



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

In Partnership With



Volume 47

September 2020

Issue 09

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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
Oct 2020 NAG NEWS is
5 p.m. Oct 8, 2020**

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A Message from Our President

Greetings Members:

The Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen chapter heads into the fall with most of its projects completed. The Covid pandemic got in the way of a few activities, but we are proud of what has been accomplished. If you have not provided your information for the RTP report and funding, please do so now. The reporting deadline is near. If you have questions, please contact Lionel Lavallee.



Our membership remains strong with 87 memberships and 143 members. We have not been able to engage with each of you during this pandemic and understand the challenges many of us face. Planning is underway to provide opportunities for general membership meetings in venues that allow for appropriate social distancing. The September general meeting will be held in the Ravalli County Fairground grandstands. Plans for the following months are underway.

Our chapter is entering its election cycle. A nominating committee chaired by Sandra O'Brien has been formed. Each officer position (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) is up for election. Five Board of Director Member positions are up for election as is one State Director and Alternate State Director position. We are also seeking someone to become the chapter's Historian. I would appreciate your serious consideration of offering to be nominated for one of these positions. Our chapter runs smoothly with committed supports in these leadership positions. Please let me or Sandra know if you would be interested or would like to suggest someone else.

As I write this, the forecast is for smoky days ahead. Please stay safe and healthy.

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:** Sherri Lionberger 208-691-6218

State Directors: Chuck Miller (2018-20) 961-5453
Lionel Lavallee (2020-21) 640-1242

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

SEPTEMBER BRBCH MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

September meeting will be held at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds Grandstands, in Hamilton
Meeting at 7:00 pm. Bathroom facilities are very limited, so please plan ahead.

Program Speaker: None

Editor's
Note....

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and social distancing rules, there will not be a printed, mailed version of the September 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.



Kenneth E. (Gene) Buroker passed away on Aug 22. Gene was one of the founding members and past presidents of Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen.



3 STAGES OF A BOT FLY INVASION IN YOUR HORSE

*From succeed-equine.com,
edited for length*

Like some kind of alien plotting to take over the world in a sci-fi movie, the female bot fly (or *Gasterophilus intestinalis*) buzzes around your horse in early spring, depositing between 150 and 1,000 small, yellow-colored eggs on your horse's legs, neck and around his nose and muzzle. The eggs make their first move within five days of being deposited, when, stimulated by your horse biting or licking them, they hatch into maggots. That's the first stage of the bot fly's evil plan.

The second phase is the bodily invasion, when the larvae either crawl to your horse's mouth or are ingested and subsequently bury themselves in the tongue and gums of the mouth. Then they lie in wait for approximately one month.

The third phase in the bot fly's nefarious plan is the most dangerous to your horse: the takeover of your horse's stomach. (In the movies, this is about when you start noticing a character acting strangely. He or she might look and *talk* about the same, but you just start noticing something that's a little...off.) The larvae mostly attach to the lining of the stomach in the non-glandular region, or the upper area of the stomach. And then — surprise! — they hatch into one-half to three-quarters-of-an-inch long larvae with narrow, hooked mouths that allow them to attach to the lining of the stomach and intestinal tracts. Once attached, they dig into the stomach tissue and cause all sorts of problems for your horse, who is now officially an alien host for the bot fly for the next 8-10 months. After nearly a year of free rent in your horse's stomach, the larvae eventually pass in your horse's manure, pupate in the soil for 3-5 weeks, then emerge as adults ready to start a whole new alien invasion.

Preventing Bot Fly Infection in Horses

Given the high incidence of horses suffering from *gasterophilus* infections, your best line of defense is to stay on top of your horse's digestive system health. But you can also take the "prevention is the best cure" route by spraying your horse with insect spray to deter bot flies from landing on your

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horse, using a fly sheet, and scraping the bot fly eggs off every day with a bot egg knife or grooming stone. (Remember that you only have a few days between when the eggs appear and when they're prompted to hatch and begin their vicious cycle.) Be aware that bot eggs can also (but rarely) choose a human for a host — so *always* wash your hands after removing bots, and take care to avoid touching your eyes while scraping the eggs off.

