



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

August 2022 Issue #08



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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

Editor's Note: Jan is still in Mongolia redefining Genghis Kahn and leading a cavalry of Mongolian riders. She will be returning soon. We miss her!

I wish to take this opportunity to say a word about volunteerism. In my professional career as a highly abused public employee, I was entrusted with recruiting and training those individuals who stepped up to do a sometimes thankless job with no pay. I learned early on the value of these people and their dedication to the improvement of their community. It is impossible to place a monetary value on this type of good work.

The Bitter Root Backcountry Horsemen serve as a model of excellence in volunteerism. We should all be proud of this dedication. It not only reflects the intent of the BCH Mission Statement, but also fosters integrity, being a good mentor, and setting a good example.

We like to ride, we like to work, and we like to eat! Thank you all for the work you do! *Excelsior!*

Dan Maiyo, Editor

DEADLINE FOR THE

August 2022

NAG NEWS is

5 p.m. September

August 9, 2022

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 Earl Philips/Gene Merrell
 Ed Duggan/Christy Schram-Duggan
 (Position Open)
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 Christy Schram-Duggan
 Ed Bullock
 Christy Schram-Duggan
 Tim Meyer
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 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
Travise Grinnell	2021-22
Joe Kirkland	2021-22
Katie Williams	2021-22
Julie Schram	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)

AUGUST 18th 2022 GENERAL MEETING
(Potluck, bring a dish!) BRBCH Monthly meeting
Thursday, August 18th Larry Creek trail head
Social: 6:30 pm Meeting: 7:00 pm

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen host their monthly meeting on Thursday, August 18th at Larry Creek Trailhead. Potluck dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Bring your own chair and drink. The meeting runs from 7-8:30 p.m. The Guest speaker is Christy Schram-Duggan who will discuss what is required for selling and taking tickets by our volunteers at the upcoming country fair. Trail project leaders will review past and upcoming projects and events. If you are a rider or hiker who wants to help keep trails open and meet like-minded folks, we invite you to attend. We welcome guests and new members. 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)

Continuing signups are available for the projects that are scheduled for this summer. Check our website at www.bchmt.org/bitterroot. Find us on Facebook at: **Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH)**.

Gold Creek and Two Good Cabin projects canceled. Katie and Gene cancelled the Gold Creek project due to lack of a sawyer with many trees to clear, and due to fire restrictions. Also Christy cancelled the Two Good Cabin project due to the Fire Restrictions that were just announced since chainsaw work was going to be needed to clean up around the hitching rails.

We have a New cover for the camp trailer. Propose rename:
Two Buck Chuck Wagon!

Thanks to Big Sky Canvas, 221 Commerce St. Missoula Mt. for a job promptly well done!



Boulder Creek Summary, July 15–16

Report from project leader Joe Kirkland: We left the trailhead early on July 15th and camped approximately 8 miles in. The USFS had cleared the first 8.5 miles of trail. We cleared all day on July 16th and made it the 2 miles to the pass, breaking into Idaho and then backtracking to the Boulder Lake trail junction where we cleared 1.5 miles to the lake. Bonnie Morgan and Joan Scheffer worked from the trailhead and cleared 41 water bars.

Dan Brandborg, Randy Kappes, Travise Grinnell and I cut and cleared approximately 15 large trees from the trail, cut approximately 60 smaller trees encroaching on the trail, and cleared an additional 40 water bars. The trail is cleared to the pass and the lake, at least until the next storm!

Thank you for everyone's hard work and special thanks to Kathy and Max for preparing the food. It was all delicious and made camping easy! And to top that off, when we got back to the trailhead, Gene and Carolynn Merrell met us with lunch, cold drinks and watermelon. That made the trip complete!

And from food prepper Kathy: Another project completed successfully and safely - congrats to Joe and his crew. Kudos to the water-bar workers - that's a lot of clearing between the upper trail and lower area. I hope we made enough food and no one went hungry! Pictures on BRBCH Facebook.

Summary of East Fork Corral Project, August 2-4, 2022 Report from Project Leader Dan Maiyo: This project was coordinated in part with Jake Long, Recreation Specialist for the U.S.F.S. Darby Ranger District, who supplied all materials from Bouma Post Yards, Inc. Lincoln Mt., for this project. Meat supplied by Hamilton Packing Inc. and other food stuffs were funded by Darrel Reese. Thank-you Darrel!

