

In Partnership With



# Nag News



## Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

January 2021

Issue #01

### 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.

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### *A Message from our President*

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed your holiday time and stayed safe and healthy. Carolynne and I had a quiet and relaxed Christmas, keeping track of our family via zoom "gatherings" and frequent texting with photos.

As some of you will have heard, the Back Country Horsemen of Montana have decided to hold a virtual state convention this year. Our convention committee was finalizing plans for the in-person convention in Hamilton when the state organization made the decision. I would like to thank all those working to prepare the exciting event, including the co-chairs Christy Schram-Duggan and Brad Pollman. There will still be a raffle with the drawing on Saturday, March 27. You should have received an e-mail regarding the raffle items and how to get tickets. Please buy/sell raffle tickets. This is the primary way our state organization raises funds for the year. More information on this further into the newsletter.

We are wrapping up our membership drive for 2021. Please make sure you have renewed your memberships. Visit our website home page for a link to the Membership Form. You may also contact me or Kathy Stroppel-Holl, and we will send you a copy.

You are encouraged to participate in the monthly general membership meetings, which are being held via Zoom. We are opening the meeting 15 minutes early (6:45) to allow some time for socializing. At the last meeting, Leslie Maiyo won the participation raffle - \$20 gift certificate. We need your attendance because not all news and updates are in the newsletters.

*Gene Merrill, President*

### **DEADLINE FOR THE Feb 2021 NAG NEWS**

is

**5 p.m. Feb 9, 2021**

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.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chairs &amp; Members</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Audit	Nancy Pollman	546-6492
Budget	Candace Erickson	
Audio-Visual Equipment	Ed Bullock	907-575-7878
Election & Nominations	Sandra O'Brien	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	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 Slemp	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	546-6492

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

#### **Chapter Officers**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Contact</b>
President	Gene Merrill	2020-22	208-310-6326
Vice President	Dan Brandborg	2020-22	381-5643
Secretary	Christy Schram-Duggan	2020-22	360-5947
Treasurer	Barbara Walker	2021	928-606-0855

#### **Board Members**

	<b>Term</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Ed Bullock	2020-21	907-575-7878
Jan Bullock	2021-22	907-242-9853
Ed Duggan	2021-22	369-3140
Joe Kirkland	2021-22	802-2286
Katie Williams	2021-22	531-0688
Lionel Lavallee	2021-22	640-1242
Mike Costanzo	2020-21	375-1340
Julie Schram	2020-21	961-2457
Dan Maiyo	2020-21	208-940-2887

**Past President:** Karen Philips 406-961-0101 **State Chairman:** Sherri Lionberger 208-691-6218

**State Directors:** Lionel Lavallee (2021) 640-1242  
Taylor Orr (2021-22) 930-5838

**Alt State Director:** Chuck Miller (2021) 961-5453

**January 21<sup>st</sup> BRBCH Monthly meeting to be on Zoom @ 7pm**  
**Program Speaker: Andrew Burrington, OnXmaps.com**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**ATTEND AND BE A WINNER!**

As an incentive for members to attend the Bitter Root BCH Zoom meetings, each month a random drawing will award one attendee a \$20 gift. For the December meeting, the winner will receive a \$20 gift certificate. **December** winner was Leslie Maiyo.

**2021 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Membership applications for new and renewed members are now being accepted for 2021. Memberships run from January 1-December 31. Forms can be downloaded from the BRBCH website (<https://bchmt.org/wp/bitterroot/forms-andpublications/forms/>) or contact Kathy to have one sent to you by regular mail. Please completely fill out the application form - it satisfies our insurance coverage. Renewals need to update phone number, email, and address as needed. Cost for an individual is \$30, families are \$40, and secondary memberships are \$10 (individual or family if your primary membership is with another chapter). Mail the form with your check to BRBCH, PO Box 1083, Hamilton, MT 59840. You can also contact Kathy to arrange to meet if you want to pay cash.

Thanks!  
Kathy Stroppel-Holl  
[kshmes@outlook.com](mailto:kshmes@outlook.com)  
406-961-0096



**Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and social distancing rules**, there will not be a printed, mailed version of the January 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. Special thanks to Brad Pollman, printed copies will commence again in the February issue.

