



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

In Partnership With



Volume 47

February 2020

Issue 02

In this Issue

President's Letter	1
Training Schedule	3
Horse Sense	4
Back Country Kitchen	5
General/Board Mtg Notes	6
2020 Convention Vendors	9
For Sale – Members	11
Ads & Services	12



**DEADLINE FOR THE
Mar 2020 NAG NEWS is
5 p.m. Mar 11, 2020**

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lionel.lavallee47@gmail.com

*To improve accuracy please
confirm all ads by deadline date.

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN MISSION STATEMENT

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness areas.
2. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To assist the various government, state and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new back country horsemen's organizations.
6. To cooperate with other B.C.H.A. organizations.



A Message from Our President

Greetings Members:

I just returned from a week in the Phoenix, Arizona area on a project at Arizona State University and time with family. Who would have thought I would need my fleece vest during the day, a jacket at night, and an umbrella for a couple of days? Luckily, I returned between snowstorms here in the valley. Winter has returned to the Bitterroot!

I know that we all enjoy our chapter's monthly newsletter, Nag News. It is full of useful information regarding training and projects, as well as, recipes and cooking tips, and horsemanship tips. Lionel Lavallee has been our newsletter editor for a while. Since he has taken on additional responsibilities with the chapter board and state board, he is seeking relief from the newsletter. We are asking that one or more of our members step forward to take on the newsletter responsibility. Lionel will work with you to understand the process he has been using to create this valuable asset for our chapter. Please let me, Lionel, or a board member know of your interest to support our efforts in this way.

The 2020 Backcountry Horsemen of Montana State Convention is just around the corner; March 20 – 22. We encourage you to enjoy some of our convention committee's efforts by visiting during the convention. You can audit the convention sessions Saturday and Sunday morning and visit the great variety of vendors that Dan Maiyo and Ed Bullock have arranged. There will also be an open welcoming mixer Friday evening. For BCH members there are also afternoon workshops with a choice of 4 speaker presentations and a band Saturday night starting about 9pm. More details to follow.

Gene Merrell, president

COMMITTEE	CHAIRS AND MEMBERS	CONTACT
Audit	Nancy Pollman	406-546-6492
Budget	Candance Erickson	
Audio-Visual Equipment	Ed Bullock	907-575-7878
Donations & Awards	Rita Atencio	961-4816
Election & Nominations	Rita Atencio	961-4816
Equipment & Inventory	Dave Welch	541 980 2883
Fair	Bill Black/Mark DeGrazier	363-6834/777-1234
Fundraisers	Ed Bullock	907-575-7878
RTP Grant Committee	Lionel Lavallee	60-1242
Historian	Laura McManus	642-3018
Issues	Lionel Lavallee	406-640-1242
Memberships	Kathy Stroppel-Holl	961-0096
Newsletter	Lionel Lavallee	640-1242
Outreach	Susan Slempe	821-2017/381-5910
Parliamentarian	Rebecca Jones	415-264-5457
Programs	Philip & Pam Torgerson	360-4933/360-3201
Projects	Dan Brandborg, Lionel Lavallee	381-5643/640-1242
Sunshine	Cindy Beck	360-1165
Trail Rides	Jan Bullock	907-242-9853
Training	Bonnie Morgan	381-9021
Education Committee	Ed Duggan & Christy Schram-Duggan	369-3140/360-5947
Website Design	Nancy Pollman	406-546-6492

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen 2020 Officers & Board

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
Gene Merrell 208-310-6326	Dan Brandborg 381-5643	Christy Schram-Duggan 360-5947	Sandra O'Brien 907-529-1315

Directors:

Ed Bullock (2020-21) 907-575-7878	Lionel Lavallee (2019-20) 640-1242
Jan Bullock (2019-20) 907-242-9853	Mike Costanzo (2020-21) 375-1340
Ed Duggan (2019-20) 406-369-3140	Julie Schram (2020-21) 961-2457
Joe Kirkland (2020) 642-3246	Dan Maiyo (2020-21) 208-940-2887
Tim Meyer (2019-20) 907-440-0841	

Past President: Karen Philips 406-961-0101 **State Chairman:** Rich Carl 406-899-5248

State Directors: Chuck Miller (2018-20) 961-5453
Lionel Lavallee (2020-21) 642-3246

Alt State Director: Taylor Orr (2020) 930-5838

Presentation to Bitter Root Backcountry Horsemen, December 2019

Program Speaker: Chris Traux – Discussing the Stihl 251cc EZ Pull Chainsaw, which is one of the donated prized for the 2020 State Convention

2020 BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN CONVENTION

The 2020 Convention Theme selected was *2020: Clear Trails Ahead*.
Committee chairs are listed below.

