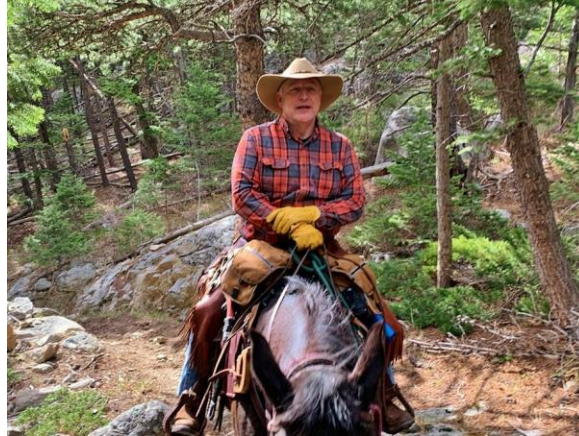


# Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

## *President's Pen*

It finally snowed here east of Billings where I live today (Dec 5), the first in about 5-6 weeks. After having a spot of snow, the last day of summer on our last ABW pack out, then again, a few days into hunting season I was getting used to the short sleeve weather. My father



in Arkansas kept telling me his weather was colder than ours. Anyway, winter is finally here, and I don't think he'll be telling me that anymore, at least for a while. At my house we have pulled out the deicers for the horses, mules, chickens, and dogs. Yes, that's right, all my animals are outside animals – they prefer it that way. So, do I. But hens and dogs have heated houses. I have a heated house too, sometimes, it seems. We have done the last repairs and cleaning in the corral, kennels and chicken pen and coop, and all that kind of stuff. We are tucked in for the winter now. Hope you are too.

The club had elections at the November meeting. We elected officers at the first December Body meeting December 2– see the aside. We have both new and returning board members. Thanks to those rotating off, John Chepulis and John Simmons. They are both founding members of the Beartooth Chapter, past presidents, and previous state directors. Their knowledge and commitment are appreciated, and I'm sure ongoing. Over the years I have seen them be active in the club's direction and public land issues regardless of their formal position on the chapter or state board. John Chepulis continues to be a BCHMT-elected National Director. Welcome to the new and returning members as well.

Of course, the main issue we have had to deal with the last 2 years has been CoVID. It seems to have morphed into an ongoing endemic infection that we can't deal with. So, I think we can get on with business pretty much as usual, with appropriate precautions, in the year ahead. Thanks to the boards

### BBCH DIRECTORS



President- John Jenkins  
855-0238  
Vice President- Dave Heinle  
321-4326  
Treasurer- Melissa Codner  
308-390-0465  
Director- Keith Brighton  
425-1122  
Director – Ray Longstreth  
406 224 5185  
Director- Bob Knutson  
698-0290

### STATE DIRECTORS



John Jenkins  
855-0238  
Randy Thomsen  
425-0204  
Keith Brighton (Alternate)  
425-1122

### NATIONAL DIRECTOR



John Chepulis  
322-4823

and club's work these last two years, I don't think we have as much lost ground to make up as some other non-profits.

Don't miss these upcoming events:

Christmas Party, White Elephant Gift Exchange. Hanna Hall, Monday, December 20, 6:30. RSVP if you want the prime rib. Anyone is welcome to help decorate Sunday Dec 19 at 2 PM.

The STATE CONVENTION IS ON and IN PERSON. Dillon, MT. Always a great time. More on this at the meeting. Raffle tickets are now available.

See you on the 20<sup>th</sup>,

John Jenkins, President 2022



## **BBCH 2021 CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**& (optional) WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE!**

**MONDAY DECEMBER 20, 2021 ~ TIME: 6:30**

**PLACE: HANNA HALL FISHTAIL, MT**

The Chapter will provide the Prime Rib, prepared courtesy of Marilyn Simmons 😊.

Please RSVP to Louise Jenkins [loucjenk@gmail.com](mailto:loucjenk@gmail.com) or call/text at 406-855-0237, by

**no later than 12 noon Monday, December 13.**

**NO RSVP - NO PRIME RIB! We need a head count for the prime rib.**

Chapter members, please provide the following. Last name starts with:

**A-N: Side Dish ~ M-Z: Dessert**

Of course, we realize you will bring what you want, so if you prefer to prepare and share an appetizer or a salad - it's all good! Coffee will be provided. If you want to drink something else – you are welcome to bring it.