## 2021 CONVENTION CANCELLED - Well, Pretty Much

In many ways 2020 is still biting at our heels. Vaccines are now coming available, but even with the most aggressive of timelines it isn't likely the number of doses given, and population reached will provide an environment where most would feel comfortable with an in-person convention yet this March. The Bitter Root chapter is disappointed to - yet again - have to say Montana's annual convention has been cancelled. Many hours were spent last year preparing an exemplary meeting: location, layout, speakers, breakout sessions, banquet, and of course the more social portions of evening gatherings, auctions, and vendors. We were excited to once again showcase the Hamilton area, which included a tour of the historic Daly Mansion. Our convention committee forged ahead again last fall with hopes that all would calm down and allow the 2021 convention to take place but, alas, it wasn't meant to be.

Though the convention has been cancelled, the State will host a board meeting via Zoom to conduct all necessary business. Primary participants of these meetings are the State Officers and State Directors, though any BCH member in good standing is welcome to audit the meeting. There has been a whisper of hope that perhaps a get-together could be scheduled later this summer; keep your fingers crossed and be ready to offer assistance should this work out.

There IS one portion of the convention that will still take place: the annual raffle! The Bitter Root chapter **will be donating all profits from the raffle to BCHMT**. The State usually receives the proceeds from the live auction items, which consists of an item donated by each chapter, plus its share of the 50/50 drawing. They lost funding last year, and the Bitter Root does not want to see that happen two years in a row. A packet has recently been mailed to each chapter, which contains raffle tickets and instructions. You can help in two ways: grab some raffle tickets to sell to friends and family - yes, strangers, too! -- and purchase some yourself! Contact Nancy Pollman (406-546-6492) or Kathy Stroppel-Holl (406-961-0096) to obtain tickets. We hope to make tickets available online; a link will be added to our website if we are successful. The raffle drawing will be held at 4pm Saturday March 27 via live feed. We invite you to join us online during the live drawing. There are three great raffle prizes available! Check the raffle poster in the newsletter for details. Let's work together selling raffle tickets to raise a boatload of funds for the State.

The Bitter Root chapter will now pass the convention baton to the next chapter in line. We look forward to seeing you all next year in a new location! Thank you for all your support through these trying times.

The convention committee wishes you and your loved ones a safe and healthy 2021!



## 2021 Back Country Horsemen of MT State Convention Raffle Items



### **3 CHANCES TO WIN!**

#### ONE-NIGHT STAY AT TRIPLE CREEK RANCH

- ✓ Value: \$1,625
- ✓ All-inclusive luxury ranch resort
- ✓ 5 Star service in a unique Montana setting in the beautiful Bitterroot Valley



#### ONE-STAY AT QUINN'S HOT SPRINGS RESORT



- ✓ Value: \$229
- ✓ Natural mineral water hot springs with fine dining
- ✓ Nestled in a majestic canyon on the Clark Fork River near Paradise, MT

#### MONTANA SILVERSMITH JEWELRY – NECKLACE, EARRINGS, BUCKLE

- ✓ Value: \$150
- ✓ Stunning ensemble:  
heart earrings & necklace, double heart buckle
- ✓ What more could you want for yourself or your sweetheart?



***Winner need not be present to win***

***Tickets \$5 each or 5 for \$20***

***Draw Date: March 27, 2021, in Hamilton, MT***

Hosted by Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen Chapter [www.bchmt.org/bitterroot](http://www.bchmt.org/bitterroot)

Need more raffle tickets? Questions? Nancy Pollman 406-546-6492 or [npollman30@gmail.com](mailto:npollman30@gmail.com)

*All profits from the raffle ticket sale will be donated to Back Country Horsemen of Montana to help with annual operating expenses.*



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406-961-4917

Monday – Friday 8 – 5:30

Saturday – 9 – 4

406-961-49717



## 6 Best-Ever Tips for Winter-Riding Fun

*from horseandrider.com*

*Edited for length*

Are you a fair-weather rider? Or do you love to log saddle time even when the weather is frosty? Here are our essential tips for winter riding fun with your horse.

