

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

We have had a good spring and summer so far. We completed most of the trail clearings and one pack trip for the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation. Fortunately, only one major project and one general meeting was cancelled due to the flooding this spring.



It's good to see the individuals and communities affected by the flooding are recovering. On the other hand, we still have some trailhead access problems, but that seems to be improving weekly. See the Custer-Gallatin NF website and our FB page for updates.

We still have a busy summer ahead of us. There are potentially four more pack projects remaining to support the ABW Foundation and MT Fish and Game – and they are just around the corner. We could use some help from other members on these trips, even if you're not a packer. Consider it an opportunity to go for a ride or camping. Contact David Heinle or John Jenkins. More details herein. I know we have a few new packers in the club. These trips are a great opportunity to get some practice or experience. Shucks, I'll let you pack and pony some of my animals.

There will also be a ride up the Ernie Sturm trail to replace the sign at the outlook. And the Summer Rendezvous is back by popular demand. Note the September General Meeting has been changed to the Rendezvous. This should be a blast again. Remember, if you bring friends who want to compete in the pack competition or crosscut saw competition, they need to join the club and sign a waiver/liability form. See details herein from the Chairwoman Melissa Codner. She could use some volunteer help, so contact her. The club will provide the entrée for the Saturday meal and there are prizes for contest winners.

See you at the Rendezvous, if not sooner,

John Jenkins ~ Happy Trails

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

DUES REMINDER:

Yearly dues for 2022 are:

Business Membership \$40

Family Membership \$35

Individual Membership \$25

While we welcome everyone's support, if you are an active member of our Chapter, your dues need to be paid. If you have paid, thank you. If you forget or it slipped your mind – time to break out the check book. You may hand a check to any of our directors (listed on page 1) or mail your check to BBCH, PO Box 614, Absarokee MT 59001. Please include an updated email, address if your contact information has changed. This information is only used for the BBCH and BCHMT Newsletters and is not shared.

Please Note:

Our next General Meeting will be on September 10th, 2022 during the BBCH Summer Rendezvous at Myers Creek Cabin, following Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

2022 – 2022 SUMMER RENDEZVOUS ACTIVITIES

Join us for the end of summer camp out and rendezvous September 9-11 at Meyers Creek Trailhead and Cabin. The cabin is reserved Friday September 9 through Sunday September 11 for those of you who want to sleep indoors.

ACTIVITIES: We'll do a fun ride on Saturday morning/early afternoon and other activities Saturday afternoon and/or Sunday morning. In addition to the packing contest, we are adding a crosscut saw competition!

It's all fun, games, fellowship and everyone is invited. To participate in the competition, you must be a member for liability reasons so come and join that day if you've been curious what it's all about.

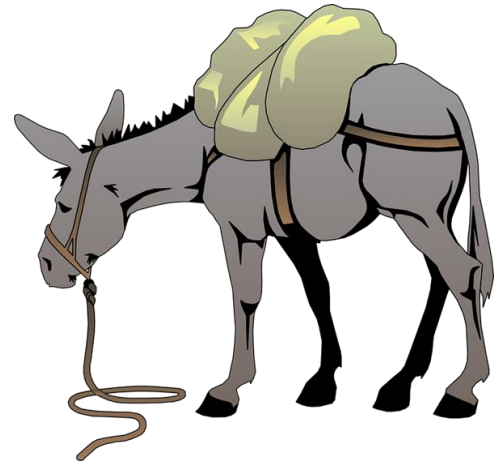
I am looking for help with organizing and competition support. Please contact Melissa at codner.melissa@gmail.com or 308.390.0465.

2022 – BBCH PROJECT SCHEDULE

All dates are subject to change and depending on weather.

MT Fish & Game:

- August 15th-August 17th Or 18th – MT Fish & Game, Tentative. Most Likely West Boulder. Packing in up to 5-6 persons max for fish survey.
- August 22nd -August 14th of 25th – MT Fish & Game. Out of box Canyon to the Buffalo Fork drainage. Not sure of the exact camping spot yet. Most likely not all the way to the FS cabin on the Buffalo Fork. 5-6 persons max for fish survey.



Both trips are at least 5-6 miles in, maybe a little farther on the Buffalo Fork. Will be packing their fish survey gear and scuba suits. They'll carry some or their gear if needed. On these trips the crews can pack their own gear out if we can get them in, and the projects are not entirely dependent on our support. Details will be forthcoming in the next week so watch for an email.

ABW Foundation:

- August 18th pack in; August 23rd pack out – **ABW** - Fox Lake, near Cooke City, 5-6 miles. Trail Work Crew of 8-9 total. I would like to ride in on the afternoon of the 22nd for the pack out the next morning if possible.
- August 31st pack in – September 6th pack out – **ABW** – East Fork of Mill Creek; same campground as 2021. Trail work crew 6 or 7 total at this time. 6 miles. South of Livingston. This is over Labor Day weekend. Again, there is an opportunity to ride in and stay the night before the pack out. Easy trail and very scenic. And other nice easy trails in the area if you want to stay the weekend, as I plan.