2020 Back Country Horsemen Convention Committee Information			
Theme - 2020: Clear Trails Ahead			
Name	Sub-Committee	Phone #	Email
Christy Schram-Duggan	Co-Chair, Facility & Catering	406-360-5947	synbarranch@msn.com
Brad Pollman	Co-Chair, Entertainment	406-546-6491	npollman20@aol.com
Sandy Aalgaard	Treasurer & Delegate Packet	406-360-0306	tigr426@aol.com
Maddy Atkins	Decorations	406-381-2026	devil11soccer@gmail.com
Ed Bullock	Vendors	907-575-7878	snowhook@hotmail.com
Jan Bullock	Program/Speakers & Publicity	907-242-9853	wolfrax24@hotmail.com
Bonnie Duggan	At Large	406-544-8925	bduggan47@gmail.com
Ed Duggan	Facility & Catering	406-369-3140	fivedweedandseed@outlook.com
Dan Maiyo	Raffle/Door Prizes & Vendors	406-961-4477	djmaiyo@gmail.com
Earl Philips	Advisor	406-369-0723	philips@montana.com
Karen Philips	Publicity	406-369-0725	kphilips@montana.com
Nancy Pollman	Registrar & Entertainment	406-544-6492	npollman20@aol.com
Julie Schram	Displays/Photo, Delegate Packet, & Registrar	406-241-1776	dbarjranch@aol.com
Kathy Stroppel-Holl	Secretarty & Delegate Packet	406-961-0096	kshmes@outlook.com

TRAINING

First Aid/CPR

The first training is scheduled for Saturday, January 25, from 10 am to 3 pm, taught by Connie Long. Bring lunch, water, paper for notes if you desire, and wear comfortable clothing. We have 5 spaces left so contact Bonnie Morgan (381-9021) if you would like to attend this session.

Directions to Stevensville Fire Rural Fire District West Side:

- From the South, turn west (left) at the stoplight intersection of Hwy 93 and Eastside highway. Turn right and drive through the Subway parking lot to the end of the lane, then left on Kingsman Drive to the fire station. Please do not block the fire doors.
- From the North, turn right (West) on Kingsman Drive just before the traffic light and follow it straight back to the station. If you miss the road, turn right at the light and follow the directions above. Again, please do not block the fire doors.

Defensive Horsemanship

The demonstration portion is scheduled in the C-Max arena on Bass Lane in Corvallis April 4. Four sessions of Obstacle course training will be on April 25 and May 2. Save April 4 and one of the other two dates!

Chainsaw and Crosscut Saw classes

These classes will be starting in April, weather permitting. Sawyers needing a renewal will be able to renew while on projects (*if last certified under new saw regs*) when an instructor is available. Those new to the current Forest Service guidelines will need to have a more in depth training, starting in April. Remember that First Aid/CPR needs to be current to remain certified or get a new card.

Congratulations to the Smoke Elser Packing Scholarship winners: Beau Duggan, Travise Grinnell, and Joe Kirkland!!



SHOOT OR SPRAY – BEAR SAFETY IN THE BACKCOUNTRY

by Noorjahan Parwana

(Originally run in the November 2012 issue of the Decker Dispatch)

Most will agree, it will be a sad day when there are no more grizzly bears in Montana. These animals represent all we love about our state; they are big and wild. The good news is that grizzly populations are gaining. Throughout the lower 48, grizzly numbers have bounced back from about 550 in 1973 to 1,700 today. The bad news is these can be dangerous animals and with growing backcountry use, there is growing risk for people and bears.