Approximately 450 linear feet of 6 inch diameter pressure treated posts and 3 inch x 16 ft. long pressure treated rails replaced the existing post and 3 rail fence. The replacement posts were set at the same location where existing posts were removed wherever possible. Approximately 410 linear feet of pressure treated, pre-fitted jack fence replaced the existing jack fence. Existing wood swing gates at the southeast corner of the corral were removed. Two 8-foot steel swing gates were installed providing access to the main corral from the driveway.

On Tuesday afternoon August 2nd BRBCH volunteers met at the historic East Fork Guard Station, located approximately 15 miles northeast from the intersection of Hwy 93 and East Fork Rd., along the East fork of the Bitterroot River, to begin work replacing the old corral. Project leader Dan Maiyo conducted a tailgate safety briefing at 1:00 pm. Bill Slemph provided his skid steer with a post pounder attachment rented from Mom's Rental in Hamilton. Dan Brandborg provided his tractor with forks attached to the bucket to transport posts, rails and jack bundles to strategic locations. Joe Kirkland and Dan Maiyo used chain saws to trim rails and cut piles of logs in the corral. Philp Togenson, Max Stropple, Kathy Stropple-Holl, Gene Merrell, Dan Brandborg, Dan Maiyo, Rich Russell worked up a big sweat fitting and securing the pre-fitted jacks and securing the rails to posts and jacks with big sledge hammers and impact drills to drive in wood screws. We knocked off at 5pm after a marathon day of installing all of the posts, half the jacks, and nearly half the rails. We sat down at the East Fork pavilion for a delicious pulled pork dinner with all the trimmings and desert provided by Caroline and Gene Merrell. Thanks for the watermelon Phil!

A 7:30 am Wednesday morning volunteers were provided hot coffee and a dutch oven mountain-man breakfast consisting of biscuits, patty sausage, scrambled eggs and sautéed vegies cooked by Dan Maiyo. Thanks to Kathy and others for helping with the prep and clean-up work! We began work at 9am. Dennis Hardman, Diane Duffie, Shawn Kern and Leslie Conner-Maiyo arrived in the afternoon to further contribute to the combined effort. Work was completed at 3:30 pm.!!! Dan Maiyo treated the crew to a dinner consisting of BBQ New York steaks and dutch oven fried potatoes and vegies. Leslie provided a brownie cake with whipped cream topping. Thanks to Kathy, Leslie, Shawn and Gene for assisting in the prep work. Most of the volunteers then departed. Dan fixed breakfast for Gene and Philip. Jake Long joined us for breakfast. It is an understatement to express his surprise and appreciation for the work being done so quickly and so well!

NOTE: The supply of ordered rails was short by one bundle. Therefore, the jack fence will need to be completed at a later date. Jake will inform us when they arrive. Installation of the remaining rails should take approximately 5 hours.

I am extremely proud of the work done by this "A" team! The work was projected to take 5-6 days. It was completed in two days! Congratulations to all involved and thank you! More pics an BRBCH Facebook.



Kathy Stropple-Holl helps carry a fence rail. Max secures a top rail. Gene Merrell assists



BRBCH crew securing jack fence



Fair Signups Still Available

Still have some slots that need to be filled! Please go to the website or call Bonnie Duggan, at 406-544-8925, to sign up. If you have signed up, thank you! We cannot do this without all of you.

Can you do another shift? Or do you know someone that you think would like to do a shift? When you work 4 hours you get into the Fair for free. Any questions please call or text Christy at 406-360-5947.

Also great news! Bitterroot Beanry has donated coffee this year for each Gate in the morning. Please say thank you when you get a chance to Bitterroot Beanry. ~ Christy Schram - Duggan

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PLEASE NOTE:
Horse sense
will appear in
next month's
Nag News

BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN



**PLEASE NOTE: Back Country Kitchen will
appear in next month's Nag News**

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN **(DRAFT) GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, JULY 21, 2022**

The July 2022 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by VP Christy Schram-Duggan at 7:06 pm. The meeting was held at the Coyote Coulee Trailhead. Approximately 30 members were present, with a Board quorum. Travis Grinnell led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting. Guests: Charlie and Autumn from Florence, Ina Jordan from Salt Lake City

