

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

May 2021

We have had a great kickoff to the year so far. We have started in person meetings again, had our spring clinic and cleared part of the Stillwater trail. It has been nice to see some old faces again too, including some that I have not seen since the pandemic started. Read more in the following pages.



We have an active schedule this year. Something for everyone. Please bring your input for other ideas/projects/educational programs to the general meeting. I would like to remind everyone that you do not have to be a packer to ride along on the pack projects. We are usually packing in others involved in trail maintenance or public forest and land management. It is great to get to meet them and talk to them. There is just something about the comradery in the back country that you do not get elsewhere.

Weather can still be threatening this time of year. As evidenced by an 80-degree day for the Spring Clinic one weekend followed by snow threatening to cancel the Stillwater clearing a week later. Hopefully, we are late enough in the year that we will not have any more cancellations. Just be prepared for the weather and try to stay in touch. We will try to keep everyone updated on what is going on as best we can. But everyone uses a different source for information on our activities. We are trying to keep you informed about what is going on via different means.

Here is some of the ways. We will update the activities in the newsletter monthly. These do sometimes change. Our Newsletter editor, Robin Morris, has sent out emails prior to each project as reminders. Thanks, Robin, for handling that on your vacation recently. It is especially useful this time of year so we can contact members if there is a cancellation. Melissa Codner, Treasurer, and Nancy Thomsen, Secretary, have been posting our activities on Facebook for those of you who use it. And some folks just text a board member. And if we do not have your favorite or most-used email address, get us an updated one. If all else fails, use the phone!

Hope to see you soon,

John Jenkins

President

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...

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328-7355

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John Chepulis
322-4823

Potluck

Everyone Brings Something to the Table.

May 17TH – 6:30 P.M. Potluck – Meeting @ 7:00

Fishtail Community Center

Presentation: Dr. Doug Woerner, Back Country First Aid

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

THANK YOU, JOHN SIMMONS

Outgoing 2020 BBCH President John Simmons



A Swedish-made, hand-forged Hunters Ax was presented to John for his service during April's BBCH General Meeting. John is a founding member of the Beartooth Chapter and has actively served our Chapter for two and a half decades; served on the Board of Directors for the Back Country Horsemen of Montana for many years, and as a state officer. Thank you John!

BBCH SPRING CLINIC

Submitted by: John Jenkins

Our first non-meeting event this year was the Spring Clinic. This was a nice kickoff for the spring season. Beautiful weather too, over 80 degrees. Just over 20 people showed up. The clinic started at 8:30 at Dan Aadland's Absaroka Tennessee Walking Horses facility in Absarokee, MT. Morning sessions included sessions on "survival", tack, bits, knots, reining and routine veterinary care.



Lunch and snacks were provided by the club, thanks to Bonnie Chepulis and my wife Louise. Chile courtesy of Bonnie and sweet southern cornbread courtesy of Louise. After lunch there was a competition on the obstacle course. Dustin Macdill, a new member, won the prize for best one-handed neck reining on this obstacle course. Thanks to Marilyn Simmons for the judging. Congratulations, Dustin.

Though I did not witness it, rumor had it there was a blow up in one group on the fun ride and someone stuck the landing with reins in hand. Can I get a video of that? I need some pointers; I am not so graceful!!



BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001



SCHEDULE (some dates are tentative)

We have lots of projects scheduled and need you.

“Many hands make light work.”

Monday, May 17th: Fishtail; Potluck @ 6:30, meeting at 7. Invite a friend, bring a friend. Program: Back Country First Aid/Wilderness Medicine, Dr. Doug Woerner.

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

May 22, Saturday: Fun ride. Stillwater (or other to be determined; contact Randy Thomsen).

June 5-6, Sat – Sun: West Fork Stillwater Trail Clearing and campout. We need a volunteer organizer. Come for a day or stay overnight.

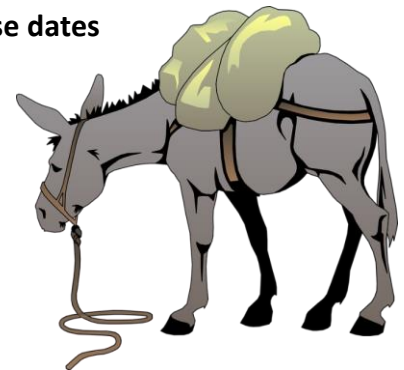
June 13, Sat: Deer Creek trail clearing, via Jim’s Gulch (West Bridger Creek)

June 26, Sat: Fishtail Family Fun Day. We would like a headcount for riding in the parade. If enough people are interested, we will enter.