### 1. Take it easy.

When the weather's cold and the ground is hard (and perhaps snowy), focus on staying safe and comfortable, and simply enjoying the moment. A quiet walk through a snowy field can be as satisfying as a gallop if you use all your senses to be fully aware of the scents, sounds, and vistas of your ride.

Be aware, too, that riding through snow, especially if it's deep, can be tiring for your horse—another reason to take it easy. And because post-ride cooldowns can be problematic in frigid temps (more on that in a moment), keeping your horse from working up a big sweat just makes good sense.

Obviously, for safety's sake, never ride over icy or otherwise slippery footing. Also, in snow, stick to areas where you know the lie of the land underneath.

### 2. Plan to stay warm.

The goal is to be toasty but not to break a sweat, as dampness can lead to a chill. Dress in layers you can add or subtract as needed during your ride. Good gloves are essential; and you'll be happy to have ear warmers under your hat or helmet.

Waterproof, insulated riding boots will help ward off that I-can't-feel-my-toes feeling. (Be sure whatever boot you wear is riding-safe, though, with a decent heel and a tread that won't hang up in the stirrups.) Chaps can be an extra wind shield for your legs.

For the coldest days, gel-packet hand- and foot-warmers can provide delicious heat for the duration of your ride. (Find them at sporting-goods stores or at Amazon.com.)

### **3. Do extra warm-up, cool-down.**

Your horse's muscles and tendons require additional time to warm up in frigid temperatures, before you start asking him to struggle through snow.

After your ride, towel-dry any sweat he may've produced (again—ideally, not a lot), and make sure he's fully dry before you turn him out and/or blanket him. (A winter blanket on a damp horse defeats the purpose of blanketing.)

### **4. Mind the feet.**

We already talked about your feet, but if you ride your horse in snow, ask your hoof-care professional about the various ways of increasing traction and avoiding ice balls in *his* feet.

Options to keep snow and ice from accumulating include special shoes or hoof pads or the application of a nonstick agent (such as bacon grease or a commercial product) to soles.

For added traction, ask about a hard-surfacing material (such as borium) applied to shoes; studs affixed to shoes; the use of horseshoe nails with ribbed heads; or hoof boots with removable studs.

### **5. Go bareback?**

If your horse is comfortable being ridden bareback (and a cold day is NOT the right time to introduce it!), consider going without the saddle, especially for shorter rides. Your horse's heat will help to keep you warm on your walk through the winter wonderland.

### **6. Be smart.**

Wear UV-blocking sunglasses—ideally wraparounds—to protect your eyes from glare and wind. Keep yourself and your horse adequately watered, too, as cold weather can promote dehydration. A small snack, such as a protein or granola bar, can help you stay warm during your ride by revving your metabolism for digestion.

Don't forget to warm the bit before bridling your horse—you want him to enjoy—not dread--your winter outings.

Finally, if your horse is new to snow, be aware of any signs during pauses in your ride that he's thinking about rolling in it. I actually had this happen to me during my mare's first outing in snow—she dropped so suddenly I could only focus on pushing free...then had to follow her back to the barn, on foot.

Forewarned is forearmed!

## **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.

**2021 Packing Course Scholarship Application**  
**Thursday, February 18- Monday February 22, 9:00 am-4:30 pm**  
**Flying H Stables, 13699 Mullan Road, Missoula, MT**

BRBCH is committed to educating people who wish to travel into the backcountry using the "leave no trace" and safe stock handling and packing methods. Smoke Elser provided packing classes for many years and developed his clinic to pass on these skills. Jordan Knudsen, who now owns the business and conducts the clinics, took Smoke's course in 2004 and has been the primary instructor for going on four years. Due to the pandemic, Smoke will only be present for this clinic intermittently.

Bitter Root Backcountry Horsemen is sponsoring two scholarships to Jordan Knudsen's packing class. (Tuition is \$450 each for the five-day course, paid by BRBCH). Attendees must supply their own transportation to class or perhaps the two attendees can carpool.

Members interested will apply to the scholarship committee and must be willing to share their new knowledge with other Chapter members on trail projects or at clinics or meetings. You need not own a packing animal to apply.

