

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

Hello Beartooth Backcountry Horsemen & Women,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time clearing trails and assisting with the Belfry Trailhead Project.

Please keep the following updates in mind:

- Belfry Trailhead Ribbon Cutting: June 12th at 9:30 AM. I would love to see you there.
- Convention Committee Meeting: June 15th at 5:00 PM, immediately preceding the General Meeting.
- Education Committee: I am currently looking for a new lead for this committee. If you are interested in volunteering or have any recommendations, please let me know.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting and out on the trails.

Best regards,

Sean Chepulis

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:



June 15, 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](#).

SAVE THE DATE



YOU ARE INVITED TO RIDE IN THE FISHTAIL FAMILY FUN DAYS PARADE

JUNE 27, 2026

WATCH FOR AN EMAIL WITH MORE INFORMATION!

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.



FOUNDATIONAL HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC



Roberts Montana

Foundational Horsemanship Clinic July 10,11,12

Hosted by Beartooth Back Country Horseman

100 Cherry Springs Road, Roberts MT

Become the leader that your horse needs you to be.

Contact Wade Murphy 406-431-1717, murphydw813@gmail.com

Clinic is limited to 8 riders. Both horses and mules are welcome.

9:00-12:00 fundamental groundwork sessions.

1:00-4:00 essentials under saddle sessions.

***Discount for Back Country Horsemen. They work hard on our trails!**

\$500 for all 6 sessions (BCH member \$450)

\$300 for all three sessions of either class (BCH \$250)

Spectators \$10 per day or \$20 for the entire event

50% nonrefundable deposit to hold your spot.



BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

ABWF-USFS/BBCH PACK PROJECTS

Dates and locations are firm. Details may change. Stay tuned. Weed free hay required at the trailheads.

July 9-12: Face of the Mountain. Cancelled. ABWF will not need packing assistance as the FS has made alternative arrangements to ferry equipment for this project

July 15-21: Main Stillwater to Wounded Man trail. 11 miles one way. Packing camp, tools and food to the Wounded Man trail turnoff for the yearly Schriener's College trip. They will be doing maintenance work on the Wounded Man trail. This will require staying 1 overnight on both the in and out. July 15-16: packing in tools, staying the night and riding out the next morning. Ride in on the 20th, stay the night, then packing out gear on the 21st.

Aug 19-25. Bull Cr. Starting from Daisy Pass near Cooke City. ABWF crew clearing South Bull Cr or thereabouts. This will be a full day from Daisy Pass. Will need to stay overnight on both the in and out or stay the week. Will load up at the pass on the morning of 19th early at Daisy. Arrive the night before or arrive early. The crew will hike from Lake Abundance. Details to be determined. Specifics may change.

FOR SALE

Have a saddle or piece of packing equipment? Please email the information to Rochelle - ebenezerquine@gmail.com. The listing will be removed after 3 months unless you request otherwise.

MAY MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting May 7, 2026

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

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

Member in attendance: Dave Heinle.

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

President's Report: Sean reported the National Newsletter. Discussion Extreme Terrain Clean Trail Project Grant of \$250.00. Discussion of applying for grant to apply to future trail project.

Chainsaw class report-certified 5 B card sawyers. Class went well. Discussion of the need for another 1st Aid Certification class. Clark will contact Red Lodge Fire department to schedule.

Vice President's Report: Jeff reports that our membership is up YTD. We had 43 attendees at the last general meeting. Discussion of the logistics of broadcasting the general meeting online. We will consider this as a board and research.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion of April report, income & expenses, YTD, MTD, profit and loss statement. Motion to approve the April Treasurer's Report made by John J. The motion was seconded by Scott F. No discussion. Motion carried. Discussion of State of Montana requesting an audit on the license plate income. BBCH has not reached the minimum plate requirement of 400 plates for 2026. Discussion of how to boost license plate sales. Research will be done to check exact requirements and YTD totals.

State Director's Report: Discussion of the last general meeting and the lack of understanding of the Lincoln Prosperity Project. We will, as a club, support the Lincoln Prosperity Project through our state representatives at the state meeting. We will also support leaving the Roadless Rule as developed and passed in 2001.

Committee Reports

2027 Convention: Melissa Codner (chair). Discussion of each committee's responsibilities. All committee members are working on their projects. They will report at the next convention meeting.

Activities: Discussion of upcoming Fishtail Family Fun Days Parade on June 27th. Sarah will organize riders and booth volunteers.

Horsemanship clinic by Wade Murphy will be held July 10,11 & 12.

Annual Camp Out August 14-16th. Meyers Creek Cabin is reserved, and special guest speakers are planned.

Discussion of needing to plan a "Youth" Packing Clinic. Looking for a leader. Dates and logistics TBD.

Education: Sean Chepulis (chair). Education for May general meeting TBD. Fall campout education will be Grizzly Management by Jeremiah Smith.

Projects: John Jenkins & Jeff Guckenberger (co-chairs). Discussion of meeting up with the Gallatin chapter to work on some trails in the Crazy Mountain range. Jeff will investigate this and report back.

Discussion of the possibility of collaborating with Wild Montana on a project in August. More info TBD.

BLM Belfry Trailhead Improvement Project update. Volunteers will be needed May 16th for fencing. Lunch will be provided by the club.

Public Land Issues: Scott Fluer (chair). Discussion of BLM Project and what is still needed. Also, grand opening of the trailhead plans.

Unfinished Business: Discussion of getting saddle bags made for parades with BBCH logo. We are still researching and may plan on this for next year. This will be discussed at the general meeting to get member's opinions. Discussion of making a hat and vest order for members to order as wanted. Also, discussion of making a stock hat order to sell at upcoming events. Motion to make it possible for members to order hats, vests, and shirts through order forms made by Jeff G. seconded by Randy T. No discussion. Motion passed. Motion to buy a stock of hats for a maximum of \$300.00 in varied styles made by Scott F. seconded by Clark L. Motion passed. Sarah L. will manage orders and forms.

New Business: Discussion of the new structure of the general meeting. Structure is reported to be appreciated by members. Discussion of keeping the time frame of the meeting minimum and respectful of member's time. Discussion of proper structure, meeting committees, and upcoming plans.

Discussion of board meeting schedule and the need to stay monthly or readjust to bi-monthly board meetings. This will be a continued discussion.

Discussion of Carbon County 4H Horse Program requesting a knot tying demo for their upcoming horse camp. Board will look for a volunteer to assist with this demo.

Discussion of holding summer general meetings outside and hosting BBQ style meetings in the Columbus area.

Discussion of sponsoring a membership for Yellowstone Horse & Mule as a thank you for their demonstration and volunteering at the Youth Trail Clinic. Jeff G. moves to grant a complimentary membership to Yellowstone Horse & Mule for 2026. Seconded by John J. Motion passed.

Discussion of adding ABW pack assistance projects with dates to the newsletter. This will be overseen by projects committee.

Discussion of Initial Creek campout and clearing plans. Sean C. will send out a member email

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Clark L., seconded by Jeff G. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Next meeting June 4th 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!



AGRI-GENERATIONAL
— CONTINUE THE LEGACY —

Brent D. Turner

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🌐 agrigerational.com
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Nordic, Alpine, Telemark instruction



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Two Standing Jacks
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Shelby B Burrows
Owner/ Operator
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3 Morning Glory Lane
Columbus, MT

For all your fencing needs

