

In Partnership With



Nag News



Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

March 2021

Issue #03

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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.

A Message from our President

Thought spring was here, but not yet! However, there are several exciting Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen activities to anticipate: in-person group meetings; this season's projects; and the Ravalli County Fair. Your participation is critical.

Your Board of Directors has agreed to start general membership in-person meetings with the June 17 membership meeting in the Three Sisters group site at Como Lake. Dan Brandborg has offered his open hay barn, and we will explore Larry Creek, Coyote Coulee, and other options as they are confirmed.

Our trail project leaders are finalizing various project dates for the upcoming season. It is looking like a busy, prosperous year ahead. If you have lost your link to the project sign-up sheet, please contact Lionel Lavalée for access. Your signing up for the projects you intend to support, helps leaders plan for the projects. This activity is central to supporting our mission of "ensuring that public lands remain open to recreational stock use."

The Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen has supported the Ravalli County Fair for a number of years by managing the sales and receipts of tickets at the various entrances to the fairgrounds. This is our chapter's major fundraising activity. With the recent passing of Bill Black, our long-time manager of this activity, and the retirement of Mark and Laura DeGrazier from this role, we are planning how we will support this function for the future. If you are interested in participating, please let me know.

Stay safe and well.

Gene Merrill, President

DEADLINE FOR THE Apr 2021 NAG NEWS

is
5 p.m. April 6, 2021

SUBMIT YOUR
ARTICLES AND ADS TO:
lionel.lavallee47@gmail.com

To improve accuracy please
confirm all ads by deadline
date.

Committee	Chairs & Members	Contact
Audit	Dan Maiyo	208-940-2887
Budget	Candace Erickson	
Audio-Visual Equipment	Ed Bullock	907-575-7878
Election & Nominations	Sandra O'Brien	907-529-1315
Equipment & Inventory	Chris Grove	381-7600
Fair		
Fundraisers	Ed Bullock	907-575-7878
RTP Grant	Christy Schram-Duggan	360-5947
Historian	Tim Meyer	907-440-0841
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 Slempp	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 2021 Officers & Board

Chapter Officers

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

Board Members

	Term	Contact
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

March 18th BRBCH Monthly meeting to be on Zoom @ 7pm
Program Speaker: Carol Johns on Jordan Knudson's Packing Clinic

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 timecard 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.

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.

REMINDER: TURN IN YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS!

Thank you to all who sold raffle tickets for our chapter.

If you still have raffle tickets, sold and/or unsold, please return them, plus payment, by March 25 to either: Nancy Pollman (546-6492) or Kathy Stroppel-Holl (961-0096). Call to schedule delivery.



If you'd like to join us for the drawing, it will be held via FaceBook live feed at 4pm Saturday, March 27. Simply visit our page at: www.facebook.com/BitterRootBCH to watch us live.

And it's still not too late to purchase raffle tickets. We have 3 great prizes! \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Again, just call Nancy or Kathy for purchase or questions.

Good luck to all who have purchased!



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

Need more raffle tickets? Questions? Nancy Pollman 406-546-6492 or 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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Monday – Friday 8 – 5:30

Saturday – 9 – 4

406-961-49717



Top 7 Tips for Staying at a Horse Motel by Alayne

Blickle, *theHorse.com*

*Are you planning a
long-distance trip
with your horse that
requires an
overnight stay? Use
these seven tips to
make your
experience finding
and staying at a*

horse motel easier.

If you're not familiar with the horse motel concept, these are places where you can board your horse overnight while traveling. Some, like our Sweet Pepper Ranch in Southwestern Idaho, also offer B&B options for humans, creating a comfortable, safe place for both horse and owner to overnight. Our guests include people who are moving households, going to or from college, traveling to shows, or just heading down the road with their horses for an adventure.

As a proprietor of a horse motel and having spent 15-plus years traveling to horse shows

out West, here are my suggestions for making the traveling-with-horses experience easier for all.

1. Use your resources

Rely on word of mouth when you can. Turn to friends, social media, and veterinarians or other professionals for recommendations on travel routes and places to stay with horses.