In 2010, there were 295 human/grizzly conflicts in the Greater Yellowstone region resulting in mortality of 75 animals – a record high. There were also 8 human fatalities. Last year looked to be another record-setting year for human/grizzly conflicts, particularly with hikers and hunters.

It is unlikely any “Bear Aware” outreach will neglect to recommend carrying bear spray as a precaution. Yet, in 2011, a federal study determined that 56% of people charged by bears in the Northern Rockies were not carrying spray.

Studies by bear experts indicate that people using bear spray during grizzly bear encounters are injured far less often than people using firearms. University of Calgary’s Steve Herrero found that 98 percent of those who used bear spray walked away unharmed, and no people or bears died. Fifty-six percent of those who used firearms were injured, and 61 percent of the bears died. The firearms study involved 269 incidents with 444 hunters. The data are persuasive.

The March 2012 issue of the Journal of Wildlife Management published an article by Tom Smith (Brigham Young University) and Stephen Herrero – Efficacy of Firearms for Bear Deterrence in Alaska. Among their conclusions were: 1) that “Firearm bearers suffered the same injury rates in close encounters with bears whether they used their firearms or not,” and 2) that “Bear spray [has] a better success rate under a variety of situations ... than firearms.”

There is a growing understanding among wildlife biologists that widespread use of bear spray will promote human safety and bear conservation. However, as Dr. Stephen French, grizzly bear researcher in the Yellowstone Ecosystem points out, “Spray isn’t brains in a can.”

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Carrying bear spray is not a substitute for the normal precautions when traveling or camping in bear country.



Ultimate Apple Crisp

Don't be afraid of the spices in this version of Apple Crisp, they're what add the needed punch. We also added $\frac{3}{4}$ c. chopped pecans to the recipe

Ingredients

- 2 pounds Fuji or Granny Smith apples peeled and thinly sliced
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup orange juice
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup granulated sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup brown sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped pecans
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup granulated sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup light brown sugar, packed
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 cup rolled oats (not instant)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ pound cold unsalted butter, diced

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large bowl add the apple slices, orange juice, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg.
3. To make the crisp topping, mash together the flour, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup brown sugar, pecans, salt, oats and butter.
4. Add the apples to a 8x8 pan and add the crisp topping on top before baking for 30-40 minutes or until golden brown.



**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, January 16,
2020**

The January 2020 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Gene Merrell at 7:02 pm. The meeting was held at the Corvallis School Cafeteria. 54 members were present. Gene Merrell led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting.

Guests: Michele Dieterich, Jessica Waylynn and Karri Hunt with their dogs, Wind River Bear Institute, Jeremy and Alyssa Cameron, Paul and Kathy G. and Mark Caller.

Program: Phil T. introduced Jaime Jonkel, FWP Bear Management Specialist for 23 years. Jaime showed two videos (four bears in Lincoln attacking chickens, hot wire/ two bears male and female up the Blackfoot). There are two different types of grizzlies, mountain and prairie. The mountain grizzly is present in our surrounding areas. The Hudson Bay Company kept records of the grizzlies since 1670 in the Bitterroot. Jamie discussed the history of the mountain grizzlies in the Bitterroot. Majority of the grizzlies in the Bitterroot come from the Blackfoot. Would love to have us keep track of grizzly signs. Gave us a crash course on grizzly signs: hair follicle (silver tip), claw marks on carcass grave, carcass stash, grizzly loves the biscuit root, grizzly tracks are square not round. To report a grizzly or for more information go to the website <http://missoulabears.org/>.

BUSINESS

Minutes: There were no corrections to the December minutes. **Ed Bullock motioned and Lionel Lavallee seconded to accept the minutes of the December 2019 general meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Sandra O'Brien presented the January treasurer's report. **Lionel Lavallee motioned, and Tim Meyer seconded to accept the treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthday: The Chapter sang Happy Birthday to Kira Grinnell.

Coffee/Water Volunteer Signup Sheet: Gene passed the signup sheet around.

