



# Nag News

## Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



Volume 47

June 2020

Issue 06

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**DEADLINE FOR THE  
July 2020 NAG NEWS is  
5 p.m. July 8, 2020**

**SUBMIT YOUR  
ARTICLES AND ADS TO:**

[lionel.lavallee47@gmail.com](mailto: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:

Well, the good news is that the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen chapter is back in business. At least until conditions change again. We are scheduling the June General Membership Meeting and beginning to implement trail projects. Details on these are below. In holding these events, we are cognizant of current local, state, and federal guidance that currently include social distancing and asking those at higher risk to stay home. Your participation is up to you, but we would ask that you not participate if you are feeling ill or have at-risk family members.

We will be holding the June General Membership meeting at Nancy and Brad Pollman's place (location in later in the newsletter). The meeting will be outside, so remember to bring your chair. If the weather is rainy, we will setup the large club tent. I would suggest bringing an umbrella in case we cannot all fit under the tent.

We have been communicating with the Forest Service and FWP regarding project activities. The Forest Service has issued protocols to be used on our trail service projects. These include social distancing, work groups no larger than 10, travel in individual vehicles (except for family groups), face coverings if social distancing cannot be maintained, and do not share tools. The project leader will review these and other safety information during the briefing at the start of the project. I would ask that you notify the project leader of your planned participation a week prior to the project date so they can plan accordingly. Remember that your saw certifications and Defensive Horsemanship cards need to be current if you plan to use a saw or bring stock. Any questions regarding these certifications, please contact Bonnie Morgan (406-381-9021).

I am disappointed that we will not be able to provide end of project food this year. Those were real treats last year. You should bring water and any snacks you may need. See page 3 for project details.

I appreciate everyone's support and participation in our chapter activities. Please stay safe and well.

Gene Merrell, president

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>CHAIRS AND MEMBERS</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
<b>Audit</b>	Nancy Pollman	406-546-6492
<b>Budget</b>	Candace Erickson	
<b>Audio-Visual Equipment</b>	Ed Bullock	907-575-7878
<b>Election &amp; Nominations</b>	Katie Williams	531-0688
<b>Equipment &amp; Inventory</b>	Chris Grove	381-7600
<b>Fair</b>	Bill Black/Mark DeGrazier	363-6834/777-1234
<b>Fundraisers</b>	Ed Bullock	907-575-7878
<b>RTP Grant Committee</b>	Lionel Lavallee	640-1242
<b>Historian</b>	Laura McManus	642-3018
<b>Issues</b>	Lionel Lavallee	406-640-1242
<b>Memberships</b>	Kathy Stroppel-Holl	961-0096
<b>Newsletter</b>	Lionel Lavallee	640-1242
<b>Packing Clinic Scholarship</b>	Chuck Miller	961-5453
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	Rebecca Jones	415-264-5457
<b>Programs</b>	Philip & Pam Torgerson	360-4933/360-3201
<b>Projects</b>	Dan Brandborg/Lionel Lavallee	381-5643/640-1242
<b>Social Marketing</b>	Susan Slempe	821-2017/381-5910
<b>Sunshine</b>	Cindy Beck	360-1165
<b>Trail Rides</b>	Jan Bullock	907-242-9853
<b>Training</b>	Bonnie Morgan	381-9021
<b>Education Committee</b>	Ed Duggan & Christy Schram-Duggan	369-3140/360-5947
<b>Website Design</b>	Nancy Pollman	406-546-6492

### **Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen 2020 Officers & Board**

<b>President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
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) 802-2286	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) 640-1242

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

## 2020 Project Details

Please contact project leads listed below to volunteer.

**Calf Creek** – The Calf Creek project date is Saturday, June 27. Jan Bullock is the project leader (907-242-9853) and will hold the project briefing at 9:00 am. Please note that the port-a-potty that we, with others, have sponsored in the past is not there because of Health Department requirements. Please plan accordingly.

**Larry Creek** – The Larry Creek project date is Sunday, June 28. Joe Kirkland is the project leader (406-802-2286) and will hold the project briefing at 9:00 am.

**East Fork Main Trail** – CANCELLED

**Boulder Creek** – The Boulder Creek project is scheduled for July 10 – 12. Project leaders are Ed and Christy Duggan (Ed: 406-369-3140, Christy: 406-360-5947). One weekend, 2 day trips from the trailhead, trail clearing with chain saw to wilderness boundary. Crosscut from boundary to falls and possibly beyond. Overnight at the horse camp.

**Blodgett Creek** – The Blodgett Creek project is scheduled for July 24 – 26. Dan Brandborg is the project leader (406-381-5643). Trail cleared by FS to Bridge and above High Lake Trail Junction. Trail clearing from Bridge to trail junction, two night(s) at 7-mile meadow. Pack stock will be used to transport gear and equipment.