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

**WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT RULES:** Gift or regift or find something around the house that you are not using, that others could enjoy or buy something new - \$20 limit. Wrap it and put under the tree when you arrive at the party. We will draw numbers and choose gifts. A gift can be stolen three times. Rules explained that night.



## NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **BBCH Board Members (term) - 2022 Officers**

John Jenkins (2021-2022) State Director, President

David Heinle (2022-2023) Vice President

Melissa Codner (2021-2022) Treasurer

Keith Brighton (2022-2023)

Randy Thomsen (2022-2023) State Director

Ray Longstreth (2022-2023)

Bob Knutson (term ending 2022)

John Chepulis 2021-2022 National Director

Alternate State Director - Keith Brighton

### **Volunteer (non-elected) Positions:**

Nancy Thomsen- Secretary, 328-7355

Robin Morris – Newsletter Editor, 322-9090

**When was the last time you caught up on local, state AND National BCH News?** It's only a click away. You can access the 2020 Fall BCHA Newsletter, and BCHMT "Decker Dispatch" from BCHMT's home page: <https://bchmt.org/>

## TRAIL TIP

Submitted by: Robin Morris

As most of you know, I ride 12 months out of the year. As soon as the weather cools, I switch my spurs to my warmer boots. They are waterproof, lined, very warm, and have great traction for ice and snow. However, the "footprint" is much larger.

When mounting and even more so when dismounting, I only insert the tip of my toe. Why? They are bigger around and take up most of the space in my stirrup. While there is still room in my stirrups, with the added thickness and better grip, if Beau moved even slightly, my boot could easily get caught in the stirrup. Plus, the ground can be slick. Enjoy winter riding – but be safe.

If you have a Trail Tip you would like to share, please send it my way, [junkerette@msn.com](mailto:junkerette@msn.com).

## BCHMT – 2022 STATE CONVENTION

After a 2-year hiatus the BCHMT Convention is a go! The 2022 BCHMT State Convention is March 11-13, in Dillon, MT. It is time to mark your calendars and reserve your lodging! The following link includes the registration form and more information. [2022 BCHMT State Convention | Back Country Horsemen of Montana](#) Raffle and Photo Contest rules follow.

### **Support your local 3 Rivers BackCountry Horseman Chapter Raffle**

- 1) Celebrate Montana's Biggest Weekend
  - 4 nights at The Meine Lodge (September 1-4)
  - 2 tickets to Dillon Jaycee Rodeo
  - 2 tickets to Dillon Jaycee Concert
  
- 2) Fish a Blue Ribbon Stream in Montana
  - A one day fishing trip with Frontier Angler
  - and a one night stay at Lover's Leap Lodging for 2
  
- 3) Ski the Maverick
  - 2 Ski passes to Maverick Mountain
  - 2 Soak passes to Elkhorn Hot Springs
  - 1 Night for 2 at Grasshopper Inn B&B

*All drawn for at Montana BCH State  
Convention, March 12, 2022*

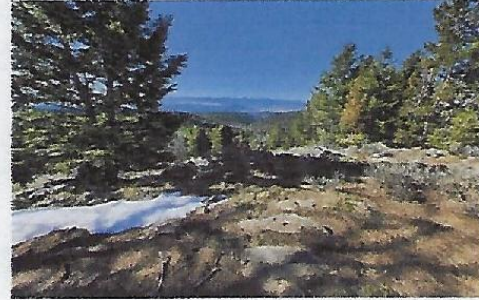
*Need not be present to win                      \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20*

**Tickets available at the Beaverhead County Fair  
or by calling 406-681-3131**



## 2022 BCH of MT State Convention

Photo Contest March 11-13, 2022



Welcome and Thank You for entering your photo in our annual contest. Following are the contest guidelines. Please note that the convention attendees will decide the winner.

\* Register your photo Friday afternoon or Saturday morning before 9:00 AM

\* Photo contest will have 5 (five) categories. Members are limited to 2 (two) entries in each category.

\* Categories

1-Stock & Wildlife: Horses, Dogs, Cats, etc.

2-Montana Landscape: Scenery, Mountains, Lakes, etc.