Bicycle Group Member: Travis Williams with the Bitterroot Backcountry Cyclist (BBC) is a Board Member and a member of the BRBCH. He presented the project areas that the BBC has been working on. The BBC has cleared 165 miles of trail. One of their big projects for 2019 was creating trails at south Lake Como. They have been working with the Forest Service in surveying and building the trail. They accomplished 1.6 miles, which consisted of 457 volunteer hours and 72 hours of surveying. They worked with the MCC, Youth Corps, Trapper Creek, Forest Service, and High School MTB Club. The BBC is applying for the RTP Grant for the South Lake Como project to finish around the ridge for 8.5 miles total.

Pantry Partners and Haven House Thank You Card: Sandra O'Brien read the Haven House thank you card, and Nancy discussed the thank you card from the Pantry Partners. Huge thank you to Brad P. and Mark DeGrazier for doing the set up the day prior to the box pack.

Update on Earl and Karen: Please send their thoughts and wishes to them.

Officer/Director Pins: Gene presented the Director's Pin for Joe Rogish (accepted by Marilyn Rogish) and presented the Treasurer's Pin to Leslie Maiyo.

Dishes from December 2019 General Meeting: Please come and grab your dish left from the December General Meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: No issues.

Projects: Dan discussed the upcoming projects for the season. A bunch of new project leaders this year. Do need a Project Leader for the Fun Weekend on July 3rd to 5th, please see Dan Brandborg. Cross cut saws for sale on Craigslist in Missoula.

State Directors: Chuck had nothing to report. As of this moment there is no resolution but might be one coming from the Beartooth. Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation has concluded their raffle. A BCH member has won. Woohoo!

Membership: There are 54 memberships and 97 members. Membership forms are on the tables – all new and renew memberships need to fill them out to confirm information and for insurance purposes. If you want new membership cards, see Kathy.

Training: Bonnie discussed the Packing Scholarship recipients that start their packing class this coming weekend. The 2020 Winter Wilderness and Trails meeting takes place at the Powell Ranger Station in Feb, and Sandra O'Brien and Betsy Rogan will be attending. The First Aid/CPR class is taking place on Jan 25th. There are 17 folks signed up and have room for a few more. Please see Bonnie if you want to attend the class. Jan Bullock is going to the CPR / First Aid volunteer instructor training from the Forest Service happening in Feb/March. She will be our official CPR / First Aid instructor for the chapter. Defensive Horsemanship Training is coming up in April and May.

Outreach: Karen submitted articles to the Decker Dispatch.

Program: Speaker for the Feb is Chris from Ace Hardware.

Sunshine: If anyone knows of a member who needs a get well, congratulations, or condolence card, let Cindy Beck know.

2020 Convention: Nancy revised the poster for the raffle items that includes a website to purchase the raffle tickets. Thank you, Nancy, Marilyn and Nancy will sell raffle tickets at the RLP auction, and Nancy and Betsy will sell tickets at the Stevi Super One. Dan and Karen to work on the proof of the posters to be placed around businesses in the valley. A lot of amazing things are happening. A huge thank you to all of the committee members!

OLD BUSINESS

FS Meeting: Gene discussed a recent meeting with Forest Service. They are looking forward to our support to accomplish their goals. Bitterroot Front Project – asked for input. The Board has put together a working group to look into those ideas. The Forest Service will be at the Feb Board Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

2019 Audit Committee: Nancy thanked Leslie for being treasurer. The audit committee did find one finding pertaining to the saving account. The Audit Committee came up with a solution to prevent this from happening again.

2020 Delegates for Convention: Gene discussed the 8 delegates and the alternate to represent the BRBCH at the 2020 State Convention in March.

OTHER BUSINESS

Newsletter: Gene discussed needing someone to take this on. Please see Lionel if you are interested.

Charlie Babock: Still doing cross-cut sharpening and back in the area, see Nancy for the contact information.

Next Meeting: Feb 20 at the Corvallis School Cafeteria with the potluck dinner starting at 6:30 pm. Coffee – Mike Costanzo, hot water – Susan Slemp

Adjourn: Lionel Lavallee motioned and Tim Meyer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm. The motion carried.