**Twogood Cabin** – The Twogood Cabin project is scheduled for August 7 – 9. Project leaders are Ed Duggan and Julie Schram (406-369-3140). Trailhead, horse camp maintenance. Trail clearing to cabin and surrounding trails. Overnight at Twogood cabin. Pack stock will be used to transport gear and equipment.

### Other Topics of Note

**Fun Rides** – Jan Bullock is planning to lead monthly Fun Rides in July, August, Sept, and possibly October. Stay tuned for details.

**East Fork Fun Ride and Campout Weekend** – **CANCELLED** – This event was scheduled for July 3 – 5. However, with the current Covid considerations, we would not be able to have the meals, trainings, and comradery that were being planned. We are working with the Forest Service to reschedule this for next year.

## JUNE BRBCH MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

June meeting will be held in Brad and Nancy Pullman's Pasture  
3777 Eastside Hwy, Stevensville, MT

There will NOT be a potluck dinner, so we will begin the meeting at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be outside, so remember to bring your chair. If the weather is rainy, we will set up the large club tent. We suggest bringing an umbrella in case we cannot all fit under the tent. Bathroom facilities are very limited, so please plan ahead.



**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!





## HOW TO TAKE YOUR DOG HORSEBACK RIDING

By Kim Campbell Thornton

Andrews McMeel Syndication

JULY 28, 2017

Together, dogs and horses can be a human's best partners. From Dalmatians running alongside coach horses to fox terriers riding in saddlebags during the hunt to cow dogs and quarter horses teaming up to drive livestock, dogs and horses have a long history of friendly and fruitful interactions in partnership with people. If you want your dog to be your riding buddy, here's how to get started.

Pembroke and Cardigan Welsh corgis, Jack Russell terriers and Australian shepherds are commonly seen at stables, but most dogs can learn to safely run alongside or interact with horses, just as most horses can become used to dogs. Both animals should have a calm, quiet and sensible character. With that as a foundation, you can teach each to behave politely and safely in the presence of the other.

Before you bring him around a horse, your dog should respond reliably to the verbal cues "sit," "down" (including at a distance), "stay" and "come," whether he's on or off his leash. You shouldn't have to repeat yourself multiple times before he obeys. Schedule a refresher training session if he needs to brush up on his skills.

When you're comfortable with his behavior, take your dog to the barn with you while you feed the horses or muck out stalls. Practice obedience skills there so your dog becomes comfortable performing them while the horse is nearby. At the same time, your horse can learn to watch out for the dog. A kick from a horse can cause a fractured skull, broken leg or ribs, or even kill a dog.

Two herding cues that can be helpful are "come by" (clockwise) and "way to me" (counterclockwise), which tell the dog to move out and in which direction. If necessary, work with a trainer who has experience in herding to teach these cues.

Teach your dog to sit while you mount and not to cross in front of the horse while she's moving. It's best to ride in an area where it's safe for the dog to be off-leash. Trying to use a long line while riding can end with horse or dog becoming dangerously tangled.

While mounted, practice cues such as "down," "sit" or "wait" until your dog responds instantly. It could save his life if you encounter wildlife, livestock, loose dogs or a

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farmer with a gun. Always remain alert for potential dangers.

To keep track of your dog if he runs ahead or is hidden by high grass, attach a small bell to his collar so you can hear where he is. It's good practice to call him back to you regularly so you can keep tabs on him.

Is there a perfect "horse dog"? Some dogs are better than others when it comes to being around horses. Herding breeds such as Australian cattle dogs, border collies, English shepherds and German shepherds have a heritage of working around large animals, but it's important to teach

them not to nip at horses' heels unless they are aiding you in loading the horse into a trailer.

Retriever and pointer breeds such as Labradors, German shorthairs, Weimaraners and Brittanys can also make excellent riding companions. Beagles, foxhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, bassets and other hound breeds tend to be mellow around horses. Among the working group breeds, Doberman pinschers have a reputation for getting along with horses. Smooth and wire fox terriers and Airedales are among the terrier breeds often seen with horses.

### **Donate to BRBCH just by shopping at Amazon Smile**

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen has been issued a donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation. Once per year, the AmazonSmile Foundation issues donations to all registered organizations that have earned donations, even if the donation amount is below the \$5 minimum.

We can increase donations for Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen by reminding you, our supporters to do your Amazon shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). If you're a first time shopper to Smile, simply go to the link, sign in with your amazon password, and select "Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen" as your charity.

## **NOTICE**

### **Ravalli County Fair "Blue Jeans and Rodeo Scenes" Dates: Sept 2-5**

Signups needed for Volunteers to help with Ticket Admission at 4 gates.

