

## Mat-Su Back Country Horsemen of Alaska 2024 Annual report



2024 was our busiest year yet! 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 Matanuska Greenbelt trail system May through July.

Our chapter volunteered 371 hours this year, which combined with travel time and vehicle miles, is valued at almost \$20,000. That is surely an underestimate of all the work that we collectively completed!

We also imitated the Kenai Peninsula chapter this year by holding a mileage challenge, with 785 miles submitted just from the six riders who participated May through October. We expect to offer this competition again this year and hope for even more participation in 2025.

Our bank account as of January 2025 is at a very healthy \$5,512, 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 Gotschall

Treasurer: Francine Long

Directors: Lori Benner, Sarah Rodriguez, and Pete Praetorius



With our Secretary moving out of state this past summer, we are still looking for someone to fill the role to take minutes and help the president plan meetings. 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!