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Nag News



Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

November 2021

Issue #11

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 Dec 2021

NAG NEWS is
5 p.m. Dec 8, 2021

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confirm all ads by deadline
date.

A Message from our President

This is a special time of year for expressing our thankfulness. I am thankful for a Bitter Root Backcountry Horsemen project season with no serious injuries, for having members eager to get out and improve the condition of trails and horse camps, to the group of volunteers that worked to support the Fair, and for a leadership team that is committed to the success of our chapter. This has been a difficult year, but I am thankful that we are able to resume our in-person general membership meetings.

November is also the month that our chapter holds its election of officers and directors. You will have received a copy of the ballot via e-mail from Kathy Stoppel-Holl. In this newsletter you will find a copy of the ballot and a link to an on-line version you can print. If you attend our November 18 general membership meeting at the Corvallis School cafeteria, please bring your ballot with you. We will hold the election at that meeting. Otherwise, please mail your ballot so that it arrives in our post office box (PO Box 1083, Hamilton, MT 59840) by November 16 so that your absentee ballot can be counted.

We are again volunteering to support the Pantry Partner's Christmas Food Pack program. Beginning at 9 am, November 30, volunteers from our chapter will pack 200 boxes with non-perishable food items provided by Pantry Partners at the St. Mary's Catholic Church Family Center. If you can participate, please let me know via e-mail: gamerrell@att.net.

I wish all of you a relaxing Thanksgiving with family.

Gene Merrill, President

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 Stoppel-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

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

**November 18th BRBCH Monthly meeting: Corvallis School Cafeteria
(No potluck) Program Speakers: Due to Elections, no speaker scheduled**

NOTICE

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

As of the December issue, Lionel will be stepping down as editor of Nag News. Editing and publishing duties require about 3-5 hrs. per month, a knowledge of Microsoft Word, and some minor tasks involved with pushing out issues for print and web versions. Lionel will provide guidance and training up to several issues and be available to answer questions and provide details. Please reach out to Lionel or Gene Merrill if you're interested.

2022 BRBCH Officers & Board Members

Please click on the link to download Absentee Ballot:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rv8L59dDSWQj6IMz0UyW7mp9MvOkoElv/view?usp=sharing>

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Saturday – 9 – 4

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How to make a dry lot your horse will love (From
<https://equusmagazine.com/horse-care/drylot-love>) *With planning and some ongoing effort, you can create a grass-free enclosure that will keep your horse safe, healthy and happy*

Ask most people what an idyllic farm looks like, and you'll hear about vast green expanses, maybe with rolling hills, shade trees and horses

spending their days enjoying lush grass. Pretty as it is, this image is not a reality for many horse owners—like me, for example. About a decade ago, my mare developed a severe laminitis caused by pasture grass. Thankfully, she recovered fully. But several management changes were instrumental to her recovery, and the most important was the dry lot we created for her on our farm.

Before that, we had tried a grazing muzzle, which for many horses is an effective way to curb grass intake. But not for my mare. She was adept at getting her muzzle off, and even when it stayed in place, she managed to figure out

ways to defeat it. I experimented with several types of muzzles, but none worked.

So, for us, the answer was a dry lot, a turnout area with little or no vegetation. Even when it's not a necessity, as it was for our mare, a dry lot offers a fairly convenient way of managing horses whose grazing or social interactions need to be restricted to address other issues.

A dry lot can serve other purposes, too. Maybe your farm isn't large enough to support full-time grazing for all of your horses, or you live in a region where pasture grass is sparse. A dry lot can even be a cost-effective tool for your farm's pasture conservation program—giving you a place to keep your horses periodically while giving your fields time to recover from grazing or to dry out after a rainy spell.

Creating a dry lot requires some time and resources, and helping a horse adjust to living in a grass-free enclosure after full pasture

turnout will have an impact on your daily management routine, at least for a while. But the effort and expense will be well worth it in the long run—if you add up the savings from potential veterinary bills for laminitis or related troubles as well as the ecological and financial costs of maintaining large pastures for full-time turnout.

I started out with a rather makeshift dry lot, created quickly out of necessity to protect my mare's health. Over time, I continued to improve on it; I consider it a work in progress, because there are still some projects I want to do. If you decide that having a dry lot is a good idea, you can do it my way—spreading the costs out over a few years—or you can put in all of the money up front and get it all done right from the get-go. However, you go about it, there are some things you'll want to do to ensure that your dry lot is a safe, healthy and congenial place for your horse to spend his days.

