



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

January 2023 Issue #1



Happy New Year to One and All!

- 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.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20th 2023 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING
Corvallis Grange Hall, 130 Dutch Hill Road

Pot Luck Dinner: 6:30 pm

Meeting: 7:00 pm

The Grange Hall is located on the north side of Dutch Hill Road, just west of the intersection of Dutch Hill Road and Hwy 93 North. (West of Woodside Crossing)

A potluck dinner will be served at 6:30 pm followed by our monthly meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm. Guest speaker is Shane Yaskis, our local FWP game warden. He will discuss bear safety and proper food storage. 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)**.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Message
- Christmas Dinner Raffle
- Horse Sense
- Announcement: Backcountry Film Festival
- Ode to Ian Tyson – Cowboy Musician
- 5th Installment of the Wilderness Act
- December General Meeting Minutes (Draft)
- January Board Meeting Minutes (Draft)

**DEADLINE FOR THE
FEBRUARY 2023
NAG NEWS is
Thursday, Feb 9, 2023**

**SUBMIT YOUR
ARTICLES AND ADS TO:**
djmaiyo@gmail.com

A Message From Our President

Greetings fellow members and welcome to 2023! Let's hope this year brings us peace, prosperity, good health and some good riding weather!

I'd like to welcome our 3 new Board members Dennis Hardman, Dianne Duffie and Brad Pollman as well as our new alternate State Director Ed Duggan. I would also like to thank our outgoing Board Members Julie Schramm and Katie Williams for all the hard work they have done in the past. It is nice to see some new faces that are willing to take on some of the responsibilities of our chapter.

We will not be having our member meeting at the Corvallis Cafeteria any more. They told us they have issues with the building and that our use of their facilities has been terminated. Our January member meeting will again be held at the Corvallis Grange and we will continue to have our winter meetings there unless we can find another suitable building. As January rolls by, we are starting to think about our summer projects. Calf Creek, Larry Creek, Coyote Coulee and the East Fork Cabin will definitely be in our work plans. If anyone has ideas about other trails they would like to see improved, please contact me or Dan Brandborg with your ideas. Some of us will be meeting with the US Forest Service in late January to ask what work they may have in mind for us and that would be a good time to bring up other projects we would like to do.

April 14-16 is our State Convention to be held in Kalispell this year, and we have a full slate of Officers and Directors that will be attending. If you have concerns or questions, now is the time to bring them up to our delegates so that they can present those to the State Organization. And did you know that we are celebrating the birth of Back Country Horsemen 50 years ago this year? Here's hoping lots of celebrations will be forthcoming for all to partake in. We will also be selling raffle tickets to support the Flathead Chapter that is hosting the Convention. We will be handing out tickets at our next membership meeting on January 19. The prizes are great and include a commemorative 45-70 rifle as top prize! I hope you will sell some tickets to your friends and neighbors and buy a few for yourself!

First Aid/AED/CPR classes are being scheduled at this time with our first class being held on January 21. If you did not get into a class last year and need to be certified, give Bonnie Morgan a call to get on the list. Bonnie can also sign you up if you are interested in saw training, both chainsaw and crosscut. And Defensive Horsemanship will be starting in March also. So you can see that even in January, we are already planning for summer activities! In closing, if anyone knows of a place where we can have our monthly meeting that would give us room for our potluck and speakers please let me know. I hope to see you all at the Corvallis Grange for our next potluck membership meeting On Thursday, January 19!

With Best Regards,
Jan Bullock, Your President

2023 Committee

Audit

Audio-Visual Equipment

Budget

Education

Election & Nominations

Equipment & Inventory

Fair

Fundraisers

RTP Grant

Historian

Issues

Memberships

Newsletter

Packing Clinic Scholarship

Parliamentarian

Programs

Projects

Social Marketing

Sunshine

Trail Rides

Training

Website Design

2023 Chairs & Members

Joe Kirkland, Shawn Kern, Judy Posey, Bonnie Morgan

Ed Bullock

Earl Philips/Gene Merrell

Ed Duggan/Christy Schram-Duggan

(Position Open)

