

In Partnership With



# Nag News



## Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

April 2021

Issue #04

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

is

5 p.m. May 10, 2021

SUBMIT YOUR  
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confirm all ads by deadline  
date.

### *A Message from our President*

Spring really seems to have arrived. I have moved out of flannel and long-sleeve t-shirts. My pastures were burned last week, and I plan to fertilize them in the coming weeks. We have started prepping the gardens for spring planting.

Spring also means our project season will kick-off soon. The first project, Calf Creek, is scheduled for May 29. Jan Bullock is the project leader. If you have not already signed up, please sign-up or let Jan know your intent to help with that project. Current plans have other projects listed through August 8. If you have lost your link to the project sign-up sheet, please let me or Lionel know. We will send you the link.

Our defensive horsemanship training sessions begin May 1 with the Demonstration Clinic. This is required for anyone needing a new or renewal Defensive Horsemanship card. The Defensive Horsemanship Obstacle Riding Clinics are scheduled for May 8 and 15. Contact Bonnie Morgan to reserve a spot in the riding clinic or for more information. Please note that a current Defensive Horsemanship card is required to bring stock on a project. First-Aid and saw trainings have been cancelled for 2021 at this time. Current first-aid and saw certifications are extended another year.

This is also a good time to start getting out, either on horse/mule back or on foot. I have been riding around my "block" and was out with a group at Larry Creek last week. Enjoy our beautiful area. Please stay safe and healthy.

*Gene Merrill, President*

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chairs &amp; Members</b>	<b>Contact</b>
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 Slemph	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

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Contact</b>
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

	<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

**April 15<sup>th</sup> BRBCH Monthly meeting to be on Zoom @ 7pm**  
**Program Speaker: None**

**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](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.

## In Memoriam



### **Bitter Root BCH loses long-time contributor and leader**

Bill Black passed away on February 11, 2021, due to multiple health issues. Bill was one of our longest-serving members and leaves us with a remarkable legacy: he served as first vice-president in 1998-1999, second vice-president in 2000, president in 2001-2002, past-president and state convention committee member in 2003, director in 2004, vice-president in 2005, director in 2006, president for four years (2007-2010), vice-president in 2011-2012, and director for six more years (2013-2018). During those years he served in many other capacities. He was chair of our annual fair fundraiser (selling and taking tickets) for many years up through 2019, he was chair of the Mule Days fundraiser (selling and taking tickets) for many years and he received the BCH of Montana's Chairman's Award in 2016, a most deserving recipient. Bill spearheaded the acquisition and installation of a pit toilet at the Coyote Coulee trailhead, and members called it Bill's Black Hole from then on, which he thought was funny! Bill provided solid leadership and wise counsel in every one of his 22 years of involvement in our organization; he stepped up whenever and wherever we needed him. We are so grateful for his lifetime of support to Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen and we will miss him immensely.

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### **Introducing Horses to Spring Pastures** by Laura Kenny, Penn State Extension

Horse owners are  
anticipating the joy  
of realizing that the  
long harsh winter is  
gradually changing  
into the pleasures of  
spring. Along with  
the warmer  
temperatures, spring

brings greener pastures with high  
nutritional value for the grazing horse. It  
won't be long until the sound of  
lawnmowers are abundant and farmers will  
be processing the first cutting of hay.

#### **Horses Confined During Winter Months**

During the winter months and inclement  
weather, horses are often confined to areas  
where they cannot access natural forage on  
a day to day basis. Horse owners should  
restrict their horses from pastures in the  
winter to protect fields from the damage

horses can inflict. Horses are destructive on  
wet pastures, pulling grass plants out of the  
soft soil by the roots, damaging the grass  
and roots from hoof action, or compacting  
the pliable soil with their considerable  
weight.

A horse owner who wishes to provide  
nutrition from pasture forages must make a  
concentrated effort to maintain a healthy  
pasture year round. These owners often  
have sacrifice or dry-lot areas for the horse's  
daily exercise and turnout during inclement  
weather and the long months of winter.

#### **Problems Associated with Spring Pastures**

When horses are confined to dry lots over  
the winter, problems can arise when  
reintroducing them to spring pastures.  
Sudden feed changes wreak havoc on a  
horse's digestive tract. There is a population

of microbes within the horse's cecum, which is the part of the digestive tract that ferments fiber. This microbial population is specific to the horse's diet; when the diet changes, the microbial population must change as well to efficiently process the feed. Abrupt feed changes, such as switching grains, hay types, or going from hay to pasture, do not give the microbial population enough time to adjust. This can cause colic or diarrhea in any horse.

