

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

Whew! It's been a hot one this summer. And some smoke is still around at times. There is a chill in the air some mornings that tells us fall is right around the corner. I'm looking forward to it. Frankly my favorite riding times are in the late spring and in the early fall. And even late in the evening in the summer, times when it's just a little cool.



We had a fun Summer Rendezvous. A couple of fun rides to Pas Creek and Meyers Creek, a packing competition, and a great meal. Congratulations to the Pack Competition winners, David Edwards, and Brad Molnar. I hope they try to defend their title next year. A big thanks to everyone who had any input into the planning, helped in any way, judged, or showed up. The packing competition was a real blast. I would especially like to thank the entire board of directors who thought up this competition and planned it. It came together nicely, and I think would make a nice ongoing yearly event.

We're not yet done with the summer activities yet, however. While we've had a busy summer, there's one more project later this month. We have a Thursday, September 16 pack in and Monday, September 17 pack out with the ABW. This is in Paradise Valley. Some of us will be staying over the weekend and ride in the area on Saturday and Sunday. Come join us if you can.

We'll be resuming regular meetings in Fishtail with educational programs this month. We are interested in getting more members involved with the board. Elections will be at the November meeting. Speak to any board member for more information if you are interested.

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



September 20TH – 6:30 P.M. Pizza and soft drinks provided by our BBCH Chapter, please bring a side dish.

Meeting @ 7:00

Fishtail Community Center

PRESENTATION:

How to pack an elk quarter - demonstration and hands on experience if you choose.
Indoors ~ live animals will not be used 😊.

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.

NOTICES

Certifications

Our certifications provide safety training and injury coverage from the US government in case of injury while on USFS approved projects. We have number that are due, as they were extended due to COVID last year.

Chainsaw Re-certification and Certification

We will be trying to update the certifications before trail clearing projects next spring. We need names to gauge interest and figure out if we can do this soon or in the spring. Please submit your names to John Chepulis or any board member if you are interested - even if a prior certification has lapsed or you have never been certified and are interested. Initial certifications are more involved and will require a longer class. Dates to be determined if there is enough interest, possibly later this summer or early fall for recerts.

First Aid/Basic Life Support (CPR)

We will be trying to set up a class sometime this fall. Hopefully in the next 3 months. Stay tuned.

September Pack Project/Ride

ABW Pack Project up Anderson Ridge (in Paradise Valley)

Pack in this Thursday Sept 16th, and Packout next Monday Sept 20th.

Some of us will be staying over this weekend. We should be able to camp and ride somewhere in the vicinity of Anderson Ridge Trailhead in Paradise Valley. Contact John Jenkins 406 855 0238 or john.k.jenkins@gmx.us for more information.