2. Plan ahead

Several websites list horse motels. Most fairgrounds also have decent facilities. Some even offer overnight camping for people. Do your research, call ahead, and ask questions.

3. Get an early start

If you can arrive at your destination in the daylight, it'll be easier for you, safer for your horses, and less of an imposition on your host. Most horse motels are private facilities and homes. At Sweet Pepper Ranch we appreciate when our guests arrive before 10 p.m., as we have day jobs and other commitments that make late-night arrivals a hassle for us, our other guests, and our neighbors. Plus, it's less

stress on you when you can see where you're going and inspect the digs in daylight. While you're at it, use technology to keep managers of your horse motel destination informed of your expected arrival time—another way to be respectful of their time and ensure they will be ready for you and your horse.

4. Be kind

We often have guests arriving cranky, hungry, and anxious. I understand how stressful travel can be, but raising voices at each other, your kids, or your animals only heightens everyone's anxiety levels. Travel with healthy snacks—veggies, fruit, water, popcorn, cheese sticks—to avoid getting "hangry."

5. Practice loading and unloading

Training your horses far in advance of your travel date, especially if they aren't frequent travelers, is very helpful. We see many horses and owners that are uncomfortable with the loading and unloading process, which makes things potentially dangerous and more stressful. Find a professional that you and your horse can learn from before embarking.

6. Carry an up-to-date health certificate and negative Coggins

Talk with your veterinarian to find out what paperwork you should carry and how far in advance you need to get it. If you have concerns about diseases in the areas you are traveling to or through, your vet should be able to connect you with either the state veterinarian's office at your destination or other professionals.

7. Go over the details

When choosing a horse motel, look for one where your horses can move around, lie down, or even roll, such as in a pen. They must have free access to clean water and be allowed to eat with their head lowered, so nasal passages can drain. Good ventilation is a must. If you have multiple horses, it's nice if they can see or even touch each other. Once at the facility, inspect walls to be sure they are free of nails or sharp objects and extend to the floor, so your horse won't get his feet trapped underneath.

THE 59TH ANNUAL PACKING CLASS

By Carol Johns

Jordan Knudson's 59th Annual Packing Class was very different from the Smoke Elser class I attended in 2012. Smoke's class was a warm and easygoing introduction to the history, art and skills of backcountry horse packing and was loaded with his wonderful stories and humor. I still remember certain details from his class, like packing the raw eggs in a turkey baster tube. But, it was easy to be timid in Smoke's class, and let someone else take the chance of trying and demonstrating hands-on skills. Not so in Jordan's class. Jordan's class is hard core. His curriculum was focused on the essential skills of packing, starting with tie-up knots (the cavalry knot was a new one for me) and progressing up through the diamond hitch. He consolidated and increased the hours of class time from Smoke's schedule, so we were on our feet or bent over or lifting something or reaching up tying something for pretty much the entire six-hour class time each of the five days. I had never thought of mantying loads as being an aerobic activity, but it is. The outer layers of clothing came off quickly. Even the young students were tired and sore by the end of the day.

The students ranged in age from 15 up to a few of us well-aged persons. The younger ones were hoping for jobs with an outfitter. One student has a seasonal job lined up on the trail crew at Rocky Mountain National Park. Most of the others are hunters who want to safely bring out their hoped-for meat and antlers. I wanted to be able to help on BCH projects instead of standing around watching at the trailheads. I have fantasies of riding one of my Mustangs and packing the other up the East Fork to the Bitterroot River headwaters, exploring the Bob, and taking them with me on adventures all over the West. All of us were there because we love being in the backcountry.

In addition to the tie-up knots, the class covered load mantying (vertical & horizontal), saddle construction and fitting, and hitches (basket, barrel, Christensen, the not to be used crow's foot, the Decker diamond, the box hitch, the one-person diamond hitch, and how to hitch up panniers with a top pack) and the pros & cons of each

Jordan said that the class involved not so much intellectual activity as repetitive physical effort. I (and his wife, Amanda) disagreed with him. My poor brain was feeling its age. I think I pretty well got the knots and mantying down, but I am still trying to keep the hitch patterns stuck in my memory. Jordan has a mental linear logic that lets him visualize where the ropes and knots (and roads and trails) go after once through. Fortunately, my packing partner Josh has the same ability, so he was able to spot my misses. So much of these skills involves a rope handling "feel" - how to aim and how hard to throw a toss, get the best angle for leverage, the muscle memory of the pattern. The repetitive practice (ugh - do I have one more hitch left in me?) was effective. I started to get the patterns and the feel. Now, I am fairly comfortable with the basket & barrel hitches, and probably the Christensen hitch. I am going to put my pack saddle on a barrel & get it all down. The Mustangs aren't quite ready for packing yet.

