



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

In Partnership With



Volume 47

August 2020

Issue 08

In this Issue

President's Letter	1
Training Schedule	3
Horse Sense	4
BRBCH Projects	6
Back Country Kitchen	11
General/Board Mtg Notes	12
Ads & Services	15

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.



**DEADLINE FOR THE
Sept 2020 NAG NEWS is
5 p.m. Sept 9, 2020**

**SUBMIT YOUR
ARTICLES AND ADS TO:**

lionel.lavallee47@gmail.com

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

A Message from Our President

Greetings Members:

We are currently living in an uncertain period of disheartening events and challenges, however, this has not slowed down the work and spirit of our chapter. All the scheduled project work for this season has been completed. Summaries from these projects are given in our newsletters, the General Membership meeting minutes and on our Facebook page. Please use these to keep up-to-date.



We are again having our monthly General Membership Meeting for those that wish to participate. Nancy and Brad Pollman have again offered to generously host our August General Membership meetings at their residence. The meetings are outdoors which allows for generous social distancing and a beautiful setting. I hope that those that participate find these meetings productive. You may come at 6:30 pm with your personal picnic materials and remember to bring your chairs. There will not be a pot-luck.

Reports are that this late summer and early fall may become a serious fire season. Please take the time to make your property fire resistant. Also note that Jan Bullock is the county's contact for equine rescue in the case of natural disasters, such as wildland fires.

In spite of all the political and health noise in the media, we live in a beautiful place that encourages us to get out and experience the great outdoors. Our Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen Chapter's work helps enable us and others to do just that. We are pleased to see this effect as individuals seek to join our chapter.

Please stay safe and well as the summer progresses.

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	640-1242
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) 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

AUGUST BRBCH MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

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

There will NOT be a potluck dinner, but feel free to bring picnic @ 6:30. 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.

Program Speaker: Steve Brown, new Stevensville District Ranger



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!



CARING FOR HORSES DURING HOT WEATHER

From University of Minnesota - Extension

You must provide extra care to your horse during hot weather to reduce their stress and maintain their health and well-being.

Sweating, natural cooling

Horses normally cool themselves by sweating. The sweat evaporates from the skin surface and causes a cooling effect. Less sweat evaporates during times of high humidity. Air temperature and relative humidity affect the horse's ability to cool itself. Horses can acclimate to hot and humid weather conditions; the below guidelines can help reduce (or avoid) heat stress in horses.

A horse that is working hard in a hot environment can lose 2 to 4 gallons of sweat per hour.

How air temperature and relative humidity affect horse cooling

Air temp (F) + Rel Humidity (%) Cooling efficiency

< 130	Most effective
>130-150	Decreased
>150	Greatly reduced
>180	Condition can be fatal if the horse is stressed

Keeping your horse cool

Summer is a common time for heat-related issues, but unexpected warm weather can add to overheating, especially if horses are out of shape and have long, thick coats. Overheating can result from:

- Hot weather.
- High humidity.
- Poor barn ventilation.
- Prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.
- Excessive work.
- Transportation.
- Obesity.

Here are some tips to keep your horse cool and comfortable during hot weather.

Provide free access to clean water

Sponsored by



We carry all your equine
Vaccination and deworming needs.

Plus a large supply of animal
Health products.

See us in Corvallis or Deer Lodge
On Facebook

Or

www.cowpokeranchsupply.com

406-961-4917

Monday – Friday 8 – 5:30

Saturday – 9 – 4

406-961-4917

Always provide unlimited access to clean, cool (45 to 64 F) water. At rest, an adult horse in a cool climate will drink about 6 to 10 gallons of water daily depending on feed. They'll drink much more while working or in hot conditions. A horse's stomach can hold between 2 to 4 gallons of fluid without becoming over distended.

Allowing a hot horse a few swallows of cool, fresh water every few minutes is key to combat the effects of heat stress.