Ed Duggan

Christy Schram-Duggan

Ed Bullock

Christy Schram-Duggan

Tim Meyer

Carol Johns

Leslie Conner-Maiyo

Dan Maiyo

Chuck Miller

Rebecca Jones

Philip & Pam Torgerson

Dan Brandborg

Travise Grinnell

Cindy Beck

Jan Bullock

Bonnie Morgan

Nancy Pollman

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen 2023 Officers & Board

Chapter Officers

Position	Name	Term	Contact
President	Jan Bullock	2023	(907) 242-9853
Vice President	Christy Schram-Duggan	2023	
Secretary	Kathy Stroppel-Holl	2023	
Treasurer	Barbara Walker	2023	

Board Members

Board Members	Term
Dan Brandborg	2022-23
Carol Johns	2022-23
Dan Maiyo	2022-23
Karen Philips	2022-23
Travise Grinnell	2023-24
Joe Kirkand	2023-24
Diane Duffie	2023-24
Dennis Hardman	2023-24
Brad Pullman	2023-24

State Director

Chuck Miller

Term
2023-24

Alt. State Director

Ed Duggan

2023

Past President

Gene Merrell

BCHMT State Chairman

Wade Murphy

Christmas General Meeting Raffle

An award winning array of raffle items were donated by members for our Christmas general meeting and dinner. Nobody went home empty, whether it is with a raffle item or full tummy!



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Monday – Friday 8 – 5:30
Saturday – 9 – 4



Consistency with your Horse

Horses are creatures of habit as we know. But also their comfort level depends on predictability. In their world, knowing what to expect and how to behave in relationship to that is what keeps them safe and feeling secure; therefore comfortable and happy!

In the herd, which offers the highest level of protection against predators, they must also learn how to be safe within the herd. The pecking order is a function of keeping the gene pool of the herd, strong. Smarter, stronger horses rise upward, and weaker, not so smart horses more downward. Horses near the top have the best chance for survival (and pro-creation in the case of males), and the bottom levels typically have the least chance. Less food, water and shelter weaken them and set them up for predation.

So what does that have to do with us? Well, first, if we are smart, we can take control of our horse by mimicking behavior of a more dominate horse or “herd leader”. Many of us have learned how to communicate to our horse with very light signals, but then adding pressure until we get what we’re wanting, and then stopping that pressure. This becomes predictable to the horse and so he feels comfortable in responding to our requests. However, if we are not consistent or predictable in our requests, or their follow-up, the horse starts to feel insecure. His world can really start to feel dangerous and scary. If this happened in a herd of horses, there would be fighting and the herd would break up and fail.

Our horse will learn to trust us if given the same signal for the same request each and every time, and he also must know there will be consequences if he fails to respond in the way we consistently expect.

It’s obvious that each horse is different, from genetics and from past experience. Some horses can just get along ok with a sloppy trainer to some degree, other horses start getting very nervous and fearful, and due to additional adrenaline being pumped all the time, they can respond unpredictably to circumstances, and even dangerously so.

Here are 3 things to learn:

1. Always use the 4 levels of pressure in your interactions, starting with the softest cue.
2. Learn your Level 1 cues well so you always do them the same – predictable by being consistent.
3. Expect perfect response to your cue and always follow up on a cue if the horse didn’t respond as you ask. Always go up the ladder of pressure 2 - 3 - 4, don’t be nonchalant! That leads to unpredictability and inconsistency. If you do this, he feels comfortable and safe in “your herd”. And then you have a wonderful Partner!

Backcountry Film Festival

Wild Montana's Shining Mountains Chapter will host a live screening of the [Backcountry Film Festival](#) on Friday, January 20, in the Bitterroot Valley. Now in its 18th year, the Backcountry Film Festival shares inspiring stories of winter human-powered adventure, stewardship, and activism in the backcountry.

Support [your Wild Montana chapter](#) while enjoying a dozen powderific films.

Bitterroot festival attendees will have a chance to win a variety of fantastic prizes donated by local businesses. Prizes include a pair of Lost Trail lift tickets, maps from Cairn Cartographics, a Chapter One bookstore gift certificate, cross-country ski rentals for two, dinner at Bitterroot Brewing, and more! [Backcountry Film Festival](#)

Friday, January 20, 6 p.m. (Doors at 5:30 p.m.)

Hamilton City Hall

[223 S 2nd St, Hamilton](#)

Tickets: \$10 at the door

Presented by [Winter Wildlands Alliance](#), the Backcountry Film Festival encourages public support of stewardship, policy, and advocacy initiatives that align with Winter Wildlands Alliance's efforts to give solitude a voice. The film festival is a collage of human-powered stories and backcountry-inspired experiences designed to encourage us to have wild conversations and inspire us to celebrate the present while looking toward an even better future.