Jordan is tall, and so his mules are tall. His black Clydesdale-cross Gertrude is HUGE. Jordan doesn't even know her size for sure. She really is magnificent. Fortunately, she was not assigned to any of us for packing practice. Josh and I got to work on Brownie, a sweet, very gentle mule Jordan borrowed from John Krosse, another clinic participant (who might be

interested in joining our chapter). Brownie is about 15 hands, but even that was too tall for short me. Brownie might have flicked an ear, but he didn't move anything else when I got up on a chair to wrap the barrel hitch around the rope running down his back. An amazing perspective was produced from that angle. I could actually see where ropes came from and went to. Not a technique I will attempt very soon on the Mustangs.

The camaraderie shared with the other participants in the class was an unexpected and fun result of the daily partnering work. I think we all learned something from each other, and I certainly enjoyed the getting acquainted part. I look forward to meeting all of the others on the trail.

I especially enjoyed getting to know Tal Coffey, the other scholarship recipient. Tal is a hard worker and a really good hand. And, he is young enough to carry on the tradition into the future. We exchanged Mustang stories and shared some bust-up laughs. We are lucky to have him in our chapter.

Jordan's 59th Annual Packing Class was intense, challenging, and exhausting. It was also extremely rewarding. I feel ready to step up to the mantie corner at the trailhead. The skills and confidence I gained from this class brought me several steps closer to making those Mustang fantasies actual possibilities.

Jordan is an excellent teacher. His explanations are clear and direct, although he says that someone once accused him of using magic in his rope work. He was attentive to our efforts, and offered corrections without criticism. At the end of the clinic, Jordan asked each of us, "Did you get what you came for?" Definitely, YES, and then some.

Tal and I both want to extend our thanks and gratitude to this group for allowing us the opportunity to attend Jordan's Class. We are hoping to use all we learned on the upcoming summer projects, and to make life a little easier (but not too easy) for our packers.



Carol and Tal Practicing Techniques

BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN



Pasta ala Norma

Spring is on the way!

Ingredients

- 1 large eggplant, cut into medium dice
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 #10 can of San Marzano tomatoes, drained and roughly chopped
- Large handful basil, divided
- ½ lb. spaghetti/bucatini

For the Pangrattato

- 4 oz. stale breadcrumbs
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- ½ - 1 teaspoon chili flakes, depending on how spicy you want it
- Zest of ½ a lemon

Grated parmesan, to serve.

Directions

1. Mix the diced eggplant and salt together in a large bowl then put into a sieve and place over a bowl or the sink and leave to sit for 30 minutes.
2. Heat the oven to 425 degrees.
3. Rinse the eggplant in cold water, then dry with kitchen paper and cover with 2 tablespoons of the olive oil. Toss to combine, add to a tray, then bake in the hot oven for about 15 - 20 minutes until nicely golden.

4. Meanwhile, heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in a saucepan set over a medium heat and add the garlic. Cook for a couple of minutes, then add the tomatoes and half the basil (leave the basil on the stalk as you will need to remove it later) and bring to a simmer. Turn down the heat and cook slowly for about 20 to 30 minutes until thickened and smelling delicious.
5. To make the Pangrattato, place the last 2 tablespoons of olive oil into a frying pan and add the breadcrumbs, garlic and chili flakes, frying until the breadcrumbs turn golden. Tip into a bowl and allow to cool slightly then add the lemon zest and tear in the remaining basil.
6. Once the sauce is almost ready, cook the pasta in plenty of boiling salted water according to the packet instructions. Add the eggplant to the sauce and discard the basil. Drain the pasta and toss in the sauce with about ¼ c. of pasta water, then divide between plates. Sprinkle with the Pangrattato and finally sprinkle with the parmesan



