



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

March 2022 Issue #03



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BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN MISSION STATEMENT

- To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness areas.
- To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- To assist the various government, state and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- 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.
- To foster and encourage the formation of new back country horsemen's organizations.
- To cooperate with other BCHA organizations.

A Message from our BRBCH President

Greetings Members,

Well, I am on my way to Alaska to work for the Iditarod again. This will be my 28th year. Hope it is springtime when I get back! Speaking of springtime, our volunteer season is fast approaching. We have lots of projects on deck this summer and hope you can join us. We need folks to provide food at our trailheads when we work so if that is something you would like to do please contact the Project Leaders. Our State Convention is held in mid-March and info gleaned from that event will be shared at the members meeting. We have trainings coming up starting at the end of March with our Defensive Horsemanship Demo. Others include saw training, First Aid/CPR, our spring horse obstacle course and Wilderness skills weekend. We will also continue to have fun rides each month. Some of our members have been awarded a scholarship by BRBCH to attend a packing class at Bitterroot Community College taught by member Ed Duggan. Congratulations to those students! The skills learned in that class will teach them how to pack and use stock and they will then be able to help with projects for our organization as well as to foray into the beautiful backcountry we have here in Montana. Busy times are approaching and I hope to see you at our meetings, events and projects. And don't forget to stop by the advertisers listed in the newsletter to thank them for supporting our group!

Health and Happiness to all of you!
BRBCH, Jan Bullock

DEADLINE FOR THE

April 2022

NAG NEWS is

5 p.m. April 14, 2022

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Chairs & Members

Sandra O'Brien/Joe Kirkland
 Ed Bullock
 Earl Philips/Gene Merrell
 Ed Duggan/Christy Schram-Duggan
 (Position Open)
 Chris Grove
 Christy Schram-Duggan
 Ed Bullock
 Christy Schram-Duggan
 Tim Meyer
 (Position Open)
 Leslie Conner-Maiyo
 Dan Maiyo
 Chuck Miller
 Rebecca Jones
 Philip & Pam Torgerson
 Dan Brandborg
 Susan Slempe
 Cindy Beck
 Jan Bullock
 Bonnie Morgan
 Nancy Pollman

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen 2022 Officers & Board

Chapter Officers

| Position | Name | Term | Contact |
|----------------|-----------------------|------|----------------|
| President | Jan Bullock | 2022 | (907) 242-9853 |
| Vice President | Christy Schram-Duggan | 2022 | |
| Secretary | Kathy Stroppel-Holl | 2022 | |
| Treasurer | Barbara Walker | 2022 | |

Board Members

| Name | Term |
|-----------------|---------|
| Ed Duggan | 2021-22 |
| Travis Grinnell | 2021-22 |
| Joe Kirkland | 2021-22 |
| Katie Williams | 2021-22 |
| (Position open) | 2021-22 |
| Dan Brandborg | 2022-23 |
| Carol Johns | 2022-23 |
| Dan Maiyo | 2022-23 |
| Karen Philips | 2022-23 |

Past President: Gene Merrell**State Chairman:** Sherri Lionberger

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

Alt State Director: Chuck Miller (2022)

MARCH 17TH 2022 GENERAL MEETING
(No Potluck) BRBCH Monthly meeting Thursday, March 17th Corvallis School Cafeteria
Social: 6:30 pm Meeting: 7:00 pm

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen will host their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 17th at the Corvallis School Cafeteria on Eastside Highway in Corvallis. The meeting runs from 7-8:30 p.m. There will be no potluck, but you are welcome to bring your own dinner and socialize between 6:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. No program speaker is scheduled for this month. Those members who attended the BCH Convention in Dillon which was held March 11, 12, and 13th, will be reporting on this event. The President will be asking for members to sign up for the projects that are scheduled for this summer. Discussion will be held on the packing scholarships for his year. For more information, please call Gene at 208-310-6326 or check out the website at www.bchmt.org/bitterroot.

