

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

April 2023



I hope you are all able to get outside and take advantage of the snow melting and the sunshine! I've been in the saddle quite a bit in the last month and forgot how heavy my saddle is compared to the end of last riding year. Thankfully, the horse I ride is a wee bit shorter.

John Jenkins and I met with Allie Wood with the Forest Service and together nailed down some details

on our volunteer work this summer. It's going to be a busy but fun year. Even though we are only helping with one ABW trip, we are going to be packing gravel, which is a first for me, and heading over to the Crazies to help out with a project over there!

The State and National Convention in April is here and right after that we are heading right into our members only pack clinic in Clyde Park April 21 to 23rd! More details below but please RSVP to Dave H by April 15th if you are staying at the Lodge!

The online information for Defensive Horsemanship is included along with the insurance link, and work schedule is included in this month's newsletter.

Please reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns! My inbox is always open!

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

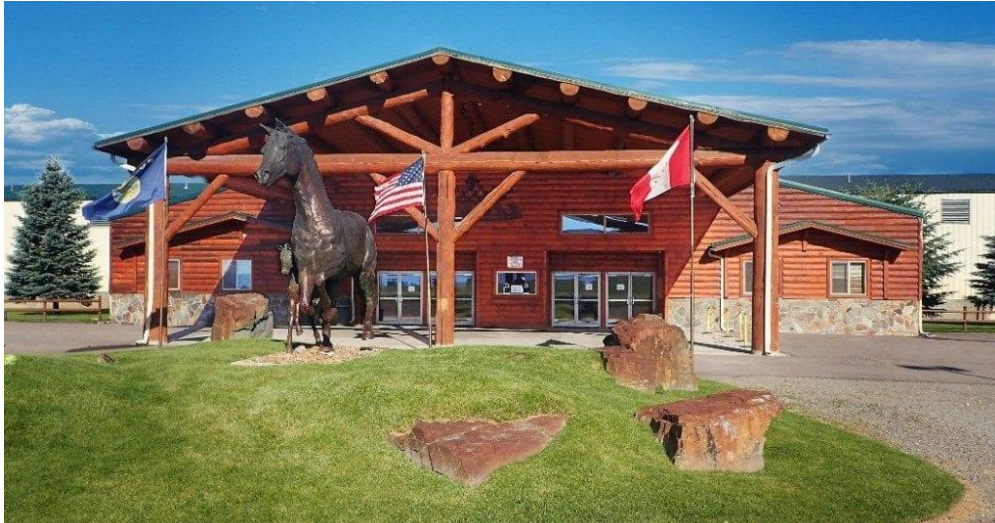
...

- 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:

KALISPELL OR BUST!

See you at the `Convention April 14-16!

2023 Membership dues:

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

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

2023 – WORK PROJECT/ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

(Current as of March 22, 2023, but subject to change due to weather, road or trail conditions. Please check the website, FB page, project leader for latest information).

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. SEE BELOW!

April 29 (Sat) Island Lake Trail clearing – E Fishtail Cr

May 6 (Sat) Meyer’s Cr Trail Clearing/Gravel - 2 crews needed, gravel and clearing to Deer Cr

May 13 (Sat) – make up date for inclement weather

May 20 (Sat). Face of the Mountain Trail Clearing – from Robertson Draw (post packing)

May 27-29 (Sat-Mon) Labor Day Weekend West Fork Stillwater – From Castle Cr

June 3 (Sat) open/make up date for inclement weather

June 10 (Sat) Ernie Strum Ride or Finish E Fishtail or W

June 17 (Sat) Bad Canyon/Trout Cr (overnight available)

June 24 (Sat) (Fishtail Days) make up date for inclement weather

July 6 – July 11. ABW Pack Support. 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 8-9; gear, food and tools.

July 22-23 Sat-Sun Crazy Mountain clearing. Half Moon Campground to Twin Lakes **Aug 5**

(Sat) Line Lake packout -needs recon

August 18-20 (Fri-Sun), Meyer’s Creek. Summer Rendezvous and Campout. Details forthcoming. General meeting Saturday, Aug 19

Sept 9 or 16 (Sat) Stillwater ride? Put up trailhead sign, if open.

OTHER

May 14 (Sun) Mother’s Day and June 18 (Sun) Father’s Day

June 23 Fishtail Days

July 4 (Tue). Red Lodge Independence Day Celebration

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

****Please note any unauthorized trail clearings are not covered under Forest Service insurance****

2023 – SPRING CLINIC

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!

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

Learn the basics of packing, how to manly, 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 PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

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.

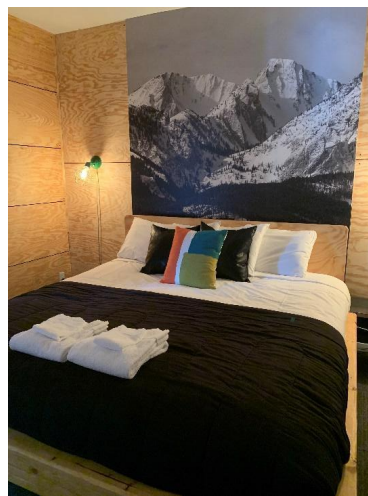
If you want to stay in your trailer you are welcome to at no cost.

