

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

March 2023

We are officially in the part of spring where the calendar is starting to fill up! There is A LOT of information in this edition of the newsletter- we are taking care of some business, sharing some important dates, and making sure you guys are ready to hit the trails! The Brand Inspector is tentatively going to come and speak to us at our next general meeting, Monday, March, 20th.

There have been quite a bit of legislation decisions happening in Helena in which multiple clubs have been vocal. The e-bikes do pose a great risk to the solitude, management, and preservation of the wilderness. They have not been successful YET, but they have been incredibly close and it is something we are following.

If you were sitting on the fence about attending one of those pack clinics, we are offering one to members in Clyde Park in April. See below for more details and how to RSVP.

See you at the next meeting and don't forget to pay your dues :)

Melissa Codner

BBCH DIRECTORS

...

Melissa Codner, President
308-390-0465
Dave Heinle, Vice President
406-321-4326
Laura O'Connor, Treasurer
248-672-9518
Randy Thomsen, Secretary
406-328-7355
Keith Brighton, Director
406-425-1122
Bob Knutson, Director
406-698-0290

STATE DIRECTORS

...

Randy Thomsen, Sr. Director
406-425-0204
John Jenkins, Jr. Director
406-855-0238
Melissa Codner, Alternate
308-390-0465
Keith Brighton, Alternate
406-425-1122

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

...

John Chepulis
406-322-4823



Next Meeting:

March 20, 2023

Potluck @ 6:30

Meeting @ 7:00

Columbus Fire Station

944 E Pike

Columbus, MT

Education Program: Brand Inspector

2023 Membership dues:

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

Not a member yet? Application available for download [here](#).

FEBRUARY EDUCATION RECAP: EQUINE NUTRITION WITH LEE SCHMELZER

1. The effects of thermal stress on horses (see the attachment for rules of thumb).
https://www.extension.iastate.edu/equine/increase-hay-intake-winter#.Y_ZKa9vZ3vh.gmail
2. How fast are minerals absorbed? Nutrients are absorbed in 3-6 hours. However, how long does it take to correct a mineral deficiency? It's going to take between 6 weeks and 3 months to correct most nutritional deficiencies. Another good example is iron – it takes 3 months for the human body to make new red blood cells. So as a general rule we usually aim for 3 months of supplementation.
<https://ker.com/equine/factors-affecting-nutrient-delivery-horse/>
3. Dr. Amy McLean University of Wyoming Summary: Many times mules and donkeys are treated as horses with big ears but this webcast focus will focus on some of the similarities and differences between feeding and properly caring for mules and donkeys.
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/videos/feeding-and-care-of-mules-and-donkeys>

2023 – WORK PROJECT/ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

The schedule should be finalized by the end of March. The following dates are confirmed. The date for the tack swap will be fit in between work projects so that is tentative on the work projects. Additional pack project, extended trip in August, and support for Montana FWP fish biologists, dates pending.

April 14-16 (Fri-Sun), Kalispell. BCHMT State Convention

April 16-19 (Sun – Wed), Kalispell. BCHA National Convention

April 21-23 (Fri-Sun), Clyde Park. Spring Packing Clinic.

Spring Trail Clearings. Dates TBD (to be determined)

August 18-20 (Fri-Sun), Meyer's Creek. Summer Rendezvous and Campout. Details forthcoming.

PACK PROJECTS *only one definite at this time*

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

July 6 – July 11. ABW Pack Support (4-Mile, South of Big Timber). Meatrack. Pack in Thursday, July 6 and out Tuesday, July 11. Overnight on either end if you want, or stay for a long weekend. Pack support for a trail maintenance crew of about 8; gear, food and tools. It is a fun trip and great views, sometimes a little rocky, but doable.

OTHER

March 11-12 Red Lodge/ Ski Joring

May 14 (Sun) Mother's Day

June 18 (Sun) Father's Day

June 24 (Sat). Fishtail Days

July 4 (Tue). Red Lodge Independence Day Celebration

July 29-30 (Sat-Sun). Absarokee Days

2023 – SPRING CLINIC

SAVE THE DATE!

April 21, 22, 23 - Pack Clinic in Clyde Park



Hardscrabble Ranch
hardscrabbleranch.com
15660 Bracket Creek Rd.
13 miles west of Clyde Park, MT

RSVP to Melissa Codner or Dave & Chris Heinle by APRIL 15TH!

