

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen



This will be my last "President's Pen". Often when I sit down to write this column, its 4 AM on a Saturday morning, and I'm not sure what to write. It sometimes started by looking out the window and

commenting on the weather. But something else would usually come to me, and sometimes it was as easy as reminding members what was coming up in the next month. This one is easy though. It's the end of my term and it's been a good two years. I can simply recap it. So, I'm going to give you an "overview" of what's happened the last two years and where I think we're headed.

Sort of a "State of the BBCH" letter, if you will. I do want to note the tremendous ongoing contributions of still active founding members.

The pandemic hurt a lot of volunteer organizations. Lost revenue and membership and volunteerism. I think we've recovered from the pandemic relatively well, but we had to work at it and be intentional about it – from early 2020. Here is where some of those efforts led the last two years.

First, if you'll refer to the last President's Pen from my predecessor, John Simmons, the BBCH was able to maintain a high degree of volunteer service even during the first year of CoVID. (Aren't we all sick and tired of talking about that topic.) Anyway, the last two years (second and third of the pandemic) we worked really hard to maintain and augment the volunteer service, and I believe we have. Our activities increased from the

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
- John Simmons
328-4163
- Keith Brighton (Alternate)
425-1122

NATIONAL DIRECTOR



- John Chepulis
322-4823

two prior years. I won't give you all the details, but we've maintained and slightly increased the year over year volunteer effort in the range of \$70,000/year. And our accounting may be a little short. We did seven pack trips in and out to support the ABW trail maintenance crews (one was cancelled due to the flooding.) We added some overnight trips with them. And two pack projects for the MT Fish Wildlife and Parks. Most of the usual trail clearing projects were maintained. We delivered gravel into the Meyer's Creek trail and some particularly enthusiastic members cleared the Lodge Pole to Deer Creek trail that was neglected the last few years. We have expanded the area of the Absarokee Beartooth Wilderness we are working in – partly out of necessity as we went where the work was needed. We've nurtured and enhanced our relationship with the ABW Foundation and MT FWP. Hey, we got new T-shirts and hoodies and caps! Successful spring clinics including Defensive Horsemanship this year. Packing demonstrations at Nye Goes Nuts. We provided two pack school scholarships- first time in 5 years. We continued to be able to donate financially to other like-minded organizations, the PLWA and ABW Foundation. I'm sure I've forgotten something.

Second, and these were some personal goals as president, we increased the membership back to pre-pandemic levels and branched out our educational efforts with new, different or parallel topics. Membership is stable but only barely at or above pre-pandemic levels. There is still work to do in this area to support the ambitious schedule of volunteer work we do. We have directed some of our efforts to reach out to a broader demographic and younger generation of riders, packers etc. through activities and electronic media. This is needed to ensure the mission of the BCH going forward. Got to think about the future as well as remember and relish the past. Anyway, I think we've laid some of the groundwork for this expansion of membership and educational agenda to continue.

Third, I am particularly happy about resuming/expanding the end of summer campout to a "Rendezvous" with packing and other competitions. If you missed them, well, you really missed out. They were a blast. And I finally won something after I picked the biggest, strongest guy I could find in the crowd for a partner in the 2-man crosscut saw competition and a cooperative log. I do think the new officers elected at the recent board of directors meeting are in good shape with ideas we have discussed previously to make more progress in the area of activities to develop, educate and train new members. Teaser, look for new "up and coming" projects and events.

Fourth, I want to particularly thank those who have really developed the electronic and social media (FB), website and newsletter. Look forward to our Instagram account. Melissa Codner, the Thomsens, Jessi Erickson, and Robin Morris are mostly responsible for the success here and reaching a broader audience. And we have brought in some new active members through these efforts.

The BBCH chapter's success will be determined by a group effort. This is not a political or religious organization, but here's a thought. There's a verse in the Bible, Ecclesiastes 4:12 written by King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived. "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." The point is just what it seems. ***There is more success with a collaborative effort.***

Just about everyone has something to offer (and something to learn, too, I would say). As a parting request as president, I'm asking and encouraging all members to pony up to the bar. Offer to help. Volunteer for a committee or activity. I'll pass around sign-up sheets at the Christmas party. And get out and try

something new. If you aren't a packer, ride along on a pack project for fun and maybe you'll learn something. If you aren't a trail clearer or camper, come along on a trip for fun. You get the picture. BTW, we still need a newsletter editor.

2023 OFFICERS ELECTED: The new board of directors will start work in January. The new officers will be Melissa Codner as President, Dave Heinle as Vice President, Randy Thomsen as Secretary and Laura O'Connor as Treasurer. The board will be looking to fill a position for 1 year for a member that moved. If you are interested, speak up.

And last, a heartfelt thanks to all the members who have helped, volunteered and participated the last two years, and given me advice and support. Especially my wife, Louise, who kept my horses and mules from starving while I was doing other things like writing this column.

See you at the Christmas Party,

John Jenkins

PS: **RSVP for the Christmas Party!**



BBCH 2022 CHRISTMAS PARTY

& (optional) GIFT EXCHANGE!