1. Choose a location

In addition to affecting the aesthetics and ecology of your farm, the site of a dry lot has an impact on your horse's health and comfort, as well as how burdensome your chores might be. You'll also want to select a location where you won't mind sacrificing all of the vegetation--ideally, it would be an area that already fails to support good pasture grass due to poor soil quality, for example. While you can work with practically any size lot, a minimum of 400 to 600 square feet per horse is a good rule of thumb.

Placing the dry lot somewhere close to the barn will make it more convenient for feeding and other chores, as well as for keeping an eye on your horse. Also consider the distances involved if you want to run a water line and electricity to an automatic waterer or to power an electric fence, fans or other amenities.

A dry lot that shares a fence and gate with your existing pasture makes it easier to move horses back and forth between the two spaces as needed. If your horse is to be alone in the dry

lot, choosing a location where he will still be able to at least see his herd mates can help reduce stress from isolation.

Drainage is also an important consideration. To limit erosion and runoff pollution, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recommends placing dry lots as far as possible from natural streams. Check with your local extension agent about the distance to allow between your lot and water sources. It also helps to have a buffer area of grass or other deep-rooted native vegetation to catch and filter runoff before it reaches nearby surface waters.

2. Install sturdy fencing

Any fencing that is safe for horses in a conventional pasture can also be used for a dry lot, but there's one additional consideration to keep in mind: A horse in a dry lot will have much greater motivation to reach over or through the fence after nearby vegetation. Even if your horse is well acclimated to your regular fencing, you may need to "beef up" your dry lot enclosure. Running a strand of electrical wire along the top of the fence is a good way to discourage horses from trying to reach over, and the addition of woven wire can prevent them from reaching through rails.

Because your horse is likely to put more pressure on dry lot fencing, it's especially important to keep up with maintenance and repairs. In fact, this is something to consider when choosing your fencing---ideally, you'd have something you can repair on your own in a pinch. In addition, periodically clear out nearby weeds, shrubs and other vegetation that might tempt horses to reach above or below the fence.

Also, plan to locate your gate or gates carefully, considering ease of access for chores and moving horses in and out of the turnout. Think about vehicle access, too. Especially if you have multiple horses, you may want to be able to bring hay and other supplies into the

dry lot with a utility vehicle and being able to back a trailer into the space might one day be helpful during an emergency.

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Your veterinarian and farrier may have some recommendations for surface footing choices if your horse is recovering from laminitis or has other hoof-related issues.

Also talk to your contractor about aesthetics--a dry lot doesn't need to be an eyesore. Good design choices can create a space that blends in with the landscape of your farm.

Once you have mapped out your dry lot but before beginning construction, check with your local USDA/NRCS office to make certain that any planned work complies with local, state and federal regulations. An inspector may also have recommendations for materials and construction methods that will manage runoff more effectively. There is no cost for these inspections, and you may even qualify for financial incentives. For more information, go to www.nrcs.usda.gov.

4. Provide decent shelter

As with any other type of turnout, a dry lot needs to provide some type of shelter from the elements right from the start. One option to save costs is to place your dry lot against your existing barn, so your horse has direct access to his stall. You'll also find a variety of options for inexpensive temporary canopies or shelters that will protect your horse until you can build a more permanent structure. If you will keep more than one horse at a time in your dry lot, the shelter will need to be large enough to accommodate all of them.

5. Control flies and other insects

Flies and other winged pests are just as likely to visit your dry lot as other parts of your farm so keeping them at bay will also be an ongoing chore. If your horse is on the dry lot full-time, you will need to pick up manure just as often as you would from his stall. Even in an area that is cleaned regularly, fly control may still be an issue, as it can be for pastured horses. You'll need to keep a close eye on your horse and apply fly sprays and use fly sheets or masks as appropriate.

Hanging strips of sturdy fabric, such as carpet remnants, burlap or vinyl mesh, over the entrance to the run-in can help keep flies out of the space---be sure to teach your horses how to push past the barriers, which will brush off any flies as they pass. Spraying the fabric with fly spray adds some extra protection. It may even be worthwhile to run an electrical line out to the shed so you can install gable

fans to keep the area inside breezy and well-ventilated.

