

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

November 2023

2023 isn't over yet! This month we turned in our volunteer hours report to the Forest Service and this data will move through the channels all the way to the national level. The work that we do, on our local trails makes a huge impact as a national organization to preserve our public land trails. As a group we contributed a very high value and everyone deserves a pat on the back. It takes a village and even if you haven't thrown a leg over, you are still valuable to this organization. With that being said, elections are coming up and it's a perfect time to volunteer a bit of your time to help guide this chapter in the upcoming calendar year. Other volunteer options are explained in the newsletter as well.

SAVE the date for December 18th, it's our Christmas party! It's going to be a blast but you **MUST** RSVP! More details included.

See you at the next general meeting.

Melissa

BBCH DIRECTORS

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Melissa Codner, President
308-390-0465
Dave Heinle, Vice President
406-321-4326
Laura O'Connor, Treasurer
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Randy Thomsen, Secretary
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STATE DIRECTORS

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John Jenkins, Jr. Director
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Melissa Codner, Alternate
308-390-0465
Keith Brighton, Alternate
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NATIONAL DIRECTOR

...

John Chepulis
406-322-4823

Next Meeting:



Monday, November 20 at 6:30 pm
Columbus Fire Hall
Guest Speaker: TBD

2023 Membership dues:

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

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

2023 REPORTS

Please zoom in for easier reading or follow the links to view each file as an attachment.

 [2023 Work Hours.pdf](#)

 [2023 Summary.pdf](#)

Backcountry Horsemen of America					
Volunteer Hours Report					
January/1/2023-December/31/2023					
		P1 Totals	Rate per hour/mile/day	Total Value	
Total Basic Hours		243	\$31.80	\$7,727.40	Calculated per hour
Total Skilled Hours		370	\$47.70	\$17,649.00	Calculated per hour
Total Trail Recon Hours		59	\$31.80	\$1,860.30	Calculated per hour
Total LNT - Education		39	\$31.80	\$1,240.20	Calculated per hour
Total Public Meetings		12	\$31.80	\$381.60	Calculated per hour
Total Administrative Service		74	\$31.80	\$2,353.20	Calculated per hour
Total Travel Time		243	\$31.80	\$7,740.12	Calculated per hour
Total Hours		1040			
Wilderness Trail Miles		1			
Other Trail Miles		8			
Total Trail Miles		8			
		1			
		9			
Personal Vehicle		710	\$0.62	\$440.20	Calculated per mile
Stock Hauling		6169	\$1.35	\$8,328.15	Calculated per mile
Total Travel Miles		6879			
Power Equipment		0	\$30.00	\$0.00	Calculated per hour
Heavy Equipment		0	\$110.00	\$0.00	Calculated per hour
Total Equipment Hours		0			
Total Stock (Pack and Saddle)		97			
Total Stock Days		140	\$100.00	\$14,000.00	Calculated per day
Total Donations		\$0.00		\$0.00	
			Total	\$61,720.17	