USING YOUR GARMIN IN-REACH OR OTHER SATELLITE TRACKING DEVICES - CORRECTLY

Written By: Robin Morris

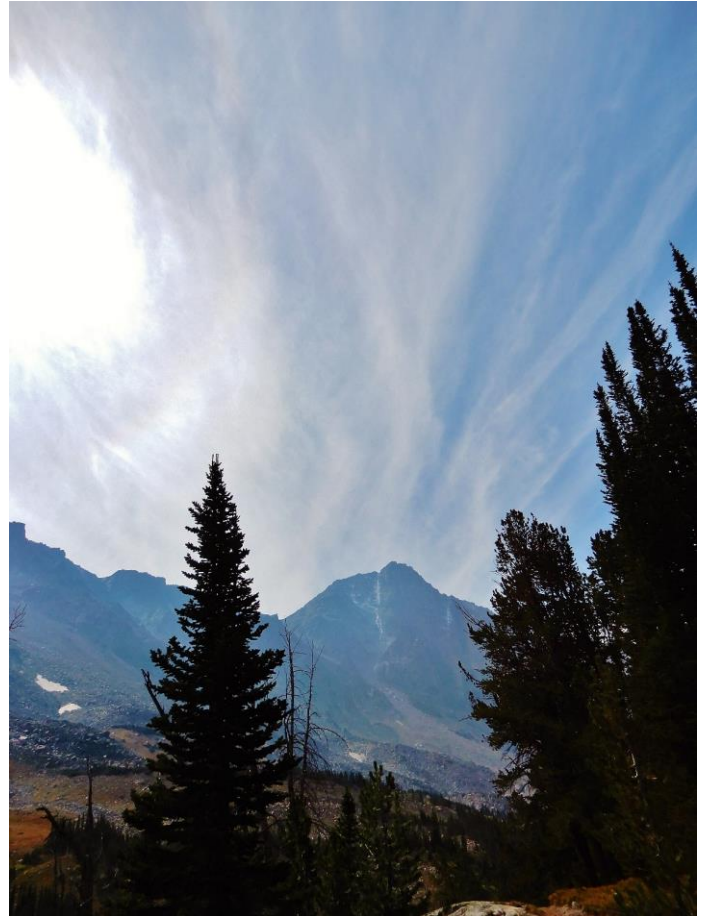
Sadly, this article stems from the recent death of twenty-three-year-old Tatum Morell. On July 1st, she set off from the West Fork Trailhead, out of Red Lodge but never returned. Her body was discovered on August 21, 2021, by a group of hikers in the White Tail Peak area. She was the victim of an apparent rockslide.

While she was an experienced hiker, a serious mistake was made. Her Mother provided her with a Garmin In-Reach Satellite communicator, which she used to communicate with her on July 1st, but search-and-rescue officials were never able to obtain a signal from the satellite communicator or a cell phone throughout the seven-week search. One can only surmise that while she had the device with her, it was not turned on at the time of her accident.

Most of you know that I too often venture to the Wilderness alone. Many of you disagree. That's fine. Let's just agree to disagree. It is simply a passion, like many, that comes with risks. Preparation is key. 1) I *always* let someone know where I am going and how long I plan to be gone; 2) I carry Bear Spray; 3) I carry a loaded 9 mm semi-automatic; and 4) I carry my Garmin In-Reach Communicator and it is *ALWAYS* on! Every 10 minutes a signal is sent to my Garmin page and my husband (Frank) and anyone else I share my page with can track my progress and communicate with me through texting my device. If something should happen to me and I was unable to activate the SOS on my device, at *least* folks would have an idea of where to search.

Possession of this device gives Frank (and me) great comfort. I know he has my back. Plus, he enjoys tracking my rides and likes that he can zoom in and see the aerial view of my tracks. He will often point out places of interest that I didn't visit...such as a lake or a special mountain peak.

I am greatly saddened that a young, vibrant, and obviously capable life was cut short while doing what she loved – experiencing the Wilderness on her own terms. Perhaps, others can learn from her story. I can only hope so. My heartfelt condolences go to her family and friends.



BBCH SUMMER RENDEVOUS

Our Summer Rendezvous was a great success. A dozen members set up camp at the trailhead, while others enjoyed Myers Creek Cabin, or stopped by to enjoy the Packing Competition and BBQ that followed.

Robin and Beau got in a nice ride on Friday and were back at the trailhead to greet other members as they arrived. Saturday morning, five members enjoyed a 5-hour ride up Pass Creek stopping at Picket Pin Creek for lunch. Riders returned in time for the Packers Competition, which started at 3:30. Three teams accepted the challenge - the competition was fierce. Team Melissa



and Matt, and Team David and Brad kicked off the challenge, while Team Louise and John waited on deck. All teams started out with the same score and points were deducted for improper/poor knots, cursing, or not treating the animals with respect, unbalanced load, missing an obstacle, breaking an egg or the watermelon, or breaking any of the beer cans. There was a bin that included extra supplies that they were free to use. The bin included a Tupperware container that perfectly accommodated the loaf of bread. Everyone caught on to that!