ODE to IAN TYSON

Ian Tyson, Canadian singer-songwriter who wrote several folk songs, including "Four Strong Winds" and "Someday Soon", and performed in the 1960's with partner Sylvia Tyson as the duo Ian & Sylvia; passed away at the age of 89 on December 29, 2022. He became a star attraction at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, with songs that referenced real cowboys, and songs of loves lost, such as "Navaho Rug" (written with Tom Russell). Called Canada's unofficial national anthem, Four Strong Winds was the signature tune of Tyson.



Editor's Note: In recognition of the 58th anniversary of passage of the WILDERNESS ACT, the following is the 5th installment of the ACT. Further installments are to be included in upcoming issues of Nag News. Also, it can be viewed in its entirety via the BRBCH website link.

WILDERNESS ACT
of September 3, 1964,

(P.L 88-577, 78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1 1 21 (note), 1 1 31-1136)

**To establish a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of
the whole people, and for other purposes.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Short Title

Sec 1. This Act may be cited as the "Wilderness Act" (16 U.S.C. 1 1 21 (note))

PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN USES

(c) Except as specifically provided for in this chapter, and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this chapter and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this chapter (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

(d) The following special provisions are hereby made: Within wilderness areas designated by this chapter the use of aircraft or motorboats, where these uses have already become established, may be permitted to continue subject to such restrictions as the Secretary of Agriculture deems desirable. In addition, such measures may be taken as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases, subject to such conditions as the Secretary deems desirable. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent within national forest wilderness areas any activity, including prospecting, for the purpose of gathering information about mineral or other resources, if such activity is carried on in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment. Furthermore, in accordance with such program as the Secretary of the Interior shall develop and conduct in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, such areas shall be surveyed on a planned, recurring basis consistent with the concept of wilderness preservation by the United States Geological Survey and the United States Bureau of Mines to determine the mineral values, if any, that may be present; and the results of such surveys shall be made available to the public and submitted to the President and Congress.

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
(DRAFT) GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 15TH 2022

The December 2022 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Jan Bullock at 7:01 pm. The meeting was held at the Corvallis Grange. Approximately 38 members were present, with a Board quorum. Brad Pollman led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting. Guests: Shane Yaskus (FWP)

BUSINESS

Minutes: The Nov minutes were printed in the December Nag News; there were no corrections. **Brad Pollman motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to accept the Nov general meeting minutes. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barb presented the December treasurer's report – there were no updates. **Gene Merrell motioned and Bonnie Morgan seconded to accept the Dec treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Safety Moment: Jan noted that trapping is occurring now and traps are not marked, so keep your dogs under control. See Footloose Montana (Jan and Ed can do a presentation) for info on how to release a pet from a trap. Shane Yaskus noted that wolf foothold traps have a bigger setback from trails than coyote traps. Bobcat traps have a visual attractant. Brad asked whether traps are around recreation areas or trailheads – that will be checked with the FS. There was discussion about releasing dogs from foothold traps and snares (use a cable cutter).

Membership Application: Leslie has membership forms to sign up for 2023.

Dec Meeting Members Raffle: Leslie noted members signed up for 2023 are eligible to choose an item from the raffle table. Numbers will be called throughout the meeting. Donations from businesses include: Tammany Veterinary Hospital - equine dental, Cowpoke - packer pellets, Murdoch's - framed prints, and Lakeland Feed - horse treats.

Pantry Partners Christmas Food Box Pack Follow Up: Gene noted the event was very successful this year. Boxes and food were setup on Monday, and 220 boxes were packed on Tuesday in 40 minutes. It was a very efficient and fun event.

2023 Coffee and Hot Water Signup: Kathy passed around the 2023 signup form.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: Jan noted that Carol said there was no pressing issues. Brad said there is a comment period on a land swap in the Crazy Mountains that has some concerns, and BCH MT will see if it affects the BCH mission statement. Maps and info are available on line.

Projects: Dan M said Jake Long (FS recreation specialist) has reserved the East Fork cabin over July 3-5, 2023, for BRBCH to do site barbed wire cleanup. A trail project may be coordinated at the same time.