Beartooth Back County Horsemen																	
Volunteer Hours Report																	
State/Chapter Summary or Project Name	Volunteer Work									Transportation			Equipment Hours		Horses & Mules		Donations
	Trail Work Hours			Trail Miles		Education	Public	Admin	Travel	Personal	Stock	Power Heavy		Quantity Stock		Dollar	
	Basic	Skilled	Recon	Wilderness	Other	& LNT	Meetings	Service	Time	POV Miles	Haul Miles	Equip	Equip	Stock	Days	Amount	
Project 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$	
Myers Creek & Lodgepole	32	48	56	0	0.25	0	0	2	47.9	334	1395	0	0	24	24	-	
Island Lake	11	32	2.5	0	30.75	0	0	0	15	0	469	0	0	8	8	\$	
Robinson Draw	30	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	17	0	352	0	0	6	6	-	
Initial Creek	124	96	0	18	7	0	0	0	45.5	0	1050	0	0	17	41	\$	
Meat Rack Creek/ ABWA																-	
Ernie Strum Trail	0	30	0	0	10	0	0	0	15	0	542	0	0	8	8	0	
Trout Creek & Bad Canyon	14	13			12.5				22		430			11	11	\$	
Fish Project – Hellroaring	0	100	0	0	0	0	2	1	42	0	1395	0	0	12	24	-	
Absarokee Days / Fishtail Parade	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	3	4	4	0	0	4	4	\$	
Nye go's Nuts	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	
Deer Creek – Jim Gulch – Lodgepole	32	51	0	0	15	0	0	0	18	0	450	0	0	7	14	\$	
4-H Pack Demo @ Red Lodge						9			6		82					-	
Newsletter-Edu-Admin-Pub Meeting							10	71	9		372					\$	
	Volunteer Work									Transportation			Equipment Hours		Horses & Mules		Donations
	Trail Work Hours			Trail Miles		Education	Public	Admin	Travel	Personal	Stock	Power Heavy		Quant Stock		Dollar	
	Basic	Skilled	Recon	Wilderness	Other	& LNT	Meetings	Service	Time	POV Miles	Haul Miles	Hours	Hours	Stock	Days	Amount	
Totals	243	370	58.5	18	80.5	39	12	74	243.4	710	6169	0	0	97	140	\$	

ELECTIONS

ELECTION TIME IS HERE!

We are gearing up to elect new board members for the 2024 year.

No experience is needed, only enthusiasm!

Elections will be held at our next general meeting being held at 6:30 pm on November 20th.

Don't think you are quite cut out to be on a board? Start out with a committee! We are looking for committee members to help guide the board through activities, work projects, education, etc.

We will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting!

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

PARTY TIME!



PC: [The Grooms List](#)

Christmas Party Information!

We are having our Christmas party on December 18th with supper starting promptly at 6:30. We are having this meal catered by R Heart Catering so please **RSVP no later than December 11th** by clicking on this [link](#), emailing Melissa at codner.melissa@gmail.com, or calling/texting her at 308-390-0465.

Photos for the end-of-year slideshow! Please send any photos you have of the work projects to Dave Heinle via brokenfiddleranch@gmail.com or text 406-321-4326 with them by December 1st!

We will also be having a gift exchange again this year. The limit is \$35 per gift. Please bring them wrapped. Half the entertainment is seeing who switches for the best gift!

BLM NOMINATIONS

The BLM is seeking nominations to the Western Montana and Missouri Basin Resource Advisory Councils. Please see the following news release. Let me know if you have anyone in your Chapters who may be interested in being on the Resource Advisory Council. I believe they meet in Billings.

Nominations have to be in prior to Nov 24th.

Thanks,

John Chepulis

Rocky Mtn Public Lands

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001



News Release

[BLM Montana-Dakotas State Office](#)

Media Contact: Alyse Sharpe, asharpe@blm.gov

October 27, 2023

BLM Seeks Nominations to the Western Montana and Missouri Basin Resource Advisory Councils

The Bureau of Land Management is seeking public nominations for positions on the Western Montana and Missouri Basin Resource Advisory Councils (RAC). These citizen-based councils assist in the development of recommendations that address public land management issues within Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The BLM maintains RACs chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the Federal Policy and Land Management Act across the West. Each RAC consists of 10- to 15-members from diverse interests in local communities, and they assist in the development of recommendations that address public land management issues.

“Resource Advisory Councils provide the BLM with vital feedback on current issues, concerns, and proposals, and enable us to engage local communities and stakeholders to improve our management of public lands,” said BLM Associate State Director Scott Haight. “Our goal is to ensure that the membership of every RAC encompasses a wide variety of perspectives and backgrounds to guide our work as effectively as possible.”

The BLM maintains RACs as a means of gaining expert advice, ideas, and diverse opinions on issues including land use planning, environmental issues, fire management, off-highway vehicle use, recreation, oil and gas exploration, noxious weed management, grazing issues, and wild horse and burro herd management issues. The RACs support the Bureau’s commitment to enhance the quality of life for all citizens through the balanced stewardship of America’s public lands and resources.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others to serve on the RAC. Nominees, who must be residents of the state where the RAC has jurisdiction, will be reviewed based on their training, education, and knowledge of the RAC’s geographic area. Nominees should also demonstrate a commitment to consensus building and collaborative decision-making. Letters of reference should accompany all nominations from any represented interests or organizations, a completed RAC application, and any other information that speaks to the nominee’s qualifications.

