

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

It's been a long hot summer. The dog days of summer arrived early this year. It's been a little cooler in the mountains, but not by much. We still have plenty of opportunities for members to ride with our activities.



Here's a few notes on the last month of activities.

We had a nice ride on the Earnie Strum trail, but it'll need some work next year. But the fishing wasn't that good.

We've finished about half the packing support for the ABW Foundation, and their trail maintenance projects. The ABW's current "philosophy" is longer trips for more productivity. If you go to the effort to hike several miles or more into the wilderness, stay in longer and get more work done. The ABW Project/Activities leader Ben Daley has planned weeklong trips this summer in order to get more done – no more 4–5-day trips. The volunteer crews are spending 7 days usually on trips – with a full 5 days of work on trail maintenance/repair. We've been busy with packing the last month. Pack 'em in one week. Pack 'em out the next. Repeat.

We have another trip this month with the ABW packing in on Thursday August 5 and out a week later Wednesday August 11 near Cooke City. Then there's one last trip in September out of Paradise Valley. It's a pack in on a Friday and out on a Monday. On this one the ride is short, just about 5 or 6 miles one way. Some of us plan on staying over the weekend and ride some other trails over the weekend. I would invite anyone that hasn't ridden that area to join us for the weekend or come for a day or overnight Saturday/Sunday.

Campouts: We have the Summer Rendezvous and Campout at Meyer's Creek August 27-29. The FS cabin is rented both Friday and Saturday nights for anyone who doesn't want to pitch a tent or have

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

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Vice President- Randy
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other accommodations. We would like a head count by Monday Aug 23 before that weekend so we can figure out how much food to buy for Saturday evening. Come for the whole weekend or just one day. See the email from the BCHMT for information on the state campout At Monture the weekend August 20-22.

We'll resume regular meetings in September at Fishtail.

Hope to see you soon.

John Jenkins

President

Erratum: In the July President's Pen regarding symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke" It should read: "When symptoms are getting worse, that is *heat stroke* (not heat exhaustion) and is a medical emergency. My apologies, JKJ

**MEETINGS WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY & AUGUST
TO ALLOW MEMBERS TO SPEND TIME ON WORK PROJECTS.**

See you in September...or on the trail!

BBCH – 2021 DUES

Yearly dues for 2021 are:

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

You are welcome to pay at the June meeting, on one of our trail projects or by mailing your check 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.

LAKE ABUNDANCE – ABW PACK IN – PACK IN - PACK OUT

This is packing in and out a trail maintenance crew of about 9, on each of these 1-week trips. We stayed in with the trail crew and they fed us brats and burgers Thursday night. Good time!