Find us on Facebook at: **Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH).**

BRBCH Training 2022

Defensive Horsemanship: All sessions will be held at the C-Max Stables on Bass Lane in Corvallis. Members wishing to earn a DH card for the first time will attend the demonstration (without the horse), then bring their equine to one of the trail obstacle sessions. A DH card is good for 3 years. Members wishing to renew only need to attend one of the sessions. There are still spaces available for each of the sessions and I will bring the sign-up to the March general meeting.

I will be asking 2-3 members to make chili for the lunch and others to bring a side (corn bread, chili fixings, salad, dessert, etc.).

Demonstration: Saturday, March 26, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM,

9 -10 AM- Safety in the Back Country

10-11 AM– Equine First Aid

11-12 – Packing skills: Loading the mantly

12-1 Chili Pot luck lunch

1-2 Leading a Pack String

**Trail Obstacles: April 2nd, 9:00 AM-noon or 1:00-4:00 PM and
April 23rd, 9:00 AM-noon or 1:00-4:00 PM.**

Bring your horse, mule, or donkey for a spring tune-up. Some obstacles will test your equine's willingness to move left, right, forward, or backwards over or through unfamiliar situations. Other obstacles will test your riding or groundwork skills.

Wilderness Skills Weekend will be May 21-22 at the Charles Waters campground North of Stevensville. Save the date! More information will be presented at the meeting.

Congratulations! Scholarships awarded by BRBCH for the 2022 Bitterroot College Packing Class, Ed Duggan, instructor, are presented to:

Candice Clark, Cheyenne Grinnell, April Hale, Jessica Reyes, Carrie Hunt, Katie Harris

AWARDS

At the January 20, 2022 general meeting, six past officers and directors were awarded silver pins for their service to our organization. We greatly appreciate their many contributions to the chapter. Three recipients missing from the photo are Dan Brandborg (vice-president), Sandra O'Brien (treasurer), and Lionel Lavallee (director).

Left to right: Gene Merrell (president), Christy Schram-Duggan (secretary), Ed Bullock, Mike Costanzo and Tim Meyer (directors).



Past director and newly elected president Jan Bullock receives her pin from past-president Gene Merrell.



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INTRODUCING A NEW HORSE TO THE HERD

From an article by **Sue Stuska E.D.** appearing in Eclectic Horseman magazine, July 21, 2003. Issue No. 12.

Whether you're moving your horse into a new boarding situation, or you've purchased a new horse to add to the existing herd, an understanding of herd dynamics and suggestions for easing the transition are useful. Assuming that your goal is to have two or more horses live harmoniously in a group situation, the goal is to make the introduction as safe as possible. Orchestrating the introductions will give you new insights into the personalities of both the resident and newcomer horse and allow you to hone your viewing skills as you watch for the subtle communications that allow horses to coexist in a herd.

1. Take the Time. Be prepared to take the time necessary to achieve a harmonious relationship. How the horses interact will show you when it's OK to move on to the next step, or to call it done. Let their actions and reactions be your guide. This may take days or even weeks.

Introducing a new horse to a single resident is similar to introducing one horse to a herd of two or more. Your existing herd already has its pecking order established. Even if it's only a herd of two, one will be mostly dominant and the other will mostly give way. While "submissive" is the opposite of dominant, in horse herds there are a myriad of steps between the two and the relationship is not absolutely vertically linear. In other words, one horse may be seen as the dominant one, but in reality both horses exhibit both dominant and submissive behaviors in daily interactions.

The incoming horse is at a disadvantage. He would be in the wild, too. He is coming into another horse's territory, neither horse knows the other, and the new one doesn't know the area. The new horse may have been higher in the pecking order in his or her old band than he will be in the new one. He may have been "top dog" in his previous situation but the resident usually has the edge. In the wild, horses don't defend territories but instead have home ranges over which they roam to meet their forage, water and shelter needs. A new wild horse coming into the area can do so gradually, testing the welcome or lack thereof, and can run away if and when necessary. In captivity, we set the limits of the area with fences and buildings. In the wild, an intruder can be seriously hurt if he doesn't interact well; the same is true on our farm. It is up to us to set up the situation for a minimally confrontational, and a safe transition.