Another problem is that early spring pastures are very high in non-structural carbohydrates (NSC), including simple sugars, starch, and fructans. These nutrients are excellent sources of energy for the horse, but large quantities can induce laminitis or founder in horses that have metabolic disorders such as Equine Metabolic Syndrome or insulin resistance.

### **Introducing Horses to Grazing**

It is best to wait until pasture grasses have had time to grow to at least 6 inches before resuming grazing. Perennial plants use a lot of their stored energy to regrow in the spring, and they need adequate leaf area

before photosynthesis can take over, creating all the energy needed for growth. Grazing too early will deplete the plants' energy stores and make it more difficult to regrow.

One method of gradually introducing the horse to grass is to begin with short periods of grazing (15 minutes a day) for a few days. Increase grazing time by 10 minutes each day until the horse has adjusted to a 3 or 4 hour period of grazing period. Then maintain this 4 hour period of grazing for two weeks before giving the horse unlimited turnout on the pasture. This will enable the horse's digestive system to gradually adjust to the new diet.

### **Conclusion**

Pasture is a wonderful source of nutrition for most horses, but care must be taken when grazing spring grass. An abrupt feed change from hay to lush pasture can cause health problems for horses. Acclimate horses to spring pastures gradually, and give grass a chance to grow before letting horses graze.

### **Our first project: May 29 at Calf Creek**

The Calf Creek Wildlife Area, managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), is closed to all public access from December 2 through April 14. From April 15 through May 14, it is open as posted in restricted areas to non-motorized users from noon to sunset (and NO DOGS!). This is to protect the elk calving season. It then opens to non-motorized access entirely from May 15 through December 1. It is open to people with dogs from May 15 through October 14.

The area was purchased with revenue from sales of hunting licenses and firearms, and hunting is the featured recreational activity each fall. FWP works to maintain native plant life as habitat for wildlife species in the area, with special emphasis on elk winter range.

BRBCH members have completed projects at Calf Creek for years, installing water bars on trails, repairing fences and creating rolling dips, to name a few examples of our work. Jan Bullock is project leader again this year, and we hope a lot of members will step up to work on this trail system, one of the most popular riding areas in the Bitterroot Valley. We have made arrangements for portable toilet service at the site from April 15-November 30.

Here's the link to sign up for projects:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YD3JlmkVMcbtX6d1FL8HOY-m\\_Rl7Hn\\_PZufyyuoPIJc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YD3JlmkVMcbtX6d1FL8HOY-m_Rl7Hn_PZufyyuoPIJc/edit?usp=sharing)

Please contact Lionel ([lionel.lavallee47@gmail.com](mailto:lionel.lavallee47@gmail.com)) if you have any questions about signing up.



## 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

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

The March 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 22 members present. Dan Maiyo led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting. There was a quorum of officers and board members.

Guests: New member Joan Scheffer introduced herself. Welcome Joan!

### **PROGRAM**

Carol Johns spoke about the recent packing clinic she attended in Missoula that Jordan Knudson conducted. It was a good, intense, hard core, focused clinic, and she learned a lot. The 9 attendees of various ages and skill level practiced tying knots, packing, mantying, and loading over and over for hours. She had a great partner to work with. She learned something new about a popped stifle joint – Jordan said to try spinning the horse/mule around to get the patella back in place so the animal can walk out. Carol recommends this packing clinic to both old hands and newbies, although newbies will have to work hard! She looks forward to applying her packing skills on projects this summer.

### **BUSINESS**

**Minutes:** There were no corrections to the February minutes. Katie Williams motioned and Karen Philips seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Barbara Walker provided an update on account balances. Karen Philips motioned and Brad Pollman seconded to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed. Brad noted there have been lots of deposits from raffle ticket sales, which makes the bottom line look larger.

### **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Christy and Ed D are helping a friend (who was taken ill) with their herd/calving, so they are not at tonight's meeting.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Issues:** No issues presented.

**Projects:** Lionel noted that project dates are set. Folks who signed up need to check the dates and let the project lead know of any conflicts. Two projects were cancelled, Boulder Creek and Willow Creek, since work is being done by the FS at those 2 sites. Lionel will send Kathy the

project link to push out to the membership again. Brad will clean out the bins at Larry Creek – he will fill out a project report for that effort.

**State Director:** Lionel said the next state meeting will be March 27. There is a meeting with the Region 1 Forester, Leann Martin, on March 19.

**Membership:** There are 65 memberships and 118 members. Kathy will email the 2021 members list this week.

**Training/Education:** May 1 will be the DHS clinic. Saw and first aid training have been put off for another year. DHS will be limited to members.