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:

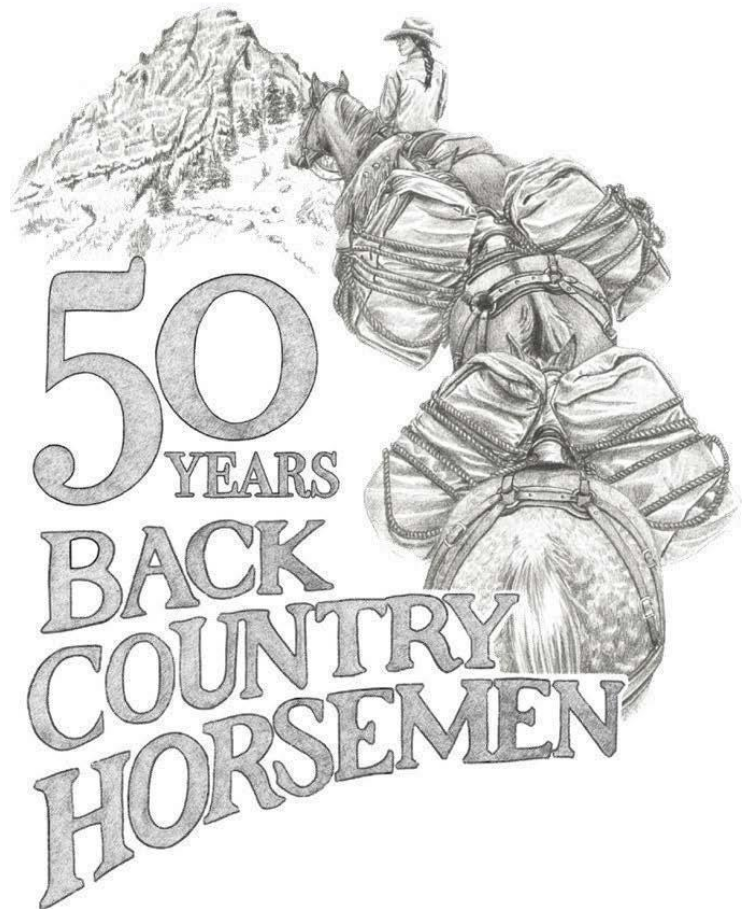
- Seminars regarding stock use and wild country
- Dinner and entertainment
- Vendor booths
- Food trucks
- 50th Anniversary keepsakes including belt buckles
- Raffle items to win/ live auction/ silent auction

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 BCHMT'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/](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 –MARCH 2, 2023– BBCH BOARD MEETING

In attendance: Melissa Codner, John Jenkins, Bob Knutson, Laura O'Connor, Randy Thomsen, VIA Zoom; Sean Chepulis, Dave Heinle, Keith Brighton, and John Chepulis.

Meeting called to order at 7:23 pm

Bob Knutson moved to approve the February minutes, John Jenkins second. Motion passed.

Presidents Report – Recap of the general meeting, tack swap idea was well received by all. Trying to get a meeting with Allie Wood (USFS) on the 17th to discuss this year's plans. Discussion on pack clinics available to everyone. Wrote a letter to our representatives with our concerns over HB 261. It did fail in both the house and senate.

Vice Presidents Report – nothing at this time.

Treasurer's Report – She will go to the bank and get the names straightened out on the account. Will get the license plate renewal taken care of. Membership list sent to the state. Will pay the Columbus Fire Hall for rental.

Education – Request from members to have a presentation on the pack gear people use and why we chose it. What works and what doesn't. Laura O'Connor will speak with Stovall (Brand Inspector) about presenting at the March general meeting. Patrick Cross from the ABW will be contacted to see if the May meeting will work for him to come speak about the ABW. May would work best for the FWP to speak about the Buffalo Fk fish project. Brian Giordano and Ben Bailey. Talk about having a general meeting in June at Itch – Kep – Pe Park in Columbus. Discussion about the clinic at Clyde Park. Doing a couple small groups led by a member to go over different components of packing. Discussion about amenities available at Hardscrabble Ranch.

John Jenkins moved to send 2 people, 1 per family, to a pack clinic with a maximum of \$750 each. The applicant will be responsible to pay the down payment. The club will reimburse the member upon completion of the clinic. Dave Heinle second. Motion passed.

Dave Heinle moved to hold a pack clinic April 21 – 23 at The Hardscrabble Ranch and BBCH will provide 2 evening meals, 1 on Friday night and 1 on Saturday night and a continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. John Jenkins second. Motion passed.

RSVP by April 15th to determine the amount of money needed to provide meals.

Communication – Robin and Melissa have been posting on Facebook. Jessi has been keeping the website updated. Email list has been updated. Newsletter is going very well.

Activities – Checked into having a tack swap at The Little Metra in Columbus. The cost is \$150 and insurance is required at a cost of \$100. Laray Salazar is willing to organize. Discussion around when to hold it. Meyers Ck cabin has been reserved for August 18th – 20th for our rendezvous. Poker Run tabled. We will get out a schedule for the trail clearing and pack projects later this month. ABW will need our help on only 1 pack project this summer. Meat Rack project July 6th – 11th. The FWP has sent a check to the BCHMT for reimbursement for mileage from last year's help. The check has been sent to us and deposited. It was for approximately \$400.

New Business – Volunteer hours will be collected by Dave Heinle and Melissa Codner for this year. Each project will have a leader who will be in charge of the paperwork for that project. John Chepulis spoke about grants that are available to us this year for trail projects. There will be a webinar coming up to help with the application process. Discussion about helping members of our local communities. Dave Heinle spoke about the Crazy Mountain 100 race. It has been asked if the club would help clear some of the trail in preparation for the race on July 28th – 29th. Will look to see if it will be possible to add into our schedule this summer. Booth registration has been sent in for the state convention. We need to get a list of delegates sent in also.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:56pm

IT'S MELTING!

How do I know it's almost spring?

I'm covered in horse hair from the waist up and mud from the waist down.



someecards user card

EQUISEARCH



TRAIL OF THE MONTH




PC: Robin Morris

Roberts, Montana

Where are you riding? Feel free to email us your favorite trails and 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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Absaroka Tennessee Walking Horses & Gaited Mules

Dan & 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



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 Arkansas Mtn Man, 15 hand Black, \$500
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