

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen

Trail Tales

President's Pen

August 2023

Hello Friends!

I'm not going to say it, Summer is ~~almost~~ not over. It's been a crazy busy summer, I feel like I did so much but still have a "bucket list" of things that I haven't checked off. One Sunday I envisioned a relaxing day in the mountains fishing, it was going to be great. The list of things that went array are too long but on that list is a bobber eating dog, a bull moose, and an unexpected downpour. It was definitely a memorable ride of the summer!

The work projects have been well attended. Every single crew has done such a great job and we have been loving getting out and exploring and showing new members the trails! I do think some slickers are on the shopping list for this year's gift exchange. I can't believe the amount of rain that the valley has gotten and the amount of times my saddle has gotten soaked! It was a great sunny day for the Absarokee Days Parade! 5 of us rode in it and made an appearance! It was a little intense at times but we made it!

A celebration that gets bigger every year is the end of year camp out! Please attend for good food, great conversations, and participate in the competitions or be entertained by them! It's a great time and we will have our August meeting Saturday night. Please let me know by Wednesday if you are attending so I can get enough food for everyone. More on that further down in the newsletter.

See you soon.

Melissa

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:

August 19, 2023

Meyers Creek

2023 Membership dues:

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

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

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

2023 – WORK PROJECT/ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

August 14-17, Game and Fish Pack In & Out - 6 or 7 Fish & Game employees will be hiking into Buffalo Fork on Monday, August 14th and likely coming out Thursday, 17th. It would be mostly just everyone's camping gear, food, and one flow meter. F&G would be going in from the Boulder side and their crew would likely camp near the Buffalo Creek/East Fork Buffalo Creek confluence. We do have access to a cabin 3 miles further up the trail than where they would be working. This is a 10 mile pack in/out. The contact on this project is John Jenkins - john.k.jenkins@gmx.us

August 18-20 (Fri-Sun), Meyer's Creek. Summer Rendezvous and Campout. Arrive anytime on Friday, come early to ride or just the campfire! Saturday will be a ride, pack competition, crosscut competition, supper and short general meeting (or backcountry tales). I am looking for someone to organize the Cross Cut competition. There are 2 rooms available at the cabin, I would suggest bringing your own bedding if you choose to stay inside. The club will provide the evening meal on Saturday. The cabin does have a stove.

Here's more information about the cabin, including directions -

<https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/234314?tab=info>

Please RSVP to me by the 16th so I can get enough food and supplies.

General meeting Saturday, Aug 19

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

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

AUGUST 18-20, 2023 – MEYERS CREEK SUMMER RENDEZVOUS AND CAMPOUT

Location: Meyers Creek Campground
Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Show up anytime on Friday. Plan to camp out or stay in the cabin.
Saturday will be a ride, pack competition, crosscut competition, supper and short general meeting (or backcountry tales). I am looking for someone to organize the Cross Cut competition. There are 2 rooms available at the cabin, I would suggest bringing your own bedding if you choose to stay inside. The club will provide the evening meal on Saturday. The cabin does have a stove.

Here's more information about the cabin, including directions -

<https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/234314?tab=info>

Please RSVP to me by the 16th so I can get enough food and supplies.

General meeting Saturday, Aug 19



COOL TO BE A COWBOY

Is it just me, or has it really and truly become cool to be a cowboy?

I'm guessing the recent surge of Western TV series and cinema dramas has given new life a fresh perspective to our worn-out wranglers, hats and long-sleeved shirts. We, who sport dirt, are elevated in the fashion world. I suppose there are good things and bad things that come with popularity. It's wonderful that I can walk into a mainstream store and find clothing that's useful and attractive and denim that has more than one wash. But, as with everything these days, the price tags are higher, and I can't help but chuckle at the misinterpretation of our staple items.

Number one — jeans. Mainly, jeans with holes. I know, I know, it's the oldest thing in the book for folks to scoff at. I've heard it for decades. "You paid how much for those pants full of holes? Heck, I've got ones like that I'd just give you!" But understand, if you're trying to be cowboy, it's pretty silly to buy weary pants. For the most part, when we dress up, we try to find jeans without distressing, weird, aged washes or holes. When we work, it's sort of the same thing. Holes in our pants mean exposure, which equals sunburn, dirt in poor places and potential for fire ants. (For those of you lucky enough to avoid them, please know that fire ants are awful). Plus, if you're anything like me, when your pants usually give to overuse, it's almost always in an embarrassing place.