MONDAY DECEMBER 19th, 2022 ~ TIME: 6:30

PLACE: FISHTAIL COMMUNITY HALL, MT

The Chapter will have the brisket and all the fixin's catered 😊.

Please RSVP to, Melissa Codner, codner.melissa@gmail.com, or Randy Thomsen minimechanic.rt@gmail.com by **noon Monday, December 12.**

NO RSVP - NO BRISKET!

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

NOTICES

BBCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Fishtail Community Hall - Monday, December 19. **CATERED BRISKET AND ALL THE FIXIN'S!** Dinner at **6:30 Sharp**.

White elephant gift exchange, no more than \$25. We will need help with decorating the day before. More information to be announced at the November meeting and in the December newsletter.

Since we are catering this, **YOU WILL NEED TO RSVP BY NOON MONDAY DECEMBER 12** to Melissa Codner, codner.melissa@gmail.com, or Randy Thomsen minemechanic.rt@gmail.com . Again, no RSVP, no brisket.

DUES

Yearly dues for 2023 are:

Business Membership \$40

Family Membership \$35

Individual Membership \$25

Please pay in person at our next meeting, or mail checks, payable to BBCH, to BBCH, PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

SECRETARY'S REPORT – ELECTIONS 2022

By Nancy Thomsen

Bylaws of the Beartooth Back Country Horsemen, Section 2.3 Annual Membership Meeting, was changed on October 17, 2016 for the elections to be conducted in November of each year from January of each year. State terms are set with the convention of the BCHMT outgoing meeting and incoming meeting usually held in March. Terms and board seats are as follows:

John Jenkins- Jr State Director, Term March 2023-March 2025

Randy Thomsen- Secretary, Sr State Board, Term March 2022-March 2024

Melissa Codner- President, General Board, Term November 2022-November 2024; State Alternate Director, March 2023-2024

Bob Knutson- General Board Director, Term November 2022-November 2024

Dave Heinle- Vice President, General Board, Term November 2021-November 2023

Keith Brighton- General Board, Term November 2021-November 2023

Laura O'Connor- Treasurer, General Board, Term November 2022-November 2024

PIGEON FEVER IN HORSES

Submitted By: John Jenkins

Pigeon fever in horses has recently been reported in Montana. See the Q2 news article linked below.

This infection is caused by the bacterium *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*. Other *Corynebacterium* species cause diseases such as diphtheria in humans. Clinical conditions called “fevers” are not always accompanied by an elevated temperature, and that’s the case here. The condition gets its name from the swelling or abscesses on the horse’s chest that may make it resemble a pigeon’s breast. It’s also known as Dryland Distemper, Colorado Strangles or False Strangles. The bacteria may live weeks in dry warm soil. It is spread likely by flies, to an open sore on a horse. It can be spread to humans by contact and call human illness. This infection has been common for a long time in the southwest, such as California, but the last few decades have seen outbreaks in other areas of the US during drought and warm spells that last a few years then improve.

There are three different clinical scenarios: external abscesses, internal abscesses and ulcerative lymphangitis (least common). External abscesses need to be drained. Internal abscesses may be much more difficult to treat. They may require antibiotics. Malaise, weight loss, and lameness occur as constitutional symptoms. There are diagnostic tests that a veterinarian can do to help confirm the diagnosis. Horses need to be isolated to prevent spread.

Here are a couple of links to informative sites including the UC Davis Vet School.

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/montana-ag-network/pigeon-fever-hits-horses-in-montana>

<https://ceh.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/health-topics/pigeon-fever>

<https://equusmagazine.com/horse-world/6-pigeon-fever-54183/>

CUSTER GALLATIN CHRISTMAS TREE PERMIT

All Christmas Tree permits are now through recreation.gov online. Cost is \$5.00 per tree, limit of three. Make certain to use "Beartooth District" when asked at checkout. The Beartooth Ranger District office is open weekdays from 8am to 4:30pm (406-446-2103) if you need assistance, or would like to have it printed out for you.

RESTRICTIONS

LIMIT THREE PERMITS PER HOUSEHOLD.

- Permits are good Forest-wide, except at developed recreation sites (cabins, campgrounds, picnic areas, national natural landmarks or trailheads) or wilderness and riparian areas to protect the resource, or active timber sales.
- Stump height: 6 inches maximum - Please help low stump (cut close to the ground). When snow melts, tree stumps can cause harm, eyesores or tripping hazards.
- Do not remove the top of the tree, cut down the entire tree. Max tree height - approximately 12 feet.
- No cutting of 5 needle pines. **Five needle pines** are pines, whose needles are mostly in bundles of 5. They are also called white pines.

[Custer Gallatin National Forest Christmas Tree Permit](#)

WILD MONTANA - OUR CONCERNS WITH A LAND EXCHANGE PROPOSAL FOR THE CRAZY MOUNTAINS

JOIN US IN ASKING FOR PROTECTION OF PUBLIC LANDS PROPOSED FOR PRIVATE OWNERSHIP.