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

Packing Tutorial Weekend ****This is not a competition weekend!!***

Learn the basics of packing, how to mantle, what gear is needed to be successful, what gear isn't essential, and more! Learn how to properly tie, saddle, and load your pack animals.

Arrive Friday afternoon and get settled. Small class or question and answer period that evening pending interest.

Saturday at 10 am experienced people will be partnered with people wanting to learn new skills—***this is a basic packing class, ask any questions, and get as much hands on as you can!!*** Possibility to go through a small course with the animals that you just packed and loaded.

Saturday night general BBCH meeting after or during meal.

Sunday morning at 9 am, we will pair you up with someone different to learn from someone else different ways and techniques to be successful. After, you will go through a small trail ride with the animals you just packed and loaded.

Close around 2pm.

Bring your horses/mules and feed. Tie to your trailer or bring portable panels for a temporary corral. There is a creek nearby for water.

BBCH will provide Friday and Saturday evening meals, family style in the main lodge. Coffee, and muffins are available for breakfast each morning. There are several refrigerators in the Lodges if you want to label your food and leave in the fridge.

Lodging is available in the main lodge for \$50 per person/night. Kids under 10 stay free. There are communal bathrooms and common areas. The Kitchen is fully stocked for cooking and service so no need to bring anything in that regard.

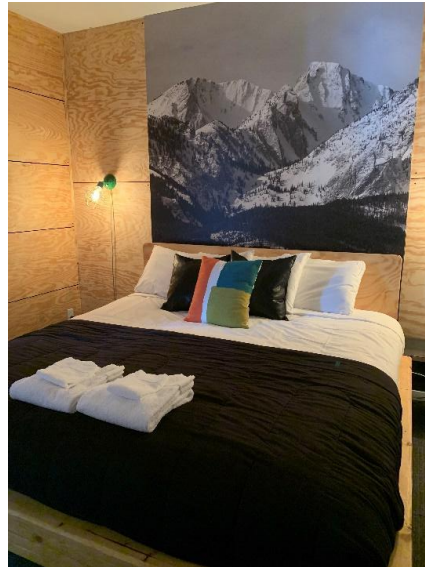
If you want to stay in your trailer you are welcome to at no cost.

Please RSVP for lodging as soon as possible rooms are limited!!!

If you are **NOT** needing a room please RSVP by April 15th for meals.

Detailed directions:

Coming from Livingston, travel North on US Hwy 89 to the town of Clyde Park. Turn left on 5th Street West by the Post Office. Bear right onto Brackett Creek Road and travel approximately 12 miles. You will pass Horse Creek Road on your right, then you will come to a wood and steel sign for Hardscrabble Ranch on the road at our mailbox. The large black barn up on the left is us. If you reach Pony Creek, you have gone too far.



BCHMT RESOLUTION

Resolution at the State Convention

The following resolution has been submitted to be added to the BCHMT Constitution/Bylaws. Input from members is requested at the next general meeting.

History: A western Montana BCHMT chapter disagreed with the USFS management of a Wilderness Study Area in the pioneer mountains. They challenged the local district office on this. The concerns were placing a transmitter (for communication purposes/safety) in a WSA and not adequately tracking/preventing motorized travel, which the club documented. The documentation was provided to the USFS. A response was provided to the local chapter.

This was discussed at the state meeting in December after the local club had already notified the USFS district office of their concerns and the USFS had responded. The chapter was considering a lawsuit against the USFS.

There was a request at the state meeting by the concerned party to have the BCHMT join the local chapter's potential lawsuit with the purpose of having the USFS remedy these two specific issues. The state directors and officers did not feel this request, which could involve significant costs to be born by BCHMT, fell within the *direct* purview of the mission statement - specifically, maintaining and promoting equine access to public lands (Please refer to the mission statement of the BCHA and BCHMT). Concerns expressed at the state meeting also included potential harm a lawsuit could do to the relationship between the BCHMT and the USFS.