ERNIE STRUM FUN RIDE - JULY 10



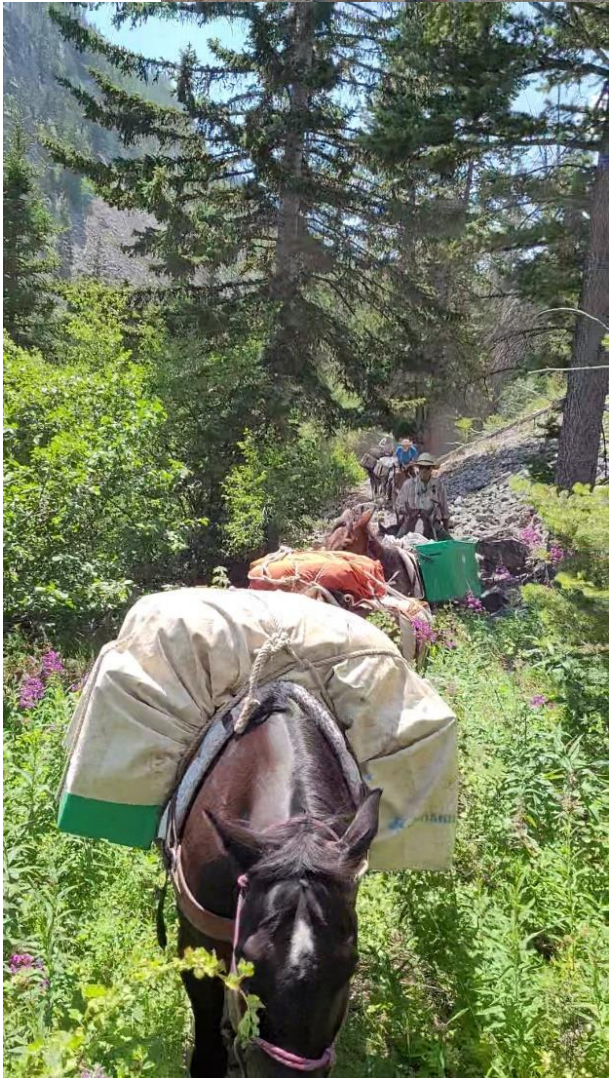
STILLWATER TRAIL PACK IN AND PACK OUT

Volunteers included: Keith Brighton, Eliza Kuntz, Bob Knutson, John Simmons, John Chepulis and John Jenkins.









ABUNDANCE LAKE CREEKFIRST PACKIN - PACKOUT

David Edwards, John Jenkins, Kris and David Heinle, John Chepulis and John Simmons helped on these pack trips. All our mantes and equines got a much-needed bath on the pack in. If I hear David H complain one more time about me not trimming my mules' manes, I'll swear I'm going to sneak over to his house some night and put hair extensions on his mules' manes. I learned something on both the pack in and out - vet wrap carried around in your saddle bags for 3 years doesn't stick well.



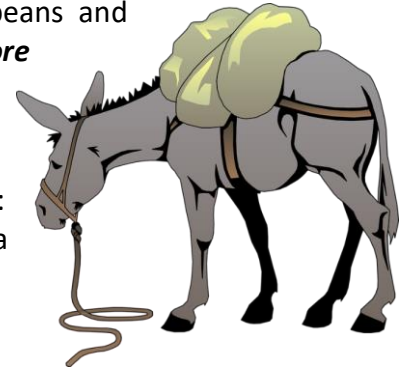






SCHEDULE

August 19-21, Thurs to Sunday. BCHMT AUGUST CAMPOUT and gathering. Everyone is invited. Monture Guard Station near Ovando, MT. You can arrive on Thursday and ride or arrive on Friday and head for home on Sunday. We have permission to use the FS Cabin and grounds. Dinner and campfire Saturday evening with Foster's cooking the main dish and beans and dessert. \$10 ahead of time and RSVP needed a couple of weeks prior. **More information is available on the following page.**



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

Aug 5-Aug 11: Lake Abundance Creek Trail. **THURSDAY, August 5:** Pack In **WEDNESDAY, August 11:** Pack Out. The trail crew will be leaving some camp gear in between July 28 and August 5. Six pack-stock is about right for a crew this size with room for us staying overnight with limited gear. We'll stage/load from Daisy Pass on the Pack In August 5. We'll be loading about 8:30 or 9:00. For the pack outs we should probably ride in the day or afternoon before and stay the night so we can get the crew out reasonably early the next day.

Staying overnight is an option with the ABW crew and I would recommend it if we can coordinate it as often as possible. We have done that twice this year already. It's always nice to share a meal with like-minded folks in the back country. Please contact John Jenkins if you would like to help, ride, go for an overnighter or whatever. We will have room if you travel light to stay overnight. But the ride can be done in and out in a day if we must or need to. It would be about 16 miles round trip. It's a great opportunity to see the part of the southern Beartooth range and the headwaters of one of our favorite trails, the Stillwater.

Stage 2 fire restrictions are in place. The roads are not marked well around this area. Call for directions and a map. Also note that a section of the Beartooth highway is closed from 7 PM to 7 AM weeknights for construction and a section is one -way. From Beartooth Lake Campground to the Pilot-Index Overlook. **We need your help!** For more information, contact: John Jenkins, john.k.jenkins@gmx.us or 406-855-0238

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.

Save the Date

August 19-22, 2021

Please join us for the BCHMT Monture Gathering

With the past two conventions cancelled due to Covid, we have missed you. The BCHMT officers and state directors invite you to join us at the Monture trailhead. Everyone is welcome and can join us for any part of the weekend that they are able.

Thursday: arrive after noon and ride

Friday: ride, socialize around the campfire

Saturday: ride, dinner and campfire

The Monture Guard Station is about 8 miles north of Highway 200 near Ovando, MT. It is a trailhead for the south end of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. We have permission to use the guard station and there is a very nice public trailhead. The public trailhead has several corrals as well as feed bunks and hitchrails. There are several trails in the area for all riding abilities.