Clean water buckets and tanks more often in hot weather to prevent algae and bacteria from growing. Blue algae toxicity is more common in

ponds or slow running streams during hot, dry weather.

Reduce ride time and intensity

Heat stress can affect any horse but is especially common in older, obese and out of shape horses. Young foals tend to be more prone to heat stress and dehydration.

Avoid riding a horse when the combined temperature and relative humidity is over 150. If you must ride a horse in hot and humid weather, or you live in an area where hot and humid weather is common, it's key to:

- Adjust your schedule (ride early in the morning or late at night).
- Keep the work light and include frequent breaks that allow the horse to cool down and regain a normal breathing rate. Don't work the horse beyond its fitness level.
- Watch for normal sweating.
- Create airflow (use fans) and work the horse in shade when possible.
- Provide access to cool, clean water at all times and offer water frequently during work. There's no reason to withhold water from a hot horse.
- Call a veterinarian right away if your horse stops producing sweat, breathes heavily, or becomes lethargic, distressed or uncoordinated.

Provide relief from the sun

Shade from trees or buildings will provide your horses relief from the sun. Be aware that the shade will change throughout the day and buildings may block natural airflow.

Watch for signs of sunburn, especially on white or

light-colored areas. In addition to shade, masks can help protect your horse from sunburns.

Consider electrolytes

Consider providing electrolytes to horses that have been sweating heavily or you expect to do so. If you add electrolytes to drinking water, also offer plain water. Some horses don't like the taste of electrolytes and will drink less. Only use electrolytes formulated for horses

Additional tips

- Provide turnout during cooler times of the day (early morning, late at night or overnight).
- Use fans to improve airflow. Keep the cords and plugs out of the horse's reach to prevent electrocution.
 - Airflow will speed the cooling process.
 - Misting fans are even more effective at cooling.
- Provide free access to salt to promote drinking. Loose salt is preferred over a salt block.
- Clip horses with long hair coats (horses with Cushing's disease) to enhance cooling.
- Transport horses during the coolest part of the day. Make sure that trailers are well ventilated and offer water often. Don't park in direct sunlight with horses inside.
- Watch horses with anhidrosis who have little or no ability to produce sweat. These horses are prime candidates for heat stress.

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. 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.

- BRBCH PROJECTS -

Blodgett Canyon



Calf Creek

On Saturday, June 27, twelve members met at Calf Creek to improve conditions at this popular riding area. They cleaned water bars, removed debris from rolling dips, cut and cleared trees from across trails, and cut back lots of overhanging branches, all while socially distancing. Thanks go to project leader Jan Bullock and her hard-working crew for a job well done!





Larry Creek

Nineteen members tackled cleanup at the popular Larry Creek trail system on Sunday, June 28, led by project leader Joe Kirkland. Volunteers cleaned 31 drainage structures, cleared three trees from trails (one was 25" in diameter), repaired a blown out irrigation ditch that was flooding the trail, cleaned the decking of three bridges, cut back overhanging brush from several trail sections, removed trash and manure from the parking area and cleared many large rocks from the trails. Phew and wow! Great work accomplished by leader Joe and his team.







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 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, JULY 16, 2020

The July 2020 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by Secretary Christy Schram-Duggan at 7:00 pm near the home of Brad and Nancy Pollman. There was not a quorum of officers or Board members at this meeting, and 16 members were present. Ed Duggan led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting. New member Linda O'Leary attended her first meeting.

PROGRAM

Jan Bullock spoke about veterinary logistics at the Iditarod. From 1994-2014, Jan was involved with many aspects of this iconic sled dog race, including communications, planning, logistics, and pre-race vet checks. In 2018, she was asked to work logistics for vets and supplies at the check points. This year she saw past veterinary volunteers plus new faces that added another level of making sure the right folks were placed at the check points. She also had to deal with winter storm conditions and the added turmoil of COVID-19. Despite these problems, another race was successfully completed and Jan eventually came back home.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The June meeting minutes were discussed, but not approved due to lack of a quorum.

