

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

Happy March, or spring or whatever! Where it can be 55 degrees one day with a little green grass showing, then 5 degrees with several inches of snow the next. It's good we're getting this moisture, but it makes for some sloppy driving. My shop/garage is out in my small pasture with a dirt road to it. With the repeated freeze- thaw cycles it becomes a mess. I'll have to gravel it sometime. Many of the trails we ride are better than the little road to my shop. It gets "slick as snot" as my dad used to say. Nothing like rotating tires or changing oil in my truck with fresh, wet 35° mud on the undercarriage. I've figured out when to drive out there for vehicle maintenance depending on whether it's dry or frozen. Sometimes it's the night before or early in the morning or even a day or two before I can get to it, so as not to be so messy. Plan ahead. Be prepared. I guess that applies to all aspects of life.



Which brings me to the point of this column. We've had some good educational programs this year. Most of the BCHMT chapters are busy with recertifications for **First Aid, Crosscut, Chainsaw and Defensive Horsemanship**. We have the State Convention the weekend of March 11. Then we'll be busy in a hurry. The following weekend on Saturday March 19 is the Spring Clinic. See details inside this newsletter. We need an RSVP for a head count for the lunch which the club will provide. We'll need a list of those interested in the chainsaw recertification and will plan that with some of the trail clearings.

It doesn't slow down then. The weekend after the Spring Clinic is the Island Lake clearing (March 26) and after that Crosscut saw training up Bad Canyon/Bridger Cr (April 2). We'll have a few weekends off, but trail clearing will resume quickly in late April. There's a busy schedule of projects this

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

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...

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

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...

John Jenkins
855-0238
Randy Thomsen
425-0204
John Simmons
328-4163
Keith Brighton (Alternate)
425-1122

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

...

John Chepulis
322-4823

summer. You should have all received a preliminary schedule by email, but it's included here as well. Now is the time to start getting prepared. Check those trailer lights and tire pressure and start legging up those horses if you've been setting on your duff like I have for 4 months.

See you at the Spring Clinic,

John Jenkins

NO GENERAL MEETING FOR MARCH!

***See you April 18th – or at the BCHMT State
Convention March 11-13 in Dillon!***

Yearly dues for 2022 are:

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

You may pay in-person at our next meeting, or mail your checks to BBCH, PO Box 614, Absarokee MT 59001. Please send updated email, address if your contact information has

changed. This information will only be used for the BBCH and BCHMT Newsletters and is not shared.



**PAY YOUR
DUES**

2022 – BBCH SPRING CLINIC – 3/19/2022

DEFENSIVE HORSE SAFETY COURSE

MARCH 19,2022. COTTONWOOD EQUINE CENTER, SILESIA, MT. **Directions:** From the Fort at Rockvale, take HWY 212 East (towards Billings), travel 1.5 miles, exit onto Clarks River Road (it comes up quick – sharp right turn), turn right onto Cottonwood Rd, turn left in .3 miles onto Silesia Rd, turn left in .8 miles to Richardson Rd, take next left, CC Lane to the Center.

Members Only. If you are new and want to join, please pay dues (\$25 for an individual, \$35 family) during registration. Lunch will be provided by the BBCH. Please bring snacks to share for the breaks.

Discussion/Questions in the last 10 minutes of each talk.

REGISTRATION	8:00-8:30	(Melissa & Nancy)
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	8:30-8:40	John Jenkins (President)
Talk 1 Gen Horsemanship/ Behavior	8:40-9:40	Dan Aadland
Talk 2 Horse Care and Handling	9:45-10:45	John Simmons (St Director)
Break	10:45 – 11:00	
Talk 3 Tack and Equipment	11:00-12:00	David Edwards
Add trailer inspection		Sean Chepulis
Lunch	12:00-12:50	
Talk 4 Horse First Aid	12:50 -1:50	Veterinarian TBD
Talk 5 Ride Preparation & Conditioning	1:50-2:45	Wendy Galvin
Talk 6 Trail Safety-Courtesy	2:45-3:15	Randy Thomsen
Break		
Talk 7 Human First Aid	3:15- 4:10	John Jenkins MD, FACR
Closing Remarks	4:10-4:15	John Jenkins
Clean up/ break down	4:15-5:00	

RSVP john.k.jenkins@gmx.us or text 406-855-0238 by Noon, Monday March 14. We need a head count for the lunches. Lunch will be provided by the club.