DETAILS FOR BOTH TRIPS WILL BE IN EMAILS TO COME. Contact John Jenkins john.k.jenkins@gmx.us for the ABW trips and Dave Heinle brokenfiddleranch@gmail.com for the MT Fish & Game trips.

Other:

- September 9th-11th, End of Year Campout, Meyers Creek
- Fun Ride, New Member Ride, Ernie Sturm trail to replace the sign at the outlook. Date to be determined.

SUMMER TRAIL CONDITIONS

Provided by Sylvan Peak Mountain Shop – Red Lodge

FRIDAY AUGUST 5TH UPDATE AND CHANGES:

SLIGHT CHANGES AND UPDATES! PEOPLE ARE GETTING OUT THERE AND ENJOYING WHAT WE HAVE. GET CREATIVE, ALTER YOUR PLANS A BIT, AND SEE SOMEPPLACE NEW!

SUMMARY OF RECENT CHANGES:

WEST ROSEBUD LAKE CAMPGROUNDS - NOW HAVE WATER AVAILABLE AT THE CAMPGROUNDS.

MYSTIC LAKE : FOREST SERVICE TRAIL CREWS HAVE CLEARED THE MAJOR DOWNFALL AROUND THE LAKE AND UP TO ISLAND LAKE.

EAST SIDE ROAD - NORTH END - TEMPORARY BRIDGE INSTALLED, PROVIDING PUBLIC ACCESS TO MAURICE CREEK AND CORRAL CREEK TRAILS.

MEETEETSE TRAIL ROAD: TEMPORARY BRIDGE INSTALLED, PROVIDING PUBLIC ACCESS TO FACE OF THE MOUNTAIN TRAILS.

BEARS ARE ACTIVE. THERE HAVE BEEN MULTIPLE SIGHTINGS OF BOTH BLACK BEAR AND GRIZZLY BEARS IN MOST AREAS, SO CARRY BEAR SPRAY AND KNOW HOW TO USE IT. KEEP A CLEAN CAMP, DON'T LEAVE ANY FOOD IN YOUR CAR AT THE TRAILHEAD. PROPER FOOD STORAGE AT CAMPSITES IS A REGULATION.

THE BEARTOOTH DISTRICT AREA AROUND RED LODGE HAS A LOT OF CLOSURES, UNTIL BRIDGE WORK AND ROAD WORK CAN GET COMPLETED. SOME WILL BE QUICKER THAN OTHERS, SO BE AWARE BEFORE PLANNING A BACKCOUNTRY TRIP. STOP IN, OR CALL US AT [406-446-1770](tel:406-446-1770) FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS, OR CALL THE BEARTOOTH RANGER DISTRICT AT [406-446-2103](tel:406-446-2103)

HIGHWAY 212 IS OPEN AS OF 5PM ON FRIDAY JULY 22. THERE IS STILL ROAD CONSTRUCTION AROUND BEARTOOTH LAKE (CLOSURE 7PM-7AM MONDAY THRU THURSDAY). MOUNTAIN GOAT FAMILIES ARE OUT, AND CAMPGROUNDS ARE OPEN.

BEARTOOTH LAKE/ ISLAND LAKE: VERY BUGGY!! THE FIRST CREEK CROSSING AT ISLAND LAKE IS ABOUT KNEE DEEP, BUT NOT RUSHING WATER. CREEK CROSSING AT BEARTOOTH LAKE TRAILHEAD IS RUSHING AND CHALLENGING. WET, AND MOSQUITOES ARE THE STANDARD THEMES, BUT SNOW IS MELTING OFF AND HIKING AND BACKPACKING SEASON ON THESE TRAILS IS HERE. SNOW LEVEL IS SITTING ABOUT 10,000FT FOR SNOWBANKS, 11,000 FT FOR MORE SOLID SNOW

CONDITIONS.

COOKE CITY AREA HIKING: HIKING/ BIKING ALONG THE PARK ENTRANCE ROAD HAS BEEN SHORTENED TO TWO MILES, DUE TO THE START OF CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR OF THE ROAD. THEY HOPE TO HAVE THIS ROAD OPEN BY OCTOBER THRU THE PARK.

LADY OF THE LAKE TRAILHEAD, DAISY PASS, CRAZY CREEK, ETC. ALL BEAUTIFUL HIKING. BUGGY!! HEADNETS, LONG SLEEVES ARE A MUST.