2. Know Your Property. Every farm has the potential for a safe transition; you know your property best. You may have to make some

alterations temporarily. Borrow some fence (round pen) panels, or change the setup of your own for the time. Be aware of where confrontations may take place and act ahead of time to make the outcome safe for all the horses and for yourself. You don't need to get run over by a loose horse while your horse is trying to save his hide, nor do you want the horses to get hurt while sparring across a fence.

3. Health Criteria. Before the new horse has access to the area, he should be dewormed. Ideally, he should be dewormed long enough before the move that any parasites dropped after the treatment are dropped on the old property (and the manure cleaned up!) so as not to bring any more parasites than necessary to the new land.

Quarantine in a neutral space for three weeks is ideal to see that the new guy isn't carrying any contagious diseases, which he will show by coming down with the symptoms. This length of time is not always practical, but is desirable. It is helpful if you know where the horse came from and know that the horses there are healthy... Any time horses come and go (for example, to a clinic), they have the chance of catching some ailment like the flu (influenza) or a runny nose (possibly rhinopneumonitis). Rhino is minor in adults, but can cause pregnant mares who get it to abort their foals. Time will hopefully show the disease; incubation periods, for flu and rhino at least, are a week or less.

If you have to quarantine a new horse on your farm, choose a place where there is no physical contact, no contact with respiratory secretions, and no contact with nasal spray. The horses should not share feeders, water troughs, or turnout areas. Skin ailments like ringworm and lice can be transmitted by physical contact and by our grooming tools and tack; give the new guy his own brushes, cinch, breastplate, bridle and saddle pad.

A couple weeks before the move, the transferring horse should have blood drawn for a Coggins test (for Equine Infectious Anemia antibodies). A recent (within 6 – 12 months) negative Coggins test is required on a state-by-state basis for transport (particularly across state lines) and for changes in ownership. It is wise to require it for horses coming onto your property; this protects the residents. EIA has no vaccine or cure and a horse with the virus might not appear sick but may still transmit the virus via bloodsucking flies. During this vet visit, have the vet do a routine health check, which may turn up any latent disease and also provide some

peace of mind for the destination property horse owners.

4. Introductions. Once the new horse's health is apparent, begin his introduction to the resident. It is ideal if the new horse can first be kept separate where each can see and smell each other but no physical contact is possible. Assuming both respect fencing and neither is extremely aggressive, the type of enclosure is not as important now as it is later.

The body language of each horse will tell you how well this (and each) phase is going and when you can progress to the next step. We know the signs of dominance and aggression: ears pinned, back turned, tail swishing, arching the neck and shaking the mane. Submissive signs include retreat, plus lowering the head, yawning (sometimes), and teeth clapping (seen most frequently in young horses and also with mares in the presence of stallions—the lips are drawn open and the teeth close repeatedly). The key to knowing what is going on is watching both horses at once and catching their non-verbal conversation. Signs that you should not progress to the next step include a newcomer who won't show submissive signs but keeps acting aggressive. (It is possible that the horse will capitulate once he loses the security of the fence—or not. It's up to you to judge.) Dominance does not always mean the horse is aggressive. The reason horse society works and that competing wild stallions live to breed mares in their respective harems is that the horses reach an understanding of each other's strength and figure out when to be aggressive, when to defend, and when to back off.

You don't, of course, have to be this careful. The first step could be to just turn out both horses in a fenced area like a pasture or arena and step back. This may go well, or it may not—most of us have seen both situations. The worst possible scenario is that the newcomer gets pinned in the corner and kicked/bitten badly—and we all know how brittle those bones can be and how quickly major injuries can happen.

5. Physical Contact. The next step is to allow physical contact in a situation you set up. Both horses should have enough space to get away from the other. Neither should feel he has to defend his feed or water. Depending on the temperaments of the horses and your facilities, this can be done in two adjoining stalls or in a round pen set up in a pasture or arena (the newcomer gets the round pen).

The fence or wall in this case must be safe. If solid, it must withstand kicks without injuring the kicker or damaging the structure (wood that is strong enough not to break but has some flex is ideal). If not solid, like a round pen fence, it must still be strong, and it must be smooth to prevent injury when horses reach or spar through or over it.

