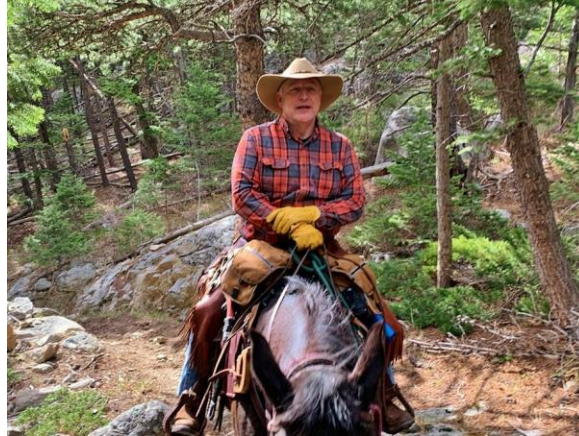


Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

Have you ever heard the expression “the calm before the storm?” I had a tornado hit (graze) my house when I lived in Mississippi one Saturday evening. There was definitely a “calm before the storm”. You could hear a pin drop. Fortunately, the damage wasn't too severe. I was 130 miles or so inland from landfall when Katrina hit New Orleans. Like many or most storms I experienced living over half my life in the southeast or Gulf Coast, there was absolutely NO calm before the storm. The calm was *after* the storm. I'm no expert on weather, but I've read that somehow air is sucked into storms, the energy and moisture is drawn out, then the air recirculates down and is drier and calmer. It can happen before or after the storm. Before is what I experienced the evening of the tornado. BUT after Katrina - all the moisture was sucked out of the air and we experienced some of the mildest driest late summer weather I ever experienced in Mississippi - for a few days at least.



Anyway, the point of this column is not to talk about weather patterns, but the upcoming club activities. We were reviewing the upcoming club projects and activities at the May board of directors meeting. What came to mind for me was we're past the calm before the storm. Things have been slow the last few weeks with club activities, but now they are picking up. So, I hope your mules (and horses too) are legged up. Time to get to work for a bit before things slow down again. See the updated activities calendar included herein. **Please note some changes in the schedule.**

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

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

Just to review, Saturday May 7 is the crosscut saw recertification. Each of the next 3 weekends are trail clearings. We would like to see some of our new members come on out for a ride. Don't feel obligated to clear trail or pack, just come along for the company and scenery. And bring a friend so they can see what we're about.

Beginning May 14, the first trail clearing is the Main Stillwater. The preliminary recon report is it's not too bad so I think an overnight in the Tripod Hill vicinity is doable. We can do an overnight if anyone is interested – contact me. The next weekend is an overnight (if you want to stay overnight) on Face of the Mountain near Red Lodge. We'll send crews in from two different directions if possible. The club will spring for dinner and breakfast. Contact Dave Heinle if you are interested. The following weekend is the long Memorial Day weekend at Initial Creek and the West Fork of the Stillwater River. *BTW, if anyone has reconnaissance info on the trails, please share it.*

As a final reminder, we'll meet again at the Columbus Fire Hall for the general meeting in May.

See you in the mountains real soon,

John Jenkins

Potluck

Everyone Brings Something to the Table.

May 16th – 6:30 p.m. Potluck
Meeting @ 7:00

Columbus Fire Station
944 E Pike Columbus



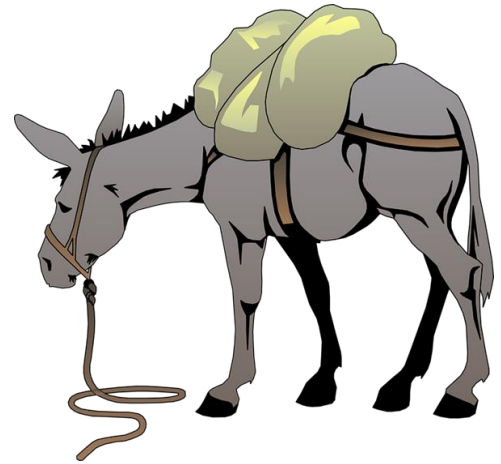
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2022 – BBCH PROPOSED PROJECT SCHEDULE

All dates are subject to change and depending on weather.