The proposal would exchange Sweetgrass Creek into private ownership (photo by Emily Cleveland)



Category: [Crazy Mountains](#) | Dec 1, 2022 |

The jagged peaks and rushing creeks of the Crazy Mountains have drawn people for millennia. They hold an abundance of cultural, spiritual, and historical significance for the Apsáalooke (Crow people), who look to these mountains they call Awaxaawippíia for their past, current, and future identity. For years, [the tribe and members of the public have spoken up for this range](#), wanting to ensure it maintains the wild character that makes it so unique.

What makes conservation and consistent management difficult in the Crazies is its checkerboard pattern of private and public land ownership, a legacy of the 1864 Northern Pacific Railroad Act.

With the goal of consolidating public and private lands and addressing access disputes that have plagued the range for decades, a group of local stakeholders, landowners, and the Yellowstone Club (an exclusive private resort near Big Sky) have developed a proposal called the East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange. Wild Montana has followed the [group's work](#) for several years [and advocated for strengthening the conservation aspects of the proposal](#).

The stakeholders group submitted a proposal to the Forest Service in 2021. The Forest Service is now conducting an environmental assessment of the proposal and accepting public comments.

Click on the box below to submit your comment!

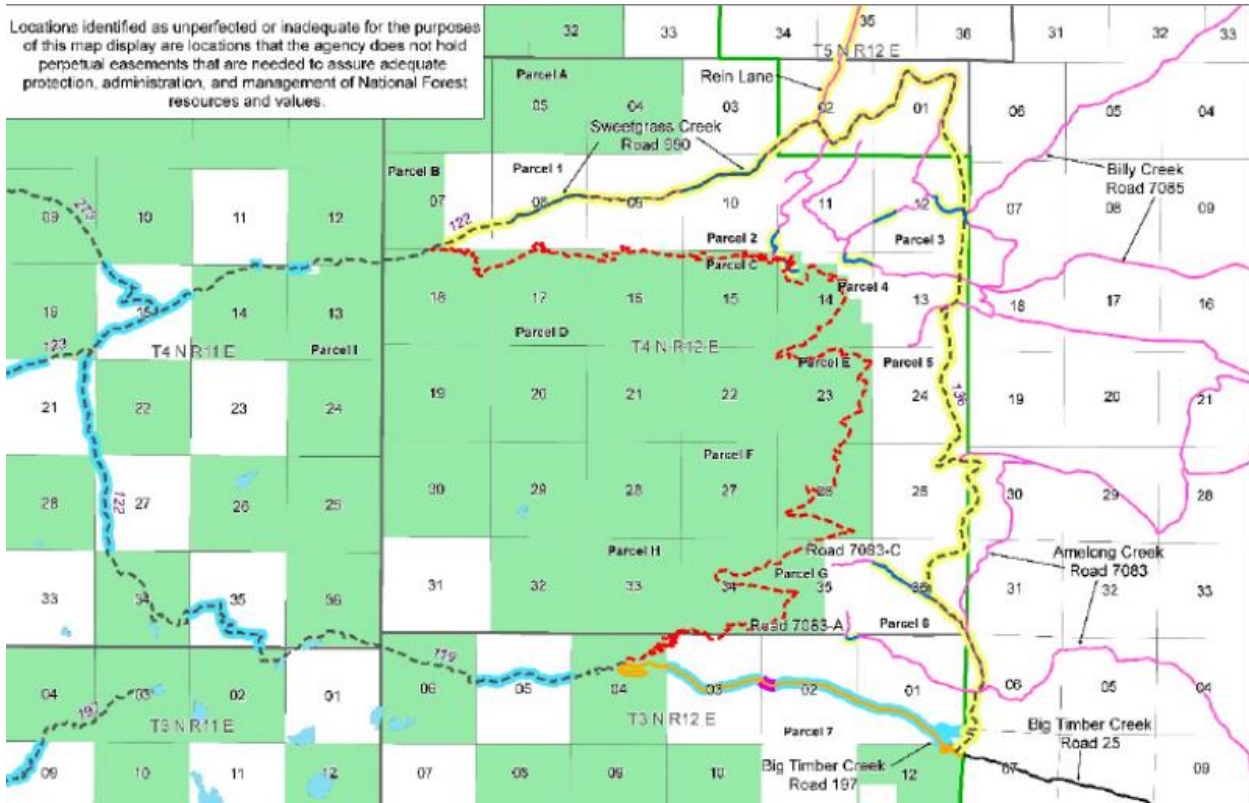
[SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT TODAY](#)



While the proposal would consolidate lands in the Crazies, something Wild Montana has long supported, we remain concerned that the exchange would result in the development of habitat-rich public lands transferred into private ownership, and would relinquish public claim to existing access routes.