Plan ahead about the access—if you are using a round pen in the middle of the turnout area, take the newcomer out to the pen first and then turn the resident out. You don't want to risk a confrontation by trying to lead a new horse through an area where the resident is running free.

6. Turn Out Individually. If you are dealing with one newcomer and one resident, the next step is to turn the horses out individually. This gives the newcomer the advantage of knowing the area. It will hopefully prevent him from being pinned in a corner or run through/into a fence. An alternative, leading him around the empty area, is not as effective and may not be enough to get him familiar with the boundaries and any internal obstacles like ditches and tree thickets. He needs to find the existing paths so he can cross over or pass around obstacles easily and in a surefooted manner. Try doing this over a few days by turning the newcomer out in the area alone, alternating with the resident. This has the added advantage of the resident getting used to the smells of the newcomer on his turf.

7. Turn Out With the Least Dominant Resident. If you are dealing with more than one resident, your observations will tell you which of them is lowest on the hierarchy. After doing the single turnout, turn this horse out with the newcomer. The lowest resident on the hierarchy will be least likely to beat up on the newcomer—although you may be surprised how much he now asserts himself. Once these two have bonded, they may look out for each other in the herd—giving each an advantage. The most careful way to proceed, if you are dealing with enough horses, is to then add the 2nd highest resident and let the three work out their relationship. Add the others in order as it seems prudent. (The alternative, turning out the newcomer with the whole herd, might result in a huge chase when the most dominant resident follows to investigate and the others get excited and come along.)

If the setup involves small pocket areas like run-in shelters or stalls, you may need to close these to access until the horses have worked out their differences. You may even need to reconstruct—by opening another exit—if you are adding a second

horse to a facility built for one. Even if the newcomer knows he must clear out and let the resident have the shelter, he may be unable to get out in time and get hurt if there is only one narrow entrance/exit.

Choose your turnout area based on the safest available place at your farm. You'll want to choose a large enough area that the horses can run around but not so large that you can't see the whole area or can't get to part of it in a short time. Too small a space invites trouble when one horse can't get away from the other. Fencing is also a consideration—it must be visible to running horses with their minds on each other and ideally without blind alleys or corners near the barn where one horse might get cornered.

With all your preparation, you will have a pretty good idea of how the initial turnout is going to go. Be prepared, however, to catch the horses if they continue to run or if one won't stop chasing the other. This is a chancy proposition, but you will be safest if you have a friend (or the other horse's owner) along with you and have a plan. Catch the aggressor or instigator first. Do be prepared for both horses to get hot and sweaty (take the weather into account—is it a very warm day, or will the temperature plunge in a few hours at dark?). While in some cases feed causes strife, in others putting out several piles of hay before turning them loose might get them settled down to eating while they keep an eye on each other (and before they get too worked up).

8. Feeding Time. When you feed your new herd together, be sure the newcomer has a bucket or hay area well away from the others and watch to be sure he gets his share. There is always the possibility that you will have to separate horses at feeding—regardless of whether they just met or have lived together for years. This just depends on their personalities and nutritional needs. Feed the residents where they are used to being fed and choose another area for the newcomer.

If the resident is used to coming and going freely from his stall or shelter to the turnout area and is fed inside, plan ahead to prevent the newcomer from inadvertently being caught inside and pinned to the wall at feeding. Make a separate area to feed the newcomer. Catch and close the resident in the stall for feeding and feed the newcomer elsewhere. Very soon, the newcomer will go to his separate place at feeding time and avoid the close quarters.

Editor's Note: *I thought it would be fun to introduce some cowboy poetry instead of recipes once in a while. Enjoy!*

Rayburn Crane

By Tom Russell

Rayburn Crane he rode these mountains like the streams he rode' em through
Through the Farewell Gap and the Franklin Lakes
Up North to Chagupa Plateau
With the government men and the hunters and the dudes
And the leaders of the business world
Yea, Rayburn Crane was a packhorse man
And a mighty good hand with a mule.

Rayburn Crane, Rayburn Crane
The Mountains and the Valleys and the
Trees Remember your name.