3-Kids Old & Young: People Young, Old, Not So Old

4-Back Country Horsemen at Work: Work Projects, Club Projects, Activities

5-Humorous: Comical, Funny, Makes you smile

Photos are to be taken by amateur photographers only and must be BCH members.

Photo size shall be 5x7 or 8x10 and must be mounted or matted (please, no frames).

Photographer's name, address & email/phone # shall be attached to the back of the photo.

Photos may be mailed to: Kathy Allard, 23385 Hwy 278, Dillon, MT, 59725

## UNWRITTEN RULES OF THE BACK COUNTRY (HORSEMEN)

Submitted by J Jenkins

Not all the rules for any job, trade or recreational activity are written. Some of the most important rules are the ones that are not written. Here are some of my thoughts. But maybe they are just my pet peeves.

1. Mutual respect. Such as ...leave someone else's horses and tack alone. Or... Don't saddle another's horse unless you're asked. And do it their way or leave it alone. This one's more important than you might think, and everyone has their own way of doing it that usually works for them: or they wouldn't be doing it that way in the first place. They are NOT just doing it wrong. Listen to an explanation why another person does something a different way. Remember, it's hard to learn something when you already know everything! Every time I pack with someone new, I learn a different way to do something.
2. Pull your weight. Respect is earned.
3. Don't take your rules from the city or from any other place to the back country.
4. a. Hit the headfirst. Self-explanatory.
4. b. And dig a cat hole if at all possible! No one likes to see your business in the back country. Or it's wrappers!
5. If you're borrowing it for the third or fourth time, you need to buy your own!
6. Respect others' pace when you're in large groups. SEE #1 above. Slow it down if you have to. This becomes harder as groups increase in size, and with riders and horses of varying riding and fitness levels. Maybe consider it a personal challenge in horsemanship to match another's pace.
7. Practice "Situational Awareness." Be aware of your surroundings. I know it's tough after long hot summer days working at altitude when we're clearing trail or packing. My "near misses" have usually been when I'm dog tired late in the afternoon and then relax my attention or awareness.
8. Uphill has the right of way. (I'm pretty sure this one is written somewhere – many somewheres probably.)
9. Everybody needs a sharp knife. NO EXCEPTIONS. On their person! All the time. No other explanation needed. (Preferably straight blade - but personally I'll spot you that if you're handy with a knife.)

Maybe I should have titled this "*Mostly Unwritten Rules*" – I'm sure I've come across some of these ideas somewhere along the way. Maybe you've heard the expression "not in my job description." Maybe it should be.

I think that I see a lot of mutual respect among the members of this club. And I have appreciated the courtesy, help, experience, knowledge, and instruction I've received from members of this club in the last 6 years. If you have some other thoughts, I'm sure we would all like to hear them.

BBCH – BOARD MEETING 10/07/2021

Meeting called to order at 7:11pm at Fishtail Community Center

In Attendance: John Jenkins, Randy Thomsen, Nancy Thomsen, Melissa Codner, and John Chepulis

Minutes- Randy Thomsen moved to approve September Minutes. John Chepulis second. Motion passed.

President- John Jenkins received an email from the Fishtail Community Center. They offered their facility for Board meetings and Club meeting with no extra charge.

Vice President- Randy Thomsen has received some responses to the letters he sent out about the Lodge Pole Road, from PLWA and MWF. Addresses for member submissions on the road should be put in the Newsletter along with a small summary article.

Treasurer's Report in Minutes-Donations have been sent out. Some members still need to deposit checks for reimbursements. Packing expenses are at 65% of budgeted amount. The Club is at 50% of total received from license plate funds. Absarokee Food Bank and ABWF donation was matched by Town Pump. John Chepulis moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Randy Thomsen seconded. Motion passed.

Education- October 18 Club meeting will be held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Absarokee. There is good Wi-Fi signal for Zoom meeting, Greg Schatz presentation on how to get young people involved with BCH. There will be potluck and bring the extra drinks. Melissa Codner will make an event on Facebook. John Jenkins will put meeting information in the Newsletter. Discussion on how to get information to club members. Melissa Codner will email Stillwater Newspaper for information how to post in paper. Melissa Codner will send out list of members to be called for calling tree about club meeting. Topics should be October meeting, ABWF speaker in November meeting, Christmas for December meeting and anyone interested in serving on Board.

