

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

Just like that, the days are getting longer and the coats are being shed. We have been kicking butt on our trail clearings and gravel projects! We still have some trail clearings, parades, and pack projects on the schedule! Come out and join us to see some amazing country.

This year to spread more awareness of all the good things we do we are participating in Fishtail Family Fun Days and Absarokee Days parade and booth. Sarah Lewis is the trailboss on that avenue so look for information from her on that!

We will be holding informal practices in town to desensitize any animals that may need it. Hopefully there's a food truck or ice cream to get the full experience!

We are doing great things beyond the trail, not only by providing education but expanding the youth programs and awareness. The youth that are participating this year are great and I'm excited to see their journey.

Hope to see you on the trail.

Melissa



BBCH DIRECTORS

.....
Melissa Codner, President
308-390-0465
John Jenkins, Vice President
Laura O'Connor, Secretary
248-672-9518
John Shamel, Treasurer
Bob Knutson, Board Member
406-698-0290
Sean Chepulis, Board Member
Sarah Lewis, Board Member

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.....
John Jenkins, Sr. Director
406-855-0238
Randy Thomsen, Jr. Director
406-425-0204

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

.....
John Chepulis
406-322-4823

NEXT MEETING:



HAPPY FATHERS DAY!

NO MEETING IN JUNE

**Save the Date: July 9, 2024
Columbus Fire Hall
Education: TBD**

2024 Membership dues:

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

Please pay your 2024 dues! You can deliver them to Jon S. at our next meeting or mail them to PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001. We are not raising our dues as we want to encourage new and existing members to stay active.

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

MILEAGE REMINDER

Hello BBCH Members,

I am writing to remind members who have participated in any of the trail maintenance projects or training to submit their mileage and volunteer hours. To date, I have not received mileage from most of the members who have been on these projects.

This information is extremely important. Besides being how we determine reimbursement, for your travel and the use of your stock, it's how our club's participation is tracked and reported to the USFS, State and National organizations.

Back Country Horsemen of Montana receives funds from the USFS, specifically for mileage reimbursement, and distributes it to the local chapters based on the previous year's reporting. This money must be distributed to members and unreported mileage will adversely affect our allotted funds for next year. In other words, if we don't use it, we lose it. We also, occasionally, receive mileage reimbursement from other organizations, such as Fish and Game, when we provide pack support for them.

If you were at any of these events, please submit your mileage as soon as possible and as soon as possible after each future project. Please note, the only reimbursements are for trail clearing at this moment.

- First Aid Class – No reimbursement
- Chainsaw Certification – No reimbursement
- Island Lake Trail Clearing
- Main Stillwater Trail Clearing
- West Stillwater Trail Clearing
- Meyers Creek Gravel Packing

The best way to report them is to use the Online form in the link below.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdwwNuQsZrirL-mmcie6nNWktn-oRVCdOqdGncrEJ0hJXQ6tQ/viewform>

If you are unable to use the Google form, please email me at jonshamel@gmail.com. You can also text or call me at (207)380-5629. You will have to provide odometer reading, if you don't have it, please extrapolate as best you can.

If you decide you don't want to be reimbursed, for a particular project, please still submit your mileage and volunteer hours; and let me know not to send you a check.

Many thanks,

Jon Shamel, BBCH Treasurer

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Miss Reece –

Reece is one of our outstanding youth that has joined the club recently! I tease her that she's going to be the next club president! She has leadership in her blood, as her mom sits on the board. Reece has excellent horsemanship and is cool, calm, & collected under any circumstances on horseback – that is a great characteristic to have in the backcountry. We are lucky that out of all the options she has to do on the weekends, she comes and hangs out with all of us! Thanks Reece!



PARADES & SMALL TOWN FESTIVITIES

I know coming to town isn't really everyone's cup of tea, but it is for some! No pressure, but I invite anyone to come to town and share what we do! We will have a booth at Fishtail Family Fun Days & Absarokee Days along with riding in the parade at each of those events.

If your horse isn't 'town safe' we will be doing some trial runs before the parades, or if you'd like to take a turn at sitting at the booth and visit with people, that is just as important!

Fishtail Family Fun Days

Here is the schedule – Reach out to Sarah Lewis to see how you can help that day!

Slewis_35@yahoo.com

406-780-9500

Come Join The Fun **FISHTAIL** *June 22*
FAMILY FUN DAY!