He rode 45 years through the mountains
And the valleys just a-pullin' them strings of mules
And the ropes and the chaps and the halters
And the saddles well these were Rayburn's tools
Sittin' down at night by the firelight
Talkin' and a-pullin' at the whiskers on his chin
You didn't need no music when
Rayburn went to talkin' 'bout the mountains and the packhorse men.

Rayburn Crane, Rayburn Crane
The Mountains and the Valleys and the
Trees Remember your name.

Well the business men they bought these mountains for a big time ski resort
An Ol' Rayburn he's gone down to die in a Three Rivers' trailer court
And the canvas-flapjack-cook tent moans with the bushes and the trees in the wind
Cause there ain't no place in a ski resort for a mule skinnin' packhorse man.

Rayburn Crane, Rayburn Crane
The Mountains and the Valleys and the
Trees Remember your name.

Rayburn Crane, Rayburn Crane
The Mountains and the Valleys and the
Trees Remember your name

DEFENSIVE HORSEMANSHIP DEMO May 1st 2021



BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN (DRAFT) GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 17, 2022

The February 2022 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Jan Bullock at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held at the Corvallis School Cafeteria. Approximately 32 members were present, with a Board quorum. Gene Merrell led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting.

Guests: Kevin Fox

PROGRAM

Phil Torgerson introduced Dan Pliley, the West Fork District Ranger, and Mark Smith, Trails Program Manager. Dan has been the district ranger for 4 months. He was born and raised in Hamilton and loves being back in the Bitterroot. He had a great career as an Army MP, and is pleased to continue a career with the FS. He was formerly a team leader on NEPA strike teams, located in Bozeman. He spoke about the Piquette Creek Project fuels reduction, Mud Creek Project awaiting a decision, and the Bitterroot Valley being one of top firehedges in Region 1 with many communities in the WUI. Lots of funding streams coming to the BNF. The FS is looking to have most of the valley treated in 10 years; anticipate 30-35,000 acres treated/year. The Gold-Butterfly Project decision is close to signed decision. He

noted BRBCH's work is critical to the BNF and there could be more future work. Mark said the BRBCH's projects reimbursement will be done soon, and the chapter's FS agreement prepared and signed.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The January minutes were printed in the Nag News. **Gene Merrell motioned and Barb Walker seconded to accept the minutes of the January 2022 general meeting. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barb Walker presented the February treasurer's report. **Joan Scheffer motioned and Mike Costanzo seconded to accept the treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee/Water Volunteers Signup Sheet: Jan circulated the signup sheet.

DH Obstacles, First Aid, and Saw Certification Signups: The signup sheets were made available.

State Convention Raffle Tickets: Barb has tickets to buy or sell. Get tickets or money back to her by March 9th.

BRBCH Equipment: Equipment is available to loan to members, including a Decker pack saddle, pack blanket, bags, and tools. Use the inventory and sign-out form in the shed. Contact Ed Duggan or the fairgrounds folks to access the shed.

Horse Campgrounds White Paper: Brad spoke about equestrian campgrounds being used by non-equestrians, which affects horse campers. Horse folks cannot camp in regular campgrounds. This issue was brought up with the Washington FS office, which was unaware of the problem. Recommendations from Washington recently released to the Regions focus on educating FS managers, camp hosts, and the public. BCHA will collect data on non-horse folks using horse facilities. Carol noted that Recreation.gov does not have horse camps listed or described. Also, there is no info on the bulletin board at Rock Creek indicating it is a horse camp. The FS order for the Rock Creek Horse Camp has lapsed and should be renewed. Anticipate there could be fees charged for horse camps that BCH built. An example of another local problem is that Mill Creek needs a sign posted for the horse trailer parking – the FS needs to be made aware of trailhead problems. Meetings with the FS should include at least 3 BCH members.

Mountain House Stables: Gerry Cox provided the 2022 event/training schedule.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: Carol needs 2 more folks to go with her to FS meetings. Julie Schram and Ron Sanguins volunteered. The FS started Lick Creek Project planning several years ago; it was based on Fred W's trail system on the north side of Lake Como and issues with non-horse campers at Rock Creek. Mark Smith has a map showing the intended area of a future horse camp. The location has possible issues since it's a riparian area; need to look at alternative areas. Brad noted there were 3-4 areas considered 15-20 years ago that should be re-explored. Trail connectivity, the Gold-Butterfly Project, and the Flathead Wilderness project work were also brought up.