6. Install a slow feeder

Feeding is one of the more significant changes when moving a horse from a pasture to a dry lot. If you are moving your horse for purposes of weight control or managing insulin resistance, your veterinarian will help you to devise an appropriate feeding regimen. (This may include testing your hay to determine the sugar content, and possibly soaking to leach out any excesses.)

To help mimic grazing and keep your horse busy longer with the hay he is allowed, consider purchasing or building a slow feeder that limits the amount he can pick up at once. It's also a good idea to break up his ration into as many small meals as you can manage, spread throughout the day.

If your horse's ration isn't lasting around the clock, and he is standing with an empty stomach for a portion of each day, he may be at a greater risk for gastric ulcers. Most horses show no signs of gastric ulcers, but you may see subtle indications, such as a lack of appetite, a poor hair coat, decreased performance and attitude changes. If you're worried ulcers may be an issue for your horse, talk to your veterinarian about supplements or other products to help protect his stomach.

Of course, you will also need to supply a free-choice salt block as well as fresh water.

7. Provide plenty of exercise

A horse kept on a small dry lot will not move around nearly as much as a horse grazing in a larger pasture so it's especially important to have other exercise opportunities. Assuming

your horse is healthy and sound, try riding him at least a few times a week, for 45 minutes to an hour per session. If you have trouble keeping up with that schedule, enlist a friend to ride him a few times a week, or consider offering a partial lease on your horse to a compatible rider.

If your horse is convalescing from illness or injury, or has other issues such as arthritis, your veterinarian will advise you on an appropriate exercise routine. For some horses it may be enough to simply spread hay rations out in multiple nets or feeders around a dry lot to encourage more walking.

8. Offer entertainment

Boredom can be an issue for horses kept in smaller turnout areas. If you can manage it, an amenable companion can help ease the stresses for a horse living on a dry lot. If keeping two horses isn't a good option for you, consider a smaller pony or Miniature Horse or even a goat or donkey.

Toys can also help to keep an isolated horse busy. Not all horses will play with toys, but you might experiment with different types to see if you can find something that appeals to your horse. Another idea is to spend as much of your own time with your horse as you can.

Keeping a horse on a dry lot can be challenging. Management factors aside, there are emotional issues as well. I know from experience that you can't help but feel guilty sometimes because you think you are depriving your horse of a pasture-roaming lifestyle that might make him much happier. In the end, however, with careful planning and diligence, a dry lot can help your horse to live a long, happy, healthy life.



[Mountainfilm on Tour](#) is back, and we are so excited to share another fantastic round of adventure films with you from the comfort of your own home!

No matter your location, you have the ability to watch alongside us. From Idaho to Iowa, Montana to Maine--come celebrate the outdoors with SBFC!

This online event will start at **9 a.m. Thursday, January 6 and run to 11:55 p.m. Sunday, January 9.** You have the ability to log on at any time during this period to enjoy our collection of films.

Early Bird pricing gets you a full weekend of films for only \$25! Prices go up in December, so snag your tickets today!

[Buy Festival Tickets](#)

Don't you fret--we haven't forgotten about our Mountainfilm raffle. While there will be no t-shirt cannons involved in this year's event, we are thrilled to share some truly stoke-worthy raffle prizes for you.

Tickets and prizes are a great holiday gift for the outdoor-lovers in your life, and include a breakfast flight into the Frank Church, a getaway to Burgdorf Hot Springs outside of McCall, Idaho, a wild whitewater rafting trip on the Lochsa, and so much more!

[Buy Raffle Tickets](#)

Mountainfilm ticket and raffle purchases go directly to helping get folks on the ground maintaining trails, educating our communities about the wild spaces we love, and providing access to the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church Wildernesses.

BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN



DUTCH OVEN BASICS from <https://dutchoventopia.com/dutch-oven-basics>

You can cook anything in a Dutch Oven that you can cook in a regular oven – or on a stove top or a grill for that matter. In fact, there are some things that you can only cook in a Dutch Oven and nowhere else, due to your ability to precisely control heat. But this page of the website is all about the basics of Dutch Oven cooking, for those who are just getting started. It's important to understand the correct techniques for using Dutch Ovens so you do not destroy your food, or your ovens. Let's start at the beginning, with preparing or "seasoning" your Dutch Oven.