**Outreach:** Karen noted that Sandra's mustang article was published in the Decker Dispatch.

**Program:** No program is lined up for April, as yet. A representative from BEAR (a local outdoors youth group) is being contacted as a possible speaker. New member Joan's bio was forwarded to Phillip T to consider for a future speaker. Dan B suggested Becky Shufelt (FS Recreation/Wilderness/Trails Manager) may be a possible speaker for June.

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

**2020/21 Convention:** Final stage of sending out reminders to other chapters to get their stubs and money in. The raffle drawing will be March 27. BRBCH has about 80 tickets left. Rebecca Banks has done a stellar job selling tickets. Get ticket stubs/money to Kathy or Nancy by March 25.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Fair Committee:** Earl Philips and Christy Schram-Duggan have stepped up to oversee planning for the fair. This is the major fundraiser for the year and takes a great deal of volunteer effort by our members to be successful.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Indoor and Outdoor Meetings:** The Board has agreed to move forward with live general membership meetings starting in June, with the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at Three Sisters Group Site at Lake Como. Nancy asked if the site would be reserved through the night for folks to camp. Gene will check with the Darby District and confirm. Looking at other options for the July and August meetings. Karen noted that non-profits can use Corvallis School District outdoor facilities for meetings, and indoor facilities may be available this fall. The Board will look into using the Teller Barn or Dan B's barn in May.



Options will be discussed at the April Board meeting.

**Montana Trails Coalition:** Brad noted that the MT Trails Coalition has BCH members sitting on the board. They look at and address MT legislative bills that affect trails and BCH. Current MT legislation session is looking at bills that deal with financing state parks (via the medical marijuana tax that voters approved), management of wildlife management areas under a different agency than FWP that could require a recreation access fee, changing non-profit license plates fees to a 5-year plan that could affect renewals, and eBikes. He also spoke about trail maintenance grants offered through National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance. Contact legislators and the governor's office to voice concern.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Dan M. noted Leslie is doing fine after shoulder replacement surgery.

Karen asked about Rapp Family being thanked for \$500 grant. Sandra had sent the thank you.

**Meeting Drawing:** Gene asked Karen to call out a number. Five was picked and Nancy won!

**Next Meeting:** April 15, 2021

**Adjourn:** Karen Philips motioned and Joan Scheffer seconded to adjourn. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

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

#### **BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, April 1, 2021**

The April 2021 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order at 7:03 pm via Zoom Meeting, by Vice President Dan Brandborg.

Bonnie Morgan led the pledge.

Present were officers; Vice President Dan Brandborg, Secretary Christy Schram-Duggan, and Treasurer Barbara Walker. Also present were Board members Ed Duggan, Ed Bullock, Joe Kirkland, Lionel Lavallee, Jan Bullock, Julie Schram, Katie Williams, Dan Maiyo, State Director Lionel Lavallee and Past President Karen Philips. The following were not present, President Gene Merrell, Board member Mike Costanzo, State Director Taylor Orr, and Alternate State Director Chuck Miller.

The following committee chairs were also present, Bonnie Morgan.

Minutes: Christy asked if there were any updates to the March 2021 Board meeting minutes. **Lionel Lavallee motioned, and Jan Bullock seconded to accept the March minutes as printed in the newsletter. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Walker provided an update on the account balance. **Dan Maiyo motioned, and Karen Philips seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dan Maiyo discussed the Horse and Mule sale, Salmon Select Sale in Salmon, ID is taking place next week. Ty Evans will be giving a free mule clinic at 9 am on Tuesday, April 6th & Wednesday, April 7th. Then on Thursday the Salmon BCH and the ID Outfitters and Guide Association will be doing a free horse and mule packing clinic at 1:00 pm at the sale barn. The mule sale is on Friday and the horse sale is on Saturday.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Issues:** None

**Projects:** Lionel sent out the shortened form of the list of projects with the dates. Need to reach out to the general membership to start checking on the dates that are solid and who would like to participate. Dan B. confirmed with Becky S. with the Forest Service about presenting at the General meeting in June. Katie Williams confirmed that we do have the East Fork Cabin for July 2 - 5, more details to come the closer we get to those dates. Ed and Christy to report back to Katie what the trail looks when they go up on Memorial Weekend. Katie will reach out to Mark Smith from the Forest Service for any additional information that is needed. Dan B. to contact Betsy on leading the project for Larry Creek with Joe K assisting as needed.