Christy Schram-Duggan, Secretary BRBCH

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, February 6, 2020

The February 2020 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order at 7:01 pm at the Daly-Leach Memorial Chapel in Hamilton, Montana, by President Gene Merrell. Present were officers; President Gene Merrell, Vice President Dan Brandborg, Secretary Christy Schram-Duggan, and Treasurer Sandra O'Brien. Also present were Board members Ed Duggan, Mike Costanzo, Ed Bullock, Julie Schram, Lionel Lavallee, Jan Bullock, Tim Meyer, Joe Kirkland, Jan Bullock, State Director Chuck Miller, Alternate State Director, Taylor Orr and Past President Karen Philips. Absent were Board Member Dan Maiyo.

The following Committee Chairs were also present: Bonnie Morgan, Kathy Stroppel-Holl, Earl Philips, Nancy Pollman, and Brad Pollman

Gene led the pledge.

Minutes: Gene asked if there were any updates to the January 2019 Board meeting minutes. **Lionel Lavallee motioned, and Ed Bullock seconded to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Sandra O'Brien provided an update on the account balances. **Lionel Lavallee motioned, and Ed Bullock seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.** Karen presented that the BRBCH received a substantial donation from the Gillian Estate. Gene to send the thank you letter to the family.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Forest Service: Matt Andersen, Eric Winters (Darby/Sula), Steve Brown (Stevensville), and Erica Strayer (Rec). Eric is the lead on the project that encompasses from Trapper Creek to Lolo Peak to the boundary. To include a fully integrated approach to wildfire, eco-system, habitat, and recreational. Eric explained the details of the Bitterroot Front Project that incorporates all 450,000 acres?? A great opportunity for the BRBCH to be on the front lines of this project. Erica Strayer talked about this project is an integrated process and looking at opportunities for exciting things to happen. Few of the examples between Como and Lost Horse a potentially new horse camp, trails, etc. Gene asked how would the FS like the BRBCH to be involved? Eric mentioned he would like to come more to these meetings and possibly have the BCHM chapter also be involved. The question was asked on the timeline? They would like to have feedback to have by this summer. What are the focus areas? It was mentioned the following; connector trails, horse camp, bigger horse trailer parking, etc. Gene discussed the Working Group and Erica and Eric will be our POC, The Chair of the Working group is Dan Brandborg. Eric also discussed that the RAC Committee is looking for folks to be on the committee, 2 to 4 folks from BRBCH – POC Eric Winters.

Bitterroot Land Trust Support Letter / White Memorial

Fishing Access: Gene discussed the letter of support.

Discussion took place on this project. Currently, the BRBCH is not supporting this project as the equestrian aspects of the proposed project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: No Issues

Projects: Dan discussed the Projects - Calf Creek: tentative on May 9th and waiting for feedback from FWP. The Two Good Cabin - Aug 8th and 9th. We will be doing the project sign up at the General meeting in March.

State Director: Nothing. Board Mtg on the Friday of the Convention. YAY No Resolutions!!!

Membership: There are 69 memberships and 118 members. 8 Individual Renewals, 4 Family Renewal, 1 new Family Member and 2 new Individual. **Ed Bullock motioned, and Ed Duggan seconded to accept the Renewal memberships. The motion carried.**

Training: Members may work on all projects with no certifications or DH cards if they are not working with livestock or using saws. Twenty members completed their course on January 25, 2020. Jan Bullock is now an instructor for the following Wilderness First Aid, First Aid, and CPR instructor so the chapter will be able to help more members get certified. Those who have current saw certifications or those signed up for a saw course will have the first choice to the course. If you get training through work or another source, take a photo of your card and send it to Bonnie Morgan (381-9021) so your status can be included in our training page. First Aid cards are good for 2 years. The saw certification program requires training using the Forest Service's current standards by instructors certified by them. Our members with the ability to recommend certification by the FS are Dan Brandborg, Chris Grove, and Brad Pollman for chain saw training and Ed Duggan for crosscut saw training. Certification usually involves an evening in the classroom followed by actual