WHAT'S IN THE PROPOSAL

The proposal would result in the Forest Service acquiring 6,430 acres of private land in exchange for 4,135 acres of public land, [including some small sections near Big Sky](#). It would also add 620 acres of previously private land to the South Crazy Mountains recommended Wilderness area. In addition to the land consolidation, the Yellowstone Club would finance the construction of a new 22-mile trail from Halfmoon Campground to Big Timber Creek Trail #119, creating a loop.



The map depicts the contested existing trails in yellow and the proposed new Sweet Trunk trail in red. It also shows how the proposal would consolidate the land.

On the face of it, this seems like an excellent deal for the public. The history of access disputes in the range, however, makes this deal far more fraught than it appears on the surface.

In exchange for the new trail, the Forest Service would relinquish public claims to the East Trunk Trail #136 (formerly #115) and lower portions of the Sweetgrass Trail #122. The East Trunk Trail has appeared on Forest Service maps since 1925 but crosses multiple sections of private property and has been the source of conflict with landowners for decades. The Sweetgrass Trailhead, which accesses the northern side of the East Crazies, requires a private road for access, and landowners have for years allowed use only with their permission.

The Sweetgrass Creek Trailhead and Trail and the East Trunk Trail have been the subjects of ongoing litigation since 2019. The litigants assert that the Forest Service failed to uphold longstanding public easement rights to access these (and two other) trails in the Crazy Mountains. [In 2022, a Montana District Court judge sided with the Forest Service](#) and dismissed the claims. However, the [decision is currently under appeal](#).

OUR CONCERNS

We are concerned that disputed access rights would be relinquished in the East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange, setting a bad precedent for public land access disputes.

While the exchange proposal maintains permissive use of Sweetgrass Creek through the private ranch, it would limit all other public access on the east side of the range to a single trailhead on Big Timber Creek at Halfmoon Campground. The new "Sweet Trunk" Trail would begin there, replacing the relinquished East Trunk Trail and parts of the Sweetgrass Trail. The new trail would travel through public land only along the east side of the range, connecting with the remaining upper reaches of the Sweetgrass Trail and the existing Big Timber Creek Trail #119, to create a 44-mile non-motorized loop. Notably, the relocated trail would move the trail above Sweetgrass Creek onto the mountainside, with the riparian corridor going into private ownership. Wild Montana would like to see the Forest Service reserve public and administrative access on sections 7, 8 and 10 in Sweetgrass drainage to maintain the status quo and let the ongoing litigation conclude. Giving up all public claim to those trails is significant, and would preclude regaining access if new evidence of a historical right of way ever came to light.

Also of concern, the proposal does not come with any commitment by the parties to put conservation easements on public lands traded into private ownership – something that previous land exchanges in the Crazy Mountains have included. The South Crazy Mountain Land Exchange, finalized in January 2022, included voluntary conservation easements for public land sections going to private ownership as a component of the agreement. The easements



The Sweetgrass Creek drainage would go into private ownership, potentially opening the door to new development (photo by Ecoflight)

provide for traditional land uses, including recreation, livestock grazing, and timber management but preclude all mineral development and mining, as well as residential, industrial, and commercial development (except for one recreational cabin). An alternative to voluntary conservation easements would be for the Forest Service to include covenants, easements, or

other restrictions on the lands they convey. That way, the Forest Service could offer more guarantees to the public about the future use of the land.

With the private land blocked up along the eastern edge of the Crazies, as proposed in the East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange, nothing stands in the way of the owners using the land in a way that could have a devastating impact on low-elevation wildlife habitat and on the character of the range in general.

As part of this exchange, approximately 3.5 miles of the riparian corridor in Sweetgrass Creek would become private. A change in use of the drainage could significantly impact wildlife habitat and the water quality of this important headwaters.

Mining, timber, and agriculture were once the way to generate the most money from land. But today, private luxury development is more likely to generate the most profit. Many of the ranches involved in this agreement are generations-old agricultural operations with no stated intent to sell the land to developers. But without conservation easements, there is no guarantee that the exchanged lands won't be sold to high-end real estate developers in the future.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Forest Service is currently considering the proposal and accepting public input. The agency will finish its analysis and consideration of public comments this spring. A draft decision is expected in the summer of 2023 and a final decision by the fall of 2023.

Join us in letting the Forest Service know we do not support this exchange without permanent conservation easements for all the lands transferred from public to private ownership and retaining public and administrative access claims on Sweetgrass Creek. **The deadline for comments is December 23, 2022. [Submit your comment today.](#)**

For more information and to read the proposal documents, [check out the Forest Service webpage.](#)

The following letter, submitted by John Simmons, was included in our April 2017 Newsletter. I felt it was appropriate to share, once again.

My Reasons for Fighting for Public Land Access

Even though I have not visited the Crazy Mountains much in my lifetime. I am very fearful of losing access anywhere to any public lands.

I have been on the losing side before.

I had mentioned to many about when I was a teenager and just beyond, our family was in the logging business, on the West coast. My father was a Gypo logger. Even though he went broke three times, there were a few good years. He was a persistent man!