This course is mandatory every 3 years for those involved in trail clearing and pack projects coordinated with the US Forest Service. The goal of the course is to meet the training requirements of The Health and Safety Code (FSM 6709.11.04.1) and to provide livestock safety training for the BCH of Montana members and volunteers thereby reducing job hazards for volunteers and personnel who work with livestock. For more information: <https://bchmt.org/wp/education/>

2022 – BBCH PROPOSED PROJECT SCHEDULE

All dates are subject to change and depending on weather

- March 11th-13th – State Convention – Dillon MT
- March 19th – Spring Clinic – COTTONWOOD EQUESTRIAN CENTER, 11 CC Lane, Joliet, MT.
- March 26th - Island Lake - Trail clearing, possible camp out
- April 2nd-3rd – Bad Canyon - Crosscut Saw Certification with Forest Service
- May 14th-15th – Stillwater River – Trail clearing, 11 miles, possible camp at meadows
- May 21st-22nd – Line Creek/Face of the Mountain – Trail clearing
- May 28th, 29th, 30th – West Fork of the Stillwater/Initial Creek – Trail clearing, possible camp out
- June 4th – Deer Creek – Trail clearing from West Fork of Bridger to the cabin
- June 18th-19th – Ernie Strum Trail, possibly locate old trail from Lilly Pad to Island Lake
- June 23rd – pack in; June 29th – pack out - ABW Main Stillwater, 11 miles
- July 6th-12th – **ABW** - Meat Rack, Main Boulder, 5-6 miles; camp out; possible rendezvous and pack clinic
- August 18th pack in; August 23rd pack out – **ABW** - Fox Lake, near Cooke City, 5 miles
- August 31st pack in – September 6th pack out – **ABW** – East Fork of Mill Creek; same campground as 2021; mileage unknown
- September, End of Year Campout, Meyers Cr, Date to be determined
- Fun Rides, New Member Rides, June, July or August, Dates to be determined

August 7th for approximately 18 days – Buffalo Fork – **FWP fishing/tagging trip. Needing people to move camps during full 18 days. Moving approximately 3 miles at a time. More details to follow.

Please contact Dave Heinle with any questions or concerns at brokenfiddleranch@gmail.com

BBCH – BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 3, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm at the Stillwater County Chamber of Commerce.

In attendance: John Jenkins, Dave Heinle, Melissa Codner, Randy Thomsen, Nancy Thomsen, Bob Knutson, Ray Longstreth, Marilyn Simmons, John Simmons.

The Chamber of Commerce is approved for 6 months for board meetings.

Randy Thomsen moved to approve January board minutes with corrections. Melissa Codner second. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Report in Minutes. Discussion on license plate funds. Melissa Codner will get a thank you posted on Facebook for license plate funds. Dave Heinle moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed.

Discussion on what a New Members packet should include and to have some ready to hand out at the Spring Clinic.

2022 Budget in the minutes. Randy Thomsen moved to accept the 2022 budget with changes to the animal per-diem. Ray Longstreth second. Motion passed.

Laptop- Randy Thomsen moved to purchase new laptop for treasurer, MS 365, Desktop QuickBooks and a carrying case. John Simmons second. Melissa Codner will purchase. Marilyn Simmons will help with getting programs.

Education- Dr Sara Barlau-Russell will do a presentation on equine colic at the February general meeting.

CPR/First aid class will be held February 26 at the Fishtail Community Center from 10:30 to 3pm. Lunch will not be provided, as Connie Long would like to work through lunch so she can travel.

Spring Clinic- The board has reserved the Cottonwood Equine Center, in Joliet on March 19 from 8 to 5pm. The cost is \$50 an hour for \$450 a day. Discussion on scheduling, food, and presenters.

Activities- Dave Heinle, John Jenkins, Keith Brighton, and Randy Thomsen met with Allie Wood and discussed the trail work projects for the summer and her plans for the coming years. Dave Heinle has made a tentative work schedule for the summer and will type it up and get it sent out to the membership.

Discussion on reserving Meyers Creek cabin for late summer camp out, campout at 4 mile in July, and a pack clinic.

Ray Longstreth has registered for classes at Royal Tine Guide and Packer School. Board is still looking to send a second person.

Allie Wood gave board information on someone to create signage for Main Stillwater, Ernie Strum, and Island Lake. John Jenkins will get an estimate with size and number of letters on signs.

General Meeting on March 21 will be canceled due to the Spring Clinic on March 19.

