

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

Hello everyone,

This has been a great summer thus far. The youth trail clinic, trail clearing, the ABW pack project, fun ride at Island Lake.

I want to send a big thank you to all those involved with planning and make it all happen.

It is August, and do you know what that means? Rendezvous! A time to get together with fellow club members to participate in the packing competition or the crosscut saw competition.

The club will provide dinner on Saturday Aug. 23rd. We ask that attendees bring side dishes or dessert.

With this warm weather make sure to check your trailers before you tow. The low tire on it may not make the trip. A quick check of the air may save you the headache of changing it alongside the road.

See you on the trails,

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

END OF YEAR RENDEZVOUS!

AUGUST 22-24 MEYERS CREEK CAMPGROUND

See below for details.



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](#).

END OF YEAR CAMP OUT

We are excited for our end of year camp-out!

Please join us for these upcoming events. Dates will be August 22-24. We will have a guest speaker that you won't want to miss!

Come for one, all, any, or just for entertainment and conversation.

Location: Meyer's Creek Campground

Directions from Beartooth Ranger District office:

Drive north on US Hwy 212 towards Red Lodge for two miles. Turn left (west) onto MT-78. Drive 30 miles and turn left (west) onto MT-419. Drive 20.4 miles and turn right (north) to stay on MT-419. Drive 0.9 miles and turn left (west) on Limestone Rd. Drive 4.7 miles and bear right onto Meyers Creek Rd/Lodgepole Rd. After 1.9 miles veer left towards Meyers Creek cabin.

August 22-24 Schedule:

Friday - Show up anytime - Some people get there early and set up their camp and get horses settled. Unscheduled trail ride on your own.

Saturday - Breakfast on your own

8:30 am – Trail ride, if desired.

10:30 pm - Packing Competition - Fun and games - Not serious, no skills required - Come and join the fun!

12:00- Lunch on your own while watching Packing Competition

4:00 pm - Cross Cut Saw Competition

6:00 pm - Start to eat and listen to guest speaker Sabrina Bradford –

This meal is provided by the club so please RSVP to Sarah slewis_35@yahoo.com or text 406-780-9500 by Friday, August 15th.

8:00 pm - Campfire & Backcountry Stories! BYOB

Sunday - Breakfast on your own

9:00 am - Cowboy Church

Trail ride on your own

Pack-up and head out

I will send out a follow up email with Packing Competition Rules.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or text Sarah Lewis 406-780-9500. Please RSVP so we can bring enough food!

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.



FOR SALE

Canvas wall tent. 16x20x5. Internal aluminum frame. In great shape. \$2,500. More pictures available.

Scott McGinnis 406-322-5817 or 406-321-0316



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.

JULY MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting July 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 Fluer, Detra Chepulis, Sean Chepulis, Sarah Lewis and ABW Finian Bentler.

Motion to approve the June board meeting minutes made by Scott Fluer. The motion was seconded by Sean Chepulis. No discussion. Motion carried.

President's Report: BBCH received a grant of \$100.00 from Fidelity Charitable to use in our non-profit organization.

Vice President's Report: Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Report was delayed due to change over of Treasurer duties. Will be read and approved at August meeting.

Guest- ABW crew leader Finian Bentler: discussion of upcoming Flood Creek Project July 16th -22nd. Logistics and packing were discussed and planned.

Committee Reports

2027 Convention: Melissa Codner (chair). Nothing to report.

Activities: Sarah Lewis (chair). Fishtail Parade recap. Discussion of upcoming Youth Packing Clinic and difficulties associated with plans. Motion to postpone Youth Packing Clinic to next season was made by Clark Linn, seconded by Jon Shamel. Motion passed. Fun ride and pack demo for July 26th at Island Lake was planned. End of Year Rendezvous was scheduled for August 22-24th . Sarah will make agenda and email to invite members.

Education: General meetings will be suspended until rendezvous in August.

Projects: Jon Shamel (chair). Lodgepole clearing went okay. Riders didn't make it all the way to Deer Creek. Jim's Gulch had heavy downfall and was very difficult to clear. More clearing will be needed when possible. We will revisit plans in September when weather cools down.

Communications: Randy Thomsen (chair). We received a tack donation. We are looking for a donation point for the tack program on this side of Montana. Randy will contact Greg Schatz to discuss. Randy shared the request for donation from the US Forest Service History Museum. They have a goal of \$10,000 by September. This museum will be funded by private donations, and they have reached out to all the Back Country Horsemen Clubs. We will table donation discussion and decision till August board meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Belfry Access- Scott Fluer and Clark Linn met with BLM. They are checking into gravel and brush removal needs. Clark Linn will be requesting grant through BLM resources that should cover project costs fully. Estimated project cost is just under \$100,000. Discussion of signage for BBCH at trailhead. Discussion of Hatcher Pass and BLM wanting to fix cattleguard approach. Discussion of Weatherman's Draw and BLM's desire to build hitching rails. Discussion of possibly assisting BLM with both projects.

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

New Business:

Access gate was installed by the county at the cattle guard by the Ernie Strum Trailhead on West Rosebud. This will help with parking and accessibility for horses.

State Update: Nothing to report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm. Next meeting August 7th @ 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!



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
ABSAROOKEE, 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
(406)586-0488

& 715 E Mendenhall St
(406) 556-0488

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



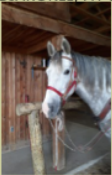
Two Standing Jacks

JR, 13 hand Roan, \$350

Arkansas Mtn Man, 15 hand Black, \$500

Pasture Breeding, Fee + Mare Care

DAN AND EMILY AADLAND
2906 HIGHWAY 78, PO BOX 578
ABSAROOKEE, MT 59001



Phone 406-321-4195
draa@montana.net



**Absaroka Tennessee
Walking Horses**

"Horses to match our mountains"

Horses for sale, training,
boarding, stallion service to
TWH and Suffolk Punch stallions



BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001