The RAC is seeking nominations for the following categories:

- Category One – Representatives of organizations associated with energy/mineral development; Federal grazing permit holders; the timber industry; transportation or rights-of-way; off-highway vehicles users; and commercial and developed outdoor recreation.
- Category Two – Representatives of archeological and historic organizations; dispersed recreation users; wild horse and burro organizations; and nationally or regionally-recognized environmental organizations.
- Category Three – Representatives of State, county, or local elected office; Indian Tribes located within or adjacent to the area for which the RAC is organized; academicians employed in natural resource

management or natural sciences; employees of a state agency responsible for management of natural resources; and the public at large.

As published in a notice in the *Federal Register*, the BLM will accept nominations until November 24, 2023.

For more information or to apply to the Western Montana RAC, please contact David Abrams, dabrams@blm.gov or 406-533-7617.

For more information or to apply to the Missouri Basin RAC, please contact Mark Jacobsen, [mjacobson@blm.gov](mailto:mjacobsen@blm.gov), 406-233-2831; or Gina Baltrusch, rbaltrusch@blm.gov, 406-791-7778.

-BLM-

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, on behalf of the American people. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

WESTERN HORSEMAN - "SHOE FOR ROUGH GROUND"

BY JENNIFER ZEHNDER NOVEMBER 3, 2015

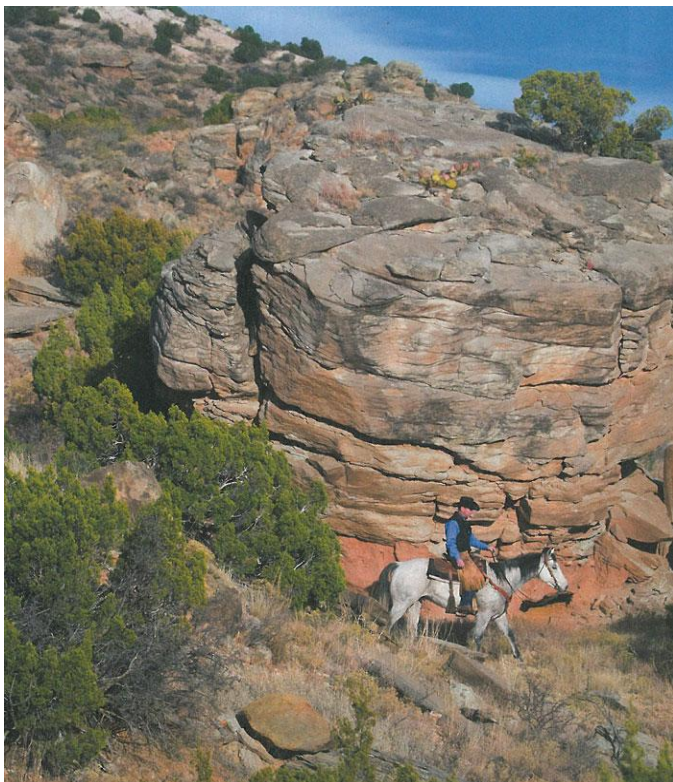


Photo by Ross Hecox

Shoeing strategies to help keep horses sound.

Horses that travel and work in rough country do best while wearing well-fitting shoes. At least that's a good place to start, say veteran farrier Ted Shanks and shoeing partner Antone Teves. With nearly 50 collective years of shoeing experience between them, Shanks and Teves have earned a reputation for producing sound horses and satisfies owners.

"You can keep a shoe on a horse and still end up with a lame horse," Shanks says. "Your focus needs to be how to keep that horse sound for the long run, not just for the next four to six weeks."

There are no tricks to shoeing horses for difficult terrain. The best you can do is to consider these horseshoeing tips before you and your horse head out for rough country.

These four tips will help ensure your horse remains steady and sound over rocky terrain.