Treasurer's Report: The latest account balances were presented, but not approved due to lack of a quorum. Brad noted that the raffle ticket sales provide funding for the chapter this year.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weed Seed Free Hay: Christy has information on weed seed free hay available from a local resident.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: No issues were presented.

Projects: Updates on completed projects were presented.
Larry Creek – All tasks were done by noon, but couldn't provide the usual shuttle of walking volunteers since the gate key was not available. Send Brad an email if riders see anything that needs attention. Trail maps are needed on the kiosk – let Steve Brown know.

Calf Creek – There were 13 riders/walkers. Trails cleared north and south, 47 waterbars cleared, the trailhead waterbar was painted orange to reduce trip factor, and a manure fork was donated to keep the parking area clean. Jan talked about an incident with

a mule carrying tools that spooked when the tools rattled. A suggested solution was to make sure tools are secured in the carrying boxes to lessen rattles. Members discussed parking lot size and the road collapsing near the culvert entrance. A tractor will be need in 2021 to work the dips.

Boulder Creek – The 3 riders cleared some trees over the 2 days, and Bonnie Morgan walked in and cleaned out 34 waterbars on Saturday. Christy and Ed relayed a story about an odd group that showed up Sunday morning with a large pack string and several riding stock – the group was uncommunicative and made them uncomfortable about riding in to clear trees 2 miles above the falls. It was suggested that folks write down info (dates, license plates, situation, etc.) if you see something odd at a trailhead and let the USFS know.

State Directors: Brad noted the next State meeting is in September. Lots of State projects are happening. BCHA's new permanent address is now in Montana. BCHA is working on e-bike issues. Contact Brad for further info on BCHA activities.

Membership: There are currently 85 memberships and 141 members.

Training/Education: New members contact Bonnie for Defensive Horsemanship Safety training. List of members who will carry firearms on projects has been sent to Mark Smith at the USFS, who will start the process. No first aid or saw training this year. Ed Duggan can recertify members for crosscut sawing on projects.

Outreach: Project write-ups go to Susan Slemp, who puts them on our Facebook page and passes them to Tod McKay at the USFS to publish in the papers.

Program: Steve Brown, the Stevi District Ranger, will present at the August meeting.

Sunshine: Kathy will email Cindy to send a card to Helen Engle (her sister, Della, is in hospice) and a get well card to John and Rebecca Banks (banged up from a carting/riding accident).

Fun Rides: No response for the July ride, so it is cancelled.

2021 Convention: Committee meeting will start up in September.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Ravalli County Fair: The fair has been cancelled, so no ticket selling/taking will happen. Only 4H and FFA exhibits will occur. May do livestock auction online.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rita Atencio gave a BCH buckle to Jan Bullock, which will be held to sell at an upcoming BCH MT convention.

Next Meeting: August 20, 7pm at the Pollman's. There is plenty of room to park and maintain social distance.

The meeting ended at 8:08 pm.

Kathy Stoppel-Holl for Christy Schram-Duggan, Secretary BRBCH

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 6, 2020

The August 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 Gene. Present were officers: President Gene Merrell and Treasurer Sandra O'Brien. Also present were Board members Ed Bullock, Jan Bullock, Lionel Lavallee, Dan Maiyo, Tim Meyer, and Past President Karen Philips. Absent were Vice President Dan Brandborg and Secretary Christy Schram-Duggan and Board Members Ed Duggan, Mike Costanzo, Joe Kirkland, Julie Schram, State Director Chuck Miller, and Alternate State Director Taylor Orr. There was not a quorum, so no voting was done.

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

Minutes: There was no July Board meeting, hence no minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Sandra O'Brien provided an update on the account balances via email and read the report.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: No issues to report.