LINE CREEK PLATEAU: WITH THE BEARTOOTH HIGHWAY OPEN, AND EAST SIDE BRIDGE ACCESS OPEN, LINE CREEK PLATEAU IS NOW FULLY ACCESSIBLE FOR HIKING AND MOUNTAIN BIKING. HIGH CREEK CROSSINGS STILL, BUT THEY ARE GOING DOWN. VERY BUGGY!

MAURICE CREEK TRAIL: WITH THE OPENING OF A TEMPORARY BRIDGE ON THE NORTH END OF EAST SIDE ROAD, THE MAURICE CREEK TRAIL, AND CORRAL CREEK TRAILS ARE ACCESSIBLE. TRAIL CREWS ARE WORKING ON CLEARING SOME OF THE DOWNFALL.

WEST FORK ROAD: ROAD IS CLOSED TO VEHICLES AT BASIN CAMPGROUND. YOU CAN PARK, AND WALK UP THE ROAD IF YOU WISH. PLEASE DO NOT WALK ON ANY BRIDGES, AS ALL ARE CONTINUING TO FALL APART. BASIN CAMPGROUND IS OPEN, BUT WITH NO WATER. SILVER RUN TRAILS, NICHOLS CREEK, WILLOW, PALISADES TRAILS ARE ALL OPEN FOR HIKING AND BIKING. HIKERS HAVE BEEN UP TO TIMBERLINE LAKE, AND TO THE WEST FORK TRAILHEAD. SUNDANCE PASS AREA IS GOOD WITH A FEW SNOWBANKS. THE WEST FORK TRAIL ITSELF HAS LOTS OF TREES DOWN, AND WATER RUNNING DOWN THE TRAIL. HIGH LEVEL OF BEAR ACTIVITY, BOTH BLACK AND GRIZZLY, IN THE WEST FORK DRAINAGE - PLEASE CARRY BEAR SPRAY, AND BE AWARE THAT EMS CAN'T EASILY GET TO YOU FOR A RESCUE.

LAKE FORK AREA: LOTS OF BRIDGE, ROAD AND TRAIL DAMAGE. THE TRAIL IS NOW ACCESSIBLE BY PARKING IN THE LARGE MEADOW BELOW THE LIONS CAMP (RICHEL LODGE AREA) AND HIKING THROUGH THE LIONS CAMP AND UP THE "WINTER" TRAIL TO THE MAIN TRAIL HEAD. TRAIL IS WASHED OUT IN A FEW PLACES, BUT WASHOUTS ARE EASY TO NAVIGATE UP TO LOST LAKE AND BEYOND. BRIDGE ABOVE LOST LAKE IS INTACT, SNOWPACK ON SUNDANCE PASS IS DOWN TO SNOWBANKS. LOTS OF BEAR ACTIVITY. CARRY BEAR SPRAY AND KEEP A SUPER CLEAN CAMP.

BEARTRACK TRAIL: TRAIL IS OPEN AND HIKEABLE, VERY LITTLE SNOW ON THE PLATEAU. WITH A SHUTTLE, IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO HIKE THE BEARTRACK/SILVER RUN AREA UP AND OVER.

GLACIER LAKE ROAD: ROAD AND BRIDGE DAMAGE. AREA IS CLOSED TO VEHICLES. PARKSIDE CAMPGROUND IS OPEN A FEW SPOTS. GLACIER LAKE ROAD AND HELLROARING ROAD ARE WALKABLE, BUT EXPECT FAST MOVING CREEK CROSSINGS WITH NO BRIDGES AND RUBBLE STRETCHES WHERE ROADS HAVE WASHED OUT.

- SHERIDAN, RATTIN, M-K AND LIMBERPINE CAMPGROUNDS CLOSED FOR SEASON. GREENOUGH CAMPGROUND MAY OPEN LATER IN THE SEASON, AFTER REPAIRS FROM WHERE WYOMING CREEK RAN THROUGH THE CAMPGROUND.

RED LODGE CREEK TRAIL: TRAIL IS OPEN UP TO THE PLATEAU, CREEK CROSSINGS ARE VERY FAST. TRAIL ACCESS TO EAST ROSEBUD, OR SENIA CREEK ON WEST FORK IS CLOSED DUE TO NO ACCESS TO THOSE TRAIL HEADS, SO BE PREPARED FOR AN OUT/BACK TRIP.

