



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



Volume 47

May 2020

Issue 05

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**DEADLINE FOR THE
June 2020 NAG NEWS is
5 p.m. June 10, 2020**

**SUBMIT YOUR
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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 hope all of our members are well and safe. As Covid restrictions are loosened somewhat, many of us remain in the "at risk" group and continue to take precautions to prevent becoming a victim or sharing the virus with others.

After talking with the Forest Service and conversations of your Board, our project schedule for this season is still uncertain. May projects and probably June projects are on hold pending input from the Forest Service. Current MT Phase One Directives require social distancing. This means the June general meeting at the Three Sisters Group Site at Lake Como is not possible. If conditions change, your Board will let you know of the June meeting plans.

Focusing on our mission 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, your Board suggests that we post on our website and Facebook, educational videos supporting this mission. If you have relatively short (about 5 minutes or less) educational videos you would be willing to share, please send them to Bonnie Morgan. She will select those appropriate for us to post. Examples might include horsemanship, no-trace trail riding or camping, packing, and other equestrian or backcountry activities.

In-spite of the Covid environment, there are plenty of opportunities to get out of the house and enjoy the outdoors. Aside from trail riding, many of us are out preparing our flower and vegetable gardens. Flowers and trees are blooming. I encourage you to enjoy life as is appropriate for your circumstances.

Gene Merrell, president

COMMITTEE	CHAIRS AND MEMBERS	CONTACT
Audit	Nancy Pollman	406-546-6492
Budget	Candace Erickson	
Audio-Visual Equipment	Ed Bullock	907-575-7878
Election & Nominations	Katie Williams	531-0688
Equipment & Inventory	Chris Grove	381-7600
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
Packing Clinic Scholarship	Chuck Miller	961-5453
Parliamentarian	Rebecca Jones	415-264-5457
Programs	Philip & Pam Torgerson	360-4933/360-3201
Projects	Dan Brandborg/Lionel Lavallee	381-5643/640-1242
Social Marketing	Susan Slempe	821-2017/381-5910
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, March 2020

General Meeting Cancelled for May

2020/21 BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN CONVENTION

BRBCH will be rehosting the 2021 Convention. At this point committee members are the same. More information to follow.

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	dbarranch@aol.com
Kathy Stroppel-Holl	Secretarty & Delegate Packet	406-961-0096	kshmes@outlook.com



Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and social distancing rules, there will not be a printed, mailed version of the March issue of Nag News. If you are aware of a fellow member who doesn't have Internet access, please print up the web version for their benefit.

Thanks, from your editorial staff.

TRAINING UPDATE APRIL 2020

The Covid-19 virus outbreak affected many changes to our training schedule this spring. Here is a summary of the changes so far:

Saw Trainings: The Forest Service has asked that no saw trainings take place before the end of May. The class previously scheduled for April 25 is cancelled until we get the ok to resume classes. All certifications due to expire in 2020 have been extended until 2021, if First Aid/CPR is up to date.

First Aid/CPR: The American Heart Association has extended the date of expiration of cards due to expire in 2020 for 120 days. No classes will be taught until given the ok to resume teaching. If you have signed up for a class, you will be the first on the list to be contacted.

Defensive Horsemanship: At this point no extension for cards expiring in 2020 have been made by the Forest Service, since no projects will be done until the CDC gives the ok to resume. All trainings for this spring have been cancelled (Demonstration 4/4, Obstacles 4/25 and 5/2). The BCHMT site has a power point with training videos to watch for the classroom/demonstration portion of the Defensive Horsemanship training. When we can resume trainings, I can schedule a session on one of our trails to complete the training for a new card or renewal. Please send me a note telling me what you learned from the presentation if you would like to get your DH card.

While you are waiting to get back out on the trails, watch training videos while it snows and get out to do ground work with your horse/mule/donkey when it warms up again. We are lucky to be able to get in meaningful exercise and training during this time of self-quarantine. Be safe out there!



MUSTANG CHRONICLES: TRAINING CHICA by Sandra O'Brien

When I adopted my mustang, I didn't realize what I was taking on. The bay roan mare I watched at the mustang event moved gracefully and looked at everything. She had been mixed in with a herd of other mares.

Some were young, some seemed almost gentle. I didn't pick one of those to adopt. I had chastised a friend for picking out a mustang who was not a youngster. Why would you take on such a task? And yet, I picked the wildest mustang of the bunch! Chica was born in 2013, and captured in November of 2016. She was almost four years old and she had had at least one foal. In that time, she learned to defend herself and her foal from predators. She didn't escape the roundup though, in November of 2016.