SHOE CLIPS



Shanks prefers to make his own clips, opting for a thicker, quarter clip. Photo by Ted Shanks.

Unfortunately, says Shanks, clips received a bad rap from veterinarians back in the 1980s. At that time, not all farriers understood the science of applying the devices, and the technique remains a fear factor for most. Shanks and Teves prefer a handmade clip with a thicker base to the thin clips included on most factory shoes. Handmade clips “get in” the hoof to a small degree, rather than resting outside the hoof. The farriers burn, rather than hammer, clips into the hoof, and prefer to use quarter clips, which are located in the vicinity of the first and second nail holes on a hoof. This strategic setting keeps the shoe from being driven back.

GOOD NAILS



Back-punching is done from the hoof surface of a shoe to enlarge the nail holes. It is another method used to make sure nails seat properly.

It's not always technique, but rather the location of the nail holes in a shoe that determine whether a nail "seats" well, Shanks says: Not only is finding a shoe that fits important for soundness, but so is finding one that has nail holes that meet a horse's individual contours. A shoe with a nail hole close to the outside edge of the hoof is counter-productive for a horse with a low-angle hoof or steep hoof walls, Shanks says. When in doubt, farriers should build a shoe and punch their own holes for a truly custom fit.

PROPER FIT



To achieve a perfect fit, Shanks shoes with a lot of support in the heel and then fills the remaining space with Equilox, a hoof repair adhesive.

Ill-fitting shoes work against your horse in rough terrain, exposing him to shoe loss, hoof damage and lameness. Manufactured horseshoes are available in hundreds of styles, sizes and weights, and farriers can also forge their own should ready-made products fail to provide the proper fit. The key is to purchase or build shoes that remain well-fit weeks after the final nail has been clenched, Teves says. Beveling the rough edges on each shoe further reduces snags.

POUR-IN PADS



Today's new pour-in pads provide excellent sole protection without compromising traction.

Pads are the most common treatment for a tender- or sore-footed horse, and are also used to prevent soreness and injury. In rough country, however, traditional pads are not the wisest choice because they can make a horse slide more. Today's pour-in pads provide hassle-free, all-in-one protection for the hoof. Vettec's SoleGuard and Equi-Pak CS are Shanks' and Teves' top choices. A thin layer of Sole-Guard provides additional sole protection without compromising traction, while Equi-Pak CS, a softer material, offers cushioned protection with the added bonus of copper sulfate to deter bacteria growth. The latter product is also spongy enough to provide added traction in rocky conditions, Teves says. Both two-part mixtures are easily applied by anyone, anywhere.

[FULL ARTICLE - WESTERN HORSEMAN](#)

HORSE & RIDER - "FALL: THE BEST TRAIL RIDING SEASON"

September 14, 2022 [_TrailRider](#)

Fall Is The Best Time Of The Year To Enjoy Trail Rides. Horses Are Spirited On Trail Rides, Their Riders Energetic, The Trails More Inviting Than Ever. But Trail Riding During This Beautiful Season Of The Year Presents Some Challenges For The Trail Rider.



October in Montana: The summer heat has been put to sleep, the insects have been quelled by nightly frosts, and the woods are aflame with color. For those of us who take trail rides in the northern Rockies, fall means brilliant yellow aspens threading groves of dark spruce.

Creeks are clear and cold, and the air is freshened by a trace of bite. The warmth rising from your horse after climbing the grade is

now welcome. A down vest feels good. It's the best time of the year to enjoy trail rides.

Everything comes alive in the fall, as nature enjoys a shot of adrenalin, a final bloom, before the onset of winter. Horses are spirited on trail rides, their riders energetic, and the trails more inviting than ever.

In my area, there's an added bonus: trail use, by both riders and hikers, drops drastically after Labor Day. Indeed, I avoid one of my favorite trailheads, one that's both beautiful and heavily used, until September. Then, particularly midweek, I often have it to myself.

Thoughts of backcountry trips invoke memories of the scent of pine smoke curling from the woodstove of my wall tent, mingling with the aroma of campfire coffee while I watch my horses graze on their picket lines.

