

Mat-Su Back Country Horsemen of Alaska 2025 Annual report



BCHA member clearing trail and flagging for an August event.

2025 was another busy year! Mat-Su BCHA partnered with the local 4-H horse council to offer a series of fun competitions we called the Alaska Trail Challenge. Over 30 different equestrians participated and volunteered in the Trail Trials and Competitive Trail Ride held on the Mat-Su Borough trails May through August.

Members also worked with the borough to identify a new trail which will be added to the Mat-Su Greenbelt system in 2026.

Our chapter volunteered 360 hours this year, which combined with travel time and vehicle miles, is valued at over \$20,000. That is surely an underestimate of all the work that we collectively completed!

Our bank account as of January 2026 is at a very healthy \$4,855, with member dues continuing to add to the total.

We are looking forward to growing our membership and our activities this year, continuing to partner with 4-H horse clubs, organizing an informal competitive trail ride, educating ourselves and others, advocating for equestrian trail use, and building and maintaining trails.

Mat-Su Chapter board:

President: Colleen Fisk

Vice President: Sarah Rodriguez

Secretary: Sarah Gotschall

Treasurer: Julia Schirack

Directors: Lori Benner, Francine Long, and Karol Kolehmainen

Thank you to all who have stepped up to serve on the board or volunteer in other ways to keep the trails open for us in the area. The Mat-Su board also serves on the state BCHA board to coordinate with the Kenai chapter and support statewide efforts.

Thank you for another great year, and we look forward to seeing you on the trails soon!



BCHA members at memorial ride for Bill Sullivan in November