Chica came by her name easily. She is fairly small, about 14.2. She was captured in Rock Creek, Nevada. The mustang herds are purportedly descended from horses brought to the Americas by the Spanish. Chica means "girl" in Spanish and also "small". My Chica chica is a small girl. Interestingly, this small girl grows magically when she is frightened and needs to appear larger, and she was extremely frightened when I first got her. She was untouchable. When I went inside the small round pen she was housed in at first to feed her, she would go to the far side. I would sit on a stool outside the fence at first and watch her through my peripheral vision. I didn't want to feel like a predator to her, although human beings are predators. We are meat eaters. We are generally not rhythmic. We are something to be feared by the mustangs, until we can show them that we are leaders who keep them safe, rather than predators who are stalking them.

Horses learn by the release of pressure. They learn when they when they are not frozen in place by fear, or bolting from perceived danger, or striking or kicking as a reaction to a threat they cannot move away from. Chica was leery from the start. I chose to have a halter and lead on her, which, in retrospect, I would not do again. She fled from the rope beside her, possibly reminiscent of the snakes in Nevada. As soon as I was able, I had the lead rope removed so she could move freely without a snake following her. I have since had to teach her that ropes are not after her. She tolerates them now. Her lessons started with touching her forehead and then working the tangles out of her mane. And then moving away from me, in a circle, and then moving toward me, off the halter pressure. I spent a lot of time just hanging out. I played music and talked to her. I worked at looking at a foot until

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she picked it up, off the pressure of my intention until she would pick up each foot with a mental "ask". We walked at liberty for hours. I matched her steps. I approached her from both sides and from the front and rear. What I felt was a first big accomplishment in communication was when I showed her to step on an empty plastic shavings bag. I stepped on it and then asked her to come forward to step on it. To my surprise, she did! It felt like such a huge (literal) step! After that, I was able to ask for many different steps. She learned to load onto a platform, to walk over poles, to jump over barrels, to load into a trailer. She is a willing partner most times. We are still working on the most basic of tasks. I am hopeful she will be a

willing partner and her feet trimming is our next goal. And then one these days, I'll take her packing.

Sandra O'Brien is a member of Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen and is currently serving as our chapter's Treasurer. She has a deep-rooted love for horses and has been involved with them for 9 years in Montana and Alaska wilderness areas. Stay tuned for more adventures of Sandra and Chica in later issues of Nag News

A cowboy, who just moved to Montana from Texas, walks into a bar and orders three mugs of Bud.

He sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn. When he finishes them, he comes back to the bar and orders three more.

The bartender approaches and tells the cowboy, "You know, a mug goes flat after I draw it. It would taste better if you bought one at a time."

The cowboy replies, "Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is in Arizona, the other is in Colorado. When we all left our home in Texas, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days when we drank together. So I'm drinking one beer for each of my brothers and one for myself."

The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there.

The cowboy becomes a regular in the bar, and always drinks the same way.

He orders three mugs and drinks them in turn. One day, he comes in and only orders two mugs.

All the regulars take notice and fall silent.

When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your loss."

The cowboy looks quite puzzled for a moment, then a light dawns in his eyes and he laughs. "Oh, no, everybody's just fine," he explains. "It's just that my wife and I joined the Baptist Church and I had to quit drinking. It hasn't affected my brothers though."



Vegan Lentil Tacos

This Recipe might come in handy with meat shortages happening during the Covid-19 outbreak

Ingredients

- 2 cups lentils, cooked (from 1 cup dry lentils)
- 1 white onion, finely diced
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 1–2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 cup of vegetable broth
- Corn or Flour Tortillas, for serving
- Taco toppings: shredded lettuce, sliced jalapeños, homemade guacamole

Spice mix:

- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper

Instructions

1. In a large frying pan over medium high heat, sweat the onion in 1 tbsp. oil. Stir frequently, about 4-5 minutes until the onion is translucent. Add the garlic and spice mixture and cook for another minute or two, stirring frequently. You don't want to burn the spices just crank up the flavor by cooking them.
2. While you are cooking this, warm the tortillas. You can do this in the oven or microwave. I just place them on the burner behind my frying pan and let them warm up while I cook the filling, this way I don't have to turn on the oven.
3. Add the lentils and stir to combine. Add the vegetable broth and using a potato masher or fork, gently mash the lentils until they start to look like ground meat. Cook another few minutes until hot. If the lentils start to dry out, add another tbsp. or two of vegetable broth (can also use salsa here)



4. Place a heaping spoonful or two into the taco shell and add your fillings. The filling will make about 10-12 tacos, depending on how stuffed you like them!

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, May 7, 2020

The May 2020 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order at 7:10 pm via phone conference, by President Gene Merrell.