But this beautiful season of the year presents some challenges for the trail rider. Indeed, autumn seems to be the time in which many trail riders, ill-prepared, run into serious difficulties. Use these trail-riding tips to stay safe while enjoying the season.

Prepare for Weather

Far and away the most formidable challenge is to ride properly prepared for weather that may take a 180-degree turn. Fall weather is inherently fickle. Throw in the effects of high altitude, and it can go from balmy to dangerous in an hour's travel on a fast-walking horse.

You might embark on a fall ride in the warm sun. But within a few hours, especially if you gain altitude, you may quickly become wet from an icy drizzle, and even in an early snowfall. You may think your ride will be a short one. Then you find a trail closure that requires a long detour. Or, far worse, you or a companion, human or equine, gets sick or hurt.

Suddenly, everything has changed. You may be involved in a waiting game that will test your clothing and preparedness to the ultimate. Most outdoor survival situations occur relatively close to trailheads or other accouterments of civilization, and people who have been through them stress how quickly they can occur.

Cold rain can be dangerous since soaked skin at chilly temperatures can bring on hypothermia. A slicker alone won't do it; rain will find its way in, and something warm underneath is essential.



A slicker isn't always enough, so be prepared with multiple layers.

Among mountaineers and outdoor guides, two words say it all: *Cotton kills!* Yes, you sometimes see a cotton layer touted for wicking ability. Wrong, wrong, wrong. Cotton gets wet, stays wet, and loses all insulating capacity. Seasoned outdoor people who challenge difficult conditions get rid of it completely. If you're tackling high-altitude trails in autumn, consider underwear made from a silk/wool blend, layers of fleece, and, best of all, wool.

Down is wonderful when dry, but turns to mush when wet. When the drizzle starts, I stuff my down vest into a saddlebag and replace it with something that retains insulating properties.

Watch for Wildlife

Be aware, too, that wildlife activity kicks up during the fall. I think of this as a bonus, not a worry. During fall, moose, bears, and elk spend less time-fighting flies in the deep shadows, than they do during the heat of summer, and migratory birds are on the move.

Most animals are intent on feeding, acquiring that layer of fat that will nourish them during winter. Seeing them, camera in hand is a great thrill. But it's important to note that wild animals are just that wild. Very few pose any real danger, but stay out of their space.

A cow moose with a calf can be extremely protective, and you don't want to get between a bear and her cubs. If you ride in grizzly country, as I do, you learn to be particularly watchful.

None of this should intimidate or discourage you from riding in the year's most beautiful season. It's just that autumn is a transition season, and you must be prepared for instances when the transition occurs more suddenly than anticipated.

Consider Your Horse

Our horses, too, are in transition. If your summer season has been active, your horse is likely to be in fine condition, much better than he was on those first spring rides. Hooves tend to harden and slow in growth as winter approaches, and that's all to the good.

The year's first frost points toward greater attention to traction on the trail. I frequent trails that alternate from mud to gravel to terribly jagged granite ledges blasted out of the sides of cliffs. While I may be happy with rim shoes during midsummer, the possibility of such footing being overlaid with frost and snow nudges me toward shoes with toe and heel caulks during fall.

It's usually on a chilly morning in late September or early October, when clear sky promises balmy temperatures later in the day, that I notice something different about my black gelding as he stands by the gate waiting for a palm-full of oats. There's a new sheen to his coat, a velvet overlay, and I realize that his winter hair is coming.

The last thing the wise trail rider who lives in northern climates wants to do at this point is to put a protective blanket on that wonderful seasonal coat. Blanketing horses to prevent the growth of winter

hair is a show ring anomaly that has no place in managing the trail horse. He *needs* that hair. Why prevent its growth and then attempt to supply the same amount of insulation artificially, with a blanket?

And, if rugged trail duty lies ahead, I'm not quick to trim fetlock hair or to scalp my horse's ears with an electric clipper. Why trim away the horse's natural protection against cold, against trail abrasions, against that first crusted snow through which you'll ride?

Enjoy the Ride!