Good pasture management also goes a long way towards cutting down on the bot fly

population, among an amalgam of other health benefits. Remove manure regularly from paddocks and pastures and be sure to properly compost manure before spreading it on fields, as that will kill bot fly and other parasite eggs.

While dewormers can help get rid of the larvae once they've taken hold in your horse's system, it's not ideal to wait for an infection, then treat it.

Finally, a well-planned deworming program is key to controlling bots. Look for brands with ivermectin and moxidectin, which are specifically designed to fight the bot larvae. While dewormers can help get rid of the larvae once they've taken hold in your horse's system, it's not ideal to wait for an infection, and then treat it. Rather, make bot fly prevention, treatment and eradication a year-round event — and for the best overall result, be sure to do everything you can to help support a healthy digestive system so your horse can help you fight.

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.



Peach Cobbler Bread

You may use canned or fresh peaches for this dish

Ingredients

- 3 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 cup oil
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- 3 15 oz. cans peach chunks, well drained (or equivalent fresh)
- 1 cup powdered sugar (for glaze)
- 2 tbsp. milk

Instructions

1. In a bowl of a stand mixer, combine flour, sugar, salt, and baking soda.
2. While on low speed, add in oil, eggs, and vanilla
3. Gently stir in peaches with a wooden spoon
4. Divide batter evenly between two well-greased loaf pans
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes or until a cake tester comes out almost clean
6. Cool completely on wire racks
7. In a Small bowl, whisk together powdered sugar and milk
8. Drizzle glaze evenly over both loaves
9. Allow glaze to harden before slicing and serving



Minutes
Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen
General Membership Meeting
August 20, 2020

The August general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen was called to order by President Gene Merrill at 7pm on August 20, 2020. The meeting took place at Brad and Nancy Pollman's in Stevensville. There were 14 members in attendance, but not a quorum. Robert Braun joined us this evening. He is a member of the Missoula chapter and is joining our chapter as a secondary member.

Our guest speaker was Steve Brown, who has been the Ranger at the Stevensville Ranger District for about a year now. He has 10 head of stock and packs them in; he is a mule person! Also has a 6 horse trailer, so knows the difficulties that can be encountered for parking, etc.

The lack of signage at Larry Creek was discussed. He was asked about the possibility of posting a map on the kiosk and providing handheld maps that could be taken on the trails, like it used to be. Not able to find the map online anymore either. We explained about the posts that were placed by our chapter years ago; these can be used for direction, as well as for use by medical professionals in case of emergency. A copy of the map was provided to Steve.

Steve is interested in seeing about working trails more on the east side. He'd like to see more trails and trailheads. He gave Willow Creek as an example. Asked about the Como trail system, Steve did not know of any plans at this time. We offered our assistance if he sees projects that he'd like worked on. It was brought to Steven's attention that there are user trails and trees being cut on USFS ground in the lower Mill Creek area. The horse trailer parking area at Mill Creek was discussed. Could we get some signage to let others know not to park there? A suggestion was made to put out some education reminders on Facebook. Steve noted this is a problem at about every stock parking area. Brad noted at the national BCH level they'll be looking at stock camp areas, too, to make them for stock-only use. If you encounter or see problems created, please take a photo to document it and forward it to Brad Pollman – this could be boats, campers, or anything else creating issues. Erica Strayer assisted us years ago in getting an order made so there were stock campsites available. It would be nice to raise

awareness, as non-stock users don't realize the issue that can be created.

Since the Chain of Lakes area was closed to motorized vehicles, it's a nice area to ride, but there's erosion mitigation that's needed. It's believed that started out as a dozer path from a fire line. Some would like to see Gold Creek worked on. Perhaps our chapter can assist with grant writing to hire MCC crews to do the work or such? Steve wants to plan for what we want and figure out where the money comes from after that. That's better than shutting down ideas because of fear of finding funding. Gene noted that we've been asked to assist with St. Mary's road improvements. This would initially be more roads than trails. He's hoping to find support from BCH. Steve's been up there every two weeks to provide support for the lookout. He packed up a new woodstove last week. The watering hole/spring we worked on a few years ago is still working well.

The firearms policy was discussed a bit. He explained what it's like from the USFS side.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: 86 memberships and 142 members, with paperwork received for a new secondary member.

No Treasurer's report available.

Issues: No issues to report.