Aug 27-29, BBCH SUMMER RENDEZVOUS and PACK CLINIC. Friday to Sun: Meyer’s Creek Cabin is rented. Pack Clinic/Campout/Fun ride. Come for a day or the whole weekend.

Pack Projects with the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation (these dates are definite). EVERYONE IS INVITED TO RIDE ALONG AS A FUN RIDE OR HELP EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT A PACKER

July 8-14. Main Stillwater Trail to Big Park. 12-mile pack in on Thursday July 8 and pack out July 14 for an 8-member trail crew and gear. We need volunteers and we will probably need to make this a 2 day trip each way.



July 22 -July 28: Lake Abundance Creek Trail. Approximately 8 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. Will stage at Daisy Pass.

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

Sept 16–Sept 20: Approximately 5 mi. Anderson Ridge (up Paradise Valley). Thursday 9/16 pack in and Monday 9/22 pack out. Good opportunity to camp the weekend and ride in this area.

MAIN STILLWATER TRAIL CLEARING – 5/8/2021

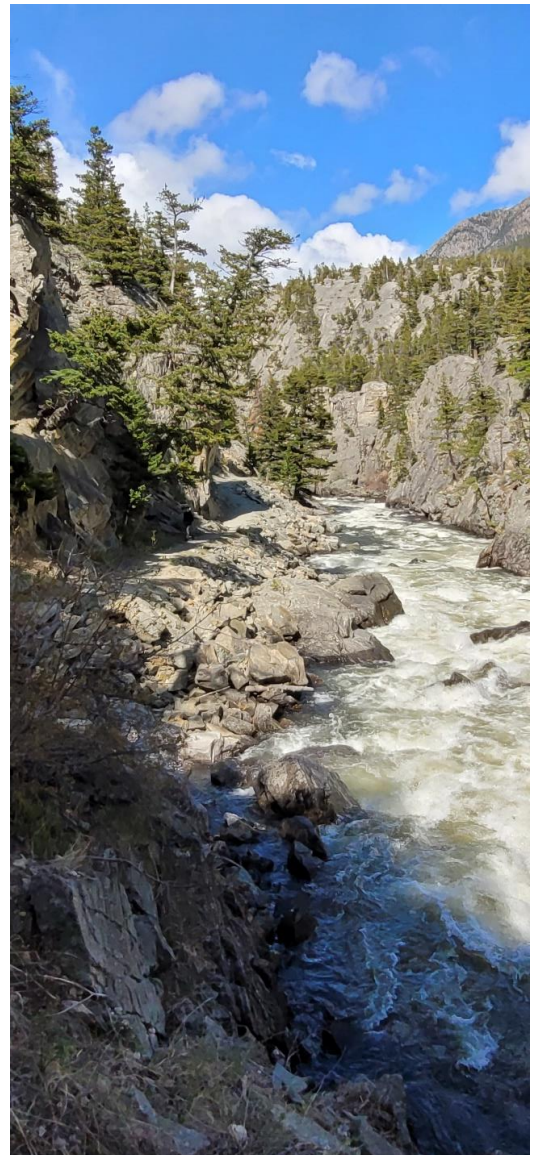
Submitted by David Edwards

What a day! About 7 miles wilderness cleared 14 miles rode. It was very cool. The weather yielded, a little rain, sleet, snow! But no flies! We saw some amazing country and one black bear.



We had a brief review of safety and trail clearing techniques from Jeff and John. Each cut was explained before we began, including the why the how and the safety! Friendship formed in a day! It was understandable why some passed on this weekend; the weather was sketchy! Thanks to those who joined us: Jeff and Rosi Guckenberger, Audra Bintz, Lou Schreiter and John Jenkins. There will be lots more opportunities some come join us! Bring at least one diet Mt Dew!







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 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.

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](#)



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



May 5th, 2021 – Reconing the Main Stillwater Trail

Knowing I would not be able to make the Saturday Trail Clearing, I opted to recon the trail earlier in the week and report back to John Jenkins. This is just a sample of the work to be done. Saturday's crew put in a long day under inclement weather – thank you for being the Rock Stars you are! There is still plenty of work to be done – another 6 miles. **Swing a leg this Saturday, May 15th at 9:00 sharp.** We have a lot of miles to cover, so if you tack at the trailhead – get there early.

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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