Okay, enough with the warnings, the cautions, the tips—let's enjoy. I head this late-September morning toward that favorite trailhead, the one I avoid during summer, knowing that on a Tuesday in the fall, I'll have it to myself.

The highway threads through Montana foothills bedecked with buck brush now turned scarlet, toward blue mountains capped on their very tops with new snow. I turn off the truck's air conditioner and open the driver's window.

The trailhead parking lot is nearly empty of vehicles, only a car or two, a pickup of Forest Service green, and the gooseneck trailer of an outfitter I know, who's probably guiding her hunter on a pack trip for moose. (For how to stay safe on the trails during hunting season, visit www.myhorse.com, and enter "hunter season safety guide" into the site's search engine.) They'll be far up the drainage, farther than I'll ride today.

I back Partner out of the two-horse trailer, curry him, and saddle up. I'm going alone, so I double-check my pommel packs for the usual necessities: a first-aid kit; extra food; water; map; compass; global positioning system; cell phone (turned off to save battery and sanity); and fire-making supplies. I wrap a wool vest in my rain jacket, roll them together, and tie them behind the cante.

Then, with a final check of my cinch, I'm up and we're off at a swift single-foot, Partner's rein chains jingling. We cruise past the trailhead signs and ascend the ledge trail along the frothy river, now somewhat tamed by the lower water level of the season.

Pretty little birds called water ouzels flit and dart above the emerald pools sandwiched between runs of white water. The fresh breeze that meets me on the trail is scented with pine.

On top of the gorge, we find the river gentled now, a series of deep blue pools. I wave back to a fly fisherman who's edging his way toward deeper water. (He ends up being the only person I see on this day ride.) Then it's up a grade, away from the river, through aspen groves whose signature golden leaves quiver in the morning breeze.

We cross a trail bridge over a small tributary creek, then, five minutes later, we ford another. I stop so that Partner can drink.

We ride for another hour, finally topping a ridge for the view I've come to see, the valley opening to the south, the river emerging from a wall of granite. Over these mountains, traversed by a high pass, lie

streams that run down into Yellowstone Park. I've crossed these mountains, but today my purpose is to merely ride a good horse in beautiful surroundings in cool sunshine.



Partner and I enjoying the beautiful Fall weather.

Far below me in a meadow, scarcely larger than dots at this distance, graze a cow moose and her calf. They're the icing on the cake. I can now turn toward home, my spirit renewed by a ride of the best possible sort, an autumn ride.

Happy (Fall) trails!

Dan Aadland raises mountain-bred Tennessee Walking Horses and gaited mules on his ranch in Montana. His most recent books are In Trace of TR; The Best of All Seasons; The Complete Trail Horse; and 101 Trail Riding Tips. For information on Aadland's horses, books, and clinics, visit <http://my.montana.net/draa>.

Full Article:

<https://horseandrider.com/horseback-trail-riding/fall-the-best-trail-riding-season-15730/>

BCHA FALL EDITION - "PACKING UP A TITLE"

Packing Up a Title
The Reedley College Mule Packing Team Wins Big at the Annual Mule Days Celebration in Bishop

By George Takata, Director of Marketing & Communications, Reedley College

It isn't often that a community college competes and wins against teams at the university level, but the Reedley College Mule Packing Team is the exception. The Tigers brought home the team packing championship at the annual Mule Days Celebration in Bishop, winning the hardware over Cal Poly, Fresno State, UC Davis and Modesto Junior College. There was also a combined team made up of students from Reedley College, Fresno State and Cal Poly. The Bulldogs and Mustangs also had two teams apiece, but not even that could stop the Tigers from bringing home the coveted buckle trophies. "What really paid off for our team is that they were very prepared," said first year Head Coach Loni Langdon. "All of the effort they put in really helped refine their skills."

Preparation paid off in the form of how dominant the team was. The Tigers were a minute faster than the other teams. "When we looked back after we crossed the finish line (after the first run), I couldn't believe how far ahead we were," said team member Cole Hansen.

It also helps to have cooperative animals as teammates. "Having the right stock for a competition like this is critical," said Langdon. "We have the best mules in the state for this. They're seasoned, calm under pressure and predictable. Their age and wisdom are huge assets." Maybe mules aren't so stubborn, after all.