Seasoning a Dutch Oven

Many new Dutch Ovens come pre-seasoned, but some do not. Plus, if an oven becomes rusted and unusable, it will need to be scrubbed down and re-seasoned. There are several ways to do this, but the way listed below is considered the best. Prior to seasoning is the ONLY time you will ever allow soap of any kind to touch a Dutch Oven. Scrub the oven completely with soap and water and dry it completely. If the oven is rusty, carefully remove the rust with steel wool or a wire brush. Once the oven is clean and dry, season the oven by doing the following:

- Using a paper towel, rub pure vegetable oil all over the oven – inside, outside, legs, handle and lid
- Place the oven and lid in your regular oven at 200° for 2 hours (the smell of burning oil on metal may not be pleasant – send the family to a movie!)
- Pull the oven out, re-oil everything put it back into the oven for another 2 hours at 200°

- Pull the oven out one more time, re-oil it and bake the oven for a final two hours

The oven will become black over time as you use it. That's what you want to happen! Occasionally rub some more oil (a small amount) on the inside of your oven and the underside of the lid to keep it black and in good shape. This blackening is called the patina and gets better with age. I've cooked with an oven that is over 160 years old with the same patina and it was great!

Cooking with a Dutch Oven

Heat is most commonly provided to a Dutch Oven using lit charcoal briquettes, commonly referred to as coals, once they are lit. Always use a quality brand of briquettes and never use a "match light" version. Match lights burn out too quickly and do not provide heat as evenly throughout their lifecycle as regular briquettes. One set of briquettes typically last about one hour of cooking time before needing to be replaced.

Heat placement formula

The amount of heat you place on or under an oven depends on the temperature desired, size of the oven, and type of food. Let's first discuss how to establish "even" heat throughout the oven. First, determine the diameter of the oven you will be cooking in. Typically, a 12" 14" or 16" oven is used. To get the oven to 325°, take diameter of the oven and add two to that number. That is the number of coals to be placed on the top of the lid while cooking. So, if you have a 14" oven, you will place 16 coals on top of the lid. Now, place two coals less than the diameter of the oven under the oven. In the example of a 14"

oven, that would be 12 coals. Placing those coals on the lid and under the oven will achieve 325°. To increase the temperature, simply add one coal to the top and one coal to the bottom of the oven and an additional 25° will be added. Continue this process to add more heat to reach your desired temperature. For example, if you want to reach 375°, add two coals to the top and two coals to the bottom.

Placement of coals

The total number of coals number of coals stays constant using the formula detailed above, but the number of coals on the lid vs. underneath the oven can change based on the type of food you are cooking. Basic rules are as follows:

- Even heat: meats, vegetables

- More top heat than bottom: breads and desserts (typically two to four coals are moved from the bottom to the top)
- More bottom heat than top heat: soups and stews (typically two to four coals are moved from the top to the bottom)

Specific placement on the lid or under the oven can vary by recipe. In general, breads and desserts do better with coals ringing the edge, while meats and vegetables do well with coals dispersed evenly. Note: some recipes require the oven to be removed from bottom heat near the end of cooking time, to ensure no burning on the bottom of the oven.

Cleaning your Dutch Oven

Only use hot water and a mild plastic scrubber to clean your Dutch Oven. Be careful not to pour cold water into a very hot oven, as you could crack the cast iron.

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, OCTOBER 21, 2021

The October 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 at the Corvallis Grange. There were 23 members present. Duane Krown led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting. There was not a quorum of officers/board members, so no motions were voted on.

Guests: Tracy Thompson, April Hale, Nick Painter

Program: Brittani Rosas, outreach person for Humans and Carnivores, a non-profit, non-advocacy group providing education and information to ranchers, farmers, and the general public. She is a Bitterrooter, UM graduate in Wildlife Biology, and MSU post-graduate in Rangeland Management. Grizzlies are coming in from the east and passing through to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. She displayed a kit that helps with farm/ranch, home, and backcountry carnivore avoidance – radio, trail camera, Fox Light strobe, Critter Gitter (motion activated alarm and light), foghorn, bear spray (available for discounted purchase). She can provide bear safety training. She discussed how to handle bear encounters, bears and trash, and that grizzlies have been recently spotted in the Sapphires and Bitterroots.