BRBCH has reserved two places. Since the course begins mid-February, the application process will begin immediately. It is a big commitment, but learning from Jordan will be a thorough introduction to packing.

For details about the course content and location of the course, Jordan's website is <http://www.heartbar-K.com/> and phone number is 406-207-9388.

**APPLICATION INFORMATION**

**Deadline January 20, 2021**

Send the following information to **all three** BRBCH Scholarship committee members and there may be a sponsored tuition in the future for you!

Include your name, address, and contact information.

Please answer the following questions:

1. What do you want to get from the packing clinic?
2. What packing equipment do you now have? Pack saddle, pack blanket, pack bags, manties, animal, etc. (note: you don't need to own any of these items)
3. 3. Are you willing to provide your own transportation to the clinic in Missoula?
4. Are you willing to help the BRBCH on packing projects and teaching basic packing skills?

BRBCH Scholarship Committee:

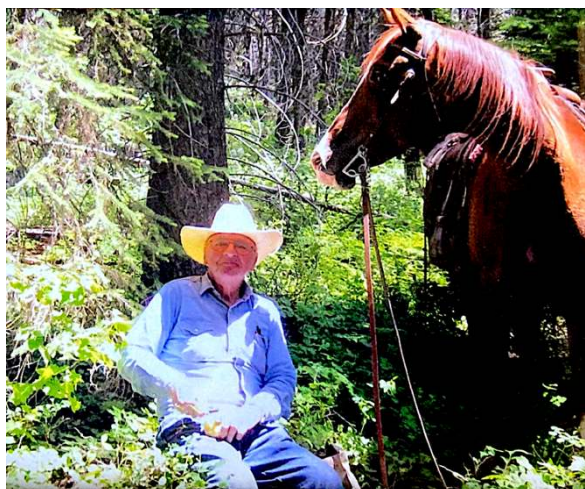
Dan Brandborg ([dan@brandborg.com](mailto:dan@brandborg.com))

Chuck Miller ([circlemr@cybernet1.com](mailto:circlemr@cybernet1.com))

Julie Schram ([dbarjranch@aol.com](mailto:dbarjranch@aol.com))



## In Memorium



The Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen chapter formally organized on March 17, 1976. Elections followed, and our first president was Thomas "Tom" Ford, owner of Ford's Department Store on Main Street in Hamilton. Tom was born on April 28, 1925, and he passed away at home on Nov. 21, 2020, surrounded by his family. He lived a good life and was a long-time supporter of trails and the back country. Tom spent a lot of time in his later years in the shoe department at Ford's Department

Store. If you were fortunate enough to spend time talking with him there, he was always positive and smiling, a real gentleman. Several years ago, we printed this photo of him on a trail with his horse and it is hanging on the wall in the shoe department. His name has been added to the chapter's memorial plaque at the Bitterroot Humane Association.



Pamela Kaye, mother of member Katie Williams, passed away November 12, 2020. We remember her for her support of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen. She would bring much appreciated hot meals to trailheads for our crews returning from a day out clearing and maintaining trails. We are thankful for those dedicated individuals like Pam who go the extra mile to help us accomplish our mission.

## **Stewart Brandborg Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame 2020 Inductee**

Stewart Monroe Brandborg arrived in the Bitterroot Valley as a 10-year-old boy.

In an interview 70 years later, the man everyone called “Brandy” remembered it as a paradise with mountains to climb, forests to explore and a place inhabited by farming and logging families who shared common values.

Often credited as a force behind the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act, Brandborg served in top posts with the Wilderness Society, the National Wildlife Federation and the National Park Service in the 1950s through the 1980s. After he retired to the Bitterroot Valley in 1986, Brandborg volunteered on preservation and land management efforts. He died in April 2018.

A young Brandborg learned his conservation ethic from his father, Guy Brandborg, who served as the Bitterroot National Forest supervisor from 1935 to 1955.

His youth was filled with long pack trips through the Sapphires. When his father took the family fishing up the west-side canyons, he advised that they keep their hooks dry until they walked at least three miles to ensure the crowd had been left behind.