The U.S. Forest Service Northern Region Pack train will circle the UM oval and stop for a packing demonstration in front of Main Hall. UM President Seth Bodnar and Provost Reed Humphrey will welcome the pack train on campus. The event is organized by UM's Summer office and the Political Science department. Students and visitors can learn about UM Summer course offerings for 2021, in particular Dr. Maggi's "Wilderness Policy and Packing" courses that take students on a five-day pack trip into the Bob Marshall this summer. BCH Montana as well as Bitterroot and Mission Valley local chapters are providing scholarships for students taking the class. Several BCH members will help with the manure collection at the event. The event is open to the public. Mask wearing, and social distancing is required on UM campus.

**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, February
18, 2021**

The February 2021 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Gene Merrell at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held online using Zoom Meeting. There were 29 members present. Dan Maiyo led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting.

Guests: None

No Program

BUSINESS

Minutes: Gene asked if there were any updates to the January 2021 General meeting minutes. **Lionel Lavallee motioned, and Mike Costanza seconded to accept the January General meeting minutes as distributed via email. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Walker provided an update on the account balances. **Brad Pollman motioned, and Kathy Stroppel-Holl seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A huge thank you goes out to Earl, Karen, Kathy, and Brad, and numerous chapter members for stepping up and assisting the Black family.

Fairground Announcements: Looking for a few members to step up to help with the Fairgrounds Committee consisting of 3 to 6 members. If interested in joining the committee, please let Gene Merrell know. This is a very important fundraiser for the chapter and the community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: None to report on.

Projects: Dan discussed the Projects with the 2021 Project List. Not setting any dates at this moment, waiting for the current projects to have a project Leader assigned to them. If you are a Project Leader please let Dan and Lionel know the dates you are thinking of for your project or place the dates on the online spreadsheet. Boulder Creek Project currently does not have a project leader. Unless we get a leader, this project will be placed on hold due to this is a big project to due. Betsy Rogan would like to be the leader for Boulder but also looking for a Co-Leader. Two Good Cabin, Ed and Christy Duggan have those dates nailed down as well as the reservation of the

Two Good Cabin. East Fork Trail, Katie Williams is leading this project. Fred Burr Upper Trail, Mark Smith @ the Forest Service has it on their list. Will be more of a scoping project this year. Rock Creek Horse Camp Clean-up, Bonnie Morgan is leading this project and is thinking that early September after the Fair. Lick Creek looking for a leader for that one, this one will be more of a scoping project. St. Mary's Lookout pack support, Forest Service requested pack support about 3 or 4 times to the Lookout. Dan Brandborg will be leading this project. Blodgett Creek, Joe Kirkland, and Kathy Stroppel-Holl could be Co-Leader for this project. Willow Creek has been dropped off the list due to the Forest Service has it on their list this season. We had a Project Leader notebook that contained all the forms that the Project Leader would need. The possibility that it could be in the Shed. Reports coming in about the number of trees that came down this fall and winter. Going to be a busy season. Lionel discussed the meeting they had with the Forest Service. Talked a little about the Volunteer Agreements and going to end up with a JHA finally written on the boot requirement for Sawyers. Mark Smith is going to provide the wording on that. Brad provided the wording that needs to be put into the permit to carry a firearm on projects into the agreement. Chatted about the Great American Outdoor Act and start talking about some specific things, such as Rock Creek. Forest Service getting funds to replace planking around picnic tables and benches, and some of the fire rings. We will be having another meeting with the Forest Service to discuss what the agreement will look like on Rock Creek before the project takes place in the fall. The proposal went out in 2017 was supposed to be rolled out in May of 2018 but it has been pushed out. It is the timing the FS would like feedback on. After much discussion, it was agreed upon that Gene will communicate to the FS that our chapter recommends that they postpone the fee implementation to 2022 and increase the information and education to the public on what is coming. The Forest Service proposed an increase in fees at some recreational sites with went out in 2017 was supposed to be rolled out in May of 2018 but it has been pushed out. It is the timing the FS would like feedback on. The Board recommended recommends that they postpone the fee implementation to 2022 and increase the information and education to the public on what is coming. The Forest Service going to take that recommendation into their meetings concerning their implementation of planning. The fees are

kept here locally to fund or cover cost on this Forest.