CPR/First aid classes will be November 6 or 13. John Jenkins will confirm with Connie Long and check with the Fishtail Community Center. Melissa Codner will create an event on Facebook. John Jenkins will email members when dates are confirmed. RSVP for lunch count.

Communications- John Jenkins will send pictures to be put on Facebook. The Club will be asked about interest in a Facebook posting series on some of the trails we ride. Series will help members get familiar with obstacles and landscape of trails and trailheads.

Issues- BLM has a new director.

BCHMT- September meeting showed BCHMT in good standing. November 20 BCHA will have a meeting for all members information will come in an email. Information should be put in BBCH Newsletter. Check out BCHA website for new articles.

Randy Thomsen and John Chepulis will research electric chain saws to purchase by the club for trail clearing.

Melissa Codner and Jessi Erickson will collaborate on a proposal for BBCH T-shirts for members. We would like to purchase made in U.S.A. t-shirts.

The board, John Jenkins, will get more information on Pack Schools for members to attend. This has been done in the past with the BBCH.

The Club decided, at the September meeting, that members would be more interested in a Pack Clinic than the Rocky Mountain Sports Show.

Elections- A nominating committee was formed with John Chepulis and John Jenkins. Three two-year terms and 1 one-year term are up for election. This includes 2 Board seats, 1 State board seat, and 1 State board alternate seat.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm

## BBCH – GENERAL MEETING 11/15/2021

Meeting at Fishtail Community Center

Introductions

Ben Daly of ABWF presentation “What makes the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness unique?”

Pledge of Allegiance

Elections:

2 People for 2-year term: Ray Longstreth, Dave Heinle

1 person for 1 year term: Bob Knutson

John Chepulis moved to accept nominations by acclamation. Marilyn Simmons second. Motion passed.

John Chepulis moved that Randy Thomsen be a State Board Director by acclamation. Bonnie Chepulis second. Motion passed.

John Chepulis moved that Keith Brighton be a State Board Director Alternate by acclamation. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed.

Board meeting to be held the first Thursday of December.

Melissa Codner moved that White Elephant gifts will be given out by the membership at the Christmas party. Nancy Thomsen second. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm



LAUGHINGSTOCK

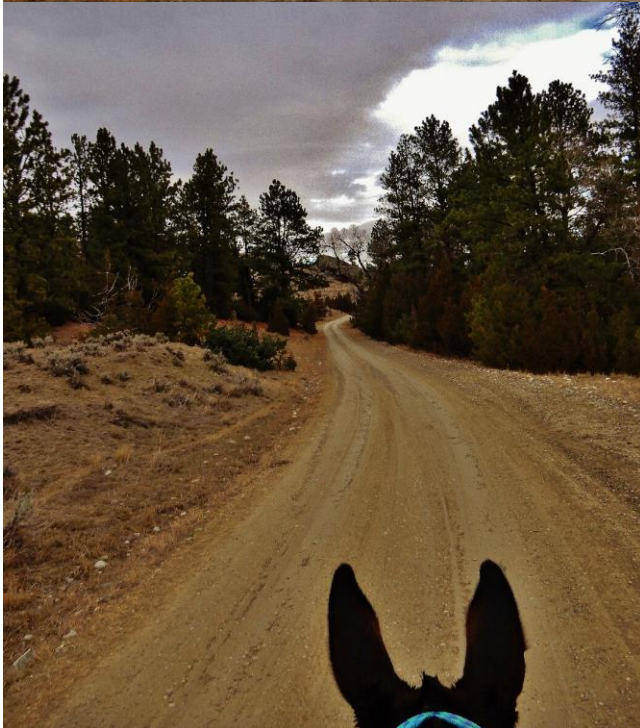
**COWBOY WISDOM:  
-SUMMIT BRADY, WEST TEXAS PHILOSOPHER-**

**Bad decisions  
can make some  
mighty good  
stories..**



**November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Benbow Road - Jeep Trail Loop**

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001



11/17/2021: Riding the county roads between Rapelje Road and the Columbus-Molt Road. This time of year, I am fortunate to have “primitive” roads to ride. Makes for a nice, private ride.

---


Please send any submissions for the Newsletter to Robin Morris, [junkerette@msn.com](mailto:junkerette@msn.com), by the 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gbtelemark@gmail.com)



**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



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

**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](http://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](mailto:brokenfiddleranch@gmail.com)



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