Next Board meeting will be March 3 at Chamber of Commerce before BCHMT convention on March 11

Meeting adjourned 9:05 pm

TRAIL DETAILS

Submitted by: Melissa Codner

Who is ready to hit the trails? I know we are all anxious to get out there! From time to time, we receive inquiries about our local trails. As a club, we decided we need to have detailed information to pass along to those inquiries. Many of our BBCH members are new to the area and/or have only enjoyed a handful of our local trails. Thus, this resource will provide key details for BBCH members as well as the public.

For that to happen, we need your help!

If you have a favorite trail, could you share what you know? We are collecting this information through an online, anonymous survey. Your email address is not collected, and you can fill it out as many times as you'd like. Some of the trails you may be familiar with include:

Ernie Strum
Island Lake
Stillwater/Woodbine
Line Creek/Face of the Mountain
West Fork of the Stillwater/Initial Creek
Deer Creek
Meyers Creek
Fox Lake
Meat Rack
East Fork of Mill Creek

Here's the link: <https://forms.gle/w6i4pmzBQC6VkmXz7>

We would appreciate your contributions. I just submitted my views on the Stillwater Trail (Robin speaking). It was quite easy and took just a few moments. We welcome everyone's thoughts about each of the trails. The more details we can collect, the more details we can share.

Happy Trails!

BCHMT – HEARTSAVER FIRST AID CPR AED – 2/26/022



FIRST AID AND CPR TRAINING COMPLETED!

We had a successful First Aid and CPR training class taught by Connie Long, RN. Twelve people completed the class. Congratulations.





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](#). Convention Agenda, Raffle and Photo Contest rules follow.

2022 Montana State BCH Convention Agenda

Friday, March 11, 2022

UMW Mathews Hall/Lewis & Clark Room

Finish by 5:00	Vendor Set Up	Mathews Hall
Noon-5:00	Convention Registration, Turn in Raffle ticket sales	Lobby
Noon-5:00	Photo Registration	Registration Table
Noon-5:00	Cross Cut Sign Up Sheet	Registration Table
Noon-5:00	Auction Item drop off	Registration Table
12:30pm	Nominating Committee meeting	TBA
1:00-4:00pm	State Board Meeting (Pre-Convention)	TBA
Pending	No Host Social Gathering	Beaverhead Brewery

Saturday, March 12, 2022

7:00	Convention Registration, Turn in Raffle Ticket Sales, Photo Registration, Cross Cut Registration	Lobby Lobby
Morning	Cowboy Coffee & Donuts with Dave in his tent	Front of Mathews Hall
8:00	Opening of Convention	Lewis & Clark room
8:05	Presentation of Flag	
8:15	Invocation	
8:20	State Chapter Roll Call	
8:45	General Session Opens Treasurer's Report Volunteer Hours Report Nominating Committee	Lewis & Clark room
9:00	Silent Auction Opens	Lewis & Clark room
10:30	Morning Break (Continental Breakfast) Vote for your favorite photos	Lewis & Clark room Mathews Hall
11:00am	John Chepulis - Volunteer Hours instruction	Lewis & Clark room
12:00-1:00	Lunch - Tickets Required	UMW Cafeteria
1:00	Last call for Cross Cut Competition Registration Vote for your favorite photos	Lobby Mathews Hall
1:00-2:00	General Session Continues	
2:10-3:00	Breakout Sessions Jessica Murray - Extension Office "Grazing Management on Small Acreage"	TBA
	Kim Johnston - People & Carnivores "Bear Aware" Equipment they loan out along with the USFS	TBA

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3:10-4:00	Breakout Sessions	TBA
	Jessica Murray - Extension Office (maybe 40 people)	
	Pasturing & Feeding on small acreages	TBA
	Kim Johnston - People & Carnivores (maybe 40 people)	
	Living in bear country	
	Equipment they loan out along with the USFS	
4:00-5:00	Cross Cut Saw Contest	TBA
5:00-11:00	No Host Bar (with Entertainment?)(Beaverhead Golf Club)	Lewis & Clark Rm
6:00-8:00	Banquet - Tickets Required	Lewis & Clark Rm
8:00	Silent Auction Closes; Last call for Raffle Sales	
8:00-11:00	Live Auction, Raffle Drawing, 50/50	

Daylight Savings Time begins!