John Jenkins

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF MONTANA

2023 RESOLUTION TO REQUIRE BOARD OF DIRECTOR APPROVAL FOR LITIGATION

Whereas the purpose of this organization shall be to perpetuate the common-sense use and enjoyment of horses in the roadless back country and assist the various government agencies in their maintenance and management of the resource and to educate, encourage and solicit active participation by various members of the general public in the wise and sustaining use of horses, commensurate with our heritage and the back country resource;

Whereas strict adherence to these basic precepts has been the reason for our growth, strength, effectiveness, and establishment of a strong working relationship with the public land managers and any departure there from threatens to diminish our service credibility;

Whereas litigation against partnering agencies jeopardizes working relationships and can set back the BCHMT's decades of partnering with said agencies. Due to the nature of litigation, any legal action in the name of BCH, either through individual members or

BCHMT chapters, can stall all working agreements, throughout the state, until said litigation is finalized; and

Whereas Article XII section 4 of the BCHMT constitution already prohibits members to act as a spokesman for BCH without the approval of the chairman; now, therefore, be it Resolved, that the State Board of Directors, through the Constitution Committee, revise the Constitution to add, "No member or chapter of BCHMT, using the name of BCH, will take legal action, or sign onto another organization's legal action, against a government agency without first receiving the approval of the board of directors of BCHMT." This revision to be made upon the next opportunity to open the constitution for revision.

Submitted By:

Upper Clark Fork Chapter of the BCHMT

RESOURCES

Life Flight Network

Let's talk about the not so fun part of the backcountry. There are definite risks involved about being away from civilization and being self reliant if anything goes awry. If something bad happens and you are unable to exit on foot or horseback, the only option is via helicopter. It is incredibly expensive but there is some insurance for the just in case instance. Following is the link for informative purposes only.

PLEASE NOTE: This is NOT a sales pitch. This is a non-commissioned link.

<https://member.lifeflight.org/#lp-pom-block-370>

Membership is under \$100 and, according to the website, will cover the flight. There is also additional ground insurance.

Online Defensive Horsemen Information

Website - <https://bchmt.org/wp/education/>

Scroll down towards the middle and you will see Horse Safety

This is good information and a great resource for new members that still need some defensive horsemen prior to doing any work activities this year.

2023 CONVENTION

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:

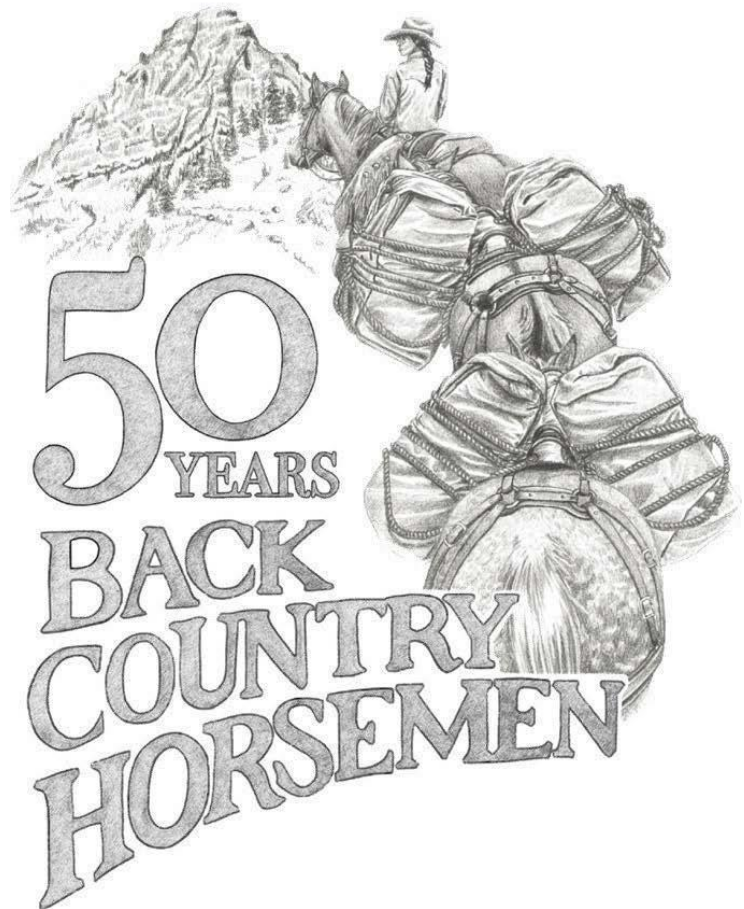
- Seminars regarding stock use and wild country
- Dinner and entertainment
- Vendor booths
- Food trucks
- 50th Anniversary keepsakes including belt buckles
- Raffle items to win/ live auction/ silent auction