**State Director:** Lionel discussed the State meeting that took place on March 27th, Saturday. The State BCH is working with the Forest Service on better communication on the firearm certificate on projects and the message is the same across the state. Looking into making the firearm certificate regional due to some chapters will be working in multiple forests across the state. Membership for the state is down 15%. The following chapters will hold the

State Convention; Three Rivers BCH in 2022, Flathead BCH in 2023, Mile High BCH in 2024, and still some discussion of the smaller chapters doing 2025.

**Membership:** Received the membership report via email from Kathy, 69 memberships and 122 members. Thank you, Kathy,

**Education/Training:** Bonnie discussed the agenda of the Defensive Horsemanship demonstration that is taking place on May 1st. Folks will have to bring their lunch and a chair to sit in. Coffee, Tea, and Hot Chocolate will be provided. The Board decided that the Defensive Horsemanship should be only for BCH members and 4-H members enrolled in the Trail and Packing Projects. This will not be open to the public. Christy is coordinating with the 4-H Horse Council and additional 4-H Horse Leaders and giving an official invite to the demonstration. Karen and Bonnie working on the Port-a-potty for Calf Creek. Christy discussed that Maddy Atkins applied for the Bob Marshall Outfitters scholarship that takes place from June 9th to the 13th. She got it!

**Program:** Will have a speaker for the June General Meeting from the Forest Service, Becky Schufelt. Jan Bullock would like to be a speaker for one of the General Meeting to present on the COVID Iditarod for 2021.

**Outreach:** Karen did write a thank you card to Mark and Laura DeGrazier for all their work the past few years as the Fair Fundraisers Coordinators from the Board. Also sent a thank you card to Triple Creek for their donation to the 2020/2021 State Convention raffle items. Karen received the updated photos from Sandra O'Brien that will go into the second part of her article in the Decker Dispatch and forward on to

the editor. Karen attended and was the poop scooper at the Mules on the Oval event at the University of Montana. While at the event was able to sell raffle tickets and talk with the students about the Wilderness Policy and Packing class happening this year.

**2021 Convention:** Christy discussed the raffle drawing that took place on March 27th at 4:00 pm. The following are the winners: Triple Creek Ranch prize went to Matt Pederson from Anaconda, MT, Quinn Hot Springs prize went to Linda Hollifield from Dillon, MT, and the MT Silversmith jewelry and buckle went to Cathleen Reed from Darby, MT. All prizes were mailed on Tuesday, March 30th to the recipients. The last meeting will be taking place on April 18th at the Pollman's, 1:00 pm. The committee will be going through the donations at that time and will be contacting the folks that donated the items to see if they would like them back.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Inventory the Supplies @ BRBCH Shed:** Ed would like to move the deadline to end of April due to focusing on calving out on two ranches.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Pins:** Nancy Pollman and Karen Philips are working on this for outgoing board members during the June General Meeting.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**Karen Philips motioned, and Dan Maiyo seconded to agenda. The motion carried.**

Adjourn 7:53 pm.

Christy Schram-Duggan, Secretary BRBCH

➡ **For Sale by Members** ⬅



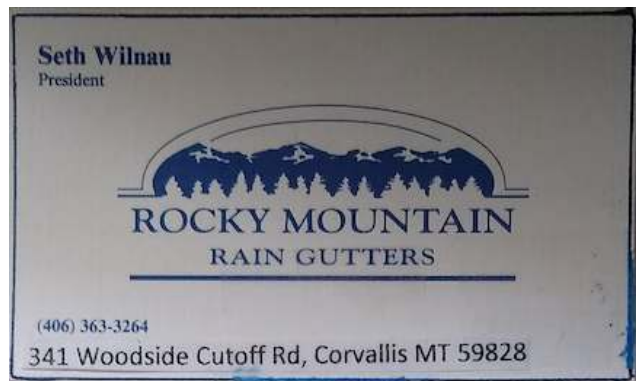
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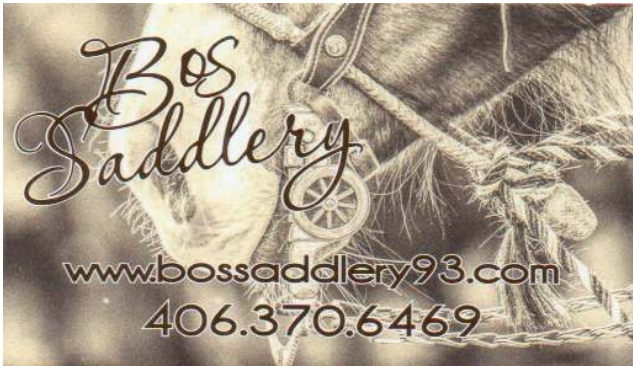
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# Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



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## **NEXT BRBCH MEETING**

**Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Meeting at 6:45**