The elder Brandborg was a friend of Gifford Pinchot, the Forest Service’s first chief, as well as Bob Marshall, the wilderness preservation pioneer and founder of the Wilderness Society. They shared values of protecting wilderness, sustainable timber harvests, land planning, stream protection and community involvement at a time when Forest Service policy favored clear-cutting.

A wildlife biologist by training, Stewart Brandborg **credited his two summers** spent on a groundbreaking study of mountain goats in a remote piece of the Bob Marshall Wilderness for opening the door for his later employment with the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, D.C. It was there he met his mentor, Howard Zahniser, the federation’s executive director who recruited Brandborg as a member of the Wilderness Society’s Governing Council in 1956, the same year Zahniser drafted the first version of the Wilderness Act. Four years later Zahniser hired Brandborg to a staff position on the Wilderness Society where he worked toward the goal of passing the wilderness legislation through Congress.

When Zahniser died in May 1964, Brandborg was selected as his successor as Wilderness Society executive director. In September of that same year Brandborg was there when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law.

Initially, the legislation was a disappointment to some in the conservation community. Many were expecting 50-60 million acres to be protected in that first round. Only 9 million acres in 13 states were set aside.

“Part of Brandy’s genius turned this seeming defeat into an incredibly powerful tool to build and expand and activate the wilderness movement across the nation”, wrote Wilderness Watch conservation director Kevin Proescholdt. “Brandy embarked on a years-long process of identifying local wilderness supporters, organizing them, training them on the Wilderness Act and turning them loose on their state’s congressional delegations to push for new areas to be added to the Wilderness System.”

By the time Brandborg left the Wilderness Association in 1976 there were 70 new wilderness areas in 31 states. Today, 803 wilderness areas in 44 states protect nearly 112 million acres.

"I learned, we learned that you work with the folks in local areas, the people who live in the areas under consideration," Brandborg said in a 2010 interview with the Ravalli Republic. "It was a success because we organized a massive grassroots campaign and we talked to people – \_they fished, they hunted, they hiked these places – \_from stockmen to the wilderness purists they wanted to know that wilderness was going to be here and preserved for future generations."

From there, Brandborg explained how their collective voices had power.

"The hot oil of public pressure poured down the backside of the people in Congress will make believers of them," Brandborg said. "The pressure of people who care for the environment and the wonderful world we live in can make change. It is then that message becomes clear."

## BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN



### Wild Duck Breast in Honey & Balsamic Vinegar from Pinterest.com

*For all you duck hunters out there*

#### Ingredients

- 2 duck breast fillet (with skin)
- Salt and pepper
- 3 Tbsp honey
- 4 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
- Chopped walnuts (optional)

#### Directions

1. Cut small slits in the skin of the duck breasts, making sure the flesh is not damaged. Season with salt and pepper.
2. Heat a heavy based (preferably iron) frying pan and put the duck breasts into it skin-side down. Sear them for a couple of minutes, then turn the heat down and fry for another 5 minutes. Turn them over and cook for a further 3-5 minutes, depending on how well-done you like your duck. Transfer them to a plate and rest under cover.
3. Pour the duck fat away (keep this for cooking other dishes) then add the honey and balsamic vinegar. Using a wooden spoon scrape up all the browned bits and reduce the sauce to a thick syrup. This will take about 2-3 minutes.
4. Return the duck breasts back to the pan, coat them evenly with the glaze by turning them around a few times.
5. Put the glazed duck breasts onto a plate and slice them diagonally.
6. Serve them with the remaining syrup - and chopped walnuts if you like.

#### TRAINING DATES

Defensive Horsemanship training is required for any member wishing to ride their equine on a Forest Service trail project. (It is not required for club trail rides.) Once earned, the card is good for 3 years. Defensive Horsemanship clinics will again be held at the C-Max Stables in Corvallis, on Bass Lane, off Eastside Highway. The dates are as follows:

May 1, 2021 from 9 AM to 2 pm **Demonstration:** Learn packing skills, Equine First Aid, and several other topics of interest to safe trail riding. Required for people earning a new DH card or will count as a renewal for current card holders.