We are still in the planning process. Wade Murphy will teach a half-day horse training clinic. He can have up to 10 riders so if you would like to ride in his clinic please let him know, 406.431.1717, wadeandlonnie@hotmail.com. Everyone is welcome to watch if they are interested. We will also have a packing demonstration. If you have a talent that you would like to demonstrate please let Greg Schatz know, 406.261.5450, gregschatzbuilder@gmail.com, and we'll see if we can get you in the schedule.

Dinner Saturday evening will be \$10. All other meals are on your own. Please fill out the registration form found on the BCHMT website and send your registration and \$10 to us before August 5, 2021.

**Watch bchmt.org
for more details.**



LAUGHINGSTOCK

Submitted by: John Jenkins

Cowboy Rules for: Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, Nebraska, Idaho, Nevada, and the rest of the Wild West are as follows:

1. Pull your pants up. You look like an idiot.
2. Turn your cap right, your head ain't crooked.
3. Let's get this straight: it's called a 'gravel road.' I drive a pickup truck because I want to. No matter how slow you drive, you're gonna get dust on your Lexus. Drive it or get out of the way.
4. They are cattle. That's why they smell like cattle. They smell like money to us. Get over it. Don't like it? I-10 & I-40 & I-90 go east and west, I-17 & I-15 & I-25 goes north and south. Pick one and go.
5. So you have a \$60,000 car. We're impressed. We have \$250,000 Combines that are driven only 3 weeks a year.
6. Every person in the Wild West waves. It's called being friendly. Try to understand the concept.
7. If that cell phone rings while a bunch of geese/pheasants/ducks/doves are comin' in during a hunt, we WILL shoot it outta your hand. You better hope you don't have it up to your ear at the time.
8. Yeah. We eat trout, salmon, deer, and elk. You really want sushi and caviar? It's available at the corner bait shop.
9. The 'Opener' refers to the first day of deer season. It's a religious holiday held the closest Saturday to the first of November.
10. We open doors for women. That's applied to all women, regardless of age.
11. No, there's no 'vegetarian special' on the menu. Order steak, or you can order the Chef's Salad and pick off the 2 pounds of ham and turkey.
12. When we fill out a table, there are three main dishes: meats, vegetables, and breads. We use three spices: salt, pepper, and ketchup! Oh, yeah ... We don't care what you folks in Cincinnati call that stuff you eat... IT AIN'T REAL CHILI!!
13. You bring 'Coke' into my house, it better be brown, wet, and served over ice. You bring 'Mary Jane' into my house, she better be cute, know how to shoot, drive a truck, and have long hair.
14. College and High School Football is as important here as the Giants, the Yankees, the Mets, the Lakers and the Knicks, and a dang site more fun to watch.

15. Yeah, we have golf courses. But don't hit the water hazards - it spooks the fish.

16. Turn down that blasted car stereo! That thumpity-thump ain't music, anyway. We don't want to hear it anymore than we want to see your boxers! Refer back to #1!

Something to think about...

Recently, I traveled to a popular trail head with corrals, vaulted toilet, a creek, and lots of trails to ride. While the corrals had already been claimed, I wasn't worried as I have a HiTie on my trailer for Beau. I wanted to allow the three trailers that were already there, some privacy so I searched around for a level spot. That left an area covered with hay, laden with urine and horse poop, and hordes of black stable flies. Dang! I spent the first-hour dispersing poop so the ground would dry and send the flies elsewhere. This is not the first time I have headed to a trail head to find that prior horsemen had left a mess behind. Folks, if your horse poops, disperse it. Leaving it in piles is just wrong and reflects poorly with non-horse folks. Whilst I am on this soapbox... too many overfeed their equines while tied to the trailer, and it ends up being used as a potty, and left behind. If you want to overfeed – that's your business, just pitch in into to your trailer and take it home with you, or better yet, use a haynet. I believe that trail heads should be pristine, welcoming, and fly-free. Let's hold one another accountable and leave no trace.

Weblinks to Public Lands

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





July 7th, 2021 – Island Lake

Good friends, Jim, and Alice Allen (members of the Black Hills Back Country Horsemen of South Dakota), and their two Fjord mules camped at our place for a couple of days. It was a pleasure to share our trails and fishing – yes, Alice caught fish. Beau simply wanted them to share their apple. Didn't work.

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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