Projects: Dan B noted there are 13 potential 2022 projects. Dan M spoke about the East Fork Guard Station project that will rebuild the corrals, Aug 2-8.

State Directors: No report, looking forward to a great convention.

Education & Training: Bonnie spoke about the First Aid, crosscut, and chainsaw trainings. Bonnie will note which members need FA since it is

required for saw training. The DHS Demo clinic is open to all members (no signup needed). The WSW committee will meet in March. Let Nancy know of all updates so she can put the info on the website.

Membership: There are 59 memberships and 93 members. See Leslie for membership cards.

Outreach: Karen noted an article in the 1/30 Missoulian about Smoke Elser, with a mention of member Eva Maggi writing a book on Smoke and his packing history.

Program: Phil contacted Josh Lisbon at MPG Ranch, Jamie Jonkel, Eli Hampton, and a Missoula paramedic with backcountry experience. An adult ed teacher is another consideration for a program speaker.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Audit: Report from the Board meeting is that there was a clean audit on the books.

Outdoor Meetings: Dates and locations were set. Three Sisters at Lake Como on 6/16, Coyote Coulee on 7/21, and Larry Creek on 8/18. Need to confirm Como reservation with Abbie Jossie.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget: Gene discussed and provided copies of the budget and budget narrative. He explained some numbers in the Income and Expenses categories. The 2022 income is projected to be \$750 more than 2021. He noted that some expenses over \$200 will be automatically approved if the membership approves the budget, and the Board won't need to come back for members' approval. The 2022 expenses are a little higher than income, so funds may need to be transferred between accounts. The budgeted CPR mannequins may be reimbursed by BCH MT. **Karen Philips motioned and Julie Schram seconded to accept the 2022 budget as presented. The motion carried.**

Packing Scholarships: Four applications received to date for the Bitterroot College packing class. BRBCH is still taking applications; the deadline Mar 3.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dan M displayed the metal art of a pack train and crosscut saw with the BCH MT logo that BRBCH is donating for the 2022 State Convention live auction. It has a \$600 value. Dan will package and coordinate transport with a convention delegate.

Ron Sanguins suggested sharing a safety moment at meetings. Great idea!

Leslie reminded folks to send in their renewals.

Jan will be working the Iditarod in March as the Chief Vet Tech. She has worked on the race since 1994.

Dan M thanked Nancy Pollman for her assistance with the January newsletter. Contact Dan to put info or suggestions into the newsletter.

Next Meeting: Mar 17th at the Corvallis School Cafeteria 7:00 pm. Coffee – Bonnie Morgan, hot water – Patti Boone

Karen Philips motioned and Julie Schram seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm. The motion carried.

Kathy Stroppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN **(DRAFT) BOARD MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 3, 2022**

The March 2022 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order at 7:00 pm by Jan Bullock at the Daly-Leach Chapel. Present were President Jan Bullock, VP Christy Schram-Duggan, Secretary Kathy Stroppel-Holl, and Treasurer Barb Walker. Also present were Board members Carol Johns, Dan Maiyo, Ed Duggan, Travise Grinnell, Joe Kirkland, Julie Schram, and Katie Williams; and Past President Gene Merrell. Absent were Brad Pollman, Taylor Orr, Chuck Miller, Dan Brandborg, and Karen Philips. Jan Bullock led the pledge.

Committee Chairs present: Bonnie Morgan and Leslie Conner-Maiyo. Other guest: Justin Murray

BUSINESS

Minutes: The February 2022 meeting minutes were published in the February Nag News – there were no updates. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to accept the minutes. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barb provided an update on the account balances – there were no questions. **Gene Merrell motioned and Ed Duggan seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MT Mule Days/MT Longears Association: Justin Murray spoke about Mule Days on June 2-5 at the Fairgrounds. Two gates will be used; they need gatekeepers. Entrance fee is \$10/weekend, or \$5/day. East gate is only for contestants, and the grandstand gate is for spectators. Christy will head up BRBCH participation. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded for BRBCH to help out with the Mule Days event and to decide what days BRBCH will work the**

gates. The motion carried. There was discussion on the Longears Association payment of \$300/day for volunteer organizations to handle the gates, liability, stock gate handling, and the grandstand gate.