May 8 and 15: **Obstacle Courses:** Four sessions (9 AM-noon, or 1-4 PM) will be offered, with 8-10 people in each session. This is the riding part of earning a Defensive Horsemanship card and you will bring your own horse, mule, or donkey. While first time card applicants will get first choice, there is generally room for current DH card holders to participate for a "spring tune-up."

Please contact Bonnie Morgan for more information and to sign up. 406-381-9021 call or text, and [mrgnbnn@gmail.com](mailto:mrgnbnn@gmail.com).

Attached is information on a packing course coming up in February in Missoula. BRBCH just learned about this course and is sponsoring two scholarships to attend it. The packing scholarship committee has a short deadline to determine the candidates and they need your information ASAP. If you are interested, read the attached information and get your contact info and answers to the four questions by Jan 20th to all three committee members listed at the end of the file.

Please contact **Bonnie Morgan** if you have any questions about this packing clinic or other training opportunities with BRBCH. If you have trouble opening this file, let me know and I will send you a pdf.

**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN  
DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES,  
December 17, 2020**

The December 2020 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Gene Merrell at 7:01 pm. The meeting was held online using Zoom Meeting. There were 29 members present. Gene Merrell led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting.

Guests: None

No Program

**BUSINESS**

**Minutes:** Gene asked if there were any updates to the October and November 2020 General meeting minutes. **Katie Williams motioned, and Lionel Lavallee seconded to accept the October and November General meeting minutes as distributed via email. The motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Sandra O'Brien provided an update on the account balances. **Kathy Stroppel-Holl motioned, and Dan Maiyo seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.** Sandra is meeting with Barbara Walker to train her on the Treasurer's responsibilities.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Raffle:** Gene discussed the meeting raffle on how general members can win a \$20 gift certificate to wherever you like.

**Newsletter:** There is a new format.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Issues:** None to report on.

**Projects:** In January we will meet with the Forest Service on our projects and the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA).

**State Directors:** Chuck discussed the BCH of MT Board Directors that took place in December. Currently there are still funds available from the Forest Service for training. BCHMT has 992 members and the BCHA has 12,900 members. There are 31 states that have chapters. Montana had 17,321 total volunteer hours, \$10,307 donations, and in-kind value in trail work of \$808,464. Eva-Maria Maggi, a BRBCH member, is offering her class at UM this year again. The 2020 class was not able to take place due to the COVID. Dave Sabo from the FS in Region 1 is taking over for Joni Packard due to her retiring. The GAOA has a budget in Region 1 with \$17 to \$33 million a

year. Need to discuss with our local districts on what we want to do with that and what input do we want with our local district in the future. Any resolutions need to be turned into the committee by Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. Nominations for the Founders Award presented by the State BCH Chairman need to be submitted to Connie Long soon. Next State Directors meeting is March 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Membership:** There are 45 memberships and 81 members. Kathy will be sending an email reminder regarding renewals for 2021. Individuals are \$30 and the Family is \$40. Please send applications/check to our PO Box or otherwise contact Kathy to get a form and renew/pay. Brad brought that the Missoula chapter is covering their 2021 memberships.

**Training:** Bonnie discussed First Aid/CPR, Cross Cut or Chainsaw certifications are in a wait and see from the FS and Red Cross. Working on the Defensive Horsemanship to take place on two to three days in May. Firearm carry certifications updated with the correct spellings. Bonnie to send out the corrected certificates. If members are interested in carrying a firearm on a Forest Service Project for possible equine euthanasia, please connect Bonnie Morgan for additional details.

**Outreach:** Karen Philips discussed the passing of Tom Ford who was the first BRBCH president and adding his name to the Bitterroot Humane Society plaque. The Ford family will have a note sent to them letting them know what was completed in Tom Ford's honor. Karen would like a suggestion for the Decker Dispatch article due in January. Lionel suggested using the article that Sandra O'Brien wrote about her mustang. Sandra to send 3 to 5 photos to Karen to send to the state.

**Program:** Karen to talk with Phil Torgerson about getting a speaker for January for a Zoom Platform.

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

**2020/2021 Convention:** Meeting will be Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm online using Zoom. Focusing on wrapping up the paperwork for the Delegate packets. Delegate packets will be sent out toward the end of this month. All hotels have been notified of the convention taking place and have room blocks set aside, under Back Country Horsemen.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Huge thank you from Gene to Barbara Walker, new Treasurer, Katie Williams, new board

member for 2021-2022, Taylor Orr, 2021-2022 State Director, and Chuck Miller, 2021 Alt State Director.