Number two — our shirts. I see cowboy shirts with short sleeves, fringe sleeves and no sleeves. I'm not opposed to short sleeves, or even fringe, but it's important to understand that long sleeved, collared button-up shirts are that way for a reason. If you have ever had a lead rope draped over your arm, and the horse goes to leave, you know that a short-sleeve shirt equals instant rope burn. And just like pants with holes, exposure equals problems. You open your world to potential for sunburn, hay scratches, bug bites, bee stings, mesquite thorns and silly tan lines. Most people look at me in a long-sleeved button-up shirt in Texas in July and think, "Boy, she must be hot!" But my summer shirts are made of light material, and they keep the sun off my arms. The collar keeps my neck protected from the elements too.

Number three — the hat. I can't stress enough how important it is to us outside workers to cover up our head and face. I cringe when I see men and women outside with nothing on their heads. Why age faster than we have to? Hats are a very individual thing, and I promise I won't say much about the shape or style of what you wear, just as long as you have something on your head. Ballcap. Cowboy hat. Felt. Straw. Palm Leaf. Bonnet. Something! Preserve that lovely skin and stop squinting. Being a cowboy is an outside gig — act accordingly.

Boots are similar to hats. They are very individual and can be worn in many different ways with many different styles. Often, you get what you pay for. Just be sure that you turn them upside down and stomp the toes before you slip your feet into them for the day. My boots have been home to toads, mice, crickets and black widows at different times, often just from sitting overnight. I'm not a shotgun (boots on the outside of pants) kind of gal, but kudos to you if that's the route you take.

Leggins protect our legs from lots of things, but something has to give in the summertime heat. Those can hang in my tack room until fall, unless I really need them for catching a breaker by a hind foot.

Scarves are also treated seasonally for me, but extra bonus points if you can wear them year round. They

are super stylish, add a pop of personality to our otherwise dusty outfits and can do about 100 different things in one day, including: protect our neck from the sun, keep us warm, highlight our eye color, keep us cool, tie a gate shut, lead a horse, sub for a belt and more.

Overall, I applaud the fact that our style is mainstream. It's been great for selection, and to be honest, great for business. We now have a fabulous and diverse array of clothes and boots to pick from, and it's fun to see people from all walks of life celebrate the lifestyle that feeds our families.

But don't blame me if your knees end up covered in fire ant bites.

Western Horsemen

August 2, 2023

<https://westernhorseman.com/horsemanship/neu-perspectives/cool-to-be-cowboy/>

GEAR TIPS

Roll With It: Tips to Load a Bedroll

BY **JENNIFER DENISON**

MAY 11, 2021 - **ISSUE MAY 2019**

Use these savvy tips to efficiently load your bedroll for your next adventure.

A bedroll is an essential piece of equipment for a cowboy, whether he's going out on the wagon for branding, riding into the backcountry on a pack trip, bunking at a cow camp or traveling to a ranch rodeo. It's not only where he sleeps, but also a suitcase to store his clothes, gear and other personal belongings.

Shane Riley of Oreana, Idaho, received his first bedroll from his father, Dawson, when he was about 13 years old. He wore it out working on ranches in Nevada, Idaho, Oregon and California, and it burned in a shop fire. In 2014, Riley suffered an ankle injury that kept him from doing ranch work for a while. One evening, he asked his wife, Amy, to help him make a bedroll similar to one his father had given him. They made their first bedroll on their kitchen table and ended up selling it within minutes on social media. Soon after, they started J Bar D Canvas and Leather. The couple makes bedroll covers, range tepees, gear bags and other canvas items in a shop beside their home.

J Bar D bedroll covers are made from heavy 15-ounce waterproof canvas, or tarpaulin, with 6-foot harness leather straps, brass hardware, and spring snaps and D rings to fold up and secure the sides together. They come in five sizes: 15 by 6 feet 15 by 7 feet, 18 by 6 feet, 18 by 7 feet and an 8-by-5-foot kids' size. Here, Riley shows how he packs and rolls, or as he calls it, "loads," his bedroll.

1. Make the bed.

Riley starts by spreading out a waterproof canvas bedroll cover on the ground and layers the “soungans,” as old-time cowboys called blankets and other comforts. He starts by centering a 4-inch egg-crate foam mattress between the long sides and below the weather flap at the top, which he can pull over his head if it gets cold or rainy.

“Some cowboys use memory foam mattresses, and they’re comfortable in warm weather, but are hard as a rock in the cold,” says Riley. Next, he makes his bed with a full set of flannel or cotton sheets, depending on the weather. He tops the sheets with a wool blanket and/or quilt, and places a pillow at the top. Some cowboys bring spare wool saddle blankets and use them as blankets until they’re needed for a horse. To keep the pillow clean, he places it under the blankets and quilt. Sometimes he uses his cowboy war bag (a sack of personal belongings) as a pillow.

“When I was packing into the Sierra Nevada, I didn’t have a pillow,” he recalls. “I’d take my clothes for the next day and use them as a pillow and they’d be warm the next morning.” He finishes making the bed by tucking the bedding tightly and neatly under the mattress.