Two of those times he made deals to cross other folks land; at his own expense he built access roads and started to log the timber he had purchased from other owner's land behind the front lands, the Checker Board Railroad lands. They were then owned by big timber companies and one area was owned by a corporation of Lawyers.

Those two years he didn't finish the logging before the wet season. When he came back in the Spring to take out the profit trees he was locked out! He lost his equipment both of those years.

Last lesson time after he once again started over, we lost our home when he (we) ended up logging on the wrong side of the Section line. The side we logged was on the Hupa Indian Reservation. While the local indigenous people didn't mind, as father always had some working for him, most would have agreed to sell the stumpage to him.

But in the 1950's, the Federal Indian Agent didn't mess around - like so much we see now. There were no negotiations! The Feds brought the local Sheriff and confiscated his working equipment. As he had very little equity in the equipment, they took our home, car and everything else, he and my mom owned and had, except his one-ton truck and all we could pile into it.

This was not long after the John Steinbeck's Grapes of Wrath times. It wasn't long after this, when we moved to Montana.

Marilyn's life started with very little material things also. But this was how things were in the 30's, 40's, and 50's. Actually the government helped her farming family by offering land to many folks in a new developed low cost irrigation district, Kinsey MT.

This is not intended to be a poor me letter, it is just a fact, at those times there was not much wealth in the blue collar working class people. But If you paid attention to life's lessons and if you were able to keep your head up and your knees off the ground there were opportunities for honest and persistent folks.

This above is one of the main reasons Marilyn and I have been active in the Backcountry Horseman group to help keep the backcountry trails open not only with saw and ax but time spent at meetings and keyboards and even in Federal Court.

All in all, life has been very good to Marilyn and I and all our families. It's hard to beat a good education, but it seems nothing is free.

John P Simmons Absarokee Mt.

DO MULES NEIGH, WHINNY OR BRAY?

Submitted By: Robin Morris

This article includes some of my random thoughts as well as those expressed by "Anthony" on Animalpolis.com

I am sometimes asked, "Does Beau neigh, whinny, or bray? It is hard to describe what sound he makes – so I ventured to Google to "research" what the others had to say. One site claimed that only donkeys bray as they can breathe both in and out. That is how you get the HEE and then Haw. Mules, however, can whinny like a horse but with a completely different sound. Beau makes many different sounds.

A mule "bray" is much different than a donkey bray. I know, I have owned both. The mule is louder and jarring and sounds like a roar with a whinny and a "haw" – but no "hee."

DO ALL MULES SOUND ALIKE?

Mules have a unique bray, and I have noticed not all mules sound the same. Mules may also whimper when they feel excited or worried.

WHY DO MULES BRAY?

Understanding mule vocalization is essential in knowing how to handle them. Mules don't just bray to communicate, but for many other reasons. Let's look at these briefly.

TO COMMUNICATE

One of the significant reasons mules bray is to communicate with each other. Mules have great hearing ability. They can hear each other from hundreds of yards away. So, when you see a mule braying often, it's probably trying to tell another mule something. I would love to know what they are telling one another! I attended Montana Mule Days many years ago. I was watching the English pleasure class when an out-of-the-arena mule started to bray. Within seconds it seemed like 100s of mules were braying. I was delighted.

TO SHOW THEY ARE HUNGRY

Like babies, a braying mule could tell you it's hungry. Or when there's a variation in their feeding schedule. The end of daylight savings time always brings on a chorus of braying by Beau and whinnying by Kelley Boy (my horse). Beau will become Hangry – thinking I have forgotten when dinner is. My chickens respond similarly – they don't bray; they come up on the deck looking for me and leave chicken poop behind. They punish me.

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

WARNING AGAINST DANGER

Mules are intelligent creatures. When they sense an imminent threat or danger, they might bray to send a warning to the people or other stock in the area. They also bray when they see a predator; perhaps they do this to call their owner's attention to come to their rescue. I read that a yard light might quiet them down if your mule is braying all night (at home).

TO SHOW DISCOMFORT

Mules may vocalize when they feel ill, distressed, or feel uncomfortable. You mustn't ignore when the mule is persistent but try to find out what's wrong. Several years ago, on a long ride, Beau started to groan. I knew something was wrong – but he never misbehaved. He seemed better at the trot and lope. But it was hard to hold him to a walk. I examined his tack but couldn't see anything – so I cut my ride short. The next day, I discovered swelling on one side of his back. He flinched when I rubbed it. Frank flipped his saddle upside down, parted the sheepskin, and found a nail had come through the leather 1/8" and poked into Beau's back. It pays to listen to your mule.

TO INDICATE STRESS

When mules feel stressed, they vocalize. For example, say the mule has an injury or is being disturbed by pests; it will vocalize to show it's going through stress. Or when their buddies are out of sight. Thank goodness Beau is not herd-bound. However, he will vocalize when we camp alone, and I am out of his sight.

TO SHOW AFFECTION

A mule can also bray as a sign of affection when it has a loving owner. Likewise, it will bray if it feels lonely or abandoned. Beau's bray is a sign of affection – for the hay or the pellets he wants me to serve.

NOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION

Beau will let out a loud bray as he breathes out, ending on a higher note when he is hungry or looking for me. He grunts when he is happy to see me or waiting for his pellets. It sounds like Santa holding his belly and except saying HA-HA-HA. Frank thinks he sounds like a pig. What sounds do your mules make?

2023 BCHMT Convention: April 14th – 16th, Kalispell, Montana

2023, marks the 50th anniversary of the Back Country Horsemen, which started in the Flathead Valley of Montana and has since spread to 210 chapters in 32 states throughout the U.S. The anniversary event will be held at Majestic Valley Arena in Kalispell on April 14-16. The event will draw horsemen from the valley, as well as from all over the state of Montana and across the country.

We will have many seminars regarding horses and wild country.

There will be something for everyone:

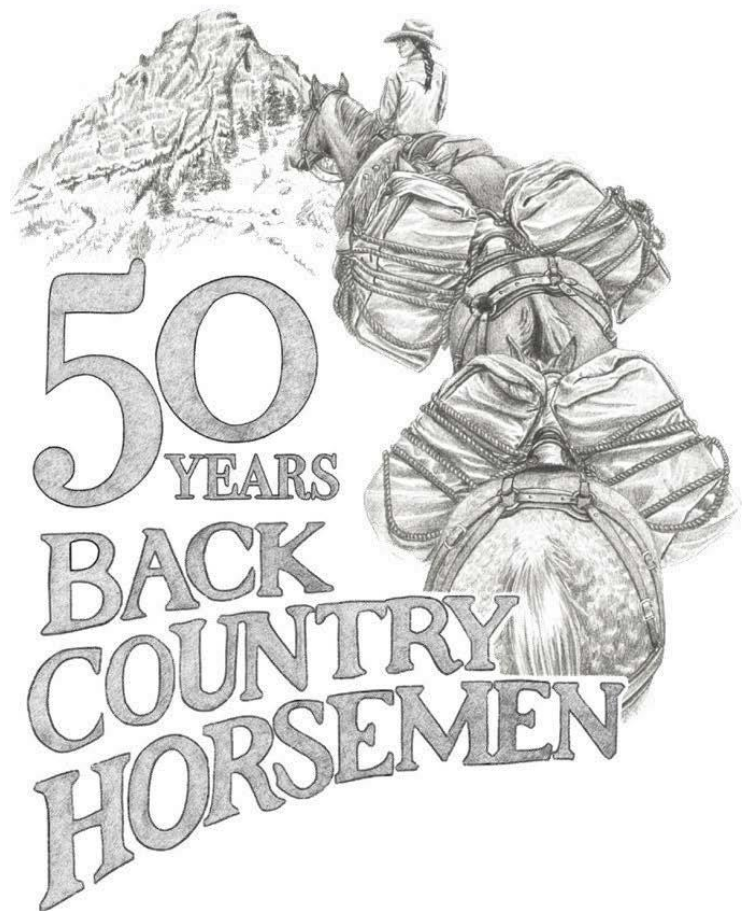
- Seminars regarding stock use and wild country
- Dinner and entertainment
- Vendor booths
- Food trucks
- 50th Anniversary keepsakes including belt buckles
- Raffle items to win/ live auction/ silent auction

The convention is an annual meeting which provides the opportunity for all chapters in the state to meet and hold a business meeting. According to BCH MT's constitution, certain business requires the vote of delegates, which provides chapters with up to 8 votes, rather than the standard 2 votes per chapter by their State Directors.

The State Chairman runs the convention itself. After elections are held Sunday morning for the State Officers, the newly elected Chairman runs the remainder of the meeting.

The BCHA national board meeting is taking place Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday following the State Convention. The current BCHA Chair will conduct the National Board of Directors meeting.

The Agenda and registration information are detailed on the following pages.



Friday, April 14

- 11:00 AM-12:00 PM **State Board Meeting** - Location: Center Main Floor
Speaker: Wade Murphy: State Board Meeting for all Chapters State Directors
- 12:00 PM-12:30 PM **Lunch trucks will be available at the South end**
- 12:30 PM-1:00 PM **Nominating Committee Meeting**
Speaker: Wade Murphy: To be attended by the Senior Director of each chapter
- 1:00 PM-1:50 PM **USFS Packing Demonstration**
- 1:00 PM-1:50 PM **Long Riding**
Speaker: Gillian Larsen
- 2:00 PM-2:50 PM **TrailMeister - Navigation**
Speaker: Robert Eversole: TrailMeister is your horse trails and camp guide to horse riding trails and horse camps. From trailheads in the high country to state parks, county parks, campgrounds, bridle trails, and wilderness areas, we've got your trail ride listed. Need a trail map? We've got the...[Read More](#)
- 2:00 PM-2:55 PM **Back Country Horse Care**
A review of backcountry horse care by a Veterinarian
- 3:00 PM-3:50 PM **Brand Inspections -State of Montana**
A review of the State of Montana brand inspection requirements and needs.
- 3:00 PM-3:50 PM **Montana Wildflowers**
Speaker: Jennifer Hinta Guse
A slide presentation of Montana's Wildflowers
- 4:00 PM-4:50 PM **Book Review of Heroes of the Bob Marshall Wilderness**
Speaker: John Fraley: A review of **Heroes of the Bob Marshall Wilderness.**
- 4:00 PM-4:50 PM **Mule Training**
Speaker: Wade Murphy: Mule Training techniques
- 5:00 PM-5:50 PM **Dinner - Food Trucks available onsite**
Buy your own dinner and mingle with the other attendees.
- 6:00 PM-6:50 PM **Slide show and presentation of "A Hundred Days of Solitude."**
Speaker: Amy Pearson: Slide show and presentation of "A Hundred Days of Solitude."
- 7:00 PM-8:30 PM **Chain Saw Competition**
Team competition with meet and greet mingle

