

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

May 2023



Hello Friends!

After 2 canceled events this spring, we started our season with a bang! I think I counted 14 trailers in the parking lot at Meyers Creek this past weekend for our double header! We really looked like a horse farm to some! We got some work done, met some great people, and figured out how fresh our mounts were. We will need to

schedule more gravel moving days so look forward to that conversation at the next meeting. If you don't have a horse and can work a shovel or just want to go on the beautiful ride, I encourage you to join us. We are changing the way we record how the many volunteer hours, miles, and data is collected. We are going to move to a form you can fill out from your phone that will go directly to the right person. This will prevent the last-minute mileage calculations at the end of the year. We provide all this data to the State and National organizations, and it really helps us communicate to the public how valuable a volunteer group we really are, but we all already know that! See you on the next ride!

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, Secretar
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:

**May 15, 2023
Potluck @ 6:30 pm
Meeting @ 7:00 pm**

**Columbus Fire Station
944 E Pike
Columbus, MT**

Education Program: Fish and Game

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

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

May 27-29 (Sat-Mon) Memorial 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 – ANNUAL RENDEZVOUS

Montana BCH Annual Rendezvous June, 23-25, 2023 Monture Ranger Station



~ Rendezvous ~
*To Gather, to Meet Up,
to Reconnect with Old Friends
and to Meet Some New Ones.*

Join us for the Annual Rendezvous of the Back Country Horsemen of Montana at the Monture Guard Station. Bring your horse, mule, family and friends. Ride the trails, share a meal, learn some new things, visit around the campfire and camp over for the weekend.



Tentative Schedule

Thursday: Arrive and Ride on your own

Friday: Ride the trails on your own

2-5 pm Wade Murphy's Horseback clinic

*Limited to 12 riders Friday,
Contact Wade to reserve your space.*

406-431-1717

wadeandlonnie@hotmail.com

No-Host Campfire Gathering

Saturday: Morning on your own

2-4 pm Wade's Groundwork Clinic

4:30 pm - Light On The Land -

Awareness Course by Mack Long

6 pm - Group BBQ & Stories at Campfire

Sunday: Go for a Ride then head home.

Free Camping and Clinics

with

\$10 Catered BBQ- Sat. 6pm

Must purchase by June 17, 2023

Send check for dinner to:

BCHMT Monture Rendezvous

2130 9th St. W. #9

Columbia Falls, MT 59912

More Info. Mission Valley BCH

Scott Kiser-406-260-8398

Mark Potter-406-250-3965



Watch for more details as we get closer to Rendezvous!!!

2023 – YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

2023 YOUTH SUMMER PACKING CAMP

**THURS AUG 10- SUN AUG 13
INDIAN MEADOWS, MT**



SPEND YOUR SUMMER WITH THE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN IN THE SCAPEGOAT WILDERNESS

- A REAL MONTANA ADVENTURE
- HANDS-ON CLINICS BY EXPERT PACKERS
- IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE USFS
- TENT CAMPING
- FIRESIDE CHATS
- TRAIL RESTORATION & TOOL SAFETY EDUCATION
- SWIMMING
- FISHING
- STARRY NIGHTS
- MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME
- OPEN TO AGES 14-17



FOR FULL DETAILS AND TO APPLY, VISIT
bchmt.org/wp/flathead/bchmt-youth-program/



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.



MINUTES –APRIL 6, 2023– BBCH BOARD MEETING

In attendance: Melissa Codner, Sean Chepulis, Bob Knutson, Dave Heinle, Laura O'Connor, Randy Thomsen.

Meeting called to order at 7:25 pm.

Bob Knutson moved to approve the March minutes with changes, Dave Heinle second. Motion passed.

Presidents Report – Spoke with Allie (USFS) she gave us clarification on unauthorized trail clearing. We would not be covered under the agreement or workers compensation in the event of an accident. If we do some clearing on a trail ride we need to keep track of trees cut and mileage. The club will reimburse people who clear trails. There was discussion about club members that take on a “pet project”. The club will reimburse them for mileage and stock use as long as we are aware of the project. Discussion about the Big Timber Canyon clearing Porcupine trail to Cradle Cabin. Forest Lake would be a better location to clear.

Vice Presidents Report – Nothing at this time.

Treasurer Report - Included report, all info for the license plates has been sent and received by the state. Fire hall has been paid \$150 for use of the meeting hall. Proposed budget included and reviewed. Still need to contact the bank to update the signature card.

Dave Heinle moved to approve the budget. Bob Knutson second. Motion passed.