8am-4pm Vendors.
8am-10am Breakfast In The Park
9am-3pm Bake Sale
9am-3pm Gun/Jewelry Raffle
9am-11am Zoo Montana In The Park
11am Parade
12pm Lunch In The Park
12:30pm Live Auction
1pm Story Hour In The Teepee
1:30pm live Music In The Park.
2pm Duck Race.
3pm Announcement Of Gun/Jewelry Raffle.

TO OUR SPONSORS. THANK YOU

 **YELLOWSTONE BANK**  
Fishtail, Montana BANKS OF SERVICE SINCE 1907 Absarokee Liquor & Wine

  
True Value

Star Service, Walter Family LLC, Montana Gem

FOR MORE INFO CALL KATY MARTIN (406)-321-4238

More information on Absarokee Days next month!!!

2024 BCH STATE RENDEZVOUS

Back Country Horsemen of Montana Annual Rendezvous

Blackfoot Clearwater Game Range - June 21-23, 2024

“Rendezvous” To Gather, to Meet Up, to Reconnect with Old Friends and to Meet New Ones.

Free Camping with Two Flagged Trails to ride at your leisure.
Horseback clinic “Training for the Trail” by Wade Murphy.



Catered Saturday Evening BBQ \$10

By BCH Members Mike and Trish Foster.

Please RSVP for BBQ by June 20, 6pm

Text 406-546-8943



Located on MT Highway 200 east approximately 6 miles from junction with MT Highway 83. West of Ovando, before Russell Gates boat take out. Turn north towards Lake Upsata on the dirt road, take the first left. We will be in the area around the large metal barn. Look for horse trailers & signs from the highway.

Plenty of room to set up your high line or portable corrals. Lots of room to park your trailers and campers too. There are no trees, you will have to high line between horse trailers.



- Hay shelter to be out of possible rain.
- Cottonwood creek is close by for water.
- Large meadows for grazing stock.
- Weed Seed Free Feed is mandatory.
- 4 small corrals
- 6 outhouses & two wash stations provided.

Montana now requires all recreational users of public lands to have a current FQP Conservation license. If you have not purchased yours for 2024, MT BCH has made arrangements to cover us all at this event.

Thursday Afternoon - Friday Afternoon

Arrive and enjoy a ride on the flagged trails.

Friday Evening:

No-Host Campfire Gathering

Saturday Morning:

Ride the trails on your own

Saturday Afternoon:

1:00-4:00 pm - Horseback Clinic
Limited to 8 riders & *Observers welcome!*
Contact Wade to sign up.
murphywade923@gmail.com

Saturday Evening:

6:00 pm - Catered Group BBQ

Please reserve your meal

Text Trish - 406-546-8943

After BBQ join us for Stories at The Campfire Jack Rich, outfitter, will share the history of the game range and if we're lucky, some cowboy poetry too.

Sunday: Enjoy a ride then head home.

More info: bchmt.org/wp/event/2024-bchmt-rendezvous Call Ken: 406-370-7374

TRAIL WORK/OTHER PROJECT PACK PROJECTS

APRIL

- 13 - Saturday - Defensive Horsemanship, Red Lodge
- 20 - Saturday - Trail Clearing - Island Lake
- 26 - Friday Evening - Youth Trail Clinic Set-up, Columbus
- 27 - Saturday Youth Trail Clinic – Trail Work

MAY

- 3 - Friday - Recon Meyers Creek Gravel Project
- 4 - Saturday - Meyers Creek Trail clear or gravel packing
- 10 - Friday - Recon Stillwater
- 11 - Saturday – Main Stillwater & Island Lake Chain Saw Crew, a lot of large downfall
- 18 - Saturday - Make up or finish Stillwater
- 25-27 Saturday – Mon W Fork Stillwater, Camp out
- 31 - Optional Camp out at Trailhead

JUNE

- 1 - Saturday Trout Creek Trail Clearing and Camp out & Mentorship
- 8 - Saturday - Meyer's Cr gravel packing or trail clearing
- 15 - Saturday – Clear Earnie Strum
- 22 - Saturday - Fishtail Days - Ride in Parade and host a booth
- 27 - Thursday - ABWF Pack In - East Rosebud **CANCELED**

JULY

- 2 - Tuesday - ABWF Pack Out - East Rosebud **CANCELED**
- 6 - Saturday - ABWF Pack In - Meatrack, will need to overnight
- 11 - Thursday - ABWF Pack Out - Meatrack, will need to overnight
- 13 - Saturday - Nye Goes Nuts
- 18 - Thursday - ABWF Pack In - Clarks Fork, probably overnight due to the drive
- 22 - Monday - ABWF Pack Out - Clarks Fork, probably overnight due to the drive
- 27 - Saturday - Absarokee Days Parade and Booth

