Stillwater (or other)

June 5-6, Sat – Sun: West Fork Stillwater Trail Clearing

June 13, Sat: Deer Creek trail clearing, via Jim's Gulch (West Bridger Creek)

June 26, Sat: Fishtail Family Fun Day. Are there members interested in riding in the parade?

Aug 27-29, Friday to Sun: Meyer's Creek Cabin rented. BBCH Late Summer Rendezvous. Pack Clinic/Campout/Fun ride. Come for a day or the whole weekend. Details TBD.

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

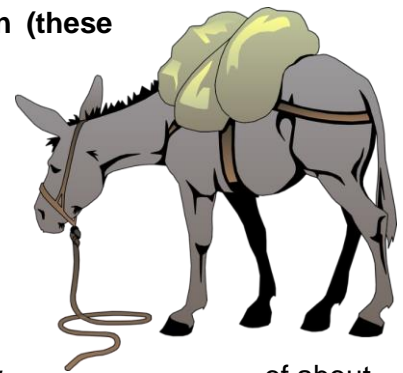
July 8-14. Main Stillwater Trail to Big Park. 12-mile pack in on Thursday

July 8 and pack out July 14. Approximately 8-member volunteer trail crew. We need volunteers and input as to whether we should make this a 2-day trip in and 2 days out.

July 22 -July 28: Lake Abundance Creek Trail. Approximately 5 miles.

Thursday 7/22 pack in and Wednesday 7/28 pack out. Gear for a trail crew of about 7-8 persons. You will be responsible for your own health certificate/coggins test if you feel it is necessary.

Aug 5-Aug 11: Lake Abundance Cr Trail. Same as above. Pack in on Thursday 8/5 and out on Wednesday 8/11.



of about

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 Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation (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's 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.

ABWF ~ Winter Webinar Series

The ABWF will host their last on-line workshop, "**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS,**" on April 21st. *If you are interested, click on the link below to register.*

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 – 3/04/2021

“Go to” Meeting called to order at 7:03

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

Minutes: John Chepulis moved to approve February Board meeting minutes with corrections. John Simmons second. Motion passed.

President Report: John Jenkins sent out emails to review COVID recommendations for in person meetings. Bob Marshall Wilderness Outfitter scholarship posters have been posted at TSC and Western Ranch.

Treasurer’s Report: Report is filed in the minutes. Melissa Codner reported 3 more memberships paid. There was no activity in the checking account, but she will be making a deposit and writing some reimbursement checks. A reminder for membership dues should be placed in the newsletter again and posted on Facebook. Melissa Codner will replace Louise Jenkins as an editor on the Facebook page. Jesse Erickson should be contacted about issues with Instagram page. Stillwater Chamber of Commerce membership will be renewed for \$35. BBCH has about 696 license plates active, 400 are needed to keep the plate. All raffle tickets and money for the BCHMT convention should be given to Melissa Codner by March 19, for her to mail. Notification should be put in the newsletter.

Volunteers for the Audit committee are Marilyn Simmons and Louise Jenkins. John Jenkins will be there to answer questions, and Melissa Codner will set up the meeting.

Education: Ty Williams of the Search and Rescue would like to speak to the membership on interest in equine volunteers.

Activities: Certifications on Chain saw, crosscut and First aid have been extended for a year. Defensive Horsemen Certification will be due next year.

Jenny Alexander from BLM emailed Randy Thomsen and let him know the Meeteetse Spires corral will be rescheduled to next year. A NEPA study is required.

ABWF has reached out to BBCH for 4 pack trips this summer. ABWF projects include Main Stillwater, West Fork of the Stillwater, Abundance Lake and Mill Creek. Discussion on the packing projects included: lack of pack stock, forage, travel distance, health certification, and manpower.

Membership Committee: John Jenkins talks with membership has shown interest in horsemanship clinics. Discussion on a venue and availability. Interest in clinics included hands on, one on one with horses, and desensitizing. John Chepulis or Randy Thomsen will call Dan Aadland. Poker Ride discussion included change of route, membership booster, outdoor activities, and schedule date. Issue tabled until April board meeting. Club Meetings should commence in April. John Jenkins recommends social distancing and masks. Hanna Hall should be contacted to go over all the recommendations, and

schedule dates. BBCH should purchase hand sanitizer, social distancing signs and have masks available. Board Meeting will be held in person beginning of April.