*Note changes to the schedule are in **Red!***

- May 7th - Crosscut Saw Certification with Forest Service completed.
- May 14th-15th – Stillwater River – Trail clearing, 11 miles, possible camp at meadows. Contact: John Jenkins, 406-855-0238, john.k.jenkins@gmx.us
- May 21st-22nd – Line Creek/Face of the Mountain – Trail clearing. Contact: Dave Heinle, 406-321-4326, brokenfiddleranch@gmail.com.
- May 28th, 29th, 30th – West Fork of the Stillwater/Initial Creek – Trail clearing, possible camp out. Contact: John Jenkins, 406-855-0238, john.k.jenkins@gmx.us
- **COMPLETED!** Deer Creek – Trail clearing from West Fork of Bridger to the cabin. We *may* schedule another clearing as the recent winds resulted in more downfall.
- June 18th-19th – Ernie Strum Trail, possibly locate old trail from Lilly Pad to Island Lake
- **June 25th – pack in; July 1st – 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

Save the Dates . . .



Back Country Horsemen of Montana invite you
to the 2022 Rendezvous at Monture Ranger Station

June 24-26, 2022

We are looking forward to another good time of comradery , trail riding and helpful presentations. If you have any skills or presentations you would like to share, or see, please let us know.

More information to come.

Contact: Randy Velin, 406-544-4582, rhvelin@gmailcom or
Wade Murphy, 406-431-1717, wadeandlonnie@hotmail.com

Looking forward to a great time!!

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CROSSCUT CERTIFICATION – MAY 7, 2020

By: Robin Morris



Nine BBCH members and two Forest Service employees met at the Forest Service Office in Red Lodge at 9:00 this past Saturday. What started off as a sprinkle evolved into a driving, drenching rain. As the local forester (Allie Wood) said, "Well, this is typical weather for trail projects." The rain picked up momentum as we drove the short distance to the trail. I was questioning my decision to partake.



The "trail" was a small isolated parcel of forest service land with a small parking lot through an open gate. Outside the



dry comfort of our trucks, Allie determined who had saws and what other supplies were needed. She had her assistant and John Jenkins install the handles on her 2-man saws. Several of us were scrounging for rain repelling clothing and standing with our backs to the storm. I was sure thankful for my hooded rain slicker. I looked at Tara and wished I had something to offer. She had a ponytail poking through her ballcap (ears exposed), and the rain was soaking into her puffer jacket. Her husband, Craig, looked just as miserable with a screened ballcap and fleece jacket. We all went back to the truck and put on our chinks. At least our legs would be dry! Everyone else was experiencing the same level of discomfort, but we came here to saw. So, we headed up the trail. My saw is a full 6', so I grabbed one end, and Craig grabbed the other end. Allie said it was a 10-minute walk. No doubt she got to where she wanted to be in 10-minutes. The majority of us took more time. Finally, the weather seemed to calm until we headed uphill, turning straight into the wind and sleet rain. The weather improved as we dropped down into a draw full of burnt downfall. Then the rain stopped, and the sun came out. Tara and I stripped off our outer layers and hung them on a tree to dry. Time to get to work.



Allie provided an excellent overview of technique, assessing where and how to cut, the difference between felling and bucking saws, and other trail-clearing tools. She also provided tips on caring for our saws and proper storage. There are two class certifications for cross-cut, "A" and "B." Most of us chose to obtain an "A" certification. The "B" certification requires skill in cutting trees under tension. We then paired up and selected trees for practice. After Tara and I made several cuts and were



comfortable with our technique, we wandered around to see how others were doing while Allie evaluated the first team, John J. and David. She then certified Keith and Craig; Clark, Tara and me, then John C. and Geoff. Watching others as Allie would stop sawyers to point something out or ask questions was informative. She explained where to look for the pressure; how to cut a log so it will release

easier by using a compound cut. Many of us admitted to cutting the shortest distance – a straight cut. We learned that a compound cut (an angle positioned the right way) could save you a lot of work in the long run. Allie would "cut in" and saw with each of us, providing personalized coaching, asking questions, and sharing how she would proceed. It was a great hands-on learning opportunity. She reinforced that sawing is not a race, but besides proper saw positioning, rhythm and communication with our partners is the most critical aspect.

