

In Partnership With



# Nag News



## Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

December 2021

Issue #12

### 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.

*Inside*

*Horse Sense*

*Back Country  
Kitchen*

*Project  
Summaries*

*Ads & Services*

**DEADLINE FOR THE  
Jan 2022  
NAG NEWS is  
5 p.m. Jan 10, 2022**

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.

### *A Message from our President*

As I reflect on 2021, this has been a good year for our Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen chapter. We have accomplished our trail and horse camp projects with strong leadership by our project leaders. Christy and Earl ensured that our support of the Ravalli County Fair would be successful. We are back to in-person meetings, which helps keep our membership engaged. Our ongoing support to our community beyond our trail maintenance was evidenced by our Cowboy Santa participation at the Hamilton Christmas Tree Lighting, and our packing 200 boxes for Pantry Partners Christmas Food Pack. With our recent elections, there is a strong new leadership team ready to engage in January.

Other changes include Leslie Conner-Maiyo stepping up as Membership Chair as Kathy Stroppel-Holl has been elected Secretary. Based on our Chapter's Constitution, the Board will be filling the Board seat vacated by the election of Jan Bullock as president. Dan Maiyo will be adding editor of this newsletter to his role as a member of the Board. A special thank you to Lionel Lavallee for his years of service as newsletter editor.

This is my last President's Message. The last 3 years as your president have been both challenging and rewarding. We had an exciting start in 2019. 2020 brought us the pandemic and remote meetings into 2021. But during that, we did not lose sight of our mission and responsibility to this community. Please continue to support your leadership team. They are committed to the success of this organization and its support to our communities.

Merry Christmas to you and you families!

*Gene Merrill, President*

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chairs &amp; Members</b>
Audit	Dan Maiyo
Budget	Candace Erickson
Audio-Visual Equipment	Ed Bullock
Election & Nominations	Sandra O'Brien
Equipment & Inventory	Chris Grove
Fair	
Fundraisers	Ed Bullock
RTP Grant	Christy Schram-Duggan
Historian	Tim Meyer
Issues	
Memberships	Kathy Stroppel-Holl
Newsletter	
Packing Clinic Scholarship	Chuck Miller
Parliamentarian	Rebecca Jones
Programs	Philip & Pam Torgerson
Projects	Dan Brandborg/Lionel Lavallee
Social Marketing	Susan Slemp
Sunshine	Cindy Beck
Trail Rides	Jan Bullock
Training	Bonnie Morgan
Education Committee	Ed Duggan/Christy Schram-Duggan
Website Design	Nancy Pollman

### 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	
Secretary	Christy Schram-Duggan	2021	
Treasurer	Barbara Walker	2021	

#### Board Members

	<b>Term</b>
Ed Bullock	2020-21
Jan Bullock	2021-22
Ed Duggan	2021-22
Joe Kirkland	2021-22
Katie Williams	2021-22
Mike Costanzo	2020-21
Julie Schram	2020-21
Dan Maiyo	2020-21

**Past President:** Karen Philips **State Chairman:** Sherri Lionberger

**State Directors:** Brad Pollman (2022-23)  
Taylor Orr (2021-22)

**Alt State Director:** Chuck Miller (2021)

**December 16<sup>th</sup> BRBCH Monthly meeting: Corvallis School Cafeteria**  
**(No potluck) Program Speakers: Representatives from the Wind River Bear Institute will describe their work with the public to deter bears from interacting with humans and their use of specially trained dogs to aid in that effort.**

Editor's  
Note....

Over the last 5 years it has been my pleasure and honor to serve as the editor of BRBCH's Nag News newsletter. We've seen it grow and change during this time - through a 24-month pandemic, terrible fire seasons, a changing world, and a growing awareness of just how important these events have made our wilderness areas. The newsletter has evolved from a short 12 page "bare bones", largely black and white printed version (slightly altered for the web) into a content rich layout with sponsored columns and ads that helped to offset publishing costs. In fact, as of 2019, before the pandemic, Nag News was cost positive and actually turned a profit. *Horse Sense*, aimed to provide timely articles on equine health and well-being, while *Back Country Kitchen* focused on recipes one could prepare for campouts and in the back country. In 2020, we changed up and updated the format to make overall look and feel of Nag News cleaner and more modern, while also moving away from proprietary templates. We hope you've enjoyed our efforts and again, thanks for the honor.

*Lionel Lavalée*

Editor, Nag News (2016-2021)

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

**FROM YOUR EDITORIAL STAFF**



## Horse Sense Sponsored by



We carry all your equine  
Vaccination and deworming needs.

Plus a large supply of animal  
Health products.

See us in Corvallis or Deer Lodge

On Facebook

Or

[www.cowpokeranchsupply.com](http://www.cowpokeranchsupply.com)

406-961-4917

Monday – Friday 8 – 5:30

Saturday – 9 – 4

406-961-49717



### 5 fun activities to do with your horse this winter

By **Sariana Burnet** February 26, 2019

*Here's a flurry of horse-related activities to enjoy this holiday season!*

Many of us tend to either migrate or hibernate during the winter months. But winter can be an incredibly useful time to accomplish some of the tasks we've been putting off all year (why not spring clean your tack room early?) and an even better time to go back to the basics and bond with your horse. Take a break from rigorous training and enjoy the splendor of the season with these fun winter activities.

