

# Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

## President's Pen

Happy Happy New Year!

We sent off 2022 with a bang at our Christmas party! We ate great food, re-lived our best moments through photos, exchanged and stole some great gifts. I guess I need to play more poker so I can call cards better next year. In case you were wondering who catered that delicious meal, it was R Heart Catering out of Columbus. Also, be sure to tell Randy & Nancy thanks for decorating Hanna Hall so well, it looked great!

We had our first Board of Directors meeting last week and are gearing up for a great year. John as well as two former presidents are currently setting on the board and are great support, provide great guidance as I enter this year with my new position. We are in the planning stages for our work projects and educational activities and have some great things in the works.

You will see more information about the State & National convention in the upcoming pages of this newsletter. It is a big year in Back Country Horsemen's history, celebrating 50 years of service!

See you on the trail!

Melissa Codner

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

### BBCH DIRECTORS



President- Melissa Codner  
308-390-0465  
Vice President- Dave Heinle  
321-4326  
Treasurer- Laura O'Connor  
248-672-9518  
Secretary – Randy Thomsen  
328-7355  
Director- Keith Brighton  
425-1122  
Director- Bob Knutson  
698-0290

### STATE DIRECTORS



Randy Thomsen, Sr. Director  
425-0204  
John Jenkins, Jr. Director  
855-0238  
Melissa Codner, Alternate  
308-390-0465  
Keith Brighton (Alternate)  
425-1122

### NATIONAL DIRECTOR



John Chepulis  
322-4823



# Potluck

Everyone Brings Something to the Table.

Date: January 16, 2023 – 6:30 p.m. Potluck  
Meeting @ 7:00

**Columbus Fire Station**  
**944 E Pike Columbus**

Education Program:

Things to look for when purchasing your next trail horse!

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## ***DUES:***

Yearly dues for 2023 are:

Business Membership \$40

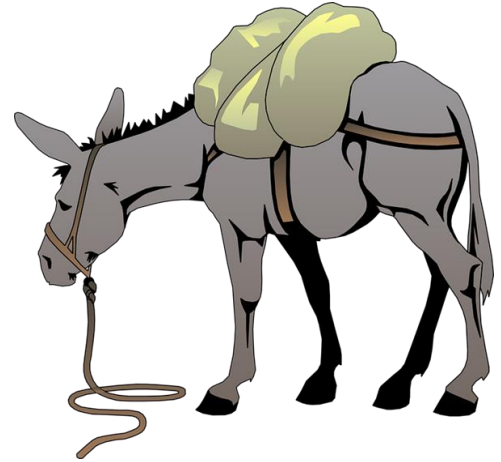
Family Membership \$35

Individual Membership \$25

Please pay Laura O'Connor

## 2023 – BBCH PROPOSED PROJECT SCHEDULE

We are working with the Forest Service and will have this updated very soon!



## NOTICES

We are still looking for someone to take over the newsletter! This consists of compiling the information given, schedules, public land notices, trail reports, upcoming events, etc and sending them out using our email platform. You can make it as big as you want or keep it simple. Please see Melissa or any board member if you'd like to take this opportunity on.

Also, next time you see Robin Morris be sure to thank her for 7 years of dedication to the newsletter!

## ARTICLE

## 2023 BCHMT Convention: April 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, Kalispell, Montana

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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:

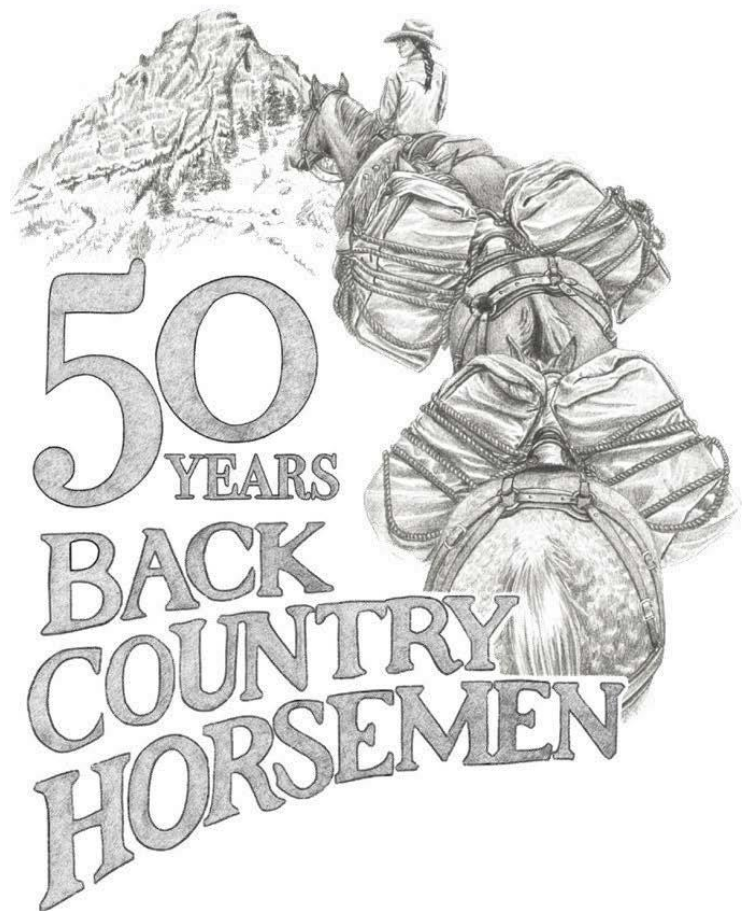
- Seminars regarding stock use and wild country
- Dinner and entertainment
- Vendor booths
- Food trucks
- 50th Anniversary keepsakes including belt buckles
- Raffle items to win/ live auction/ silent auction