September 13th - Camp out at Meyers Creek

MAY MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting – May 2, 2024

Attendance:

In person: Melissa Codner, Sarah Lewis, Jon Shamel, Bob Knutson, Sean Chepulis, John Chepulis, John Jenkins, Randy Thomsen

Called to order 7:00pm

April '24 Meeting minutes – motion to approve by J. Shamel, seconded by S. Chepulis, motion passed

President's report:

- Discussed board member insurance (DNO policy)
 - No action needed at this time, look into BCHA insurance policy further
 - Table discussion until after state board meeting

VP report:

- ABW has been somewhat difficult to get in contact with recently to discuss changes in schedule for pack assistance

Secretary report: Minutes approved from April 2024 – see above

Treasurer report:

- Total spend amount for each clinic are attached on report
- Grant for youth clinic covered facility rent and most of the event insurance
- Laptop has been fixed and gravel bags have been purchased
- Motion to approve Tres. Report by John Jenkins, 2nd by Bob Knutson
- Discussion over money market account
- Need to emphasize importance of filling out mileage in trail work reporting form

Committee's report:

- Activities:
 - Youth Clinic Recap:
 - Overall great turnout, especially for first event
 - Ideas for streamlining event next year:
 - Individual stations instead of talks scheduled one after another
 - Cap at 20 kids
 - Discussed giving away 2 family memberships
 - 2 families approached, motion to approve recipients by Randy T, seconded by John J.
 - Falkenstein & Cazier families

- o Trail Work:
 - Need 1 JHA filled out per year
 - May 4th clearing – Island Lake instead of Myers Creek
 - May 11th clearing – Main Stillwater; recon by Shamels
 - Camp out optional, J Shamel and J Jenkins trail boss
 - May 18th weekend – nothing scheduled
 - May 25th – West Fork Stillwater/Initial Creek Camping
 - Recon on 24th for road conditions
 - Laura O'Connor trail boss
 - Need RSVPs for dinners provided by club
 - June 1st – Trout Creek camp out & mentorship program
 - Jeff & Rosi volunteered for mentoring, need more people to sign up
- Education:
 - o Review defensive horsemanship
 - Possibly hold at different (cheaper) venue for next event
 - o Chainsaw – nothing new to add
 - o Crosscut – Certs completed 2 years ago, they are good for 3 years (1 year left)
 - Melissa has the list of certified members
 - Still taking sign ups for another session this year
 - o May 20th meeting:
 - Education – Bear Mgmt. by MT FWP
 - o No General Meetings in June or July
 - o July board meeting moved to July 9th (instead of July 4th)
 - o July 13th – Nye Goes Nuts event – discuss showing up with pack string for education to public
 - o August meeting – Dan Aadland – discuss tying different types of hitches
 - o Sept 14th Rendezvous or Oct meeting – Jason Brengle from USFS Shoshone pack string / stock manager to discuss stock use and packing in the Absaroka's
 - Rendezvous Weekend: Motion for Laura O to spend \$400 on prizes for the pack competition over the weekend by Laura, 2nd by Sarah Lewis

New Business:

- Horseman Flats discarded tire cleanup – possibly plan for a weekday in May – Dave, Randy, Jon S.
- 4-H Stillwater Fair – Motion to donate \$500 as sponsor by John Jenkins, 2nd by Sarah Lewis
- Discuss scheduling Jim's Gulch clearing at next meeting, need to pick a cooler weekend

Meeting adjourned 8:53pm

APRIL MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting – April 4, 2024

Attendance:

Virtual: Melissa Codner, Sarah Lewis, Jon Shamel, Bob Knutson, Sean Chepulis

Called to order 6:30pm

Feb '24 Meeting minutes – motion to approve by Jon Shamel, seconded by Bob K., motion passed

President's report:

- Discussed of Directors & Officers Insurance

VP report:

- Nothing to report

Treasurer report:

- Discussed Money Market Report, decided to vote when more members were present
- Voted to purchase gravel bags for the amount of \$600. Motion to approve by Jon S., Bob K., seconded, motion passed
- Motion to approve by Sarah Lewis, seconded by Sean C., motion passed

Committee's report:

➤ Activities:

- First Aid Certification:
 - Reaching out to Travis Hansen, again
- Chainsaw Certification:
 - In progress, date, TBD
- Defensive Horsemanship:
 - Short trail ride after clinic - Decided there will not be enough time for a trail ride
 - Discussed outline of clinic
 - Will reach out to members to teach different sections, double check with Randy on schedule, finalized schedule
- Prospective Work Schedule:
 - Requested to add mailing address to the form for reimbursement
 - Requested to add Forest Service Hours to form as that is a new requirement this year
- Youth Clinic:
 - Sarah requested a budget of \$200 to purchase muffins. Sarah made motion, Jon S. seconded motion, motion passed.