#### 1. Teach him some tricks

This is one of my favorite activities. Teaching your horse some new tricks offer many benefits, all year long. You'll keep him engaged and entertained, help him maintain flexibility, improve his circulation, and build your relationship. Try teaching him to kiss, bow, fetch and smile. Be patient, consistent and offer plenty of praise and treats. You'll find

you can have as much fun on the ground as in the saddle, and one will benefit the other!

#### 2. Take a walk

A leisurely stroll through the scenic winter landscape can be calming and enjoyable for both you and your horse. Be sure to check the conditions before you venture out, as ice and snow can make for very dangerous terrain. You'll also need to take proper precautions to keep him steady on his hooves. Outfit him with proper winter shoes for extra traction or let him go barefoot! Talk to your farrier about making some trimming adjustments for the season. Horses do very well in snow and, in fact, seem to enjoy it (perhaps more than humans). Just keep in mind that walking through deep snow is hard work! Your horse will tire more quickly, so shorter adventures are best until he's more conditioned. Also, he'll probably work up a sweat, so be sure to dry him off and keep him warm when you return to the barn.

#### 3. Go for a sleigh ride

We all know the carol...so let those sleigh bells ring! There's likely a horse drawn sleigh service offered right in your neighborhood, so don't worry if your horse doesn't drive. Wish he could? Incorporate long lining into your groundwork as a start to the training process. Sleigh rides are a great way to get the whole family into the spirit of the holidays - and harnesses make an easy gift to put under the tree!

#### **4. Take it easy**

Winter can be a great time to give your horse a rest from riding. Choose activities that will entertain him and strengthen the bond between horse and human - rather than horse and rider. Offer special care and attention during grooming sessions (this is a prime opportunity to practice your braiding skills!) and spend some extra time brushing his "favorite" spots. Feeling antsy? Exercise is still important during the winter, but it doesn't have to be intense. Keep things simple with a lead line lesson. Refresh his basic skills and

commands, assess problem areas and set goals for the spring. But remember, it's not all about work! Enjoying the company of your four-legged friends is one of the best parts of the holidays.

#### **5. Take some pictures**

There's nothing quite like watching your horse romp and play in a field of fresh snow. Why not make the most of the picturesque backdrop? Grab a camera or your phone and snap some photos of your beautiful companion, so you'll have memories that'll last season after season. Photography and videography are also great ways to improve your posture in the saddle, so enlist a friend to take some shots of you riding. Then curl up with some cocoa and spend a few hours assessing your skills.

It's time to have some fun with your horse and give yourself a break from the stress of the holidays. Give some of these activities a try and you may find you're more of a winter person than you thought!



[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



### Venison Loin with Sage, Squash, and Prunes *from fwp.mt.gov*

*The idea for this "Tasting Montana" column began in the mid-1990s following publication of a report by Yale University researcher Stephen Kellert on public attitudes toward hunting. Kellert found that the top reason nonhunters support hunting is when it is done to produce food, and the main reason they don't support it is when the primary goal is to*

*obtain a trophy.*

#### INGREDIENTS:

- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- ½ t. ground allspice
- ¼ t. ground star anise
- ¼ t. cinnamon
- 6 T. vegetable oil
- 4 venison loin steaks, 6-7 oz. each
- Packed ¼ c. finely chopped prunes
- 2 T. cognac (optional but highly recommended)
- 6 T. unsalted butter, softened at room temperature and cut into tablespoon-size pieces
- 2 c. peeled and finely diced butternut squash
- 10 fresh sage leaves, minced

#### DIRECTIONS:

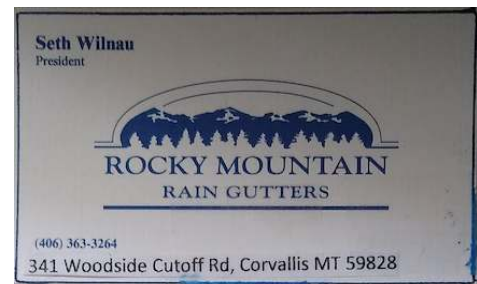
1. In a bowl, stir together 1½ t. salt, ½ t. pepper, allspice, star anise, and cinnamon. Whisk in 2 T. oil. Rub mixture onto both sides of each venison loin. Put prunes in a bowl.
2. If using cognac, pour over prunes and set aside to soak. Preheat oven to 350°F.
3. In a sauté pan, heat 2 T. oil and 2 T. butter. Add squash and cook, stirring frequently, 15-18 minutes. Toss in prunes. Remove pan from heat and season generously with salt and pepper. Remove squash-prune mixture from pan and keep warm.
4. Heat at medium-high 2 T. each of oil and butter in a small ovenproof pan. When butter starts to sizzle and foam, add venison loins and sear for 1 minute. Turn them over and transfer pan to the oven. Roast until an instant-read thermometer inserted in the center of a loin reads 130°F for medium rare. Remove pan from oven and transfer venison to a board. Let rest 3-4 minutes.
5. Meanwhile, heat original squash pan over medium-high heat. Add remaining 2 T. butter and cook 1 minute until it starts to brown and foam. Remove pan from heat and stir in sage leaves. When they get crispy, scoop them out and set aside.
6. Divide squash-prune mixture evenly among dinner plates. Top each portion with a venison loin, a drizzle of brown butter, and a sprinkle of crisped sage

**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN  
DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
To Be Submitted at a later date to membership**



## Ads & Services Offered

Please consider our kind advertisers the next time need arise





# Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



---

## **NEXT BRBCH MEETING**

**Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Location: Corvallis School Cafeteria**

**Meeting at 6:30**

