

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

Hello Everyone,

Hope everyone's summer is going great.

Want to send out a call for help. We have our ABW pack project this week on the Main Stillwater trail. (Sioux Charlie) We are looking for people to come and help get the crew in on the 16th and back out on the 22nd. This is about a 6 mile ride one way. If you are available to help please contact Sean Chepulis.

The club will have the annual end of summer rendezvous at Meyers Ck again this year. It is scheduled for the 22nd through the 24th of August. We will not have access to the cabin this year but there is plenty of room for trailers and tents. We will have our annual pack competition and crosscut events. There will be time to enjoy a ride on some of the trails that originate from there also.

As many of you are aware, we have made the hard decision to delay our Youth Pack Clinic until next year. This is disappointing but we want to make sure that we can put on a safe, fun, and informative clinic.

The Belfry access project is coming together really well. We are applying for a grant through the BLM to fund this project. We have gotten an estimate for the gravel work already to send in. I want to extend a Thank You to Scott Fluor, Clark Linn and Jon Shamel for the work to get this project up and going. This will make access to over 6000 acres much easier and safer for all to enjoy.

See you on the trail,
Randy Thomsen

BBCH DIRECTORS

...

Randy Thomsen President

Sean Chepulis, Vice President

Sarah Lewis, Secretary

John Shamel, Treasurer

Clark Linn, Board Member

Scott Fluor, Board Member

Bill Yager, Board Member

STATE DIRECTORS

...

John Jenkins, Sr. Director
406-855-0238

Randy Thomsen, Jr. Director
406-425-0204

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

...

John Chepulis
406-322-4823



The club will not be holding general meetings in June and July as the summer is a busy time for all.

We will plan to reconvene in August for our club rendezvous.

2025 Membership dues:

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

Please pay your 2025 dues!

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

2027 CONVENTION OPPORTUNITIES

WE ARE HOSTING CONVENTION IN 2027!

If you'd like to join the committee for opportunities to serve in the following areas: Communications, Meals, Education, Fundraising, Entertainment, Volunteers, Vendors, Sponsorships, & Decorations. please reach out to Melissa C. via email codner.melissa@gmail.com or text 308-390-0465.



TENTATIVE TRAIL CLEARING SCHEDULE

April 26th — Island Lake

—— 4.8 miles of clearing / 7.8 mile ride

May 3rd — Lodgepole & Deer Creek

—— Parking area to intersection w/ Lower Deer Ck Trail 5.1 miles

—— Parking area to Deer Ck Cabin 10.8 miles

May 10th — Main Stillwater

—— Parking area to intersection w/ Tripod Hill Trail 5.7 miles

—— Parking area to intersection w/ Wounded Man Trail 10.7 miles

May 17th — Jim's Gulch/Lower Deer Ck

—— Parking area to cabin 4.7 miles

—— Parking area to intersection w/ Lodgepole 10.4 miles



~~May 24th - 26th - West Fork of the Stillwater~~

~~—— This will include the new Castle Ck from Picket Pin~~

~~June 7? - Meyers Ck gravel~~

~~—— Working out details with USFS for pack support subject to availability of the pack animals and packer. Stay tuned for updates.~~

~~June 14th - Jim's Gulch - Be ready to go at 9:30 am Contact John Jenkins, trail boss, for more info. john.k.jenkins@gmx.us~~

Need help for the ABW pack out on Tuesday the 22nd. On the Main Stillwater Trail to Tripod.

There are six loads that need to come out and I don't have that many critters unless I walk out with saddle panniers on my rider. In that event, I still need help loading the packs.

The club does have pack saddles which will turn most riding horses into pack horses 😊. Please reach out to me and let me know if you can help. Thanks!

Sean Chepulis

(406)581-3904

August 22nd to 24th Annual end of summer rendezvous at Meyers Ck



FOR SALE

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

JUNE MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting June 5th, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm at the Stillwater County Chamber of Commerce.
In attendance: Jon Shamel, Randy Thomsen, Clark Linn, Scott Fluor, Bill Yager, Melissa Codner, Detra Chepulis, Sean Chepulis, and Sarah Lewis.

Motion to approve the May board meeting minutes made by Scott Fluor. The motion was seconded by Clark Linn. No discussion. Motion carried.

President's Report: Nothing to report.

Vice President's Report: Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report was read. Motion to approve made by Clark Linn. Scott Fluor seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. Discussion about watching where we are in budget throughout the year. Discussion of Detra Chepulis stepping in to take over Jon Shamel's treasurer duties. A motion to elect Detra Chepulis as Treasurer Assistant was made by Jon Shamel. 2nd by Scott Fluor. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

2027 Convention: Melissa Codner (chair) Melissa updated on draft budget for convention. Discussion about price, attendance, swag bags, raffle items, and silent auction items. Auction items added to budget. Updated that Scott Fluor will be the auctioneer for convention. Discussion of unique fundraising ideas. Volunteers are still needed for planning committees.

Activities: Sarah Lewis (chair). Discussion of Women in Wilderness ABW event. Sarah and Melissa will be volunteering. Update on youth pack clinic to be held at Benbow recreation area July 25-27th . Discussion of logistics. Sarah and Melissa will continue planning. Discussion of 2025 Rendezvous – date and location. Sarah and Melissa will oversee prizes with a \$650.00 budget.

Education: General meetings will be suspended until rendezvous in August. Sean reports that he will contact "Bear Guy" out of Red Lodge to speak at rendezvous.

Projects: Jon Shamel (chair). Jon Shamel led discussion of Lodgepole for June 7th . John Jenkins is the trail boss. Meyer's Creek gravel project will be completed by 9-Mile pack string. Discussion of upcoming projects and updating Project Schedule.

Communications: Randy Thomsen (chair). No new update.

Unfinished Business:

Discussed vest order. Clark Linn will pick up and be reimbursed.

Belfry Access- Scott Fluor and Clark Linn will work on layout. No new DOT update.

Ernie Strum- Randy will set up a meeting with Jennifer Alexander of the BLM to discuss a plan and update.

New Business:

Randy will let The Palladium know we will not have meetings for the next couple months.

State Update: Nothing to report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm. Next meeting July 10th at 6:30pm

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

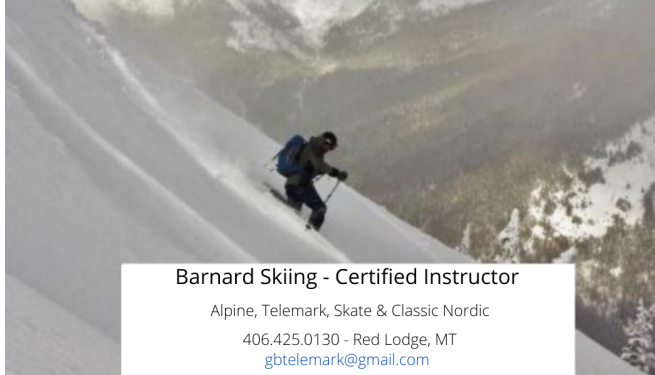
Website - <https://bchmt.org/wp/education/>

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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Stillwater Veterinary Clinic

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Absarokee, MT 59001

406-328-4159

Broken Fiddle Ranch

Dave & Chris Heinle

Clyde Park, MT 59018

(406) 321-4326

brokenfiddleranch@gmail.com



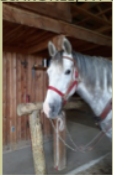
Two Standing Jacks

JR, 13 hand Roan, \$350

Arkansas Mtn Man, 15 hand Black, \$500

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