Looking around at my teammates, I had to smile. Sawing burnt downfall can be messy. Folks had black smudges on their faces, jackets, and pants' seats – it was everywhere. But, it's the little things that make life fun.

All nine of us received our certification. We were done by 12:30 and smiling as we headed back to our trucks. Many of us have been using cross-cut saws for years. However, reinforcing and honing our skills alongside the folks we will be clearing trails with is a great way to develop an efficient team. I truly enjoyed getting to know my teammates better and had a lot of fun!



BOARD MEETING – MARCH 3, 2020

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

In attendance: John Jenkins, Dave Heinle, Melissa Codner, Bob Knutson, Nancy Thomsen, Louise Jenkins

John Jenkins declared a quorum.

Bob Knutson moved to approve February board minutes with corrections. Melissa Codner second. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report in minutes. Bob Knutson moved to approve Treasurer's report. Melissa Codner second. Motion passed. After Spring Clinic, reminders for membership dues will be sent out. Advertisements for business' that haven't paid dues in the last 2 years will be removed from the newsletter. Dave Heinle moved to give Robin Morris and Jessi Erickson complimentary memberships for their efforts. Bob Knutson second. Motion passed.

Melissa Codner presented updated liability waivers and membership forms to be filled out by everyone at the Spring Clinic and throughout the year. These will help to keep information on membership current. Bob Knutson moved to approve updated forms. Dave Heinle second. Motion passed.

License plate renewal is due March 31.

Audit has been tabled until April. New laptop for treasurer has been ordered.

A general meeting in March will be cancelled, because of Spring Clinic. A speaker is needed for the April Meeting on April 18th. Dave Heinle will call Allie Wood or a club he knows that is interested in speaking. About a dozen people passed the CPR class.

A tentative schedule has been set for the Spring Clinic. Marilyn Simmons is in charge of the lunch. Members will need to bring chairs. Dave Heinle will bring his large coffee pots. An RSVP for March 14 will be put in the newsletter. Melissa Codner will create the last of the ordered BBCH T-shirts, to be given out at the Spring Clinic.

John Jenkins will get the Meyers Creek Cabin reserved for a rendezvous in September.

April 2 will be cross cut saw certification with the Forest Service at Bridger Creek/Bad Canyon.

One more applicant is needed for the Royal Tine Guide and Packer School. A notice will be put in Newsletter.

John Jenkins is getting estimates for signage, along with Dave Heinle. The signs are the Stillwater trail, Ernie Strum and Island Lake trail marker.

BCHMT convention: Discussion on delegates. Auction item is needed that is over \$100 value. Dale Olson's name was sent to convention to be presented in memoriam.

New venue for April general meeting is being confirmed. Location will be in newsletter.

Meeting adjourned 8:25pm

RIDING LAKE FORK TRAIL

by Grant Barnard, Red Lodge

The Lake Fork Trail is 10 miles south of Red Lodge in the A-B Wilderness. It is a popular and beautiful trail, following the river in dense lodgepole forest, gradually and steadily uphill, with a few openings for a break or for dropping a line in the water. Silver Falls is another attraction...about a mile in, on the left, a possible steep walk amidst boulders right to the falls...you can even walk behind the falls. Another reason Lake Fork is popular is that it has been the only trail recommended by the Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce when folks ask about a good hike (it's the only one on their list and the volunteers there don't know of any other hikes!) Most hikers and backpackers head into Lost Lake (4 miles in), some head up to Black Canyon (a tough route in a boulder field), or head for September Morn Lake or the long haul up to Sundance Pass.