"I was so excited to be sporting the same tiger orange shirt worn by this year's World Champion Collegiate Packer team," said teammate Laurel Machoian. "I could feel my school pride growing every time I



saw the orange cross that dusty finish line first. There's no other program I'd rather have represented than our Reedley College team. I look forward to carrying on the packer and mulemanship traditions at Reedley."

Reedley College also won three individual competitions in Bishop: Harley McCorkle (Diamond Hitch), Cole Hansen (Box Hitch) and Jessie Miles (Packing). But the mules aren't used just for competitions; at Reedley College, they're helping develop students for job opportunities on some of the most beautiful lands on earth. "Packers and livestock who can help keep our trails open for recreation to people who visit from around the world is an essential service. It's a dying art," said Langdon, who also

teaches the Mule Packing class on campus. "It makes what we're doing at Reedley College extremely important, and it's amazing to have such strong support from President (Jerry) Buckley to continue this work. Building a bridge between a community college and the National Forest Service is so unique."

When the Tigers return to Bishop next year to defend their title, they'll bring home lasting memories, regardless of the outcome. "It's not necessarily about the winning, but about experiencing an event of this magnitude and the impact it could make on our students," Langdon said. "You never know where this could take them. It's phenomenal."

Competitive Trail Ride!

NEW? Join for FREE

Improve your partnership with your equine.

Can't travel? Try our online virtual mileage challenge while riding at home!

Partnership

Come Ride with Us!

NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE

www.natrc.org



MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting October 5, 2023

In attendance via Zoom: R Thomsen, S Chepulis, J Chepulis, D Heinle, J Jenkins, and R Knutson

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

President's Report – End of year report of the trail projects. We have had great response and participation in the projects. Discussion with J Chepulis about the reporting forms. J Jenkins will contact Shamel about the Deer Ck project to get info from him about how far they made it and what still needs done. The camp out at Meyers Ck was a success with a number of new members participating. We are doing good as far as our budget for this year. J Jenkins was able to contact Shamel about Deer Ck. They made it to the cabin. There is still one large log jam in the creek. They were able to go around it and continue on the trail.

Vice President's Report – Nothing at this time

Treasurer's Report – See attached page, Approx. \$1500 for reimbursements still needing to be sent.

R Thomsen moved to approve the Treasurer's report. J Jenkins second. Motion passed.

Secretaries Report – Review minutes from August meeting.

J Jenkins moved to approve the minutes. R Knutson second. Motion passed.

State Board Report – J Jenkins and J Chepulis went. It was a long meeting with many topics covered. The State is going to put about 60% of their monies into a money market account. The chapter dues will be raised in 3 yrs. It was mentioned that the State could use donations from the clubs to help with the increased costs of operating at this time until the dues are raised. Our club sent in a \$500 donation to the State to help out. USFS renegotiated the Crazy Mtn exchange and it is out for public comment at this time. The State is pushing for action on many Wilderness Study areas. They have been in this designation for far longer than originally planned. There is \$1 M available in grants for trail projects for clubs to access. The deadline is approaching. An E bike reporting form is now available to fill out in the event of adverse encounters. The chainsaw and crosscut saw modules should be available soon on the website. It was asked that the clubs post a link to our Instagram page on the State Instagram page. The Youth education/training program was down on numbers this year. Smoke Elser was awarded by the University of Montana for his packing program at the college. There is the possibility that our volunteer agreement with the USFS will become a 5 yr. agreement. The agreement we are under now is 2 yr. and will carry us through 2024. The State convention is March 8 – 10 at Fairmont Hot Springs. The National convention will be March 24 – 27 in Casper WY. December 16 will be the next State Board meeting.

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

Business – American Legacy Trails grants are available for 2 yrs. To spend the money. Discussion about a trail ready clinic for the 4H clubs in the area. We can get \$500 from National to offset the cost of setting it up. We should contact Allie Wood at the USFS about grant money to use for continuation of the Ernie Strum trail over to Island Lake. See if money is needed to help with the repairs on Stillwater Trail.