2. Fold it up.

Fold the bottom of the bed tarp over the bedding, smooth it out and tightly tuck in the sides, folding the corners under the mattress at 45-degree angles so they roll neatly. Pull the weather flap over the top.



The bedroll with the tarp folded over it and tucked in on the sides. Photo by Jennifer Denison.

3. Add the extras.

Before snapping the sides of the tarp together, Riley adds his clothing, gear and other belongings, keeping the items as flat as possible. When Riley rolls the bedroll he'll get three to four rolls. Starting at the bottom half of the bedroll, he places his clothes, chinks and anything else that can be rolled tightly lengthwise without damage.

He spaces his quirt and bridles horizontally so they lay neatly and securely in the folds when he rolls up the bedroll. Toward the top of the bedroll he places his reata, hackamores, war bag (if it's not already tucked in as a pillow) and items that need more space since the last roll is the largest. Then he snaps the sides together.



Gear and clothing laid inside the bedroll. Photo by Jennifer Denison.

4. Roll it up.

Starting at the bottom, Riley rolls up the bedroll as tightly as possible. Once he reaches the top of the bedroll he can easily buckle the straps.

“The reason our bedrolls roll up from the bottom is because they have straps attached at the head end so you can throw the straps over the bumper of a pickup or a fence to use the bedroll as a shelter in a storm,” says Amy. “We adopted this from the Australian bedroll called a ‘swag.’”

Old-time cowboys used to secure their bedrolls with two extra latigos they kept on hand or old pieces of lariat, Riley explains. With everything rolled up neatly and protected, Riley is ready to head out on the wagon this spring.



Photo by Jennifer Denison.

This article was originally published in the May 2019 issue of Western Horseman.

<https://westernhorseman.com/category/horsemanship/gear/>

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 ABSAROKEE DAYS PARADE



BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001



MINUTES JUNE 1, 2023 – BBCH BOARD MEETING

In attendance: Melissa Codner, Dave Heinle, Keith Brighton, Laura O'Connor, Randy Thomsen, and John Chepulis

Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm

President's Report – The group clearing the West Fork of the Stillwater trail didn't make it to Breakneck Meadows. Have coordinates as to how far they made it. They cut out 66 trees. Robin has made it to within 4 miles and cut out 11 trees prior to the main group going in. Discussion about the 4H presentation in Red Lodge. Melissa and Randy will go. They will take the trailer.

Vice Presidents Report – nothing at this time.

Treasurer's Report – Report Attached.

Keith Brighton moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Dave Heinle second. Motion passed

Business – Discussion about using grants to fund the connection between Ernie Strum trail and Island Lake. We will need to GPS track the old trail and send it to USFS. Northwest Energy had talked about letting us use their right of way to place a parking lot at the start of the Ernie Strum trail. The county has

said they will not push the Lazy EL ranch about a gate to bypass the cattle guard on West Rosebud Rd. Talked about applying for a Double Diamond Award if we connect the two trails. We could have a fun ride to map out the old trail.

Discussion about unauthorized trail clearings. Notification must be done. Announce to the rest of the club members. More than 1 person on trail for safety reasons. Club will not pay reimbursement for mileage. If an event hasn't been sanctioned by the club all checks will need Board approval. JSAs must be completed for every project. Mileage, odometer, trees cut, etc.

Dave Heinle motioned- A club member who is organizing a trail project not on the approved schedule must report to the active Board 48 hours in advance, Email the club members 12 hours in advance of the project. There must be at the very least 2 people going, JSA and FSA along with signing the Forest Service Agreement must be completed before commencing the project. Keith Brighton second. Laura O'Connor made a motion to amend the motion to state a member in good standing. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed

Discussion about make up dates. Meyers Ck needs more gravel installed. Will need more pack animals to complete. Possibility of moving the trail back to the original location to bypass the boggy spot. Pack clinic makeup. Could do an impromptu clinic on Saturday of the rendezvous and move the competition to Sunday.

No general meeting in June. No Board meeting in July due to projects going on at the time. General meeting on July 17th the guest speaker was a Brand Inspector and was held in Itch-Kep-Pe park in Columbus.

Keith talked about the 2 mules the USFS is donating to a non- profit.

Sarah Lewis will be the organizer for the parades. Fishtail Days on the 24th and Absarokee Days on July 29th.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:51 pm.

WE APPRECIATE YOU!

THANK YOU

Sarah & BJ Lewis
{Parade Organizers}

Randy & Nancy Thomsen
{Representation at Nye Goes Nuts}

Levi Stovall
Brand Inspector

Everyone that has cleared trail this summer!

JUST FOR FUN...



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
gbtelemark@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

