

Last Chance Back Country Horsemen, Membership Gathering – Freeze Branding, Tack and Pack Gear Sale, Packing Demo, Dutch Oven Cook-off, Pot Luck, Meeting

May 10, 2025, at Neil and Darlene Horne's home

- The weather was beautiful and there was a great turnout of current and new members as well as a few attendees who then joined as members.
- The freeze branding of many animules went very well with help from numerous members; Mike Cannon was the brand 'expert' and Helenann kept him honest with a timer
- There was quite a bit of tack and pack gear available for sale; Jeff Brandt had a large amount of gear for sale and still has enough to outfit a string or two. If you are interested in any gear call him 406-439-5600
- We also spent some time on a packing demo: learning how to manti and tie some knots; how to sling a pack including the diamond hitch. There were quite a few people (mostly ladies) who took turns learning how to manti.
- We started the day with various pastries then for lunch we enjoyed the dutch oven dishes as well as the pot luck items. Everything was delicious and there was definitely enough food available. Thank you to everyone who brought food! We also had a voting for best dutch oven dishes in the various categories and a few people walked away with prizes.
- After the lunch we had a brief meeting.
 - Minutes from April 2, 2025 meeting: Sherri Lionberger motioned to approve, John Pavsek seconds. All in favor, motion passed.
 - Treasurer Report May 2025, Ali Kenny
 - Terry to help with auditing convention early in the summer
 - Taxes were done April 2025
 - Deposits
 - 4/18/25 = \$100.00 cash (remaining convention raffle ticket sale money)
 - 4/18/25 = \$135 (membership dues; Juneau (\$45.00), McDaniel (\$45.00), and Gebe (\$45.00))
 - Total earnings from third CD recently renewed: \$540.87

Opportunity Bank - Total account holdings as of 5/10/25: \$51,791.33

| Account Type | Current Amount | Amount Last Meeting | Interest Rate | Term | Maturity |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|--------|----------|
| Checking | \$15,551.93 | \$17,076.91 | - | - | - |
| Savings | \$1,727.98 | \$1,727.98 | 0.05% | - | - |
| CD1-6738 | \$11,688.12 | \$11,147.25 | Up to 5.25% | 12 mo. | 4/18/26 |
| CD2-3512 | \$11,253.94 | \$11,253.94 | Up to 5.25% | 12 mo. | 3/7/26 |
| CD3-3547 | \$11,569.36 | \$11,569.36 | Up to 5.25% | 12 mo. | 3/7/26 |

- Bills presented:
 - Ali Kenny = \$8.99 (tabs for 2025 treasurer folder)
 - Katy Donnelley = \$274.53 (convention breakfast items)
 - Terry Hutton = \$56.94 (freeze branding food)
- Treasurer's report and pay bills: Helenann Cannon motioned to approve, Nick Patterson seconds. All in favor, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- Helena Outdoor Club (HOC), April 10: Merlyn Huso and Katy Donnelley presented info with Power Point presentation and had the chapter display board to show. HOC donated \$100 to LCBCH
- Conservation Elders Youth event at fairgrounds April 19: Hughey family and Sherri L had cross-cut saw demo and packing gear demo available; Sherri reported the turnout was not as high as last year and there were many event 'booths' for youth to check out at the fairgrounds both indoors and out
- Training/Certifications:
 - CPR/1st Aid training was held April 5
 - Chain and cross-cut saw training was held April 19
 - Defensive Horsemanship – Sherri L was going to hold this today but it may take an hour or more; it had already been a long day so we decided to have it at our next meeting in June and/or break the training up over the next few meetings
- Summer Projects:
 - June 7 National Trails Day: Sherri L and Fred B will coordinate this event as Trail Boss; to be held at Gates of the Mountains; watch for more info to come from Sherri and Fred
 - Additional projects include Woods Creek (continued bridge plank project), Elkhorns (a couple of potential projects). We will discuss these projects further at our next meeting in June with Mandy Alvino USFS representative in attendance.
 - Note: USFS volunteer forms are available from Mandy 406-465-4119 or Terry Hutton also has them available; BCH forms which detail your mileage, stock use, etc. are also available from Terry H as well as our LCBCH chapter Trail Boss info sheet

NEW BUSINESS

- Terry Hutton submitted a LCBCH chapter nomination for the Back Country Horsemen of America Double Diamond Award. The nomination was regarding the 2024 work in the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness, specifically in the Mann Gulch area packing crosses for fallen firefighters of 1949. The local USFS office prepared a supporting letter to the nomination. 2024 was the 75th Anniversary of the historic Mann Gulch fire. BCHA board members met mid-April 2025 and selected our nomination. Congrats to our chapter! Katy D will pick up our award/trophy at the state board meeting mid-May. I will share the nomination documents.

OTHER BUSINESS

- For those who know Lucas Parriman, he was one of our chapter's main USFS contact for trail work; he no longer works for the USFS. Mandy Alvino will continue to be our main contact.
- Katy D brought up a possible couple of days of chapter camping and trail work event; maybe the second weekend in August. Summer gets busy and she asked people to try to plan for this. More info to come.
- Contact list will be updated with new members and shared with everyone.
- Conex: discussed keeping up maintenance on chain and 2 person and 1 person cross-cut saws; John Pavsek volunteered to do this (Thanks John); remember to sign out items and sign in when returning, there is a clipboard just inside the door; a group of members also re-organized some of the items to proper places
- 2025 Memberships Dues reminder: Individual \$35, Family \$45 – Annually paid dues, you get on the mailing list for newsletters from Back Country Horsemen of Montana and Back Country Horsemen of America
- A huge thank you to Neil and Darlene Horne for hosting today's event.
- Next Meeting: June 4, 2025 – 7:00 Montana Wild
- Adjourn: Terry H motioned to approve. All in favor, meeting ended.

Respectfully submitted: Terry Hutton, Secretary