PROGRAM

Brad Pollman, Trailer Safety and Maintenance: Brad provided trailer safety and maintenance info he learned from a past member, as well as his experiences with trailers. It is important to stay focused on the hook up – do not get distracted by anything until it's done! He discussed the hitching process with goosenecks and bumper tows, checking the emergency brakes and batteries, checking and changing tires, packing wheel bearings, checking lights, and wear and tear on wood or aluminum floors from urine and mag chloride from the roads (wash down immediately). Great presentation by Brad, with good questions from the members.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The June minutes were printed in the Nag News – there were two updates 1) noting that Karen posts photos on Facebook (not Susan) and 2) the correct spelling of Haugh Lake. **Karen Philips motioned and Nancy Pollman seconded to accept the minutes of the June 2022 general meeting with noted corrections. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barb presented the July treasurer's report – there were no updates. **Bonnie Morgan motioned and Leslie Maiyo seconded to accept the treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Safety Moment: Christy said with the summer heat to be sure to take water and electrolytes when riding. Set goals to drink enough water. Janice asked what to do for horse dehydration – let them drink at every opportunity and check the skin.

Bitterroot Star Article: Karen noted the informative article in the July 13, 2022 Bitterroot Star on BRBCH trail projects.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: Carol spoke about the Bitterroot Front field trip occurring on July 22, with reservations to the FS. Carol is attending. The FS is proposing an amendment to the 1987 Forest Plan to redefine old growth stands. The public land survey for recreation use in Ravalli County is ongoing. Brad has a copy of the report developed for the survey. The Hog Trough Fire near Skalkaho and the Moose Fire in Salmon are being monitored.

Projects: Christy spoke briefly on the Mill Creek Project, which encountered high water conditions. They were able to clear 16 trees and clean waterbars to within 1 mile of the lake. Ed went back up Mill Creek on July 20 with Steve Brown – they noted what needs to be fixed on the trail and cleared 11 more trees to the lake. Kathy said the East Fork/Sign Creek Project was a rousing success and written up in the July newsletter. Christy provided a summary of the Boulder Creek Project, which was cleared to Boulder Lake and to the pass. The St. Mary pack trip on July 14 went very well; the next one is July 28. Dan M spoke about the upcoming East Fork Corral Project, starting on Aug 2 at noon. The cabin is available for folks to use. An email was sent to members. The Fred Burr Project is July 23-24, starting at 8am, to check out the trail above the reservoir for a future work project. Gold Creek Project needs sawyers to hold it –contact Katie Williams if interested.

State Directors: Brad spoke briefly about the recent Monture Rendezvous. BRBCH was well represented.

Education & Training: There is a chainsaw class on July 22-23. There may be more saw classes this fall. New members contact Bonnie for DHS training. Christy spoke about project leader training at the Two Good Cabin Project Aug 19-21.

Membership: There are 89 memberships and 150 members. See Leslie for new member packets and membership cards.

Outreach: See above regarding the Bitterroot Star article.

Program: The August program will be fair ticket sales training. Josh Lisbon, MPG Ranch, may be the

Sept speaker. Jan Bullock will provide a talk on Mongolia in Oct.

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

OLD BUSINESS

County Fair: Christy noted the fair is Aug 31-Sep 3. It is the main fundraiser for the chapter, which has covered the gates for 40 years. Please sign up to work a 4-hr shift at a gate! Access the sign-up sheet on the BRBCH website; your shift gets you in that day and another day. More shifts get more access days. She thanked all the folks who have stepped up as day and evening managers. New info signs will be at every gate. Family, friends, kids can work the gates. Ed Duggan will manage the East Gate. Christy will train everyone at the August meeting and prior to their shift. Folks can choose to handle ticket sales/money or just take tickets. Bonnie Duggan will contact members to take shifts.

NEW BUSINESS

New Cook Trailer Cover: Dan M spoke about replacing the cook trailer for \$400 by Big Sky Canvas. **Katie Williams motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to approve the cost for replacing the cover. The motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting: August 18 at Larry Creek, 7:00 pm. **Karen Philips motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm. The motion carried.**

Kathy Stroppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN BOARD MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 4TH 2022 NOTE: The August 4th Board Meeting was canceled.

Lovely QH mare for sale. 18 years old, good ground manners, green but good start under saddle. Registered. Private Treaty. Contact Leslie Conner-Maiyo for more information. (406) 961-7644.



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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, August 18th 2022

Location: Larry Creek Trailhead
Social at 6:30pm Meeting at 7:00pm

Visit our Website:

bchmt.org/bitterroot

*Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen
P.O. Box 1083
Hamilton, MT 59840*