Gene led the pledge.

Roll Call was performed by Christy Schram-Duggan. 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, Jan Bullock, Dan Maiyo, State Director Chuck Miller, Alternate State Director, Taylor Orr and Past President Karen Philips. Absent were Board Member Joe Kirkland.

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

Minutes: Gene asked if there were any updates to the April 2020 Board meeting minutes. **Ed Bullock motioned, and Lionel Lavallee 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. **Ed Bullock motioned, and Karen Philips seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: No issues

Projects: Dan and Lionel discussed the 4th of May meeting with the Forest Service on the approach of projects for 2020. No projects happening on May. June is currently on hold until we get a go ahead from Forest Service. Brad and Nancy cleaned the manure bin at Larry Creek in early April. We gained two manure forks! Discussion took place about dog waste being mixed in with manure bin. Bonnie made a suggested of contacting the Forest Service about placing a bin next to the Restroom for dog waste. Dan brought up that we are also seeing this at other trailheads. Brad to discuss with Matt @ Forest Service. Dan reported that Leslie cleaned out 5 water bars up Calf Creek. Kathy hiked to Two Good Cabin and looks like the bicycle group has started removing

down trees. Gene will be sending out a message to the general meeting that May projects are postponed, and June is on hold until we have further information from the Forest Service.

State Director: None at the State level. Brad discussed from the BCHA National Board Meeting. Approval to invest the Legacy Fund into a low to moderate risk. Three states contributed over \$1M each of volunteer hours (Washington, Montana, and California). Officers stayed the same at the National Level.

Westside Front FS Project: Nothing to report
Membership: There are 80 memberships and 135 members. No new members to vote on.

Training: If Bonnie is comfortable then go ahead with individual Defensive Horsemanship Training.

Program: April program: No general meeting so no program speaker.

Outreach: Karen discussed submitting short videos to our Facebook page to maintain contact with our members. For example, one of the members to do a short video on "How To". It was brought up to bring up videos from the State site as educational videos. It was decided to encourage the members to send in training/educational videos to Bonnie. She will then review the videos. Once approved, Bonnie will send the videos to Christy to post on the BR BCH Facebook page.

2020 Convention: Nothing to discuss

OLD BUSINESS

Calf Creek porta-potty: Discussion and make a final decision about portable toilet service at Calf Creek, based on new information from FWP employee. The suggesting was made to contact the Ravalli County Health Department to get their advice on this issue. Karen Philips took the action item to call the RCHD and get back to the Board Member via email.

****After the Board meeting**** Karen Philips spoke with the Ravalli County Public Health nurse regarding the issue of providing portable toilet service at the Calf Creek WMA trailhead. The nurse said that current regulations require hourly cleaning of toilets available to the public. We are in phase 1 of reopening and this regulation won't change until we get to phase 3. So, providing this service to the public at this time is not an option.

NEW BUSINESS

SPOT Device: Nancy discussed that it is an annual review time for the device. Since we purchased the new device last year, there are a couple options available that best meet our needs. **Karen Philips motioned, and Sandra O'Brien seconded to select the annual basic plan of \$144 to renew our SPOT device. The motion carried.**

JS Fabrication: Completed the metal cutout that Jeremy Shields (JS Fabrication) donated for our convention. He requested permission from Dan to use a portion of the design for future projects. Dan advised JS Fabrication that the rights of the design was donated to BR BCH, and that it would Board approval. JS Fabrication does not want to use the logo itself, just the saw and pack string. **Dan Maiyo motioned, and Jan Bullock seconded to use the design of the horse and pack string on the crosscut without the Back Country Horsemen wording to exclusive be used by JS Fabrication and if and when it is sold the permission is revoked . The motion carried**

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussed June Board meeting at Dan Brandborg's Barn with social distancing in mind. Bring us back together to meet face to face. Will revisit this discussion closer to the June meeting.

Ravalli County Fair: Leslie Maiyo met with the fair manager and was told that the fair is on. It was recommended to have the Fairgrounds committee to attend the next Fairgrounds Board Meeting to gather additional information and report back to the Board in June.

Lifetime Membership: Set up a committee to discuss how do we decide on the criteria. Ed Duggan to head up that committee. Ed to report back on the June meeting.

Three Sisters @ Lake Como: Is reserved, do we cancel? Nope not yet.

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


Adjourn 8:34 pm.

Christy Schram-Duggan, Secretary BRBCH

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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

~~Thursday, May 21st~~

Location: Corvallis High School Cafeteria

May Meeting Cancelled

Potluck at 6:30

Meeting at 7:00

Guests are welcome!