Conservation Days: Julie noted the event is May 16-17 at Lake Como, from 8:30-2. About 300-400 students/day come to learn how to be light on the land. She would like some help with this event.

Fair Board Interview: Christy is interviewing to be on the Fair Board. She will also provide them an invoice for BRBCH's work at the 2021 county fair.

Google Drive: Tim Meyer emailed that the BRBCH account on Google for Non-Profits is up and running at no cost. It has 30GB of storage. If more storage is needed in the future, cost is \$3/user/month for 2TB of storage each user. Kathy will forward Tim's email to the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: Carol had no new issues. She is waiting for snow to clear to do a Lick Creek survey.

Projects: Joe suggested food be provided at all projects. All agreed to that. Katie said the Backcountry Cyclists are clearing the Two Good/Overwhich Trail area on July 16. Gene suggested we ask for volunteers to provide food/snacks on specific projects. There was more discussion on how members can help with food. Ed suggested Hamilton Pack be contacted for meat donation.

State Directors: Brad emailed that he will be attending the two State Board meetings at the Convention.

Membership: Leslie provided the names of new and renewing members for approval. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Julie Schram**

seconded to approve the new and renewal memberships. The motion carried. Another renewal was submitted after the vote. **Ed Duggan motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to add another renewal for approval. The motion carried.** There are 72 memberships and 115 members.

Program: Gene provided an update from Phil. There is no March speaker – the available time will be used to talk about project signups, a convention report, and the packing scholarships. MPG Ranch will speak in April. Phil is looking for a speaker for a talk about bears coming out of hibernation.

Education & Training: Bonnie said First Aid/CPR will be a weekend in April, with people signed up for projects to be trained first especially if they are getting saw certification. Jan has to have an FS safety person at the first FA/CPR class she teaches, and she is working on the date. She has the CPR mannequins. Erica Strayer provided special use event paperwork for WSW at Larry Creek. Bonnie will contact WSW committee members in March, and needs someone to head up food. Crosscut saw cert has 9 renewals and 5 new folks signed up; chainsaw cert has 5 renewals and 6 new folks signed up. The DHS Demo clinic is March 26 from 9am-2pm. Various activities are planned, including job hazard analysis, vet talk, and packing manties. Bonnie will provide an agenda for the newsletter. There are some signups for the April 2 and 23 obstacle clinics. Gene noted that certification to carry firearms on an FS project needs to be brought up at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual FS Agreement: Mark Smith emailed the new FS agreement to Jan – it is ready to be signed.

A blanket FS agreement from BCH MT may supersede the local FS agreement. We will sign the local FS agreement if the blanket agreement is not ready by mid-May.

2022 State Convention Registration & Raffle Tickets: All delegates are registered. Barb needs tickets or money returned to her by 3/10 or sooner. About 100 tickets have been sold. Leslie will email the membership on this topic.

NEW BUSINESS

Packing Scholarships: Julie said the 6 applicants are all good candidates. **Joe Kirkland motioned and Katie Williams seconded to fund all six applicants. The motion carried.** The Board agreed to fund the extra \$150 over the budgeted \$1500 to cover all registrations. Julie will contact the 6 applicants about their award. There was further discussion on the packing class. (Post meeting update: Recipients are Candice Clark, Cheyenne Grinnell, April Hale, Jessica Reyes, Carrie Hunt, and Katie Harris.)

OTHER BUSINESS

Barb has been checking the chapter email, and Gene confirmed he is the point of contact.

Gene Merrell motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. The motion carried.

Kathy Stoppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH

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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Location: Corvallis School Cafeteria

Social at 6:30pm Meeting at 7:00pm

Visit our Website:

bchmt.org/bitterroot

*Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen
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