

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

Dear Members,

As the year draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all that we've accomplished together and share my gratitude for your continued support and involvement. This year has truly been a fulfilling one, marked by growth, new connections, and a shared commitment to our mission.

One of the highlights was gaining a fresh perspective from the Forest Service in Wyoming. He came and visited with us at our end of year camp-out and was very interesting, especially comparing Wyoming to Montana and the vast differences in requirements. We hope to see him again in 2025 to compare notes.

We also introduced our youth clinic, a project close to a lot of people's hearts. Watching young minds engage, learn, and embrace the values we hold dear has been incredibly rewarding. It's inspiring to see the next generation stepping up with such enthusiasm and curiosity.

And who could forget the cowboy poetry? It brought a touch of timeless tradition and artistry, reminding us of the rich culture and history that define this way of life. Sharing stories, laughter, and a sense of community through verse has been a memorable addition to our year.

These projects and experiences are just a few examples of how we've grown together as a community. Each of you has played a role in making this year so special, and I'm deeply grateful for your passion, ideas, and dedication.

As we look ahead to the new year, I'm excited for what's to come and confident that our collective efforts will continue to make a difference. Wishing you all a joyful December filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished moments with loved ones.

Thank you for being an essential part of our journey.

With gratitude,
Melissa Codner, exiting President

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Laura O'Connor, Secretary
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BEARTOOTH | BACK
COUNTRY HORSEMEN

CHRISTMAS
Party

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

Hannah Hall, Fishtail, MT

We will eat at 6:30. Please bring either a side or
desert. The meat will be catered by R Heart Catering.

Please RSVP to Melissa by Monday, December 9th!

The gift exchange will be a blind draw exchange
like we've done in the past. There is a \$35 limit on
the gift, wrap omniously!

Share your pictures and videos of the year to Melissa!

Text pics - 308-390-0465 Videos - FB Messenger or What'sApp

Come for the fun, and don't forget to send in photos and videos for the slide show!

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](#).

WINTER CARE OF HORSES

How to help keep a horse in top condition through the winter



Photo: Melissa Ashley, MSU Extension

Even though you may not ride as much in winter, the care and consideration given to a horse should not decrease through the cold months. Montana winters may not be ideal for riding with cold weather, snow, and wind, but horses that are taken care of through winter will be healthier next spring when the weather warms and it's time to ride more frequently. Nutrition, water, shelter, and hoof care should all be considered when caring for a horse during winter.

Providing adequate nutrition to meet a horse's needs is vital in winter. Many adult horses can maintain body condition on a complete forage diet with access to free choice, trace mineralized salt. Adult horses should consume 1.5–2 percent of their body weight in hay, or a 1,000-pound horse will eat 15 to 20 pounds of hay per day. Supplementation with grain is only necessary if horses have difficulty maintaining their body condition. Forages contain a much higher fiber content than grains. Fiber is utilized through bacterial fermentation within the cecum and large intestine. More heat is produced in bacterial fiber fermentation than in digestion and absorption of nutrients within the small intestine (cereal grains). This results in a greater amount of heat being produced through the utilization of forages than through grain. If there is concern that a horse is not getting adequate nutrition, contact the local veterinarian for assistance in developing a feeding plan.

Access to good quality water is vital for horses in cold weather. Adult horses will normally drink 5-8 gallons of water per day. However, horses eating hay require more water than horses on pasture. As the amount of hay increases for cold weather, the amount of water needed also increases to 9–10 gallons per day. Cold water causes horses to drink less. During winter months, drinking water temperatures should be kept at 45–60°F to maximize consumption. Water heaters are a good way to keep water from being frozen or too cold. If a water heater is not available, check water sources twice daily and remove ice to

ensure adequate availability. Colic is a constant concern for horse owners. Impaction colic can be caused by eating hay and not consuming enough water.