EAST ROSEBUD: LOTS OF ROAD, BRIDGE, TRAIL AND HOME DAMAGE IN THE VALLEY. THE ROAD IS NOW OPEN TO JIMMY JOE CAMPGROUND, AND THE CAMPGROUND IS OPEN (WITH A CLOSED SECTION IN THE CENTER). THE ROAD TO EAST ROSEBUD IS NOT ACCESSIBLE BY VEHICLE, 4-WHEELER OR BICYCLE DUE TO EXTREME DAMAGE. HIKING THIS SECTION FROM JIMMY JOE TO THE EAST ROSEBUD TRAILHEAD IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, WITH DEEP AND FAST RIVER CROSSINGS AND 5 MILES OF RUBBLE AND BOULDERS. THE "BEATEN PATH" TRAIL CAN BE DONE AS AN OUT AND BACK TRIP FROM THE CLARKS FORK TRAILHEAD, WITH A TURNAROUND PLACE OF RAINBOW LAKE. THE BRIDGE AT RIMROCK IS OUT, AND TRAIL WASHED OUT TO EAST ROSEBUD FROM THERE.

"BEATEN PATH" - VERY BUGGY!!! ACCESS FROM COOKE CITY SIDE HAS SOME WATER CROSSINGS, BUT ALL MAJOR BRIDGES ARE INTACT. FOSSIL LAKE AREA IS LARGE SNOWBANKS. EAST ROSEBUD SIDE: LARGE WIND EVENT THIS SPRING CAUSED MAJOR BLOW DOWN BETWEEN LAKE AT THE FALLS AND RAINBOW. HUNDREDS OF TREES DOWN. MAKE IT A PLAN TO TURN BACK BEFORE LAKE AT THE FALLS.

WEST ROSEBUD: FISHTAIL BRIDGE IS FIXED, SO ACCESS TO FISHTAIL AND WEST ROSEBUD ROAD HAS BEEN RESTORED. WEST ROSEBUD ROAD (#2072) IS OPENING TO WEST ROSEBUD LAKE. PINE GROVE AND EMERALD LAKE CAMPGROUNDS ARE OPEN AND WATER IN THE CAMPGROUND HAS BEEN RESTORED.

MYSTIC LAKE TRAIL: MYSTIC LAKE TRAIL HEAD IS ACCESSIBLE BY PARKING AT EMERALD LAKE, AND WALKING THE LAST MILE TO THE MYSTIC LAKE TRAIL HEAD. THE TRAIL IS IN GOOD SHAPE, WITH A BIT OF WATER WASHOUT, TO THE LAKE. TRAIL CREWS HAVE RECENTLY CUT OUT THE DOWN TREES FROM MAJOR BLOWDOWN EVENT EARLIER THIS SPRING. AROUND THE LAKE, THE HUCKLEBERRY CREEK BRIDGE IS OUT, BUT STILL NAVIGABLE ON LOGS TO CROSS. THE LOG JAM AT ISLAND LAKE HAS WASHED OUT, BUT THE OUTLET OF ISLAND IS EASY TO WADE ACROSS (KNEE OR SO DEEP) TO KEEP HIKING TO ISLAND AN SILVER LAKES ABOVE MYSTIC.

GRANITE PEAK APPROACH FROM MYSTIC: THE

MYSTIC LAKE TRAIL IS IN GOOD CONDITION, WITH A STRETCH OF WASHOUT AND WATER ON THE TRAIL. THE SWITCHBACKS UP TO THE PLATEAU ARE IN GOOD SHAPE - A FEW TREES DOWN AND A COUPLE OF WASHOUT SPOTS AND AVALANCHE DEBRIS, BUT ALL EASY TO NAVIGATE ON FOOT. GRANITE PEAK CONDITIONS ARE GOOD. SNOWBRIDGE IS INTACT AND NOT HUGE. PLAN FOR MULTIPLE OTHER GROUPS, AS IT IS BECOMING BUSY.

STILLWATER VALLEY - AREA IS CLOSED, DUE TO ROAD AND BRIDGE

DAMAGE. STILLWATER ROAD (#2400) INCLUDING WOODBINE CAMPGROUND AND THE STILLWATER TRAIL HEAD WILL REMAIN CLOSED. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO OBEY ALL CLOSURE SIGNAGE IN THIS AREA. WEST FORK STILLWATER ROAD (#2846) IS CLOSED. WOODBINE CAMPGROUND, TRAIL HEAD AND PARKING LOT ARE INTACT BUT NOT ACCESSIBLE. WOODBINE TRAIL BRIDGE WAS DESTROYED ALONG WITH STILLWATER TRAIL PARKING LOT.

BOULDER RIVER - SOME ROAD WORK BEING CLEANED UP, BUT ROAD IS

OPEN TO THE END AND TRAILS ARE OPEN. NATURAL BRIDGE AREA IS OPEN. LAKE PLATEAU AREA, ACCESSED FROM UPSIDE DOWN CREEK FROM THE BOULDER, IS OPENING UP AND WILL BE BEAUTIFUL HIKING AND FISHING FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR A LONGER TRIP, OR A "BEATEN PATH" ALTERNATIVE TRIP. ALWAYS VERY BUGGY. AND THIS YEAR IS NO EXCEPTION. BRIDGECREEK TRAILHEAD IS CURRENTLY CLOSED DUE TO A CARCASS AND BEAR ACTIVITY.