Need: Ticket Sellers and Ticket Takers. Sign up Schedule available now. Call or text or email Laura DeGrazier for times you wish to request. See below:

Laura DeGrazier, Fair Scheduling Coordinator  
406.369.5770  
degrazier2@gmail.com



### Mexican Beef & Rice

*Definitely a camping meal that can be made in a single cast iron skillet or Dutch Oven*

#### Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large onion chopped
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 red pepper diced
- 1 yellow pepper diced
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon taco seasoning (a mix of chili powder and cumin to taste)
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1 cup rice
- 1 ½ cups broth or more if it seems dry
- 1 jar (16-oz) chunky salsa
- 1 can (15-oz) black beans
- 1 cup sweet corn canned OR frozen
- Shredded cheese, lime wedges, sour cream, chopped tomatoes, cilantro, avocado, tortilla chips

#### Instructions

1. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onion and cook for 2 minutes. Add the garlic and beef and cook until browned. Stir in the diced peppers and cook for 1 more minute.
2. Stir in the tomato paste, taco seasoning, salt and pepper. Cook for 1 minute. Add the rice, broth, salsa, black beans and corn and stir well.
3. Bring to a simmer, cover the skillet with a lid, reduce the heat and gently cook for around 15 minutes, or until cooked through. Add more broth if necessary.
4. Top with shredded cheese and cover for another 2 minutes, if you like. Serve with your favorite toppings.



## **BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, June 4, 2020**

The June 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, and Secretary Christy Schram-Duggan. Also present were Board members Ed Duggan, Mike Costanzo, Ed Bullock, Joe Kirkland, Lionel Lavallee, Jan Bullock, Dan Maiyo, State Director Chuck Miller, Alternate State Director Taylor Orr, and Past President Karen Philips. Absent were Treasurer Sandra O'Brien and Board Members Julie Schram and Tim Meyer.

The following Committee Chairs were also present: Bonnie Morgan and Kathy Stroppel-Holl.

Minutes: Gene asked if there were any updates to the May 2020 Board meeting minutes. **Mike Costanzo 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 via email and Gene provided the report. **Ed Bullock motioned and Ed Duggan seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Issues:** No issues

**Projects:** Dan reported on the discussion with the Forest Service about observing COVID-19 protocol. Discussion took place on projects for June: Calf Creek on June 27<sup>th</sup> @ 9am and Larry Creek on June 28<sup>th</sup> @ 9am. Gene to draft a letter to the membership about upcoming projects. Lionel discussed the RTP update mostly pertaining to project leaders have a little more responsibility. East Fork Fun Ride & Campout moved to July 2-4, 2021. Christy to contact Jake Long on rescheduling the July 3-5, 2020 to the new dates. Christy to contact Susan Slemph to add events on the Facebook and update the website accordingly.

**State Director:** Chuck Miller discussed the BCHMT meeting that took place on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The Founders Award delayed to 2021. The next board meeting will be Sept 12<sup>th</sup> in Deer Lodge. Chuck will email the meeting

minutes for the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting once they are published.

**Westside Front FS Project:** Nothing to report

**Membership:** There are 82 memberships and 139 members. No new members to vote on.

**Education/Training:** Bonnie will post a list in the newsletter of video topics to be posted on BRBCH's Facebook page. Members can send videos to Bonnie for review by the Education committee.

**Program:** Nothing to report

**Outreach:** Nothing to report

**2021 Convention:** Nothing to report

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Calf Creek Trailhead:** Karen reported she posted the sign at the Calf Creek Trailhead on the status of the port-a-potty.

**Ravalli County Fair:** The Board to move forward with the ticket sales at Fair. Gene to contact Mark DeGraizer and Bill Black to go ahead.

**June General Meeting:** The consensus is to have the June General meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm the Pollman's home, if available, or at Three Sisters Group Site, Lake Como. No potluck dinner. Gene to contact Brad to confirm and will address in the letter that is going out to the membership.

**Lifetime Membership:** Ed Duggan read the Chapter and State Constitution for any guidelines on this subject matter. There were no guidelines present. Board advised to ask members to pay for potential lifetime candidates. Various Board members volunteered to assist.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Fun Rides:** Jan requested guidance on holding Saturday Fun Rides for the general members once per month for July, August, and September. The Board gave the go ahead.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Ed Bullock motioned and Ed Duggan seconded to adjourn. The motion carried.**

Adjourn 8:17 pm.


Christy Schram-Duggan, Secretary BRBCH



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# Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



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## **NEXT BRBCH MEETING**

**Thursday, July 16th**

**Location: TBD**

**No Potluck**

**Meeting at 7:00**

**Guests are welcome! Please don  
Masks and Socially Distance**