Education Committee chair will be Marilyn Simmons.

Membership Committee chair will be Melissa Codner.

John Jenkins moved to email out Newsletter to old membership list. Melissa Codner second. Motion passed.

BCHMT State Meeting- National nominees vote was required. John Chepulis for BCHMT National Director, and Brad Pulman for BCHMT alternate National Director.

Vote is due March 15th.

John Jenkins moved to appoint Louise Jenkins a delegate. Ray Longstreth second. Motion passed.

Delegates are John Jenkins, Randy Thomsen, Nancy Thomsen, Melissa Codner, John Simmons, John Chepulis, Ray Longstreth, Louise Jenkins. 8 Delegates

John Jenkins moved to vote for the nominee of John Chepulis for National Director. Randy Thomsen second. 8 Delegates voted for.

John Jenkins moved to vote for the nominee of Brad Pulman for Alternate National Director. John Chepulis second. 8 Delegates voted for.

Information on a Trails Book that Dale Olson is working on will be put in the Newsletter.

Next Board Meeting April 6, at 6:30pm at Ray Longstreth, 36 Buck Board Rd, Park City.

Club Meeting April 19th, at Fishtail

John Chepulis moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm. John Simmons second. Motion passed.

Oh, where or where should we go riding?

Have you been wanting to explore and ride new trails...but are unsure where to look? On the following links you can enter horse riding or horse camping in each site's search engine.

Public Lands are your lands – get to enjoying them!

National Parks: www.nps.gov

National Forest: www.fs.usda.gov

National Wilderness: www.fs.usda.gov

National Refuge: www.fws.gov

National Conservation Areas: www.blm.gov



March 27th, 2021 – Riding the Ingersoll Road out of Fishtail.

This was an easy 20-mile ride from Fishtail to Roscoe and back.

I didn't even mind backtracking – gorgeous views each way.

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!



Grant Barnard Skiing – Certified Instructor
Alpine, Telemark, Skate & Classic Nordic
406.425.0130 - Red Lodge, MT
gbtelemark@gmail.com

TIRE WORLD

**TIRES,
BRAKES,
AND MORE**

John Chepulis
Bozeman, MT 59715

Mile West of 4 Corners & 715 E Mendenhall St
(406)586-0488 & [\(406\) 556-0488](tel:(406)556-0488)

Stillwater Veterinary Clinic

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

**Absaroka Tennessee Walking
Horses & Gaited Mules**

Dan & Emily Aadland
2906 HWY 78 – Absarokee, MT 59001
Absarokee, MT 59001
406-328-4159 <http://my.montana.net/araa/>

**INDIAN ROCK WILD GAME PROCESSING
AND VACATION RENTAL**

DAN AND KRIS KELLOGG



77A ARENA DRIVE
ABSAROKEE, MT 59001

715-853-6665 DAN
715-853-1008 KRIS

EXPERIENCED MEAT PROCESSING AND SAUSAGE MAKING
ONE ANIMAL AT A TIME

PaintBrush Adventures, Inc.

Day Hikes • Drop Camps • Fishing Trips
Pack Trips • Trail Rides • Ranch Vacations

(406) 328-4158 • (406) 321-7032

Wanda Wilcox

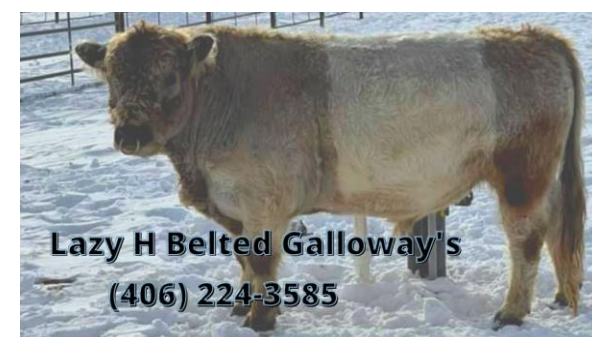
www.paintbrushadventures.com
86 N. Stillwater Rd • Absarokee, MT 59001



Broken Fiddle Ranch
Dave & Chris Heinle
Clyde Park, MT 59018
(406) 321-4326
brokenfiddleranch@gmail.com



Two Standing Jacks
JR, 13 hand Roan, \$350
Arkansas Mtn Man, 15 hand Black, \$500
Pasture Breeding, Fee + Mare Care



Lazy H Belted Galloway's
(406) 224-3585