PARADISE VALLEY - ALL TRAILS AND FOREST AREAS OPEN, EXCEPT MILL

CREEK AREA- MAIN MILL CREEK AT MILE MARKER 14.4 (PASSAGE CREEK) AND WEST MILL CREEK ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS ONLY.

- SNOWBANK CAMPGROUND - CLOSED ALL SEASON, BRIDGE WASHOUT AND SIXMILE ABOVE GOLD PRIZE CLOSED.

PRYOR MOUNTAINS - Beartooth Ranger District also includes the

Pryors, for those looking for an alternative place to explore. The Big Ice Cave has recently had a new observation deck and stairway built.

Please as we head into the long holiday weekend - call the respective local ranger district to learn specific site information, conditions and questions:

Ashland Ranger District - [406-784-2344](tel:4067842344)

Beartooth Ranger District -406-446-2103

Bozeman Ranger District - [406-522-2520](tel:4065222520)

Gardiner Ranger District -406-848-7375

Hebgen Lake Ranger District - [406-823-6961](tel:4068236961)

Sioux Ranger District -605-797-4432

Yellowstone Ranger District - [406-222-1892](tel:4062221892)

Give us a call at (406) 446-1770 if you're looking for a more current or specific trail report, or view or subscribe to updates on their website: [SYLVAN PEAK MOUNTAIN SHOP - Home!](#)

ALSO OPEN, BUT NOT INCLUDED IN THE REPORT:

- Myers Creek/Pass creek. Pass creek has 13 trees across the trail, but you can make it to Picket Pin Creek by riding over and/or around.
- Island Lake, Benbow Road
- Jim's Gulch to Deer Creek Cabin



TRAILS TO EXPLORE - RED LODGE CREEK TO CROW LAKE – 7/20/2022

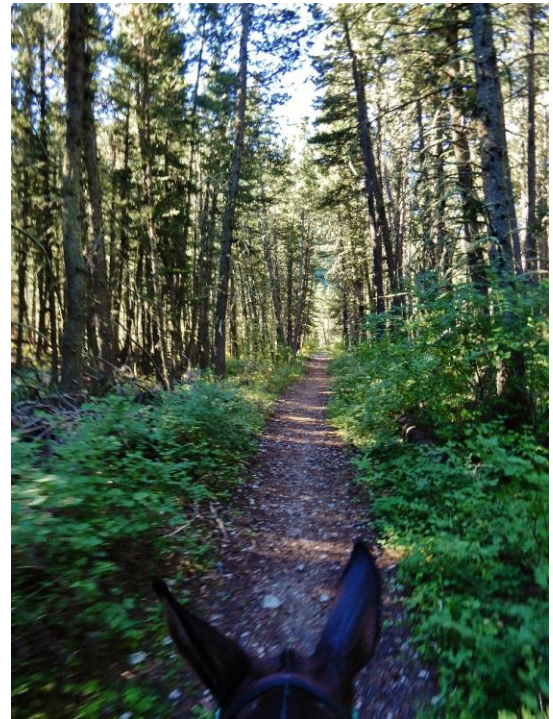
Submitted By: Robin Morris

Neither Tara or I had ridden Red Lodge Creek this year, and we were looking forward to fishing Crow Lake. We figured that the pressure on the lake's fish would be low as the recent floods have closed down the other two access points, and this one is an extreme trail. You travel uphill in both directions, ascending over 5,200'. We knew it was a 10-hour day when you figure in 3 hours of fishing, so we agreed on a start time of 8:00 at the latest.

The trail starts in a dense forest, following Red Lodge Creek. It was higher than usual but lower than I expected. There was sand in many channels parallel to the creek, so



one can only imagine the water height at the crux of the flood.



Headed up the south face of the mountain, Tara's horse was plodding along and stopping for air quite often. That's not like him – he is gaited and can really travel. This side of the mountain is the steepest and most challenging for even conditioned equines. He was driving me crazy today, so Beau and I took the lead. We stopped a couple of times to rest the boys and let them graze. After all, they were burning serious calories. I had to tighten up Beau's cinch twice headed up. The creek crossings to the Plateau were fuller than usual. There were a lot of trees across the trail. Fortunately, we were able to ride over and around all of them. As we approached the summit, the snowdrift that never melts was ever present like a beacon on the

landscape. The last push from the trail to the open landscape is relatively narrow, with eroding scree in a few places. The drop-off below is quite dramatic – probably several thousand feet. Beau and Macky are so surefooted, and we knew they would be fine.