Additionally, teams were timed, with the fastest team receiving an additional 5 points. However, proper technique carried a lot more weight than speed.

Teams were provided with two mantes, rope, a 50# bale of compressed hay, paper towels, a sleeping bag, half dozen eggs, 2 cans of beer, a loaf of bread, watermelon, grain, a backpack frame, and other sorted goods. The two-person teams, using basket knots to secure the mantes covering their cargo, had to load it and lead their pack animal through an obstacle course from their horse.

It was impressive to see how well the teams worked together, and how they packed their cargo. Our judges, Dan Aadland and John Chepulis had the tough task of picking a winner. It was darn near a 3-way tie. David Edwards and Brad Molnar came in first, John and Louise Jenkins second, and Matt Anderson and Melissa Codner came in third. While our chapter president, John Jenkins, had the fastest time (he trotted and loped), he lost three points for blowing up a can of beer! Participants were awarded gift certificates. Hopefully, this competition will be repeated at future rendezvous and more packers will rise to the challenge.

On Sunday, members split into two groups. The first headed up Myers Creek and the second group up Lodgepole. It was a great way to close out the weekend. Those that missed out...well you missed out on three wonderful days in the forest. I am pleased to say that our Chapter rocked it, in "leave no trace." All members cleaned up after their livestock and left the campground looking like it did when they arrived. Good job. Enjoy the pictures.



+38











BBCH BOARD MEETING – JUNE 3, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm at Chepulis home.

In attendance: John Jenkins, Randy Thomsen, Nancy Thomsen, John Chepulis

Minutes: John Chepulis moved to approve the May Board meeting minutes. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Melissa Codner sent a report out in an email. There were still some problems with the signature cards at bank.

The Club meeting for June 21 will proceed as planned with Melissa Codner will chair the meeting and John Chepulis do a presentation on the importance of getting chainsaw/crosscut certified.

Website and Facebook have been updated.

Work project paperwork needs to be turned into John Chepulis.

Discussion on purchasing or repairing of BBCH trail maintenance signs on Stillwater, Island Lake, and Ernie Strum Trails.

Ideas for Meyers Creek Rendezvous. Friday and Saturday nights, RSVP membership. Potluck Saturday, Club provides meat, campfire, games, pack demo, tack swap. Door prize/raffle BBCH horseshoe decorations.

John Chepulis moved to purchase books from Dan Aadland, 15 of The Pocket Guide to Equine Knots by Dan Aadland, and 15 of Train Your Horse for Backcountry Riding by Dan Aadland. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed. These books will be used for "New Member Packet". These packets should contain 1 of each book, Mountain Manners booklet, club brochure, and business cards.

John Jenkins will go through and update the First Aid saddle bag

The next Board Meeting to be determined

No July club meeting

August Club meeting will be at Meyers Creek cabin August 28

Meeting adjourned 8:50

BBCH BOARD MEETING – AUGUST 5, 2021

Meeting called to order at 6:45pm at Jenkins home.

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

Minutes: Addition to June Minutes of “discussion on purchasing or repair of BBCH trail maintenance signs on Stillwater, Island Lake, and Ernie Strum Trails”. John Chepulis moved to approve the June Board meeting minutes as corrected. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed.

President’s report: Charles Spencer sent a letter of resignation to John Jenkins. Ray Longstreth is moving out of state and will send a letter of resignation. These seats will be filled at the election in November.

Treasurer’s Report: An Annual update Report in minutes. BBCH has spent 11% of the total that we’ve received needed to spend in the year for the license plate income. Some expenses such as Fishtail Community Center rental, Post Office Box fees, Campout supplies for Myers Creek, and remaining packing expenses, still need to be paid out from that income. Melissa Codner is checking on direct deposit for license plate income and verifying a physical address with the State of Montana.

Education: Meeting will be held at Campout, so no speaker will be scheduled. John Jenkins will ask Ben Daly of the ABWF to do a presentation at a future club meeting. Connie Long will be contacted to teach a CPR/First aid class before the end of the year.