### NEW BUSINESS

2021 State Convention Delegates: Please send an email to Christy Schram-Duggan if you are interested on being a delegate at the 2021 State Convention.

Budget and Audit Committee: Gene to find folks to run these committees

Thank you from Katie and her family for remembering her Mom.

### OTHER BUSINESS

**Raffle:** Bonnie called out Dan Maiyo for a number; he picked 7, which was Leslie Maiyo! Congrats Leslie!

**Historian:** Tim Meyer will be our new chapter Historian. He will work on putting our history into a digital platform. Tim went over how to upload the photos and articles into the new google drive. He will be sending out the instructions to the general members in the next couple weeks. Thank you, Tim, for doing this!

**Next Meeting:** January 21<sup>st</sup> via Zoom Meeting

**Brad Pollman motioned, and Bonnie Morgan seconded to adjourn. The motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Christy Schram-Duggan, Secretary BRBCH

### BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, January 7, 2021

The January 2021 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order at 7:02 pm via Zoom Meeting, by President Gene Merrell.

Gene led the pledge.

Present were officers President Gene Merrell, Vice President Dan Brandborg, Secretary Christy Schram-Duggan, and Treasurer Barbara Walker. Also present were Board members Ed Duggan, Mike Costanzo, Ed Bullock, Lionel Lavallee, Jan Bullock, Julie Schram, Dan Maiyo, Katie Williams, Alt State Director Chuck Miller, State Director Taylor Orr, and Past President Karen Philips. The following were not present: Board member Joe Kirkland. Guests included Kathy Stroppel-Holl, Brad Pollman, Bonnie Morgan, and Sandra O'Brien.

Minutes: Gene asked if there were any updates to the December 2020 Board meeting minutes.

**Lionel Lavallee motioned, and Ed Bullock seconded to accept the December minutes as distributed via email. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Walker provided an update on the account balances via email and Gene reported it. **Jan Bullock motioned, and Katie Williams seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

### CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Issues:** None

**Projects:** Dan and Lionel put together a list of projects and sent them to the three Forest Service Districts. Please email projects you would like to do to Lionel and Dan.

**State Director:** Chuck reported that the physical State convention for 2021 has been canceled and will take place via Zoom. There will be a meeting on Jan 17<sup>th</sup> for the National Director nominations. Names should be submitted to Chuck.

**Membership:** There are 56 memberships and 102 members. There are 4 individual and 5 family membership renewals. **Jan Bullock motioned, and Karen Philips seconded to accept the renewal memberships. The motion carried.**

Kathy emailed the Board a list of the non-renewed members high-lighted in yellow. Gene and Brad discussed if a potential renewal hasn't arrived by a certain date to automatically enroll and waive the fee. The chapter will still have to pay the State fees. Feb is the typical deadline for renewal. It was decided to wait until the February Board meeting to decide, then call folks that still need to renew for 2021. Karen brought up that we need to have a standard message when we make those phone calls.



**Education/Training:** Bonnie discussed that the Defensive Horsemen clinic will take place May 1<sup>st</sup> 9:00am – 3:30pm and the obstacle sessions will be May 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in the am and pm at CMAX. May not be able to do a chili feed, probably bring your own lunch. Mark Smith from the Forest Service emailed Bonnie about if the three folks have heard back. Looks like the Firearms Program is working out the kinks. Bonnie discussed the Packing Clinic that is being taught by Jordan Knudsen @ Heart Bar – K Enterprises. Jordan has co-instructed the class with Smoke Elser the last four years. The class is scheduled to take place Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9am to 4:30pm located at Flying H Stables in Missoula. The cost of the class is \$450 per person. BRBCH will get a 10% discount. The cost would be \$405 per person. Bonnie recommended to have two scholarships to send two members to the clinic. **Karen Philips motioned, and Katie Williams seconded to approve \$810 for two scholarships to attend the Heart Bar K Ranch Packing Clinic. The motion carried.** Discussion took place. Deadline for the application is January 20<sup>th</sup>. The Scholarship Committee consists of Chuck Miller, Dan Brandborg, and Julie Schram. Christy will send Barbara details who to make the check out to and the address to send it. Christy will contact Jordan Knudsen to let them know that the Board approved the two spots for the Packing Clinic and the check will be in the mail shortly.