Education – Talked about schedule for Clyde Park. Friday is arrival day any time. Saturday and Sunday will be filled with small groups of people and a leader for each. Basic horsemanship and packing will be presented by a member. The presenters will switch groups each day to provide their own method on packing to give the group different options on packing. Dave Heinle will pick up the food for the weekend. The club will pay for dinner on Friday and Saturday evening and a continental style breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. We will need to send an updated Defensive Horsemanship list to Allie for this year. Laura will check in with the livestock inspector (Stoval) to see about an upcoming meeting.

Communications – Larry Salazar emailed about getting the tack swap going. He would like to know a date we would like to have it on so he can start the process. Melissa will talk with Larry. Discussion about a Poker Ride. Tabled at this time. Discussion about the upcoming Meyers Ck gravel and trail clearing on May 6th. We would like to have 2 groups of people, 1 delivering the gravel up Meyers Ck, and the 2nd riding over Lodgepole to clear the lower Deer Ck trail to the cabin. This will depend on how many members commit to this project. Melissa will pick up the gravel bags from Allie (USFS)

Issues – Nothing at this time.

New Business – Absarokee Community Foundation has announced they have money available for projects in the area. Laura and Melissa will apply for a \$500 grant to help with projects in the area. Discussion about a parking lot at the Ernie Strum trailhead. Northwest Energy had offered to allow a parking lot to be built on their powerline land. Dave Heinle will contact them to see if this is still an option. If it is, we will work on getting a grant from Absarokee Community Foundation to help pay for the cost of construction of said lot. This would become a multi-year project.

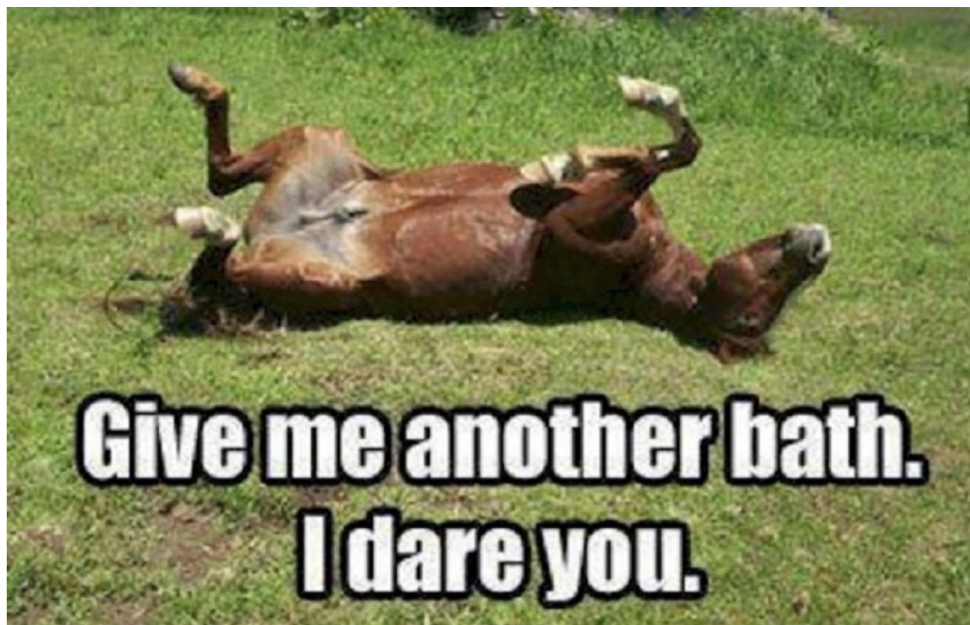
Reminder that trail project leaders are responsible to get signatures and mileage for the projects that they are leading. Turn in the hours and mileage to Dave Heinle. He will be the contact for this.

Discussion about State Convention and delegates. Talked about the resolution that will be voted on at the convention.

Audit will take place in May.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:38 pm

SPRING IS HERE



LOST & FOUND



DOES THIS LOOK FAMILIAR?

If you or someone you know misplaced a laptop near the chapter displays following the Convention, please contact Greg at 406-261-5450 or gregschatzbuilder@gmail.com.

TRAIL OF THE MONTH



Meyers Creek

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

INDIAN ROCK WILD GAME PROCESSING
 AND VACATION RENTAL

DAN AND KRIS KELLOGG

77A ARENA DRIVE
 ABSAROKEE, MT 59001

715-853-6665 DAN
 715-853-1008 KRIS



EXPERIENCED MEAT PROCESSING AND SAUSAGE MAKING
 ONE ANIMAL AT A TIME

TIRE WORLD

TIRES, BRAKES, AND MORE

John Chepulis
 Bozeman, MT 59715

Mile West of 4 Corners & 715 E Mendenhall St
 (406)586-0488 & (406) 556-0488

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



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