Photo: AdobeStock

If there isn't a barn for the horses, don't panic. Horses can withstand colder temperatures if they can stay dry and get out of the wind. During adverse weather, horses will often turn their tails to the wind, lower their heads, and stand close together to preserve body heat. Having a lean-to, shed, or windbreak will help a horse survive winter weather.

Whether or not to blanket a horse is another consideration to make on a case-by-case basis. Most horses should not require a horse blanket in the winter if they are allowed to acclimate normally. The long winter hair coat acts as insulation. If the hair coat becomes wet or muddy, this can reduce its insulating value. Keeping the horse dry and free of mud is important for them to stay warm. Horses may need a blanket if they don't develop a good winter hair coat, are underweight, are in prolonged temperatures below 0°F, have not been acclimated to the cold, have been body clipped, or are very young or very old. If a horse is blanketed, care must be taken to make sure the blanket fits properly and is removed periodically to evaluate the horse. Blankets may slip partially off, have fungus growth underneath, and decrease the chances of noticing weight loss. Checking a horse frequently will help lessen the potential negative consequences of blanketing.



Photo: AdobeStock

Even though a horse may be used less in the winter, do not lessen the frequency of hoof care. Generally, hoof growth will slow during the winter months. However, regularly scheduled visits from a farrier are still important. Horses should have their hooves trimmed every 6–12 weeks. Snow and ice can also become compacted in a horse’s hooves. This can make it difficult for the horse to walk as well as increase the chance of slipping or falling. Checking and picking the hooves often will help reduce the risk of snow and ice compaction.

Horses have lived in cold climates for many years. Good nutrition, along with access to adequate water and shelter, will help a horse through the cold months. Maintaining a good working relationship with the veterinarian and farrier will also help ensure a horse is as healthy as it can be. Even Montana winters can provide a suitable environment for a horse to remain healthy and live outside comfortably.

Juli Snedigar is the MSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent in Blaine County.

All content, including images credited to:
https://www.montana.edu/extension/lila_extn/wintercareofhorses.html

2027 CONVENTION



WE ARE HOSTING CONVENTION IN 2027!

Some of you may have already signed up for the committee. We will be working to get that initial meeting on the schedule soon. The initial meeting may need a trip to Billings to view prospective locations. If you'd like to join the committee, which will be subdivided into smaller committees after our initial meeting, please reach out to Melissa C. via email codner.melissa@gmail.com or text 308-390-0465.



SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting – September 8, 2024

Laura O'Connor – Secretary

Attendance:

Virtual: John Jenkins, Laura O'Connor, John Chepulis, Jon Shamel, Melissa Codner, Randy Thomsen, Sarah Lewis, Bob Knutson

Called to order 4:35pm

President's report: Nothing new to report

VP report: Update from recent State Mtg

- Next meeting at end of Sept
- Will give all club crosscut saws to John J to take to the Rep at State Mtg to have them sharpened in Idaho
 - Will retrieve them at State Mtg in Dec

Secretary report: Motion to approve meeting minutes with changes (Change Bob C to John C at end of minutes from Aug). Motioned by Randy T, Jon S 2nd, approved

Treasurer report:

- QuickBooks is best accounting option for the club going forward
- Some monies paid out for mileage reimbursement this month (\$363)
- State license plate income was \$750 for the month of Aug
- Garmin monthly payment + board member liability insurance was \$698
- Motion to approve Tres report
 - Motioned by Randy T, 2nd by Laura, approved
- Motion to approve accounting software purchase
 - Motioned by Jon S, 2nd by Randy T, approved

Committee's report:

- Activities:
 - Meyers Creek Rendezvous
 - RSVPs need to be gathered by Wednesday for food purchase
 - John J to officiate crosscut competition
 - John C sent out packing competition rules
 - Elections and education needed for Nov Meeting
 - Dec Christmas Party
 - Discussed using same catering as past years
 - 2027 BCH State Convention
 - Look into Red Lodge and Billings for locations
 - Sign up sheet for committee sent out last month
- General Meeting Location:
 - Discussion on moving monthly meetings to Palladium Brewing back room (same \$50 cost)

