

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

Greetings Beartooth Backcountry Horsemen & Women!

What wonderful weather we've been having, in between the wind storms, LOL. We'll have to pray for a little moisture this spring. Detra and I got shoes put on our horses and mules today, we are getting excited for a great season. Trail clearings coming up in April and lots of good times with our friends from BBCH.

Our first round of crosscut saw certifications was a success with 7 certificates issued. Congratulations to Howard Butler, Hannah Orth, Jeff & Rosi Guckenberger, Jake Heyneman, Randy Thomsen and myself. We will have another certification if there is enough interest later in the spring.

Looking forward to seeing all of you for a great meeting on March 16th, 6:30 at the Palladium Draughthaus in Columbus. Plan on staying for a drink and visiting afterwards.

As always, I don't need therapy, I just need to go riding.

Sean Chepulis
President, Beartooth Backcountry Horsemen



BBCH DIRECTORS

...

Sean Chepulis, President

Jeff Guckenberger, Vice President

Sarah Lewis, Secretary

Clark Linn, Treasurer

Scott Fluer, Board Member

Bill Yager, Board Member

STATE DIRECTORS

...

John Jenkins, Sr. Director
406-855-0238

Clark Linn, State Director

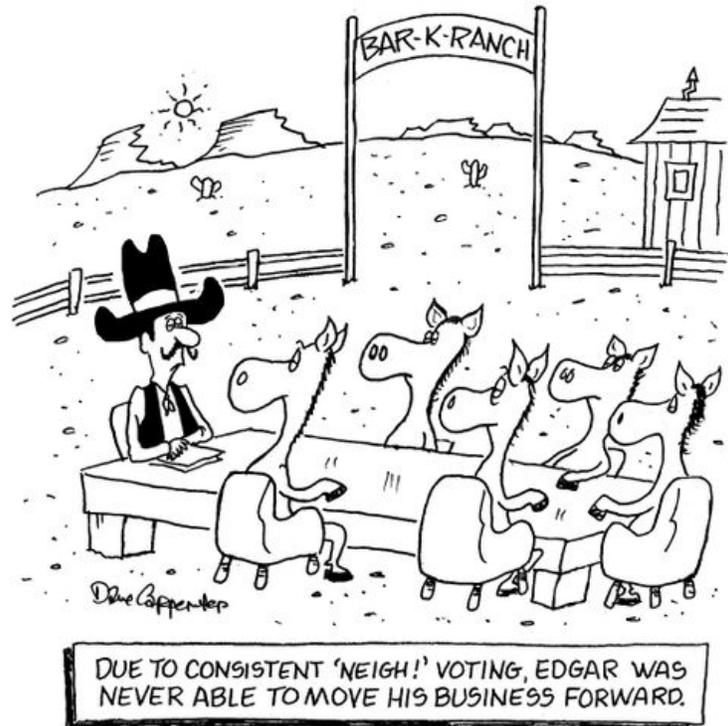
Jon Shamel, State Alternate

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

...

John Chepulis
406-322-4823

NEXT MEETING:



pc: <https://www.cartoonstock.com/cartoon?searchID=CS240148>

March 16, 2026

Palladium Draughthaus at 6:30 pm

702 E Pike Ave, Columbus

2026 DUES

Business Membership \$45

Family Membership \$40

Individual Membership \$30

Please pay your 2026 dues!

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

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

WEBSITE ARCHIVES



shutterstock.com - 240309135

Members!!

We need you to send photos and short descriptions of pack or trail trips (particularly 2023 to 2025) for the archives on the website.

Email: jessi.sparkman@gmail.com

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.



NATIONAL FINALS SKI-JORING THIS WEEKEND!



NATIONAL FINALS SKI-JORING RACES

Date: March 14/15, 2026

Red Lodge Fairgrounds

Website: www.redlodeskijoring.com

DON'T MISS THIS WINTER FAVORITE!

Show up in any of your backcountry horsemen labeled clothes and represent! Stay and support your fellow member, Hannah Orth competing in the Novice Division and snap a group photo!

SAVE THE DATE(S)

March 14: Tack Sale - Columbus, MT

April 12: Member clinic

June 27: Fishtail Family Fun Days

This is just the beginning... more to come!

TRAIL CLEARING

April 2026

22 or 29 (Wednesdays): Trout creek bad canyon Beartrap trail

22 or 29: Jim Gulch Deer creek

**May have to move one to May 6 Wednesday

24/26: Island Lake Trail and the East/West Fork trails (these are chainsaw trails)

May 2026

2/3: Lodgepole (intersection Lower Deer Creek)

9-10: Main Stillwater

13 (Wednesday): Ernie Strum Trail

16-17: Catch up weekend

23-24-25: West Fork of Stillwater (camping weekend)

**This will include Castle Creek Trail

Allie also asked if we would be interested in doing Rabbit Gulch (8 miles) - part is chain saw, last part is wilderness.