State Directors: Brad said the state meeting is Sat, 12/17, in Missoula. The 2023 convention packet will be available. Let Brad know of anything that should be brought up at the meeting. BCHA is maintaining constant info/knowledge on ebikes across the US.

Education & Training: Bonnie has CMAX reserved on March 4 for DHS demonstration, March 25 and April 1 for obstacles. She will ask members what they would like to see in the demo class. Christy has project leadership workshop planned for March 18, location TBD. A packing workshop is a tentative possibility in the summer of 2023 – contact Ed Duggan if a member wants more packing info. Jan will conduct first aid training in mid-Jan and Feb. Saw training will be in April/May (must have FA certification). Bonnie sent around a sign-up sheet. DHS and saw certification is good for 3 years and FA is good for 2 years.

Membership: Leslie noted there are 24 memberships and 43 members for 2023; more are renewing this evening.

Outreach: Check out the Facebook page for Discover the Bitterroot Forest. BRBCH activities are posted there.

Program: Contact Phil Torgerson if you have an idea for a program. Josh Lisbon, MPG Ranch, is planned for a Spring meeting to show the mountain lion research video.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Black Memorial at the Fairgrounds: Christy noted that the Board approved Barbara Black being added to the bench memorial. **Joan Scheffer motioned and Ed Duggan seconded to add Barbara's name to the bench. The motion passed.**

Grant Committee: Grant writing and project suggestions that would be proposed for a grant were discussed. The grant committee is just forming – additional members are welcomed. Ideas include Mill Creek stock bridge, Boulder Creek trail route improvement, Larry Creek drainage ditches, and Calf Creek vault toilet and parking lot improvements.

NEW BUSINESS

Audit Committee: Joe Kirkland is chairing the committee, which includes Sean Kern, Judy Posey, Bonnie Morgan, and Cheyenne Grinnell. They will work with Barb to conduct the audit.

Budget Committee: Gene Merrell is chairing the committee, which includes Cheyenne Grinnell,

Julie Schram, and Judy Posey. They will get together in early 2023.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting: Jan 19 at the Corvallis School Cafeteria, potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm. Coffee: Diane Duffie, Hot Water: Cheyenne Grinnell

Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Travis Grinnell seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Kathy Stroppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN **DRAFT** BOARD MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 5TH, 2023

The January 2023 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order at 7:05 pm by Jan Bullock. Present were President Jan Bullock, VP Christy Schram-Duggan, Secretary Kathy Stroppel-Holl, and Treasurer Barb Walker (via phone). Also present were Board members Dan Brandborg, Diane Duffie, Travis Grinnell, Dennis Hardman, Carol Johns, Joe Kirkland, Dan Maiyo, and Brad Pollman; State Directors Brad Pollman, Chuck Miller (via phone), and Ed Duggan. Absent were Board member Karen Philips and Past President Gene Merrell. Diane Duffie led the pledge.

Committee Chairs present: Bonnie Morgan, Leslie Conner-Maiyo, Tim Meyer

BUSINESS

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

Treasurer's Report: Barb read the update on the account balances – there were no questions on the report. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Travis Grinnell seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.** Brad asked later in the meeting if quarterly and year

end reports could be provided. Barb has those ready and will email them to the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Board Members: Jan welcomed new Board members, Diane and Dennis, and new Alternate State Director, Ed.

Rapp Family Foundation Donation & Thank

You Card: The Rapp Family Foundation sent a \$1000 check to BRBCH for our work in the community. Kathy passed around a thank you card for the Board to sign, and she will mail it.

A past member and a relative of a current member recently passed away in Dec. Condolence cards were sent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit: Joe has coordinated with Barb, who is waiting for the last bank statement so she can close the books. He will then schedule a date to audit the books with Bonnie Morgan, Shawn Kern, and Judy Posey.

Budget: Gene and Cheyenne are waiting for Barbara to close the books on 2022. Barb will provide some line item info to Gene.

Issues: Carol spoke about a repeater station located in the West Pioneer Wilderness Study Area (WSA) that was moved from Deer Peak (temporary site) to Odell Mtn (permanent site).