Communications: John Chepulis will start forwarding emails from the BCHMT to members of BBCH to keep them up to date state issues and events.

Membership: Melissa Codner stated there have been 4 new memberships. An updated membership list will be email out for a calling tree to encourage attendance to the campout.

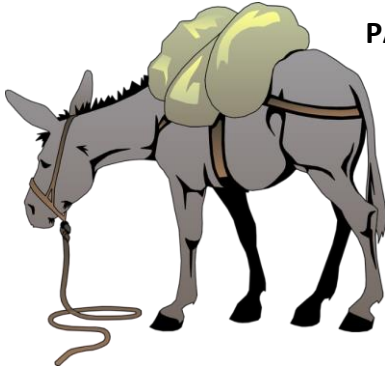
Activities: BBCH will provide pizza for the club meeting in September. The Second Lake Abundance pack in for the ABWF, will proceed as planned, the rockslide at Daisy pass has been cleared. Tentative schedule for the campout was discussed. John Simmons moved to have a pack competition Saturday afternoon of the campout, the winning team getting 2 gift cards from Jake’s restaurant for \$100 each, and the entry fee being 2 food items for the local food bank per person. John Chepulis second. Motion passed. John Chepulis asked to have all work project paperwork turned in for end of year. Chain saw certification will have to wait for rain. Discussion on scheduling more fun rides this year.

Issues: Discussion on local wildfires and trail impacts. Buffalo Fork Fish project is going forward.

John Jenkins will update first aid saddle bags.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

SCHEDULE



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

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

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



CAMPING FOOD!

Camping Mac and Cheese Recipe:

- 1 ½ cups elbow macaroni
- 8 oz prepared Alfredo sauce
- ½ cup sharp cheddar cheese grated
- ½ cup parmesan cheese grated
- ¼ cup mozzarella cheese
- ¼ - ½ cup half and half or whole milk
- salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and rinse with cold water.
2. Stir alfredo sauce into the cooked pasta with the three cheeses and enough milk to keep things loosey goosey. {This is so your mac and cheese doesn't dry out while it's staying cool.} Stir in salt and pepper to taste.
3. Divide between four mini aluminum loaf tins (or one big one), sprayed with nonstick cooking spray. Spray one side of aluminum foil with more nonstick cooking spray and cover each individual mac and cheese portion, sprayed side down, facing the food. Seal well.

Cooking:

Prepare a fire and let it burn down to the coals. Place a cooking rack over top 2-3 inches above the coals. Place your mac and cheese tins on the rack, over in-direct heat, and cook 8-10 minutes or until hot. You can tell it's ready when you can hear the cheese bubbling. Remove from fire and serve immediately. The key is to not set them directly over your heat source. Burnt mac n cheese was never good. You can also cook on a propane grill or wood fire.

Since everything is cooked all, you have to do is heat it through.

The best part of this recipe is the edges, and the tops got a thin layer of crispy cheese that added a whole new level of deliciousness. I'm kind of in love with crispy cheese.

I like to triple and even quadruple the recipe and have in the freezer ready to go. Store in a large plastic food storage bag in a cooler until ready to cook.

You can use mini pie tins as well, but I like the rectangle mini loaf tins as they stack well in your freezer and cooler.

You can also just bake these at home in a glass or ceramic baking dish at 350° oven for 20-25 minutes or until hot and melted. Enjoy!



September 2, 2021 – Thompson Lake, West Fork of Mill Creek

Fellow BBCH member, Tara Smith, and have been busy exploring trails “new to us.” We rode “almost” to Charlie White” Lake, but the dense willows (6’-7’ tall in grizzly country) covering the marshy channels between us and the lake, put a stop to that plan. So, Plan “B” we headed to Thompson Lake and caught some nice cutthroat trout. It’s what’s for dinner!

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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