Education - Schedule was discussed and the potential of a bear talk was discussed for May. Nothing was finalized.

Discussion to create an 'onboarding' letter for Fish and Wildlife and ABWF to create an easier trip for all. This letter would outline the constraints of packing and what to expect, what to bring, what to leave home, & the contact information for any questions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm

MARCH MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting – March 6, 2024

Attendance:

In person: Melissa Codner, Sarah Lewis, Jon Shamel, Bob Knutson, Sean Chepulis

Virtual: Laura O'Connor

Called to order 6:32pm

Jan '24 Meeting minutes – motion to approve by J. Jenkins, seconded by S. Chepulis, motion passed

President's report:

- Discussed FWP trail work/corral building proposal (wildlife management units)

VP report:

- Nothing to report

Secretary report: Minutes approved from Feb 2024 – see above

Treasurer report:

- All delegates for state convention need to be paid members
- Feb Report:
 - Income:
 - BCH-MT reimbursement - \$4397
 - Membership \$320
 - License plates \$975
- 2023 Audit completed and approved on Feb 8, 2024
- Taxes filed, annual report complete, license plate renewal complete
- Need to finalize 2024 budget
- Motion to approve by Sarah Lewis, seconded by John Jenkins, motion passed

Committee's report:

- Activities:
 - First Aid Certification:
 - Discussed capping class at 10 people
 - Only valid if taught from American Heart Assoc. (for people that have it from work)
 - Not everyone has to be certified, just 1 person on each work project
 - Needs to be completed before crosscut & chainsaw recerts
 - Will reach out to instructor (Travis Hansen)
 - Discussed March 16, 23, 30th
 - Final date TBD
 - Chainsaw Certification:
 - Need to setup training video dates
 - Discussed going to Island Lake on April 20 for field time
 - Will discuss with Bob Chepulis this weekend
 - Defensive Horsemanship:
 - Scheduled at Aspen Ridge Ranch in Red Lodge for April 13th
 - All horses attending need to be vaccinated w/ current Coggins
 - Participants need to bring chairs
 - Melissa to email rep from ARR to discuss final details
 - Short trail ride after clinic - TBD, weather dependent
 - Discussed outline of clinic
 - Will reach out to members to teach different sections
 - Prospective Work Schedule:
 - Melissa to finalize and email out
 - Meyer's Creek gravel needs to be reconned for wet ground before finalizing date
 - Need to identify volunteers for reconning trails
 - Youth Clinic:
 - Grant has been received.
 - May need to purchase lumber for obstacles, will ask businesses to donate

Meeting adjourned

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting – February 1, 2024

Attendance:

In person: John Jenkins, Sarah Lewis, Jon Shamel, Melissa Codner, Bob Knutson, Laura O'Connor

Called to order 6:30pm

Jan '24 Meeting minutes approved by J. Jenkins, seconded by B. Knutson

President's report:

- Planning meeting with Allie from USFS in next few months to discuss Legacy Trails Grant
 - Will send work schedule for season
- Columbus Community Foundation
 - Fundraising event in May – Montana Gives
 - Put together gift basket for raffle?

VP report:

- FWP email received for inquiry into putting trails by Cooney St Park, J. Jenkins to talk with rep

Secretary report: Minutes approved from Jan 2024 – see above

Treasurer report:

- Jon Shamel to email out
 - \$1425 in – January license plate income
 - \$925 for license plates in December
 - License plate renewal due April 15
 - Email invite sent to schedule audit and handover of duties
 - Audit committee: Clark Linn, Molly and Jon Shamel, Laura O'Connor

Old business:

- Defensive Horsemanship clinic:
 - Aspen Ridge Ranch in Red Lodge
 - \$500 w/ \$200 insurance
 - Trail ride after on neighboring state land
 - Decide on date from April 6, 13, or 20th
 - 8am reg, 8:30-4:30 for event time
 - Melissa to look into catering
- First Aid/CPR / Crosscut Recerts:
 - March 16th? \$80/person cost
 - Mar 23rd? -Crosscut saw @ Hanna Hall

Committee's report:

- Education
 - Youth Clinic meeting recap
 - Still haven't heard back on BCHA grant (\$500)
 - Looking for ground volunteers
 - Approve food/drink spending
 - Limit to \$350
 - J Jenkins & J Shamel (2nd)

State conference:

- Fairmont Hot Springs, Anaconda – March 9-10
- Need to decide on gift basket for silent auction – Melissa
 - \$80-100 / homemade / tack or gift basket
 - 2 prints (framed?)