**Program:** Karen talked with Phil Torgerson about potential speakers using the Zoom Platform. Potential speaker for January would be with Onyx. Phil to contact Lionel to go over the logistics.

**Outreach:** Karen sent Sandra's stories and photos to Deborah @ Decker Dispatch. Potentially will have both articles published. Karen has the photo and story sent to Lionel for the newsletter that is portraying the chapters first President, Tom Ford.

**2021 Convention:** Christy discussed the cancelation of the physical convention. The State meeting is still taking place via Zoom. The Chapter is off the hook for the convention. There are talks of having a rendezvous in August, there is also a possibility of donating some of our silent auction items to that.

Kathy will be mailing raffle ticket packets to the 17 chapters tomorrow. Total of 2500 tickets printed with 100 going to each chapter. Next meeting is scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm. Brad discussed Venmo to purchase tickets online. There is a potential of using it for membership as well. Brad contacted the chapter's bank and they recommended it. Sandra also recommended it would be great to do more with online versus checks and in person. Barbara also agrees that electronic access would be convenient and efficient. Two issues to address 1) Set up using the Venmo for the raffle tickets. 2) Look into Venmo for the chapter to use for donations and memberships. It was agreed to use Venmo to sell raffle tickets online. Point 2, the Board will investigate and research further. Barbara and Gene will look into and report in future Board meetings.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

NA

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Audit Committee:** Dan and Leslie Maiyo, Kathy Stoppel-Holl will work with Sandra O'Brien and Barbara Walker. They will share the results of the audit and report back to the Board as soon this is completed.

**Budget Committee:** Gene Merrell and Katie Williams will work together to complete the draft 2021 budget.

**Insurance:** Move to Feb Board meeting.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Huge thank you goes out to Bonnie Morgan for donating back to the chapter.

Huge thank you goes out to Tim Meyer for taking on the role as Historian for the chapter.

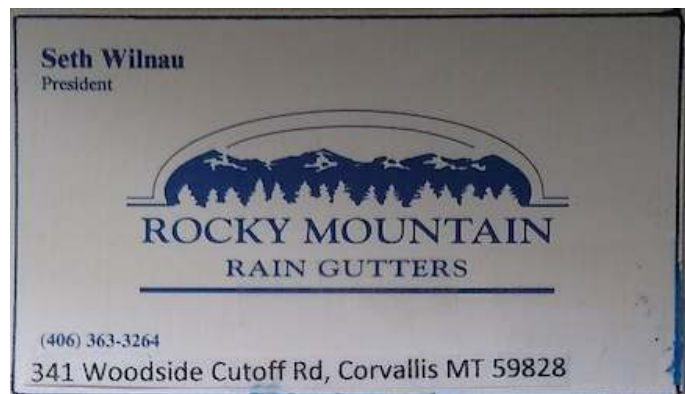
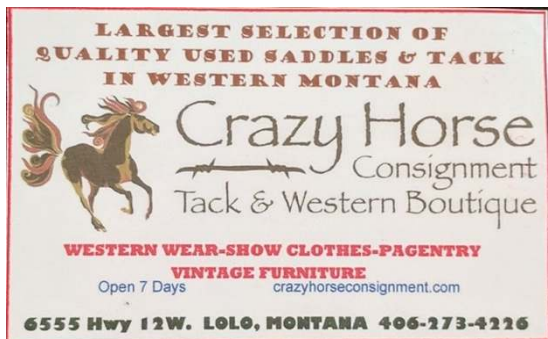
Question – Did the early 15 minutes for the General work? Yes!

**Karen Philips motioned, and Sandra O'Brien seconded to adjourn. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.**

Christy Schram-Duggan, Secretary BRBCH

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# Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



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## **NEXT BRBCH MEETING**

**Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Meeting at 7:00**