Saturday, April 15

- 8:00 AM-8:30 AM **Opening/Flag Ceremony and BCH 50 years of History**
Opening/Flag Ceremony and BCH 50 years of History review with slides, readings, and pictures
- 8:30 AM-10:00 AM **BCHMT State Board Meeting**
Speaker: Wade Murphy: State Board Business Meeting for BCH of Montana
- 10:00 AM-10:15 AM **Break**
- 10:15 AM-11:00 AM **US Forest Service Review**
A discussion of current Forest Service issues and news
- 11:00 AM-12:00 PM **Dr. Eva Maggie**
Speaker: Dr. Eva Maggie: University of Montana Policy and Packing class
- 12:00 PM-1:00 PM **Lunch - onsite Food Trucks are available**
- 1:00 PM-1:50 PM **Wayne Chamberlin - Book Reading**
- 1:00 PM-1:50 PM **USFS Packing Demonstration**
- 1:00 PM-1:50 PM **Brand Inspector**
- 2:00 PM-2:50 PM **When The Sh@t Hits The Fan**
Speaker: Robert Eversole
- 2:00 PM-2:50 PM **USFS Packing Demonstration**
- 2:00 PM-2:50 PM **Vet - Backcountry Horse Care**
- 3:00 PM-3:50 PM **Book Reading**
Speaker: John Fraley
- 3:00 PM-3:50 PM **Mule Training**
Speaker: Wade Murphy
- 3:00 PM-3:50 PM **Long Riding**
Speaker: Gillian Larsen
- 4:00 PM-4:50 PM **ABC's of Horse Camping**
Speaker: Robert Eversole
- 4:00 PM-4:50 PM **Montana Wildflowers**
Speaker: Jennifer Hinta Guse
- 4:00 PM-4:50 PM **Vet - Backcountry Horse Care- vital signs**
- 5:00 PM-5:50 PM **Happy Hour**
- 6:00 PM-7:30 PM **Banquet Dinner**
- 7:00 PM-7:20 PM **Keynote Speaker - Bill Hodge**
- 7:15 PM-8:00 PM **Live Auction**

8:00 PM-8:30 PM **Raffle, etc., Close Silent Auction**

8:30 PM-11:30 PM **Music & Dancing**

Sunday, April 16

8:00 AM-10:00 AM **BCH of Montana Board of Directors Meeting**
Speaker: Wade Murphy

10:00 AM-10:15 AM **Break**

10:15 AM-11:15 AM **BCH of Montana past chairs discussion**
Speaker: Wade Murphy

11:15 AM-12:00 PM **The Future of BCH**
Speakers: Wade Murphy, Mark Himmel: A discussion of where BCH is headed and how to get there.

REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 17TH, 2022 ON THE FOLLOWING LINK:

HTTPS://WHOVA.COM/PORTAL/REGISTRATION/BCHAC_202304/

ALL ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE Majestic Valley Arena

3630 US Highway 93 N, Kalispell, MT 59901, United States

CAMPING AND LODGING:

<https://whova.com/web/HwUjAg6MaPZbN7y9SJ6t9nmOJP0x2ThFjd9QzY6yyg8%3D/Logistics/>

MINUTES – 11/03/2022 – BBCH BOARD MEETING

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

Meeting called to order 7pm at Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

Dave Heinle moved to approve October board meeting minutes with changes. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report has been filed in Minutes. Randy Thomsen moved to approve Treasurer's Report. Dave Heinle second. Motion passed. Discussion on Treasurer's report include, BCHMT dues, membership numbers for 2022 and 2023, and outstanding work project expenses.

Dave Heinle moved to amend the budget for animal and mileage per diem an additional \$2000. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed.

Discussion on trail clearing protocol, contacting Forest Service, and designating a person to keep track of all work project paperwork. Membership will need to be updated on procedure.

Education- October chapter meeting had no speaker, instead was a review about the past year. November chapter meeting speaker has confirmed. Dr Lacey Fahmeier will be speaking about equine dentistry. She will need the projector from Fishtail community center. Volunteers for the Christmas party will be requested and the elections will be held. Christmas party will need to be scheduled on the Fishtail Community Center calendar.