Meeting adjourned 5:12pm

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting – October 3, 2024

Laura O'Connor – Secretary

Attendance:

Jon Shamel, Melissa Codner, Sean Chepulis, Sarah Lewis

Called to order 6:30pm

President's report: Discussion on adding more social events and fun rides

VP report:

- Horse camp at Meyers Creek (additional pens) idea shut down by Allie at USFS so far
 - Discussion to talk to next level at USFS if needed
- State board needs to discuss regulations of USFS
 - Push for options, make a good plan and don't offend
 - Discussion about possibly moving it to Castle Creek
- Need to check new trail area for new start of Ernie Strum (past cattle guard)
 - Need to scout potential parking location and connect trail (maybe through BLM)
 - Discussion on focusing more on Island Lake connection to Ernie Strum

Secretary report: Nothing to report, will approve Sept minutes at next meeting

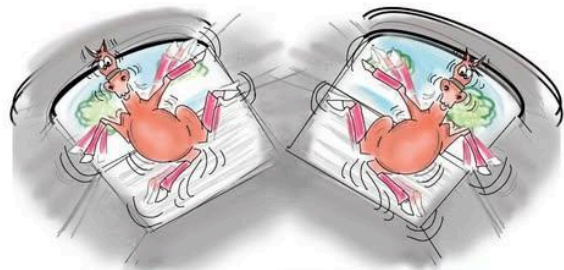
Treasurer report:

- Nothing to report, will amend minutes at next meeting

Committee's report:

- Board Nominations
 - Committee: Sarah L and Jon S
 - Discussion into nominating other members who have been involved
- Activities
 - Scott F talking to DOT about riding projects
 - J Chepulis to potentially draft letter to BCH-MT
- Meeting Location
 - Future meetings at Palladium Draught Haus in Columbus (back room)
 - Next meeting, discuss committee for Youth Clinic and Pack Clinic
 - Lake Fork fun ride planned or 10/12

Meeting adjourned 7:30pm



NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting – November 7, 2024

Laura O'Connor – Secretary

Attendance:

Jon Shamel, Melissa Codner, Sean Chepulis, Sarah Lewis, Bob Knutson, Laura O'Connor

Called to order 6:44pm

President's report:

- Discussion on improving Meyers Crk horse camp
 - Need to schedule conversation with USFS

VP report: Nothing to report

Secretary report: Both Sept and Oct meeting minutes approved. Motion initiated by Sean C, 2nd by Jon S.

Treasurer report:

- Sept and Oct reports emailed to board
 - Need to pay BCH-MT state dues still
 - Sept and Oct reports approved, motion initiated by Laura O, 2nd by Bob K

Committee's report:

- Board Nominations
 - Sarah and Jon identified 3 possible members to replace outgoing board members
- 2027 BCH-MT State Convention
 - Melissa to email out more information
- Activities:
 - Scott Fluer is still pursuing contacting MT-DOT on creating a parking lot for trailer parking and access on a large BLM section near Bearcreek, MT (6500 acres)
- Education:
 - General Meeting
 - Nov: Cowboy Poetry
 - Dec: Hanna Hall, Christmas Party
 - White elephant gift exchange, max \$35
 - Crosscut/Chainsaw Recertification
 - New 2025 education committee to get dates scheduled in spring
- Communications:
 - Need to connect Facebook and Instagram accounts. John Chepulis needs to give full access to Facebook account for that to happen

New Business:

- Youth Clinic:
 - Scheduled for April 19, 2025
- 2-Day Youth Pack Clinic:

- o July 26-27 @ Meyers Creek
- o Jeff and Rosi have volunteered to help
- NC Flooding Relief Work
 - o Discussion on \$750 donation for 3 BBCH members that traveled with horses and mules to assist with packing and clean up work
 - o Motion initiated by Laura O, 2nd by Bob K, approved
 - (Dave Heinle, Jeff and Rosi Guckenberger)
 - o Melissa to draft thank you letter
- Donation to John and Marilyn Simmons, their son Brian unexpectedly passed away
 - o Requested donations to RMEF
 - Motion initiated for \$250 RMEF donation by Sarah L, 2nd by Sean C, passed
- Trail work:
 - o Conversation with Allie in early 2025 needs to be scheduled to discuss possibility of Ernie Strum parking lot
 - o Finish gravel project at Meyers Crk in 2025

Meeting adjourned 7:55pm



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16" Sulphur River Saddlery MULE saddle. Mule tree. Like New. I have less than 10 rides in it.

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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.

WINTER HAY FEEDING CHART

As the temperature drops, horses burn more energy to stay warm, therefore their energy requirements will increase. Hay is digested by the microbes in the large intestine and produce more heat than concentrates. The colder it gets the more hay is needed to keep warm.

The following chart is a guideline for how many pounds of hay your horse will need this winter as the temperature drops. Some horses may need more or less. It is based on feeding 2% of your horse's body weight in forage/.85 mcal per pound and digestible energy requirements from NRC. [Chart by: Custom Equine Nutrition, LLC](#)

Horse Weight	Maintenance				
	30° F	20° F	10° F	0° F	-10° F
500lb	10.2	11.1	12	12.9	13.8
700lb	14.2	15.4	16.7	15.2	16.3
900lb	18.4	20	21.6	23.2	24.8
1000lb	20.3	22.1	23.8	25.6	27.4
1,100lb	22.5	24.4	26.4	28.3	30.3
1,200lb	24.4	26.5	28.6	30.7	32.8

Horse Weight	Light Work				
	30° F	20° F	10° F	0° F	-10° F
500lb	12.2	13.3	14.3	15.4	16.4
700lb	17.2	18.7	20.2	21.7	23.2
900lb	22.1	24	25.9	27.8	29.7
1000lb	24.4	26.5	28.6	30.7	32.8
1,100lb	26.9	29.3	31.6	33.9	36.3
1,200lb	29.5	32	34.6	37.2	39.7

Horse Weight	Moderate Work				
	30° F	20° F	10° F	0° F	-10° F
500lb	14.2	15.4	16.7	17.9	19.1
700lb	18.9	20.6	22.2	23.9	25.5
900lb	25.7	27.9	30.2	32.4	34.6
1000lb	28.4	30.9	33.4	35.8	38.3
1,100lb	31.1	33.8	36.5	39.2	41.9
1,200lb	33.8	36.8	39.7	42.6	45.6

Horse Weight	Heavy Work				
	30° F	20° F	10° F	0° F	-10° F
500lb	16.2	17.6	19.1	20.5	21.9
700lb	22.9	24.9	26.8	28.8	30.8
900lb	25.7	27.9	30.2	32.4	34.6
1000lb	29.4	31.9	34.5	37	39.6
1,100lb	36	39.1	42.2	45.4	48.5
1,200lb	39.2	42.6	46.1	49.5	52.9

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

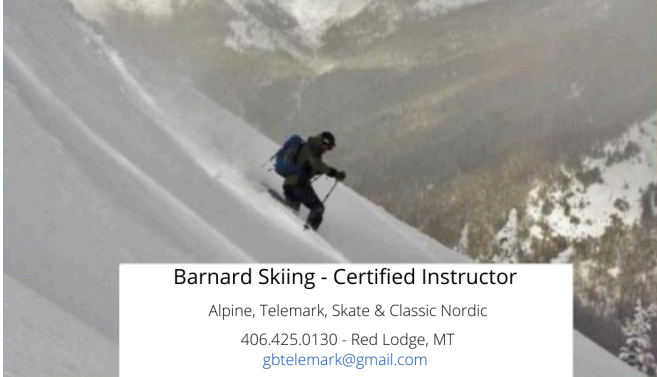
Website - <https://bchmt.org/wp/education/>

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.




THANK YOU TO THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



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