Back on relatively flat land, we stopped. I hopped off and let Beau graze. It's just something we always do at this spot. Plus, the views are dynamic! I love capturing the 180° view with my camera. A slight breeze was present as we approached the summit. The air was approaching 80°, so it was welcome. Cresting the mountain, the Plateau to the south looks like another world. The terrain is

primarily lichen-covered jagged rocks. The rocks are tough on horseshoes and not recommended for shoeless horses.

There is little vegetation – primarily small, tightly clustered greens and miniature flowers tucked between the rocks. A few lone groupings of pine trees scatter the landscape. The Plateau rises to above 10,000,' and the terrain is relentless on the few trees present, especially on their westside. The trees have been dwarfed and scarred from the



extreme wind and weather that frequent this Plateau. Many of the trees are extremely "old-growth." I would love to know how old they are. You can see the mountain peak that rises above Crow and Sylvan Lakes and the Froze to Death Plateau to the west. That Plateau also has its ever-present snowdrift. From here, it is all downhill to Crow Lake. The often-boggy area at the Senia Creek junction was quite dry. It can get nasty.



Tara and I stopped for pictures, chatted about the views, and headed back into the trees on our descent to Crow Lake. You can see the lake from a little over a mile away. It appeared that we would have the lake to ourselves. After turning off the main trail, we encountered a few more downed trees and one hanging over the path. We had to dismount and lead Beau and Macky to get under it. At the lake, Beau headed for "his" tree. We tied up Beau and Macky, gathered our gear, and headed to the boulders to fish. In the mud, we immediately spotted two bear tracks. One large, and one small. Tara grabbed her bear spray. I grabbed a beefy stick on my way to the lake. Tara asked, "what's that for?" "To tie my stringer to when I catch fish, there isn't any place to secure a stringer on the boulders." She teased me about being optimistic. I'm always optimistic when it comes to fishing.

Tara was relying on lures, and I brought grasshoppers and worms. I started with the grasshoppers and didn't get any response. So, I switched to worms and started landing brook trout. Tara wasn't having any luck. I kept offering to share my worms, but she hadn't tried every lure in her tackle box – yet. Landing a fish is hard when you are casting from a boulder perched above the deep lake.

Tara would laugh every time I landed a fish as I would drop to my knees, cradling the fish to prevent it from getting back to the water before I got it on the stringer.

I fish with a loose drag on my line. I want the fish to swallow my bait and go with it. It is a lot of fun. You can tell what size the fish is before seeing it by the pull on your line. I enjoy the sound of the drag. I caught two small fish I didn't even know were on line until they were in sight. I had been fishing for two and a half hours, had three nice fish, and was getting hungry. Tara had finished her beer and her lunch and took to relaxing and sunbathing on her boulder while I fished. Finally, it was time to clean my fish – after just one more cast. I had placed small chunks of worm on my hook. If I allowed the worm to dangle, the smaller fish would follow it through the water, nibbling on it. To them, it was a swimming buffet.



Tara suggested I finish off what was left of "that worm." So, I continued and caught two more nice fish. Now, it indeed was time to clean my fish. I handed her my rod, loaded with a chunk of worm to play with while I worked. The first cast, she is giving me another fish to clean – geez, thanks, Tara. I got done with the fish, and she pointed to the lake, saying, "do you see that?" A fish was



swimming around with a green lure hooked on his lip! So, of course, she loaded a worm on the hook and went after it as I spotted for her. It would have been a great fishing story, but she came up with a little fish we had to take as it was bleeding—time to call it quits. She accused me of just wanting to get her hands dirty with worms and cleaning her fish. So, if you go to Crow Lake, keep your eye out for the fish with the green lure. I asked Tara if she had tried a green lure. She responded, "that was the only color I didn't have."

Macky was a different horse on the way out. He was forward moving, and Beau had to trot in several places to keep up. I was relieved when Beau stopped to drink at several creek crossings on the way out. It took us 4 hours riding in and just 3 hours riding out. I planned to be back at the trailhead by 6:00 p.m., and with the help of a trot at the end – we made it. Back at the trailhead, I loaded my fish into the awaiting cooler and headed home. So, if you are looking for a little-traveled, extreme ride, with gorgeous views – head to Red Lodge Creek. **To get to the trailhead**, take HWY 78 turning on Lower Luther Road, drive 2.4 miles and turn right (west) onto Luther Roscoe Rd. After 0.5 miles, turn left onto Upper Red Lodge Creek Rd. After 2.7 miles, the road enters the forest, crosses a bridge, and the road splits. Turn right onto Red Lodge Creek Rd (Forest Road 2141). Drive 1.3 miles to the trailhead on the right.

ISLAND LAND – FUN RIDE AND SIGN HANGING – JULY 23RD



A small group of BBCH Member, took a fun ride to place the new sign – crediting our Chapter with Island Lake, trail maintenance. The weather was great, the stock was great and a good time had by all!





