

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

Greetings Backcountry Horsemen & Women,

While our regular projects have slowed down, our pack projects are in full swing. John Jenkins recently led a successful trip up the Stillwater for the ABW projects; thank you to everyone who helped. The next pack trip is scheduled for an August 19th pack-in and an August 25th pack-out. More details will follow soon.

Several of us recently attended the Wade Murphy Horsemanship Clinic, which was both informative and fun. I highly recommend attending future clinics. Thank you to Clark Linn for sponsoring this event.

I am looking forward to our Annual Rendezvous on August 14–16 at the Meyer's Creek Ranger Station. This event will take the place of our monthly general meeting, and the Board will share an agenda for the weekend soon.

Stay cool, and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Best regards,

Sean Chepulis
President, Beartooth Backcountry Horsemen

BBCH DIRECTORS

...

Sean Chepulis, President

Jeff Guckenberger, Vice President

Sarah Lewis, Secretary

Clark Linn, Treasurer

Scott Fluor, 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

ANNUAL RENDEZVOUS



August 14-16, 2026

Meyer's Creek Ranger Station

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

2026 ANNUAL RENDEZVOUS

We are excited for our end of 2026 BBCH Rendezvous! Come for one, all, any, or just for entertainment and conversation.

Please join us August 14-16. We will have a guest speaker that you won't want to miss!

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.

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 am - **Packing Competition** - Fun and games – First timers welcome. Come and join the fun!

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

3:30 pm- Signups for Cross Cut Competition

4:00 pm - **Cross Cut Saw Competition** (*don't forget your gloves*)

6:00 pm – Dinner and Guest Speaker

This meal is provided by the club so please RSVP

to Sarah, slewis_35@yahoo.com or text 406-780-9500 by Wednesday, August 12th.

8:00 pm - Campfire & Backcountry Stories! BYOB

Sunday - Breakfast on your own

Trail ride on your own

Pack-up and head out.

RENDEZVOUS PACK HORSE RACE

Saturday Aug 8, 2026 @ 10:30 am

STOCK AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

2 saddle animals and saddles

1 pack animal with pack saddle

Pack saddle may be either Decker or Saw-Buck

Saddle pads or blankets required under all saddles

1 set box paniers – full size wood, plastic, fiberglass or soft w/cardboard inserts. Decker hooks permitted.

Minimum of 25 lbs gear for each panier.

1 top pack

1 axe – single bit (pole axe) type, or saddle saw permitted.

1 pack cover (optional)

Any ropes, as desired by contestants

1 lash rope and cinch equipped with standard lash hook (optional)

GENERAL RULES:

Timer starts:

Pack two manties with provided manties, mantied ropes and gear. (Leave manties with judges)

Load pack animal with pre-loaded hard panniers and top pack (secure with a diamond, double diamond, box hitch or sling ropes) (Each team can set up panier with Decker hooks or for a saw buck before timer starts.)

-Mount riding stock and complete a trail versatility/trail course (Can include water crossing, squeeze, bridge and or obstacles.) and return to starting point.

Controlled pacing is mandatory, breaking into unauthorised faster gaits can incur time penalties.

Timer stops.

Judges score ride-

-Evaluate trail ride. (10 Second penalty for each obstacle not completed, 1 min penalty for not attempting an obstacle/ 2 attempts must be made before passing an obstacle.)

-Weigh manties (1 second penalty for each pound difference between weight of manties)

-Evaluate mantie packing (Tied properly, relatively equal size, etc., 1 second penalty for each component not completed properly.)

-Evaluate Box or diamond hitch. (5 second penalty for improperly tied hitch.)

-Lowest time wins.

Judges' decision will be final.



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.



ABWF-USFS/BBCH PACK PROJECTS

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

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 - ebenezerequine@gmail.com. The listing will be removed after 3 months unless you request otherwise.