Horseback riding this trail is pretty straight forward, lots of space in the parking lot, although all trail heads are busier than ever nowadays. I've seen several guided riders on day trips on this trail lately, but few packers. An overnight destination would be Keyser Brown Lake (camping space for one outfit) about 6 miles in, or September Morn Lake, another 3 miles and steeper, with big views of the headwaters of Lake Fork below. September Morn is a great destination with several campsites near or away from the lake. A steep haul to the Sundance Pass (11000') or all the way to the West Fork are more options. Restrictions include no grazing in Wilderness, and bear-proofing all food, garbage and feed. So, it's a good ride in this beautiful country if your horses and riders are used to a closed-in trail and a passel of hikers. (Also, no bikes...this is Wilderness).

I remember a wild experience at that bridge 5 miles in when I was leading an Outward Bound group. We were to meet our resupply people at the bridge; since we were early, I sent everyone about a 100' upstream to hang out while I waited at the bridge. Within minutes a camper with a dog brought her bright blue tarp to dry on the railing, then sat down a little way away. In another 10 minutes or so, here comes a couple of riders up the trail. The horse in the lead got spooked by the dog or the tarp and started bucking and headed straight for the creek. I grabbed the tarp and folded it and headed to the camper, yelled at her to get her and her dog into the forest, while I backed away and watched the show. The second rider had no problem, sat his horse and kept it calm, while the lady in the creek regained control like a pro and all turned out well. It was a short-lived rodeo, and I was glad the crowd missed it.

This article was supposed to have been written last year about this time for Dale Olson who was requesting write ups of trail rides for a guide he was compiling. Then he went

and died on us and I didn't get anything written until now, thanks to a reminder in last month's BBCH Newsletter.



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

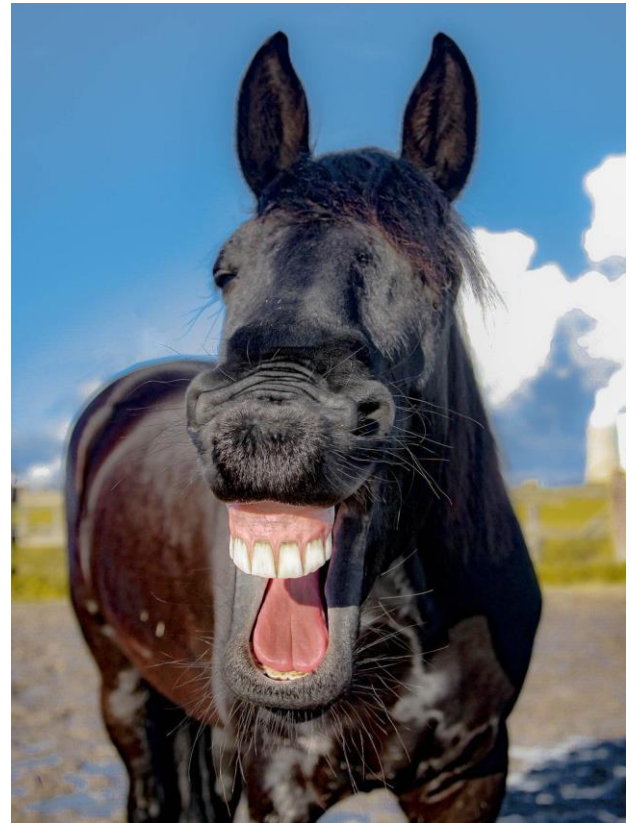
Here's the link: <https://forms.gle/w6i4pmzBQC6VkmXz7>

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!

LAUGHINGSTOCK

- *I hate it when I see an “old” person and then realize we went to high school together.*
- *I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes...so she hugged me.*
- *At my funeral, take the bouquet of flowers and throw it into the crowd to see who is next.*
- *I thought growing older would take longer.*
- *The officer said, “You drinking?” I said, “You buying?” We just laughed and laughed. I need bail money.*
- *Oops...did I roll my eyes out loud”*
- *Life is too short to waste time sorting socks.*
- *Wi-fi went down for five minutes, so I had to talk to my family. They seem like nice people.*
- *If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I am self-employed and we’re having a staff meeting.*
- *I won’t be impressed with technology until I can download food.*
- *My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffers from mental illness. I said, “No, we all seem to enjoy it.”*
- ***Camping: where you spend a small fortune to live like a homeless person!***





May 4th, 2022: State land off Whitebird Road

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

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001


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