Projects: Crazy Creek project was completed. Over 20 trees removed between Twogood cabin and Overwatch Trail. It was nice to have the cabin for use. It's in good shape since the work last year. The front door still needs work. That's a good trail for those just getting started packing, or if they want to hike in. The outhouse is nice. It is recommended to do this again next year; it worked out really well. This could be used as our wilderness weekend (members only)? This should be on the list for discussion at the start of next year.

If members can be at the trailhead to assist those going on a project, or to meet them afterwards, it is appreciated on both sides.

Carol noted there was a lot of brush on the project up Blodgett. She's suggesting a brushing party next year prior to the Blodgett project. Lots of hikers would be needed. Brad noted there is a strong brushing tool being tested by other chapters; it can cut up to 2" trunks. Bill Goslin noted we could have non-members assist with the brushing by having them sign a one-day agreement with the Forest Service – it's not impeding on our Volunteer Agreement. Rob Braun is a member of the Bitterroot Hiking Group and would be willing to assist in getting folks to help; their hiking group seeks projects because they need to put in volunteer time.

Brad put out a reminder about PPE on projects.

Outreach and Program: No September speaker planned at this point. Karen posted the Crazy Creek project on Facebook. Christy provided the narrative. Many provided photos. A reminder: it's nice to have captions for photos. The last project posted had over 6000 views. We've had good newspaper coverage with Susan Slemp's help.

Training: If anyone has ideas for training for next year, let Bonnie know. She has received donations of items that can be used during training.

Bonnie discussed the firearm carry policy. She's been working with her contact at the USFS. She explained the process for applying to carry on projects. USFS feels a project leader should know if someone's been approved and is carrying. Bonnie's thinking she'll notify project leaders as they're scheduled next year, but it will not be on our certification page on the website. Brad will provide a copy of the carry policy for volunteers, which is different than those set for USFS employees.

NEW BUSINESS

After many *decades* Laura McManus has resigned her role as historian. Thank you for all you've done for the chapter, Laura! If you're interested in this position or know of someone who might be, let Gene know.

It will be election time again soon. Please consider taking on a position. Work with others to mentor them. The nominating committee needs to be set at the next meeting. The president will write a letter to be distributed by Kathy in the near future.

The September general meeting will take place outdoors due to COVID. The next meeting has been arranged at the fairgrounds grandstand. Electricity is available for the sound system. The board meetings are being held via teleconference, but there was not a quorum available.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pollman

Minutes Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen Board of Directors Meeting September 3, 2020

Attending: Gene Merrell (President), Dan Brandborg (Vice President), Mike Costanzo (Director), Dan Maiyo (Director), Karen Philips (Past President), and Bonnie Morgan (Chair Training Cmte).

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Merrell.

Merrell welcomed the group and led the pledge of allegiance.

Treasurer's report was provided by Philips.

Correspondence

- Merrell reported on the passing of Kenneth E. (Gene) Buroker Aug 22. Gene was one of the founding members and past presidents of this chapter.
- Merrell received a request from a group of lady riders for camping and trail riding opportunities in the Bitterroot Valley area. Several were provided by the group and shared by Merrell back to the group.

Committee Reports

- Issues: None
- Projects:
 - Brandborg to contact Steve Brown (Stevensville District) for information regarding their request for support of St. Mary's road and trail work.
 - Merrell to discuss possible collaborative trail maintenance work with Mary Vermillion of the Hamilton Hikers Club

- Members that have participated in projects were requested to provide their RTP information to Lionel Lavallee
- State Directors: State Directors meeting scheduled for 9/12/20
- Membership: 87 memberships and 143 members
- Outreach and Program:
 - September general meeting will be held at the Ravalli County Fairground Grandstand
 - Merrell to contact Corvallis School District about the potential use of a gymnasium for the October general membership meeting.
 - Newspaper is requesting photos for stories about our work. If you have some, please send to Philips.
- Education: None
- 2021 Convention: None


Old Business

- Firearms on FS Projects: Bonnie and Gene to meet with Stephanie Zacha, the Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer to clarify details on policy allowing members to carry handguns on projects for the

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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, September 16th

**Location: Ravalli County Fairgrounds
Grandstands**

Meeting at 7:00

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