State Directors: Lionel and Chuck did not have anything to report on. The resolution that was presented has been dropped due to being going against the State constitution. Brad discussed the email that State Chairman Sheri Lionberg sent out on the 12th about the Bills being considered by our State Legislatures. Wanted to encourage those to write a comment to our State Legislatures doing this session. Several bills that are dealing with eBikes, financing of state parks, changing of our license plate fees could affect the funding for RTP and numerous non-profit organizations. Please look at that email, it contains links to see each bill that they are talking about, and please comment. If you have any questions, please call Brad Pollman.

Membership: There are 61 memberships and 112 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.

Training: Bonnie received word from American Heart Association that FA/CPR for those that are currently certified will be extended one more year. Have not heard anything yet about the Saw Training. Defensive Horsemen demonstration will take place May 1st, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm and the obstacle sessions will be May 8th and 15th in the am and one in the pm at CMAX. We will not be having a chili feed it will be a bring your lunch. Tal Coffey and Carol Johns are participating in the Packing Clinic which is happening this weekend. Firearm Carry Policy please email Bonnie Morgan your name if you want to apply for that permit. Please have that done by mid-May.

Outreach: Karen Philips did get the Raffle ticket sales into the Ravalli Republic and the Bitterroot Star.

Program: Karen Philips has a text out to Phil our program chair.

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

2020/2021 Convention: Christy discussed that Nancy received a call from the Department of Justice yesterday and nonprofits can do raffle online but only with a permit and can only do debit cards, cash, or checks. No credit cards are allowed. Nancy has already been in talks with Dan Marsh, the State's Treasurer about taking off the button to pay by credit card. The permit application was filled out

early this morning and sent off to the Department of Justice. Barbara Walker sent the necessary paperwork showing proof of our 501c3 standing. Maddy Atkins was tasked with selling the decorations to help offset the expanses. She was able to sell our fairy lights and wood cookies. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10th @ 7:00 pm.

Group Rides: Nothing yet, too soon. Be gone for a month. Jan Bullock

OLD BUSINESS

NA

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Committee: Earl Philips motioned, and Mike Costanzo seconded to accept the 2021 Budget as presented. The motion carried. Going to start report this out quarterly.

OTHER BUSINESS

RAC Committee Report: Julie Schram went over the 15 projects the was presented to the RAC Committee.

Raffle: Bonnie called out Lionel Lavallee for a number; he picked 8, which was Susan Slemp! Congrats Susan!

Next Meeting: March 18th via Zoom Meeting

Bonnie Morgan motioned, and Lionel Lavallee seconded to adjourn. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Christy Schram-Duggan, Secretary BRBCH

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, March 4, 2021

The March 2021 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order at 7:04 pm via Zoom Meeting, by President Gene Merrell.

Bonnie Morgan 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, Joe Kirkland, Lionel Lavalley, Jan Bullock, Julie Schram, Katie Williams, Dan Maiyo, State Director Lionel Lavalley and Taylor Orr and Past President Karen Philips. The following were not present, Board member Ed Bullock and Alternate State Director Chuck Miller.

The following committee chairs were also present; Bonnie Morgan, Kathy Stroppel-Holl, and Brad Pollman.

Minutes: Gene asked if there were any updates to the February 2021 Board meeting minutes. **Karen Philips motioned, and Barbara Walker seconded to accept the February minutes as printed in the newsletter. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Walker provided an update on the account balance. **Karen Philips motioned, and Lionel Lavalley seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.** Barbara brought up the insurance exclusions. Barbara to scan and email to Gene to send out to go over with the Board and decide. Then get the decision to Barbara.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: None

Projects: Dan and Lionel discussed the projects for this season. They have folks that wanted to be project leaders who are putting tentative dates into the spreadsheet. Once that is completed, we will be touching base with the folks that signed up to participate to see if they are still available. We are holding off on Boulder and Willow Creek. Fred Burr has a good interest in that project. St. Mary's Lookout pack support taking place mid-July to mid-August, very weather dependent. Bonnie Morgan has email Ericka from the Forest Service about the Rock Creek Project, to ask if Mid-September would be a good time.