Projects: Christy & Ed Duggan are preparing for the Two Good Cabin project occurring August 7-9. The Crazy Creek Horse Camp will be cleared on August 7. Kathy gave an update on the Blodgett Creek project. Riders and hikers all had a successful trip. One large suspended tree was cleared from the main trail near the junction to Blodgett Pass, and some trees were cleared on the trail to the pass. Selective brushing was done between miles 5-7. The group had a productive evening discussion on how to involve non-member hikers with clearing the trail between miles 3-7. Packing in the hikers' gear to 7-mile meadow to camp and providing tools to clear the brush may be something to consider. Non-members would sign individual volunteer agreements with the FS. Kathy will forward this info to her

hiking group to consider.

Members need to submit their RTP paperwork for completed trail projects to Lionel by mid-Sept so the final submission can be done in October.

State Director: The Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law, which now also permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (that benefits outdoor recreation) from oil and gas royalties.

Membership: There are 86 memberships and 142 members.

Outreach/Program: Recent newspaper article on the Crazy Creek/Two Good Cabin project. The Blodgett project write up and photos will be posted on the Facebook page. The August Program speaker will be Steve Brown, Stevi District Ranger.

Education/Training: Mary Kline donated items to add to the trail obstacles.

2021 Convention: The first meeting will be in September. A donated BCH MT buckle is with Jan – she will hold on to it until it's needed for future use at a convention. Jan will check if the donor wants a donation form.

Fun Rides: Rides are on hold, as it was too hot to ride later in the day in July/August.

OLD BUSINESS

Firearms on FS Projects: Discussion on updating the FS Volunteer Service Agreement (VSA) in 2021 to add firearms carry for potential stock euthanasia in the field; how do members get name on list to carry on FS projects; and how project leaders address this in safety meetings. The current VSA expires this year. Bonnie noted that 6 members have requested carry approval and their names have been submitted to the FS – an email has been received from the FS to continue the process. Review all project photos before posting on Facebook. Bonnie will write up informational note for Gene's review; then it will be emailed to the membership.

August General Meeting: The August 20 general meeting will be held at the Pollman's.

NEW BUSINESS

Indoor Meetings: Discussion on whether and how indoor meetings can be held. Will decide at September Board meeting. MT is in Phase 2, which means minimized number of people at indoor meetings. Karen will contact the fairgrounds about using the arena bleachers for September meeting.

Larry Creek Trail Maps: Maps are need at the kiosk, and they are hard to find on the FS

website. Bonnie will contact Steve Brown about this.

OTHER BUSINESS

Historian: Laura McManus has stepped down as chapter historian, after many years of handling the position. Gene sent Laura a letter of appreciation. We need to think about how to move forward with this position.

Nominating Committee: Bonnie noted that the nominating committee needs to convene in September; a note will be put in the newsletter.


The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Kathy Stoppel-Holl for Christy Schram-Duggan, Secretary BRBCH

Ads & Services Offered

Please consider our kind advertisers the next time need arises

TURNKEY CONSTRUCTION INC
Specializing in Home Design and Building



BRAD & NANCY POLLMAN 546-6492

COW POKE RANCH SUPPLY



For All Your Farm & Ranch Needs!

1308 Eastside Hwy.
Corvallis, MT 59828
www.cowpokesupply.com

Ph: 406-961-4917
Fx: 406-961-4917
Email: cowpoke@montana.com

MONTANA WOOD CARVING

CUSTOM WOOD CARVINGS
ENTRY DOORS - CABINET DOORS
FIREPLACE MANTELS - COAT RACKS



MIKE COSTANZO
406-239-2624
woodcraftsman@cybernet1.com

WILLOW CREEK
PHYSICAL THERAPY



Providing the Bitterroot one-on-one treatment to patients
of all ages

961-3841 • willowcreekpt.com • 

Carrie & Travis Van Dyke
406-381-4975



CTC
BOOT & SHOE REPAIR

Used Boots
Gently Worn
Comfortably Priced

107 State Street • Hamilton, MT 59840



Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, August 20th

**Location: Brad & Nancy Pollman's
Pasture**

Self Hosted Picnic @ 6:30

Meeting at 7:00

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