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**  
Location: TBD  
**Speaker: Wade Murphy:** To be attended by the Senior Director of each chapter
- 1:00 PM-1:50 PM **USFS Packing Demonstration**  
Location: TBD
- 1:00 PM-1:50 PM **Long Riding**  
Location: TBD  
**Speaker: Gillian Larsen**
- 2:00 PM-2:50 PM **TrailMeister - Navigation**  
Location: TBD  
**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**  
Location: TBD  
A review of backcountry horse care by a Veterinarian
- 3:00 PM-3:50 PM **Brand Inspections -State of Montana**  
Location: TBD  
A review of the State of Montana brand inspection requirements and needs.
- 3:00 PM-3:50 PM **Montana Wildflowers**  
Location: TBD  
**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**  
Location: TBD  
**Speaker: John Fraley:** A review of **Heroes of the Bob Marshall Wilderness**.
- 4:00 PM-4:50 PM **Mule Training**  
Location: TBD  
**Speaker: Wade Murphy:** Mule Training techniques
- 5:00 PM-5:50 PM **Dinner - Food Trucks available onsite**  
Location: Main Room 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."**  
Location: Main Room **Speaker: Amy Pearson:** Slide show and presentation of "A Hundred Days of Solitude."

7:00 PM-8:30 PM **Chain Saw Competition**  
Location: Main Room 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**  
Location: Main Room 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**  
Location: Main Room **Speaker: Wade Murphy:** State Board Business Meeting for BCH of Montana

10:00 AM-10:15 AM **Break**  
Location: Main Room

10:15 AM-11:00 AM **US Forest Service Review**  
Location: Main Room A discussion of current Forest Service issues and news

11:00 AM-12:00 PM **Dr. Eva Maggie**  
Location: Main Room **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 Chaberlin - Book Reading**

1:00 PM-1:50 PM **USFS Packing Demonstration**  
Location: TBD

1:00 PM-1:50 PM **Brand Inspector**  
Location: TBD

2:00 PM-2:50 PM **When The Sh@t Hits The Fan**  
Location: TBD **Speaker: Robert Eversole**

2:00 PM-2:50 PM **USFS Packing Demonstration**  
Location: TBD

2:00 PM-2:50 PM **Vet - Backcountry Horse Care**  
Location: TBD

3:00 PM-3:50 PM **Book Reading**  
Location: TBD **Speaker: John Fraley**

3:00 PM-3:50 PM **Mule Training**  
Location: TBD **Speaker: Wade Murphy**

3:00 PM-3:50 PM **Long Riding**  
Location: TBD **Speaker: Gillian Larsen**

- 4:00 PM-4:50 PM      **ABC's of Horse Camping**  
Location: TBD      **Speaker: Robert Eversole**
- 4:00 PM-4:50 PM      **Montana Wildflowers**  
Location: TBD      **Speaker: Jennifer Hinta Guse**
- 4:00 PM-4:50 PM      **Vet - Backcountry Horse Care- vital signs**  
Location: TBD
- 5:00 PM-5:50 PM      **Happy Hour**  
Location: TBD
- 6:00 PM-7:30 PM      **Banquet Dinner**  
Location: Center Main Floor
- 7:00 PM-7:20 PM      **Keynote Speaker**  
Location: Main Room **Speaker: Bill Hodge**
- 7:15 PM-8:00 PM      **Live Auction**  
Location: Center Main Floor
- 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**  
Main Room
- 11:15 AM-12:00 PM      **The Future of BCH**  
Location: Main Room **Speakers: Wade Murphy, Mark Himmel:** A discussion of where BCH is headed and how to get there.

**REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 ON THE FOLLOWING LINK:**

[HTTPS://WHOVA.COM/PORTAL/REGISTRATION/BCHAC\\_202304/](https://whoova.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://whoova.com/web/HwUjAg6MaPZbN7y9SJ6t9nmOJP0x2ThFjd9QzY6yyg8%3D/Logistics/>

## MINUTES –DECEMBER 2022– BBCH BOARD MEETING

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen  
Board Meeting December 1, 2022

In attendance: John Jenkins, Melissa Codner, Dave Heinle, Randy Thomsen, Nancy Thomsen, Bob Knutson, Laura O'Connor

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

Randy Thomsen moved to approve November minutes. Melissa Codner second. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report has been filed in Minutes. Dave Heinle moved to approve Treasurer's report. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed. Discussions on monies in the future, dues amounts, FWP refund, and budget for upcoming year. PLWA was sent a donation.

Education- Axeman Feeds will be contacted to see if there is interest in speaking at January chapter meeting. ABWF and FWP have expressed interest in speaking at chapter meetings.

Communications- A volunteer is still needed to edit/publish the newsletter. Laura O'Connor needs the Instagram password.

Activities- Dave Heinle suggested a winter fun ride. John Jenkins suggested promoting the Real Deal Winter Series Trail Rides. Discussion on membership outreach to different towns, and event booths.

Discussion on electronic payment for chapter dues. Concerns were loss of membership contact information. More research on options like the Square will be presented.

John Jenkins will return the Inreach to trailer. Dave Heinle offered to do maintenance on chapter pack saddles. Melissa Codner has first aid saddle bags. John Jenkins has chapter hats.

Ray Longstreth has moved to eastern Montana and will no longer be able to attend board meetings. Bob Knutson moved to remove Ray Longstreth from the BBCH board. Dave Heinle second. Motion passed. A replacement will be sought.

BBCH board members will need to set up annual meeting with Allie Wood to discuss upcoming year goals.

### Board Elections

Melissa Codner was nominated for president and appointed by acclamation.

Dave Heinle was nominated for vice president and appointed by acclamation.

Randy Thomsen was nominated for secretary and appointed by acclamation.

Laura O'Connor was nominated for treasurer and appointed by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm

Please send all newsletter submissions to [beartoothhorsemen@gmail.com](mailto:beartoothhorsemen@gmail.com) until we find a newsletter editor.



## LAUGHING

If you have a long drive to the trailhead, try a podcast. This one from Equus Magazine is a favorite amongst members.



What a great reminder about why we volunteer and keep the mountains close to our heart!

### VOLUNTEERISM

(whose job is it?)

This is an important job and **Everybody** is sure **Somebody** will do it. **Anybody** can do it but **Nobody** will do it. **Somebody** gets angry about this since it is **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thinks **Anybody** will do it, but **Nobody** realizes **Everybody** won't do it. The fact is, **Everybody** blames **Somebody** when **Nobody** clears the trail that **Anybody** can for **Everybody's** enjoyment.

(Author Unknown)

The above is a scenario about Four trail riders/hikers named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**.

TRAIL OF THE MONTH



December 11, 2022 – Columbus-Molt Road, North of Columbus

While the mountains are hibernating and access is limited, one can still enjoy the beauty of our area on county roads. There is wildlife to be seen, gorgeous views of the mountains, and little traffic on the more remote roads. So, keep your ponies engaged and legged up.

Happy Trails ~ Robin & Beau

THANK YOU TO THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT!




**Barnard Skiing - Certified Instructor**  
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406.425.0130 - Red Lodge, MT  
gbtelemark@gmail.com

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AND VACATION RENTAL


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ABSAROKEE, MT 59001

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Bozeman, MT 59715

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**Absaroka Tennessee Walking  
Horses & Gaited Mules**

*Don & Emily Aadland*  
2906 HWY 78 - Absarokee, MT 59001  
Absarokee, MT 59001  
406-328-4159 <http://my.montana.net/araa/>

**Stillwater Veterinary Clinic**

557 North Montana Avenue  
Absarokee, MT 59001  
406-328-4159

**Broken Fiddle Ranch**  
Dave & Chris Heinle  
Clyde Park, MT 59018  
(406) 321-4326  
[brokenfiddleranch@gmail.com](mailto:brokenfiddleranch@gmail.com)



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



BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001