saw practice in the field. First Aid/CPR is a prerequisite for all saw courses. Proper protective equipment is explained and required for all members using saws on projects. Failure to follow the safety protocol can result in the withdrawal of your saw card. The first chain saw class is scheduled for April 24-25 (six members already signed up for new certifications). Fieldwork on the 25th will be on Tin Cup Creek. For members who need to renew their certifications, our instructors are offering to use the Coyote Coulee project on May 23 for training. The Calf Creek project on May 9th is for stock owners, as you will need to get back to the National Forest land. Crosscut saw classes are yet to be scheduled. Saw cards are good for 3 years. A DH card is required for members wishing to ride or work in the vicinity of stock on projects. Dates for Defensive Horsemanship are April 4 (demonstration), and April 25 or May 2 (obstacles). Instead of certification, the DH card is a program that shows you have been informed of safety practices and skills used when working around the stock. **You are always responsible for your safety.** For a new card, you must attend the demonstration (April 4 this year) and ride in one of the sessions working over obstacles 4/25 or 5/2 (9 am-12) or (1-4 pm). There will be 10 spaces for each session. Those needing a new card get the first choice. The remaining spaces are a fun way to get ready for the riding season. This training takes place at the C-Max stables, 657 Bass Lane off Eastside Highway. To renew, you need only to attend one training. DH cards are good for 3 years.

Program: Chris Truax from Ace Hardware and present the saw to the General mtg

Outreach: Karen dispersed out the Decker Dispatch for the three youth from BRCH.

2020 Convention: Christy reported out that all the vendor spots are filled and more. Meeting with Red Rooster to finalize the contract and menu. We officially have 4 breakout speakers and the main speaker ready to go. The next meeting is Feb. 11th at Corvallis Fire Hall.

OLD BUSINESS

2020 Budget Review: Earl discussed the Budget Report with all the recommendations. **Sandra O'Brien motioned, and Lionel Lavallee seconded to accept the 2020 BRBCH Budget. The motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Updating Committee List: Updated the Committee Chairs.

OTHER BUSINESS

Due to hazardous conditions from the weather, Sandra and Betsy decided to not attend the 2020 Winter Wilderness and Trails meeting takes place at the Powell Ranger.

Ed Bullock motioned, and Ed Duggan seconded to agenda. The motion carried.

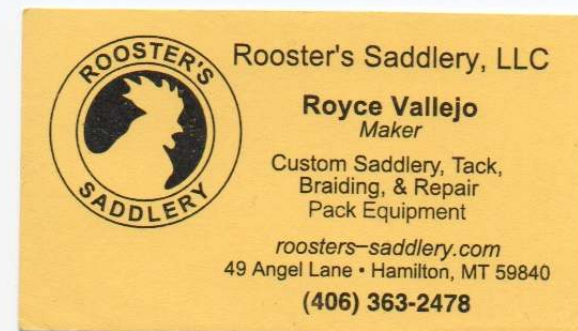
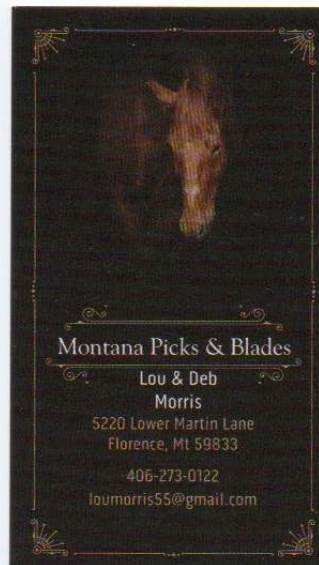
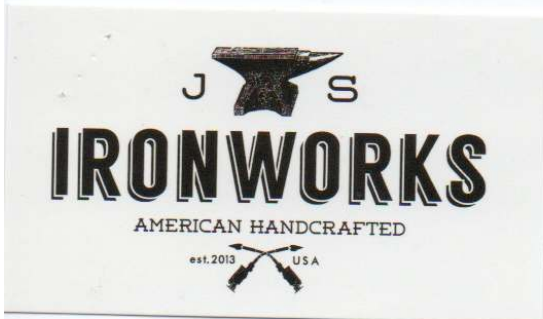
Adjourn 8:51 pm.

Christy Schram-Duggan, Secretary BRBCH

2020 CONVENTION VENDORS



2020 CONVENTION VENDORS



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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, Feb 20th

Location: Corvallis High School Cafeteria

Program Speaker: Chris Traux

Potluck at 6:30

Meeting at 7:00

Guests are welcome!