Sunday, March 13, 2022

7:00	Cowboy Church - Pastor Cliff Billings	Mathews Hall
7:45-8:40	Chapter President's meeting	TBA
Morning	Cowboy Coffee & Donuts with Dave in his tent	Mathews Hall Front Lawn
8:45	General Session Reconvenes	Lewis & Clark Rm
	Photo contest Winners	
	Presentation Mile High Award (saw contest) + prizes	
	Elections	
10:00-10:30	Morning Break	Lewis & Clark Rm
10:30-Noon	General Session Reconenes	Lewis & Clark Rm
	Next Year's Convention Video	
12:00	Convention Adjournment/turn in name tags	
12:15	State Board Post-Convention Meeting	Lewis & Clark Rm
12:15	Vendor Display Removal	Mathews Hall

**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

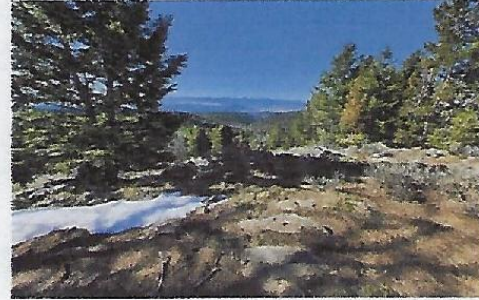
*All drawn for at Montana BCH State
Convention, March 12, 2022*

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



New* U.S. Forest Service Guidance on Use of Equestrian Campsites

At the prompting of BCCHA and allies that include the American Horse Council, last month the Forest Service national office circulated a memo to all national forests and national grasslands titled “Recommended Best Practices for Managing Stock Use Sites at Developed Campgrounds.” A copy of that memo can be [found here](#).



Teton Chapter, Wyoming Back Country Horsemen

We encourage BCCHA chapters and volunteers to review this memo and, importantly, to use it as a reason to schedule a meeting with personnel at your local national forest to assist you to achieve the following objectives:

1. Ensure the memo was received by the local Forest Service office,
2. Discuss with forest staff the magnitude of the problem locally and the memo’s relevancy and implications, and
3. Come to agreement on what adjustments in the management of equestrian campsites within Forest Service jurisdiction might be implemented in order to communicate to the public the need to prioritize equestrian campsites for use by parties with stock.

Background

Last year, BCHA approached the Forest Service regarding what options exist to minimize the extent to which parties without stock were occupying designated equestrian campsites throughout the National Forest System. We pointed out that agency policy for developed campgrounds prohibits parties from “Bringing in or possessing a saddle, pack or draft animal except as authorized by posted instructions” (Code of Federal Regulations, Section 36, subsection 261.16(l)). That is, parties with stock are prohibited by law from occupying Forest Service campsites that are not designated for equestrian use.

Yet, there is no corresponding regulation that prevents parties without stock from occupying developed equestrian campsites. The problem of occupied horse camps escalated across the nation during the COVID pandemic, when many families and others chose close-to-home vacations in favor of long-distance travel. The Forest Service memo describes well the implications to stock users of this growing problem.

Horse Camp Incident Report Form

BCHA and its allies developed a Horse Camp Incident Report form for members to capture and record incidents where parties without stock are occupying Forest Service equestrian campsites. The form can be [found here](#). An online version of the form can be downloaded to your smart phone; it can be [accessed here](#).

The purpose of the form is to support BCHA should we need to make the case for new regulations to prevent parties without stock from occupying equestrian campsites. BCHA is pleased that the Forest Service issued the memo to field staff; it represents a logical first step to apply education to help lessen the problem.

We don't know that education alone will prove sufficient to solve the horse camping problem. By collecting your accounts of incidents in the field, we might better document the magnitude and geographic extent of the problem. Consequently, BCHA is relying on its members to provide data from the field of your observations, should we need to promote further solutions.

Special notes:

- Always be courteous to other campground users. It's likely that any party without stock has occupied an equestrian campsite because regular campsites were already taken or reserved.
- Remember, it's not illegal for others to camp in an equestrian campsite. Plus, some folks might not know the difference between an equestrian and regular campsites (seriously!) or why their occupancy of an equestrian campsite might force us to travel far distances in order to find a legal campsite—if not forced to return home, an outing ruined.
- If you end up speaking with such parties, use these talking points to educate them about the scarcity of legal campsites for equestrian use and what happens when parties without stock occupy equestrian campsites.

[Print Incident Form Here](#)

[Online Incident Form](#)

LAUGHINGSTOCK



©J.L. WERNER MISFIT DESIGNS FOR EQUIMED 05/15



March 2, 2022: It's mud-season in Southcentral Montana!

Please send any submissions for the Newsletter to Robin Morris, junkerette@msn.com, by the 5th of each month. Thanks!

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