Speakers need to be scheduled and have confirmation in advance to avoid confusion. John Jenkins will as Ben Daly of ABWF to speak at January or February meeting.

Discussion on chain saw and cross cut saw certification.

Communications- Discussion on Newsletter, board will ask for a volunteer at chapter meeting, also will see if BCHMT or other chapters have resources. Laura O'Conner has agreed to see to the Instagram page.

Activities- There is still some work to be done between Lodge Pole and Deer Creek Cabin. Ideas on renting cabin for a work crew. Board is in agreement to make the trail from Jim's Gulch to Meyer's Creek a "Passion Project" for 2023. Main Stillwater Trail is still closed, discussion on its reopening, and the road construction to the trail head timeline.

Melissa Codner and Dave Heinle will get more information and try to get a Venmo account set up for electronic payments for the chapter.

All pack and saw equipment have been returned to the chapter trailer. Electric chain saw batteries will be stored in Thomsen home.

Bob Knutson moved to donate \$100 to Stillwater Chamber of Commerce. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed. This donation was approved because the deadline for the auction item was missed.

Christmas Party is scheduled for December 19 at 6:30pm in Fishtail at the Community Center. Melissa Codner presented an estimate on catering prices and food choices. Randy Thomsen moved to select R Heart catering, brisket with sides option. Dave Heinle second. Motion passed. Catering quotes in Minutes. Christmas gifts of \$20-\$25 were agreed on, at the October chapter meeting. Regular gifts not gag gifts. Dave Heinle will put together a work project video for the party.

Report from the nominating committee. Enough volunteers have been found to fill seats but nominations will still be taken from the floor. John Jenkins will speak with Ray Longstreth about his seat on the board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

MINUTES – 11/21/2022 – BBCH GENERAL MEETING

Meeting was held at the Columbus Fire Hall, and called to order at 7pm with 20 members attending. Treasurer's report- The largest monthly license plate check has come in this month at \$1700. The chapter is very grateful for these fundraising monies. Total membership is now 65.

The chapter is in need of a volunteer to take over the newsletter. Robin Morris's last monthly newsletter will be in December. The board would like to Thank Robin for all her work.

Stillwater Veterinarian Lacey Fahrmeier, spoke on equine dental care. Routine dental care is more than just floating, she recommends yearly examinations to prevent other medical problems especially in senior horses.

Meyers Creek Trail- Robin Morris and Dave Heinle report there is still about a half mile to be cleared to make the trail from Meyers Creek to Jim's Gulch passable. The downed trees are between Deer Creek cabin and Lodgepole trail. The Chapter agreed with the board that this trail should be a priority next year, since the Main Stillwater may still be closed next year.

Initial Creek- Many members have already been on the new Castle Creek trail, which connects Picket Pin and Initial Creek. It was recommended to advise authorities to place a garbage can at trail head.

Christmas Party- The party will be held at Fishtail Community Center at 6:30pm December 19. The party will be catered this year. Please RSVP by December 12 by noon, because the party is catered there will be no extra plates. A gift of \$25 for exchange was agreed on at last chapter meeting. A Decorating committee will meet at Fishtail on December 19, at 2pm. Please send photos of work projects to Dave Heinle for a video.

Elections-

John Jenkins was elected by acclamation for Junior State Board seat for a 2-year term. Motioned by Robin Morris. Second by Randy Thomsen. Motion passed.

Melissa Codner was elected by ballot for Alternate State Board seat for a 1-year term.

Bob Knutson, Laura O'Connor and Melissa Codner were elected by ballot to general board seats for a 2-year term.

John Chepulis has a work project summary of miles and projects. BCHMT convention will be in Kalispell this year in April.

Meeting adjourned 8:20pm

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

EXERCISE PLAN FOR 2023!

Activities around the barn	Calories per hour
Clean Stalls	550
Feed horses	306
Groom	525
Walk in field	335
Drive tractor	150
Paint fences	140
Shovel snow	450
Mow lawn	457

Riding a horse	Calories per hour
At the halt	78
Walk	168
Post trot	420
Sitting trot	450
Canter	514
Gallop	558
Jogging slowly after a loose horse	550

LAUGHING

THE ARGYLE SWEATER

SCOTT HILBURN



TRAIL OF THE MONTH



November 1, 2022: “Keyser Brown Lake” Lake Fork Trailhead, Red Lodge

When the wind is blowing and there aren’t any ripples on the water – it’s frozen ☺!

As your outgoing Newsletter Editor, I want you to know, it has been my pleasure to keep everyone up to date and informed about BBCH happenings. I will still be actively involved with trail clearing – it is one of my passions. But, after 7 years it is time for someone else to pick up the keyboard and embrace this task. I will gladly provide support to the new editor, share editable copies of prior editions, and continue to contribute articles and photographs.

Happy Trails, *Robin Morris*


BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

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