BUSINESS

Minutes: Sep minutes were not available in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Gene summarized the Treasurer's report. Accounts look good.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Some members have had recent knee surgery and are doing well: Dan Maiyo and Barb Walker. The Duggans are home sick this week. Le Ann Hermance sent word through BCH MT that Fred Fitzpatrick, long-time member of the East Slope BCH chapter, past State director, and past State treasurer, passed away this past week. No info on a service as yet. Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation sent their thanks to BRBCH for providing pack support to the St Mary's Lookout this summer.

The Bitterroot XC Ski Club is doing trail clearing at the Chief Joe ski area on 10/30, starting at 9am.

High Country Cowboy Church is having a play day at the Fairgrounds on 10/24.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: None to report.

Projects: The Rock Creek Project was a huge success! Thanks to Bonnie for being a great spokesperson on the FS video. Julie Schram led a project at Coyote Coulee - 81 waterbars cleared over a 5-day period. 2022 projects will be discussed in Jan/Feb 2022- contact Dan B/Lionel L if you have project ideas.

State Directors: The quarterly meeting was on Sept 25th. Duane K noted that he heard certification may be extended for another year if FS training is not offered. Julie S discussed the proposed Clearwater Blackfoot Stewardship Act.

Membership: There are 85 memberships and 145 members. No changes in fees: \$30/individual, \$40/family, and \$10/secondary memberships. Folks can start sending their 2022 membership renewals to the chapter PO Box, or bring them to the Nov and Dec general meetings. Everyone who has sent in their membership renewals will be eligible for the members raffle at the Dec meeting – lots of great items! See Kathy for a membership card. Murdoch's no longer gives a discount.

Training/Education: Bonnie said we are due for a Wilderness Skills Weekend in 2022, tentatively in late May. Let her know if you have ideas on what to see at WSW. Other FS training (saw and first aid) may occur next year.

Outreach: Karen will get permission from the Region 1 videographer to send the Rock Creek Project video to BCH MT and BCHA.

Program: The Dec program will be Kerri Hunt and the Wind River Bear Dogs. The Nov meeting will have 2022 elections, so no speaker is scheduled.

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

Fun Rides: Jan noted planned fun rides are done for the season and will pick up again next spring.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee: Gene Merrell, Bonnie Morgan, and Lori Hutchison are the Nominating Committee. Gene discussed the current candidates and asked if there are other nominees from the floor. There were none. Candidates:

President: Jan Bullock

VP: Christy Schram-Duggan

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Barbara Walker

Four Board Positions: Dan Brandborg, Travis Grinnell, Carol Johns, Dan Maiyo, Karen Philips, Greg Schneider, Julie Schram

State Director: Lionel Lavallee, Brad Pollman, Julie Schram

Alt State Director: Chuck Miller

Pantry Partners Food Pack: Discussed what was done last year and the need for someone to step up to oversee it this year as Brad & Nancy Pollman are not available. They will provide guidance to this year's project manager. Members said that this is something we want to

support again this year. Katie Harris, Susan Slem, and Pattie Boone said that they would coordinate the effort. Gene will get guidance from Brad & Nancy. Debbie Duffie will help with logistics support.

OTHER BUSINESS

Gene noted BRBCH's normal meeting site was cancelled at the last minute, and he worked to get the Corvallis Grange for the Oct meeting. The chapter needs to find an alternative meeting site(s) if the Corvallis Schools Cafeteria is not available next year. If you have suggestions, let the chapter officers/board know.

Janis Belcher has a 2-horse trailer to sell.

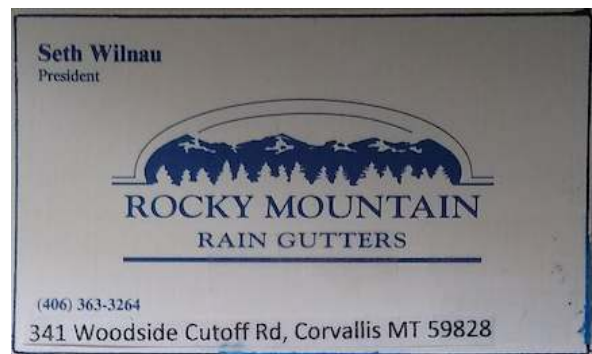
Next Meeting: Nov 18, 2021, tentatively at the Corvallis Schools Cafeteria. Hot Water and Coffee – Diane Duffie and Dennis Hardman

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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

Ads & Services Offered

Please consider our kind advertisers the next time need arise





Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, November 18th

Location: Corvallis School Cafeteria

Meeting at 6:30