We will be getting a certification class schedule together for chainsaw, crosscut saw, and First Aid/CPR in the next month. This will be the classroom portion for our members. A field day for each will be discussed with members at the class. Looking at a November date to be held at Hanna Hall in Fishtail.

Elections this year:

We need to elect 3 local board members and 1 State board member and an alternate for state.

The board members going off this year are as follows; Dave Heinle, Keith Britton (who has resigned) Sean Chepulis. Randy Thomsen on the State board.

There will be a general club meeting on Oct. 16 with a farrier for education.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10pm

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.

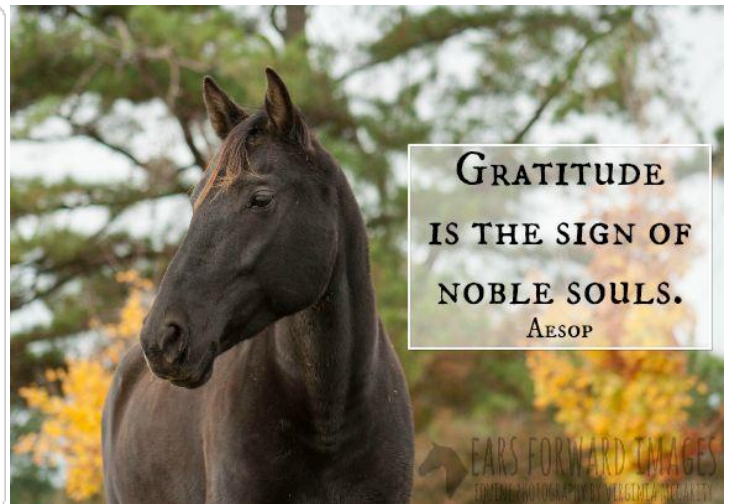
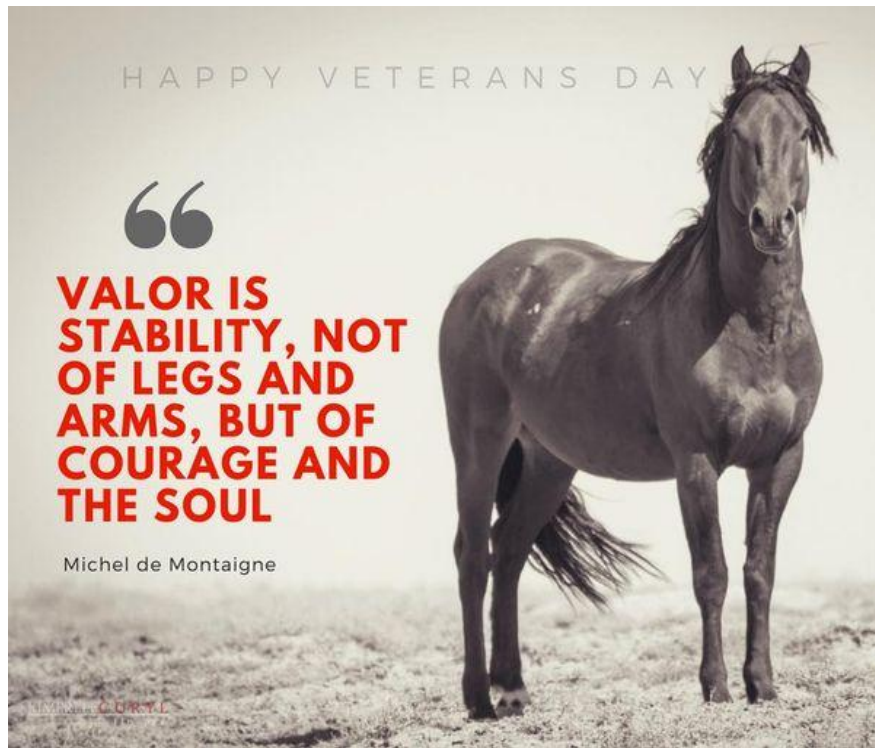


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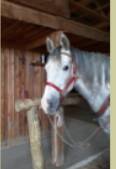
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