State Director: Lionel got the votes in from the delegates to the MT State for the National Director and Alternate National Director.

Membership: There are 62 memberships and 114 members. 1 family membership renewals. **Dan Maiyo motioned, and Mike Costanzo seconded to accept the family renewal membership. The motion carried.**

Education/Training: Bonnie received word from American Heart Association that FA/CPR for those that are currently certified will be extended one more year. All saw renewals have been extended another year. Defensive Horsemen demonstration will take place May 1st, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm and the obstacle sessions will be May 8th and 15th in the am and one in the pm at CMAX. We will not be having a chili feed it will be a bring your lunch. Tal Coffey and Carol Johns are participating in the Packing Clinic which is happening this weekend. Firearm Carry Policy please email Bonnie Morgan your name if you want to apply for that permit. Please have that done by mid-May.

Program: Karen and Kathy discussed having Tal and Carol Johns present their time at the packing clinic at the March General Meeting.

Outreach: Karen checked on the Bitterroot Humane Association and the plaque for Bill Black. They are in the process of moving into their new building. Karen to check back in a month or so. It was recommended to take pictures of the two plaques as a record and then send it to Tim. Received poster and description from Eve Maggi of the Wilderness class. Karen placed that on our FB page. Looks like the Northern Region Pack Mules will be at the oval at the University of Montana to help promote the Wilderness classes on March 23rd.

2021 Convention: Christy asked each officer and board member to sell raffle tickets. Please contact Nancy or Kathy for the raffle tickets. March 10th @ 7pm next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Fairgrounds Committee: Gene did a quick recap of what has been happening. Earl and Christy have stepped to be on the committee. Gene reached out to Nancy Pollman as well to be on the committee. If you are interested in being on the committee, please let Gene know.

Inventory the Supplies @ BRBCH Shed: Ed Duggan to Inventory the shed by the end of March and send out a report to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Outdoor Meetings: June, July, and August, Three Sisters @ Lake Como for June, or July, or August. One of those to be at Brandborg Barn, the other would-be Larry Creek and Coyote Coulee.

OTHER BUSINESS

MT Trails Coalition: Brad to discuss a webinar that was put on by the President of the MT Trails Coalition and a group called MT Access. They do this life on FB

every other Thursday you can find them at www.facebook.com/MTAccess. They give a rundown of the bills that are going through the legislature this year. Brad did a quick recap of the webinar. House Bill 272: Allow a person to register their vehicle for five years. This would affect RTP Funding and other nonprofit organizations. House Bill 281: Revising laws on bikes and eBikes, this includes the description of the three types of eBikes. Would have to allow the eBikes and get an except to not allow and prove them why. We would like to have this be worded as "cannot allow and prove the

reasons they are allowed." Another bill would be changing the management of wildlife into the parks Department and require a conservation license to ride on areas like Calf Creek. If you have any questions, please contact Brad Pollman.

Lionel Lavallee motioned, and Bonnie Morgan seconded to agenda. The motion carried.

Adjourn 8:17 pm.

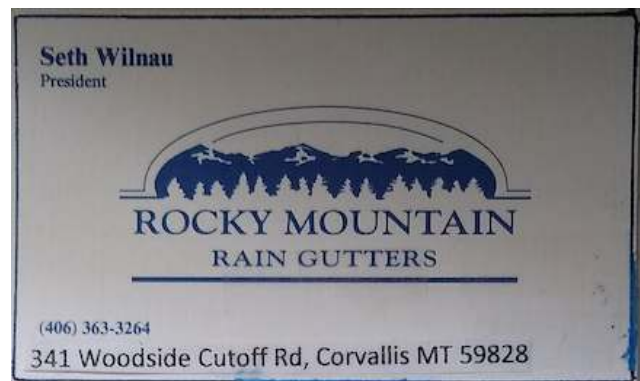
Christy Schram-Duggan, Secretary BRBCH


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NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, March 18th

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Meeting at 6:45