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**
 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 Rm
 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 Rm
Speaker: Amy Pearson: Slide show and presentation of "A Hundred Days of Solitude."
- 7:00 PM-8:30 PM **Chainsaw Competition**
 Location: Main Rm
 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 Rm 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 Rm **Speaker: Wade Murphy:** State Board Business Meeting for BCH of Montana
- 10:00 AM-10:15 AM **Break**
 Location: Main Rm
- 10:15 AM-11:00 AM **US Forest Service Review**
 Location: Main Rm A discussion of current Forest Service issues and news
- 11:00 AM-12:00 PM **Dr. Eva Maggie**
 Location: Main Rm **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: Ctr Main Flr
- 7:00 PM-7:20 PM **Keynote Speaker**
Location: Main Rm **Speaker: Bill Hodge**
- 7:15 PM-8:00 PM **Live Auction**
Location: Cer Main Flr
- 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 Rm **Speakers: Wade Murphy, Mark Himmel:** A discussion of where BCH is headed and how to get there.

REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 17, 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 –JANUARY 5, 2023– BBCH BOARD MEETING

In attendance: Melissa Codner, John Jenkins, Bob Knutson, Laura O'Connor, Randy Thomsen, and John Chepulis.

Meeting called to order at 7:23 pm on Zoom

John Jenkins moved to approve the January minutes, Laura O'Connor second. Motion passed.

President's Report – Looking through the President's box and found a copy of Montana's liability law in regards to equine activities. Also found some educational materials which will be shared with the club at upcoming general meetings. Found an original drawing for the primitive horse camp proposal at Meyers Ck. The more detailed drawing proposal was given to Allie Wood at the USFS. Will bring up the proposal again this year when the club meets with Allie.

Treasurer will get together with the previous treasurer on Sunday Feb. 12th and go over what needs to be done to send our report to the state of Montana for our club. The Treasurer will have a detailed report next month including income and outgoing monies. An audit committee will be brought together to audit the books from last year. It will consist of the Treasurer and 2 club members. Date to be determined.

Education – Lee Smeltzer will be doing a presentation on equine nutrition at the February 20 general meeting.

Communication – We have 2 people working together to put out the newsletter. Rochelle and Tricia.

Activities – The club is looking to reserve Meyers Ck cabin on the second weekend of August. If that is full we will try the third weekend. Melissa Codner will contact Dave Heinle in regards to a winter get together in Clyde Park. Discussion about a spring clinic and tack swap. Will try to coincide with happenings in Absarokee such as the bbq cook off or Fishtail Days. Dave Heinle will be working on a trail clearing schedule for this year. John Chepulis will see what grants are available to apply for that would help with the reconstruction of the Stillwater Trail.

Issues – HB 261 is coming up for a vote. This will allow E bikes on any trail where bikes are allowed. The club needs to contact our legislators and express our concerns. Let them know we hope that they vote against it. We will put information in the newsletter.

John Jenkins moved to send a letter to the legislators from Billings, Red Lodge, and Absarokee to express our concerns. Laura O'Connor second. Motion passed. Melissa Codner will send it.

Old Business – The land swap in the Crazy Mtns is headed to court. John Jenkins sent a letter of intent to work with the USFS this year to Allie. Randy Thomsen updated the list of officers with BCHMT.

New Business – Pack clinics that are available include Royal Tine and the USFS at Nine Mile. Prices and dates for Royal Tine are June 16 – 18, June 23 – 25, \$750. Dates and price for Nine Mile are May 8 – 12, June 5 – 9, \$650. We will bring this up at the general meeting to see who is interested in attending and which clinic would fit best. Discussion about having an attendee lead one of the ABW packs as part of their requirements after attending a clinic.

Melissa will purchase new boxes for the President and Treasurer to replace the old ones as they are broken down and falling apart.

We will have Dave Heinle make a scabbard as an auction item to take to the convention.

We will add Laura O'Connor to the bank account and remove Randy Thomsen. Melissa will contact the bank to see what they need as a formal notification.

Dave Heinle will be contacted about lining up the district brand inspector for the March meeting education presentation.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:36 pm.

KEEP CALM... SPRING IS COMING!



TRAIL OF THE MONTH



PC: <https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/montana/winter-horseback-riding-mt/>

West Boulder Meadows, McLeod

Please see <https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/montana/winter-horseback-riding-mt/> for more information on this trail and other winter riding spots.

Are there more like this? We would love to know! Feel free to email us your favorite winter riding spots.

THANK YOU TO THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT!




Barnard Skiing - Certified Instructor
 Alpine, Telemark, Skate & Classic Nordic
 406.425.0130 - Red Lodge, MT
gbletelemark@gmail.com

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 715-853-1008 KRIS



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 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



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