Info on this FS activity was provided by Taylor Orr, who has spoken to the District Ranger about it. Issues are: wilderness character is not maintained, violation of 1977 MT Wilderness Study Act, no public input or scoping. The repeater was put in as a categorical exclusion. Taylor and others are pursuing filing a complaint. The Missoula BCH has signed on to support this action, and BRBCH has been asked to also support. (See State Directors below for further discussion.)

Projects: Dan B spoke to Mark Smith about meeting in January to discuss projects and dates; members are welcome to attend. Bonnie, Carol, Ed, and Jan are interested in attending the FS meeting with Dan. Proposed FS projects: Coyote Coulee, Larry Creek, East Fork Cabin, Upper Fred Burr, Bear Creek, and Boulder Creek. Mill, Blodgett, and Upper Big Creek may be handled by the FS, who may need pack support for them. Brad noted a state-wide agreement will be set up again. BRBCH needs to confirm the on-the-job FS communication strategy. BRBCH wants to use its own In-Reach radios, and provide day out/day back text to the FS. There was further discussion on other trails around the East Fork to clear and talking to FWP about Calf Creek. Brad suggested soliciting project support from the Missoula chapter for some larger projects.

State Directors: Brad spoke about the Dec 17 BCH MT meeting and brought the 2023 Convention packet for Barb. Registration can be done online. We need to pick 8 delegates + 1 alternate quickly, so folks can make their room reservations. The BCH MT Convention is April 14-16, and the BCHA meeting is April 16-19 at the same location. Raffle prizes are: Smoke Elser pack saddle, Henry rifle, homemade quilt, and Garmin In-Reach with one year subscription. Barb will handle raffle ticket distribution. State meeting discussions included: land swap in the Crazy Mtns to create better access, updated/revamped Defensive Horsemanship Safety (DHS) training manual (Bonnie will provide comments on behalf of BRBCH), and Regional Forester meeting in March to discuss various topics. Taylor Orr presented the Odell Mtn repeater station issue to BCH MT; the recommendation to BCH MT was to stay neutral until the Regional Forester was consulted. Brad suggested that BRBCH follow this approach as well. Chuck provided additional insight on this discussion. Brad discussed what WSAs are. Dan M noted that until further factual information is available and all remedies are studied, BRBCH should hold off on their opinion.

Membership: Leslie provided the names of members who are new and renewing. **Brad Pollman motioned and Dan Maiyo seconded to accept the new and renewal members. After**

further discussion, the motion carried. There are 40 memberships and 73 members for 2023.

Outreach: The 2022 East Fork Corral Project article and photos were submitted for the BCH MT newsletter. A shorter version will be sent to BCHA for the spring newsletter. Dan M was thanked for his work on the article.

Program: The January speaker is Shane Yaskus, FWP game warden for the northern Bitterroot region. He will discuss bear safety and proper food storage. Members are asked to submit speaker ideas to Phil Torgerson or Karen.

Education & Training: First Aid will be Jan 21, Project Leader Workshop will be March 18, DHS Demo will be March 4, and DHS Obstacles will be March 25 & April 1. Saw training dates are TBD.

OLD BUSINESS

General Meeting Locations: The Corvallis School District called Barb and let her know the cafeteria is no longer available this year because of the water pipe issue. The library is available for a meeting location for the rest of the year if needed (it is too small and has no kitchen facilities). The cafeteria is going to require major reconstruction so it will not be available in 2024 either. The Board discussed options for meeting locations, including the Corvallis Grange, the Golden Age Center, the Teller Refuge Slack Barn, and the Eagles Club. Folks will check the various places. Brad will check with the Corvallis School Board about future use of the cafeteria. Jan will check with the Grange.

NEW BUSINESS

2023 State Convention Delegates: The following folks volunteered to be delegates: Brad Pollman, Ed Duggan, Chuck Miller, Barb Walker, Travise Grinnell, Carol Johns, Christy S-D, and Jan Bullock. Kathy S-H will be the alternate unless someone else wants to attend. Christy explained how and what the chapter reimburses for delegates.

OTHER BUSINESS

Newsletter: There was a glitch putting the December newsletter on the website, and that has been remedied.

Board Pins: Pins will be presented to outgoing Board members at the general meeting.

Travise Grinnell motioned and Brad Pollman seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. The motion carried.

Kathy Stoppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH

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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, January 20th, 2023

Location:

Corvallis Grange Hall, 130 Dutch Hill Road

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

Visit our Website:

bchmt.org/bitterroot