FOR SALE

Coming 2 year old filly for sale

For sale is a 2024 coming 2 year old registered quarter horse filly. High Rolling Roany, Mr Pete Oswald, Apple Jax on her papers. Registered name is Awesome Copper Jet. Located in Laurel, MT

Blossom is halter broke, leads, ties, and picks up and holds her feet. She stands for her feet to be trimmed well. She has been ponied. She loads and unloads in the trailer well, and does best with a buddy horse since she's a baby. She has that High Rolling Roany calm demeanor that everyone looks for.

She is friendly and has a very nice disposition. She's almost 15 hands now, I expect her to mature at nearly 16 hands.

She has no limitations, no injuries, and can go in any direction. Serious inquires only, \$5,500 obo

Contact Jessi 406-570-7166 with questions and for more pictures



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.

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting February 5th, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm at the Joliet Community Center.

In attendance: Sean Chepulis, John Jenkins, Clark Linn, Scott Fluer, Bill Yager, Jeff Guckenberger, and Sarah Lewis.

Motion to approve the January board meeting minutes made by John J. The motion was seconded by Jeff G. No discussion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion of January report, income statement, and profit & loss statement. Discussion of not allowing miscellaneous expenditures, everything will be categorized. Motion to approve the January Treasurer's Report made by Scott F. The motion was seconded by John J. No discussion. Motion carried. Discussion of Clark reporting officers list to state, he will take care of this. Discussion about creating a money market account for BBCH. Motion to open a money market account and authorize the signatories for the account to move money between the checking and savings accounts as needed made by John Jenkins. Seconded by Jeff Guckenberger. Motion carried.

Audit committee formed: John, Scott, and Sean. They will audit with current treasurer Clark Linn.

President's Report: Sean reported that the First Aid class in Red Lodge was a success. He reminded everyone to check their emails for certification cards.

Vice President's Report: Nothing to report.

Committee Reports

2027 Convention: Melissa Codner (chair). Discussion of 2027 email plans sent by Melissa Codner. This included discussion of planning logistics, needing committee heads identified, and planning a working session. The board will coordinate with Melissa Codner to plan workings sessions and support.

Activities: Discussion of upcoming youth clinic plans. Discussion of upcoming member clinic on April 12th . A planning meeting will be held soon.

Parades- Fishtail Family Fun Days is June 27th . We will ride in the parade and have a booth. Sarah will coordinate. Absarokee Days- TBD. Nye Goes Nuts- TBD.

Discussion of annual campout. Sean to schedule and reserve.

Clark brought up the idea of doing a Poker Ride again. Discussion of ideas for this.

Education: Sean Chepulis (chair). Sean showed the board “Horse Sense” booklets from the trailer. We plan to teach these at a general meeting. Ideas of camp and trail etiquette were brought up to teach at the next general meeting.

Projects: John Jenkins & Jeff Guckenberger (co-chairs). No updates.

Public Land Issues: Scott Fluer (chair). Discussion of “The Roadless Rule”. Signing a petition of encouragement of the rule. Discussion of 5013c status and what that means for us on issues. We as a club need to remember that we are impartial on political issues and sides. We can oppose or support issues that are imperative to our mission. As individuals we are able to have specific sides and opinions but not when representing BBCH as a club. Scott will continue to research important issues and keep up updated as needed.

Unfinished Business: Discussion of proposed budget. This was tabled per changes that will be made by Clark. This will be revisited and approved by the board.

Tack sale will be held March 14th in Columbus, MT.

Trail clearing schedule was discussed. Jeff and Sean will meet with Allie to confirm. Joe Josephson of ABW will be contacted by John Jenkins to see what is needed of BBCH for pack support on 2026 projects.

Discussion of “Trail Boss” duties. Tabled till next meeting.

Discussion of the missing items in the BBCH trailer: Garmin, First Aid Bag, and Manty ropes. These need to be located and replaced.

New Business: Sean & Jeff are planning a chainsaw certification class/ training date. They will plan Class and Field Training. Crosscut training will be organized as well by the Sawyer team: Sean, Jeff, & John.

Discussion of our Founder’s Award Nomination. This is due February 15th .

Discussion of donations for the silent and live auction at 2026 State Convention.

Discussion of meeting with Wild Montana- Andrea Cubberley on Sunday 8th . Some board members will attend and report back.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Sean Chepulis, seconded by Clark Linn. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next meeting March 5th at the Joliet Community Center 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!



Nordic, Alpine, Telemark instruction

BARNARD SKIING
 Grant Barnard gbtelemark@gmail.com
 406-425-0130

AGRI-GENERATIONAL
 — CONTINUE THE LEGACY —

Brent D. Turner

✉ Bturner@brentturner.net
 🌐 agrigenerational.com
 📞 (615) 406-0419

243 Pine Crest Road
 Columbus, MT 59019

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