ABW PACK-IN – PACK-OUT JULY 6TH-12TH – MEATRACK

Submitted by John Jenkins



THE PROJECT. The Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation took a crew of ten college students and two chaperones to Meatrack Meadows. They were from Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas. The large meadow was cleared of noxious weeds, primarily hounds tongue (*Cynoglossum officianale*). And some work was done on the nearby trails.

THE PACKING. David Heinle and company packed them in on Wednesday July 6th. David, Melissa Codner, Bob Knutson and I packed them out. There is a pretty bad spot in the trail as you start up Fourmile where the flooding washed out the

trail a couple of feet. Both animals and people had a little problem here. Nothing serious however. But it was like climbing a pack string up a steep bouldery canyon for a bit without a trail. Tough going.

On the pack out Melissa, Bob and I decided to ride in the evening before and stay with the crew overnight. At the Fourmile trailhead we met Patrick Cross, Executive Director of the ABWF. He was backpacking in just for the night to meet the crew. I don't know Patrick that well. I thought he was just a





good old boy. But I learned on this trip he has more refined tastes. As we were loading, I watched him start up the trail. I had never before seen a backpacker with a fresh pineapple, scales greenery and all lashed to the outside of his backpack in the Beartooths! We arrived at the meadows late and the ABW graciously helped us set up camp before dark while we took care of the stock. What service! I thought we were there to help them.

THE CONTEST. The three of us planned to travel light to save pack space, relying on the ABW's cook stove, water filter etc. That was agreed upon beforehand. I knew the ABW, since they are in for a week at a time, uses instant coffee for convenience.

But Bob and I have a fondness for real cowboy coffee. We can sit around a Coleman stove for 3 hours in the morning drinking coffee, adding coffee grounds and water to a pot continually before getting a move on. The one luxury we afforded ourselves on this short overnight trip was a coffee pot and coffee.



The next morning several of us were in the cook tent



when Patrick waltzes down the hill, into the cook tent, and breaks out his "coffee makin's". This included a lightweight backpacking titanium coffee grinder, specialty beans, and stainless-steel lightweight backpacking French coffee press. He assembled the press and grinder deftly, then started grinding beans. Needless to say, several jaws dropped, and

he took a good bit of ribbing. But that rolled off Patrick like water off a duck's back.

An impromptu coffee-tasting contest ensued. There merits of each type of coffee were discussed *ad nauseum*. Except for instant where the only merits are, well... convenience I suppose. It was a blinded taste test - meaning they didn't know which coffee they were tasting. The taste testers were required to cleanse their palate with cold water between tastings. ABW Instant vs Patrick's freshly ground specialty bean French press coffee vs Bob's Cowboy Coffee. I've told this story a few times in the last month, and everyone thinks the fresh ground would win. NO! Bob's Cowboy Coffee won hands down! (Dunkin' Donuts brand, by the way, courtesy of my wife Louise.)

THE RECIPE. Here's my recipe, and I think it's pretty close to Bob's. He won't share his. Says it's a national secret. One quart water and ¼ cup grounds, or scale up for a large pot. Put in a pot and

bring to a rolling boil. You have to watch it closely or it'll boil over when it comes up to temperature. At this point I turn the heat down so it's rolling over but not boiling over or out of the pot. Two minutes (no more than four). You have to use a timer. The longer you boil the stouter it'll be. Take it off the fire and wipe the grounds off the rim. Put some cold water (up to 1/2 cup for a small pot or up to 1 cup for a larger pot) in the spout and around the inside edge of the pot. Let it sit 2 minutes to settle the grounds. Serve. It'll be smooth this was if you



don't boil it too long. I've not yet mastered the proportions when you just keep adding grounds and water to a pot over several hours. I suppose you just taste it and add whatever you think to make it to your liking.

FURTHERMORE... There's a lot more to this trip I haven't told you about. It's surprising how much fun and comradery you can cram into a 26-hour overnight pack trip. I can't think of a single one that was *not* memorable. But I think I'll save the college student ghost stories around a campfire that began to get a little risqué and soaking bruised and sore body parts in the cold mountain stream for another time.

BBCH BOARD MEETING – JULY 7TH 2022

In attendance: John Jenkins, Melissa Codner, Keith Brighton, John Chepulis, Randy Thomsen and Nancy Thomsen.

Meeting called to order 7:07pm

Keith Brighton moved to approve May Board meeting minutes as corrected. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed.

President Report- Due to flooding in Stillwater/Carbon County and Forest Service many projects are being put on hold. Discussion on closures, damage and recovery.

The Chamber of Commerce has been reserved for another 6 months for board meetings.