Meeting adjourned

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting – Jan 4, 2024

Attendance:

In person: Melissa Codner, John Jenkins, Bob Shamel, Laura O'Connor, Sarah Lewis

Virtual: Bob Knutson, Sean Chepulis

Called to order 6:30pm

President's report: Nothing to report

VP report: Nothing to report

Secretary report: Minutes approved from Dec 2023

Treasurer report: Emailed out to board

Committee's report:

- Education
 - Defensive horsemanship clinic
 - Cottonwood arena, new fee/liability waiver
 - Decided on no horses
 - Look into other venues as well – decision by end of Jan

- o Plan CPR certification as well
- o Sarah Lewis – Youth clinic April 27th

State Meeting report:

- Forest service trail crew are year-round positions now, hiring packer at 9 mile
- Youth program – Gear Up – approved by State
- Senate bill 3020 – mileage reimbursement/taxing – support it
- Light on the land – final version will be approved this spring to teach from BCH-MT (our version of Leave no Trace)
- New club might be started in Billings
- BCH MT continues to push social media
- Defensive horsemanship curriculum to be revised
- 950 state members, need to keep roster updated
- Founder’s Award – need to submit nomination

State conference:

- Fairmont Hot Springs, Anaconda – March 9-10
- Are we submitting any resolutions?
- Need 8 delegates, will reimburse \$85 registration fee
- Photo contest entries

New Business:

- Melissa to design new trifold informational packet for BBCH
- Purchase equine liability/law signage for events
- Purchase mobile signage to place around trail clearing activities to notify hikers
 - o Collapsible sandwich board type
 - o Decide on wording
 - o Melissa to obtain quote
- Inquire with USFS on purchasing triangle trail yielding signs to place at various trailheads

Budget Proposal 2024:

- \$7000 mileage > transfer \$1000 to education
- \$1200 state convention (higher registration fees)
- \$950 state dues

Meeting adjourned 8:02pm

FOR SALE

16" Billy Cook trail saddle

For sale a used but still in almost new condition Billy Cook Trail Saddle. This saddle is extremely comfortable and easy to ride in. Leather is in excellent condition and the saddle was stored indoors. Just cleaned, oiled and ready to go. The sheepskin is still fluffy.

16" seat

Full quarter horse bars

7/8" in skirt rigging

\$1,800

Contact Jessi 406-579-7166



Easyboot horse boots:

Several pairs of Easyboots for horses for sale. These are all in great shape, 2 boots are brand new. The neoprene is all in great shape, no tears or wear. All the stitching is intact, all the screws are still tight and in great shape. These boots are great because they last longer than a set of steel shoes, and you can go over a lot of different terrain with no slipping.

These boots are each between \$95-\$110 brand new. I am asking \$40 per boot and \$60 per boot for the 2 brand new ones (size #0)

2 Easyboot Epic boots size #1

1 Easyboot Glove size #2

4 Easyboot Gloves size #1.5



2 Easyboot Gloves size #0.5

2 Easyboot Gloves size #0 - brand new

Small medium and large Cavallo gaiters are in great shape and are \$10 obo.

Contact Jessi 406-579-7166



If you have a saddle or piece of packing equipment, please feel free to email the information to Rochelle at ebenezerquine@gmail.com. The listing will be removed after 3 months unless you request otherwise.

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.



FATHER'S DAY FUN ~ FAMOUS FATHERS (SIRES) OF 2024



Metallic Cat

PC: <https://www.brazosvalleystallionstation.com/stallions/metallic-cat/>



Stevie Rey Von

PC: <https://www.qstallions.com/StallionDet?id=549>



The Goodbye Lane

PC: <https://www.qstallions.com/stallionDet?id=393>



Frenchmans Guy

PC: <https://www.aqha.com/recent-inductees>



Blue Valentine

PC: <https://www.aqha.com/recent-inductees>



Shining Spark

PC: <https://www.aqha.com/recent-inductees>

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