JULY MEETING MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

7-2-2026

Call to Order: 6:32 PM, Joliet MT

Roll Call Present: S Chepulis, J Guckenberger, C Linn, S Fluer, B Yager, J Jenkins, R Thomsen

Absent: S Lewis

Reading of the Minutes: Motion to approve: 1st Guckenberger. 2nd Linn. Passed.

Officer Reports:

President: none

VP Report: none

Treasurer's Report: C Linn reported. Detailed report attached including both budgeted expenses and supporting documentation. Mild deficit spending, less than expected. State License Plate audit passed without difficulty. Palladium rental amount outstanding. Motion to approve: 1st Fluer; 2nd Yager. Passed by acclamation.

State Directors: nothing new as there has been no interim meeting.

Committee Reports

1. 2027 Convention Committee. Meeting prior to June's general meeting well attended. S Fluer recommended a panel discussion on public land issues, with panel members from PLWA, WildMT, BCHMT, DNRC and BHA. J Jenkins will take this to the convention education committee. Saddle broken horse available for auction uncertain at this time. M Codner has finalized sponsor documents.

2. Activities Committee

Fishtail Parade (6/27) successful, on the front page of the Stillwater Co News.

Belfry's Bear Creek Trailhead inauguration well attended (6/12). Discussed further work needed for development such as hitching rails, corrals, park lines, picnic tables and other. Made

Carbon County newspaper.

Jim's Gulch trail clearing added 9 AM for July 11.

Horsemanship clinic, Wade Murphy. One remaining slot. 7/10-10.

6th Annual BBCH Summer Rendezvous. Date mid Aug confirmed along with speaker from Grizzly Bear management out of Bozeman, Jeremiah Smith.

3. Trail/Packing ABW trips

a. Main Stillwater to Wounded Man Cr, in on 7/15-16 and out on 7/20-21.

b. Bull Cr. Some details TBD. Will ride in from Daisy pass and pack from Lake Abundance. 8/19-20 in, and 8/24-25 out. Logistics ironed out.

4. Education Committee will consist of J Jenkins, H Butler and D Edwards.

John C will present at the next general meeting.

5. Public Lands: S Fluer reported. Discussed additional development needed at bear Creek trailhead. S Fluer will discuss with BLM rep conflict with rancher, and further trailhead development.

Unfinished Business

Board recommends discussing with general membership the reimbursement schedule for trail clearing and packing. They will develop a solid plan prior to 2027 year. Board generally agreed to continue to support travel for State Directors (no vote). Treasurer indicates that no one has requested reimbursement for trail clearings this year.

New Business

C Linn graciously agreed to preside over general meeting on 7/20 as president, vice president and secretary will be absent.

Adjourn 8:03 PM

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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🌐 agrigenerational.com
☎ (615) 406-0419

243 Pine Crest Road
Columbus, MT 59019

Nordic, Alpine, Telemark instruction



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

Stillwater Veterinary Clinic

557 North Montana Avenue
Absarokee, MT 59001
406-328-4159



Bar C Diamond Saddlery
Saddles, Leatherwork, Repairs 406-581-3904
seanchepulis84@gmail.com

Broken Fiddle Ranch

Dave & Chris Heinle

Clyde Park, MT 59018

(406) 321-4326

brokenfiddleranch@gmail.com



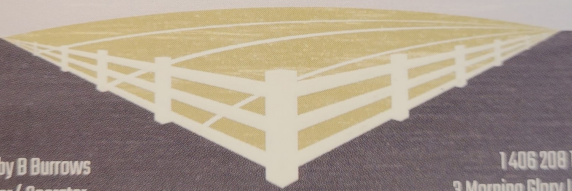
Two Standing Jacks

JR, 13 hand Roan, \$350

Arkansas Mtn Man, 15 hand Black, \$500

Pasture Breeding, Fee + Mare Care

Bad Canyon Fence LLC.



Shelby B Burrows
Owner/ Operator
Shelbyburrows2@gmail.com

1406 208 1139
3 Morning Glory Lane
Columbus, MT

For all your fencing needs



BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001