Treasurer's Report filed in Minutes. Club currently has 44 members. Annual audit was done May 18, 2022. A dues notification letters will be sent out encouraging 2022 and 2023 membership. Melissa Codner will look into electronic pay options. Keith Brighton moved to pay the \$3.23 over budget for hats ordered by John Chepulis. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed. Randy Thomsen moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Keith Brighton second. Motion passed.

Keith Brighton moved to have the September 10 club meeting at the Meyers Creek Rendezvous. Melissa Codner second. Motion passed. Discussion on Meyers Creek Rendezvous competition, food, club meeting. Notification needs to be in Newsletter.

ABWF pack up the Main Stillwater has been canceled all other packs are still scheduled.

The 12 miles of the Main Stillwater trail was cleared, before the flood.

Two crews will be needed for the Fox Lake pack out of Cooke City.

Discussion on the Meat Rack pack out.

BCHMT president sent state volunteer agreement form for everyone to sign that will be on work projects.

Issues- John Simmons has sent a follow up email regarding to the Meyers Creek/Lodgepole road. Firearms carry list was sent to Allie Wood. Cross-cut certification cards have not been received from Allie Wood.

John Chepulis, John Jenkins and Keith Brighton will represent BBCH at Nye goes Nuts on July 9.

Signs for Island Lake, Ernie Strum and Main Stillwater will be stored in trailer. \$306 were paid to have signs made. Hardware is needed to post signs. Main Stillwater sign will have to wait to be posted until trail head is open. Randy Thomsen will post Island Lake sign on fun ride. Fun ride notification will be in Newsletter and Facebook.

First aid saddlebags need updating. Randy Thomsen will do equine. John Jenkins will do human.

There will be a charge of \$15 for a hat.

BBCH has sponsored an adoption of Forest Service mules, Mutt and Jeff. The mules are 20+ years old and are looking forward to retirement.

Reimbursements for the Royal Tine Pack Clinic need to be issued. Randy Thomsen moved to reimburse Jessica Daignault, instead of Ray Longstreth, for attending Royal Tine Pack Clinic. Melissa Codner second. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 8:42pm

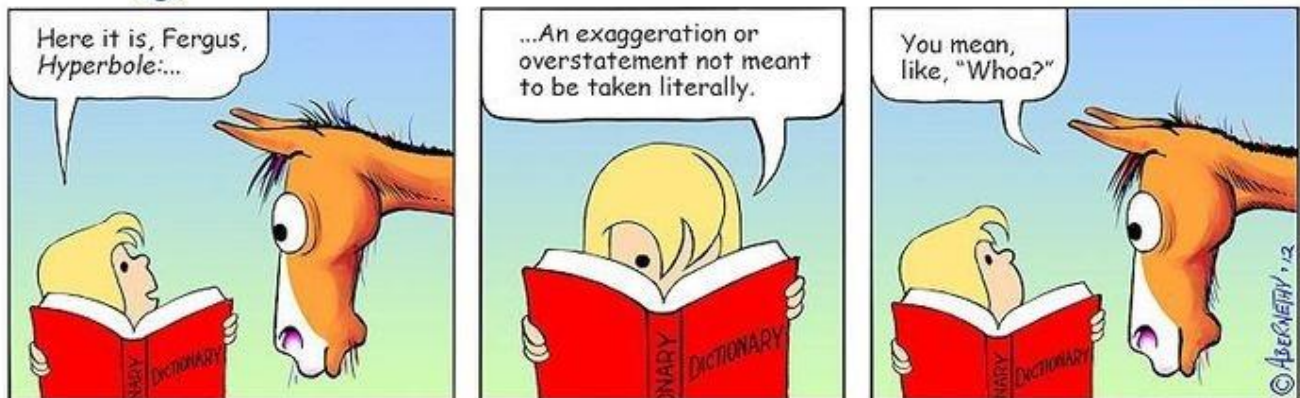
HORSE CAMP INCIDENT REPORTING FORM

Have you pulled up to a designated horse camping spot or location where the corrals/hitching rails are taken over by RVs and campers? I have! If so, please use the following link to report the incident. It is sad to see how many folks are taking over spots, obviously designated for horse campers and trailers. To be quiet, is to accept. [Horse Camp Incident Report Form \(jotform.com\)](http://jotform.com)

LAUGHING STOCK

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July 8th, 2027: Daily Pass from Buffalo Horn TH

I headed to Buffalo Horn TH, for 4-days of riding. One of my favorite views is at the top of Daily Pass, looking towards Yellowstone Park. **Directions to the TH:** From Belgrade, travel south 8 miles on Jack Rabbit Lane to Four Corners, continue south on HWY 191 for 46 miles; turn left at the 320 Ranch. Turn on the first road to the left, follow the curve around the cabins (stay left); enter the forest boundary, drive to the end – approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. There is a vaulted toilet, 4 horse corrals and water available from the creek. There are many trails, and great fishing at Ram's Horn Lake.

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


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