



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

March 2023 Issue #3



BACKCOUNTRY 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.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16th 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. This month program speakers are the Corvallis High School's FFA Agricultural Issues Forum Team. They will practice their debate to improve their skills ahead of the state competition in late March. 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 THIS ISSUE

- President's Message
- Mules on the Oval
- BCH 50th Anniversary
- Defensive Horsemanship Clinic Report
- Rally For Public Lands Summary
- Horse Sense
- 7th and *final* Installment of the Wilderness Act
- February General Meeting Minutes (Draft)
- March Board Meeting Minutes (Draft)

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL 2023

**NAG NEWS is
Thursday, April
13, 2023**

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

***March 16th will be the last
opportunity to turn in raffle
tickets & money for the
state convention!***



A message from the BRBCH President

Hello Members,

I hope this letter finds you happy, healthy and enjoying the last of our Montana winter. Our working season has started with our first training session presented on March 4. We had 35 people attend our Defensive Horsemanship workshop held at C-Max Stables in Corvallis! Our training coordinator Bonnie Morgan presented information on how to work with stock on the trail to keep us all safe. Other presentations included tack fitting, how to condition your horse or mule for summer riding and the equipment used for packing! We all shared a wonderful free lunch of 3 kinds of chili, salads, muffins, desserts, coffee and donuts! Even though it was chilly outside, the sun was shining, and the "chili" inside warmed us up. The second part of this training will be 2 obstacle courses where you bring your animal and walk or ride through the obstacles. If you have not signed up for these clinics, please give Bonnie Morgan a call and she can get you on the list for either March 24 or April 1 at C-Max Stables.

We have just about finalized our work plans for this summer and those can be found on our website. Our first project will be Calf Creek in Hamilton on May 6. The Project Leader will soon be asking for volunteers to participate in trail and parking lot cleanup, repairing water bars, removing limbs from the trails, checking the fence line and cutting back brush for this work project.

And speaking of Project Leaders, our Project Leader Information class is coming up on March 18. A lot of you have signed up for this and that is absolutely wonderful! This class will include information on becoming a Project Leader, what forms are needed, how to work with the Forest Service folks, recruiting volunteers, tools needed and much more. We have 1 day work projects and overnight projects with campouts planned. Our goal is to have those interested in being Project Leaders step up and shadow a leader on a trail of your choice. This way new leaders will work with an experienced person and learn the ropes so to speak and will be helping our chapter fulfill its mission to continue to allow stock on public trails. The meeting will be at the Coffee Cup in Hamilton and lunch will be provided. There is no prior experience needed to be a Project leader. Contact Christy Shram-Duggan if you are interested.

Our next member meeting is coming up on Thursday, March 16, at the Corvallis Grange. Our speakers will be some local FFA young people that will be using us as an audience for their upcoming debate. We have invited them to our potluck so bring lots of goodies if you can to make them feel welcome!

So that is what is happening at this time. I hope to see you at the meeting and please remember to help someone who may have difficulty driving with by giving them a ride to the meeting. All folks are welcome!

See you then,
Jan Bullock, 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 Stoppel-Holl	2023	
Treasurer	Barbara Walker	2023	

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 Pollman	2023-24

State Director

Chuck Miller

Term
2023-24

Alt. State Director

Ed Duggan 2023

Past President

Gene Merrell

BCHMT State Chairman

Wade Murphy

UPCOMING EVENTS

Training, Bonnie Morgan

The Project Leader's workshop is full, with 24 of you signed up for a day of learning on March 18. A reminder letter will go out a week before.

There are still a few spaces left in the Obstacle Course, one on April 1 and 4 on March 25 at the C-Max stables. You will also get a reminder a week out to confirm details of the day. Spectators are welcome and I can use help the Friday evening before to set up the course, as well as help to take the course down each day. Saw training dates are still to be announced, but I still have the list circulated at several meetings. I will let you know when we are ready to begin trainings.

MULES ON THE OVAL

Press release - University of Montana campus Oval, March 28th, Noon – 1:00pm

Mules at UM to Promote Summer Programming – The U.S. Forest Service Northern Region Pack Train of mules will stroll onto the University of Montana Oval on Tuesday, March 28 at Noon. Its mission: raise awareness of summer course offerings and opportunities as part of the third annual UM Summer Kickoff.

The free meet-the-mules and packing experiential learning event will run for an hour and members of the media and public are welcome to attend. This appearance by the U.S. Forest Service Northern Region Pack Train is sponsored by the UM Summer Office, the UM College of Humanities & Sciences, Back Country Horsemen of Missoula and the U.S. Forest Service.

Based at the Ninemile Ranger Station outside Missoula, the mules do education events, help with community service and work for the Forest Service in Montana, Idaho, and North Dakota. The pack string will circle the Oval and stop for a packing demonstration on the Oval. This will be a hands-on experience where attendees will have the opportunity to try their hand at packing. The mules are led by Robin Connell, the regional pack train manager, Smoke Elser, local outfitter and conservationist, packers from Back Country Horsemen of Missoula and UM students. UM administrators will welcome the pack string to campus.

This event is also an opportunity for students, staff and community members to learn about summer courses and opportunities from various UM colleges, departments, and local nonprofit community partners, as well as to pick up some free snacks, promotional information and swag.

Among the classes this summer, students can learn about [“Wilderness Policy and Packing”](#) (May 22-June 9) and go on a five-day “Wilderness Pack Trip” (June 12-16) into the Bob Marshall Wilderness with Dr. Eva-Maria Maggi. Scholarships for the pack trip are made available from the Back Country Horsemen of Montana and local chapters, Grizzly Rider International, Connie Saylor Memorial Fund of the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation and UM’s Department of Political Science. Hands-on summer learning opportunities are a hallmark at UM, which is surrounded by some of nature’s greatest outdoor classrooms. To learn more about UM Summer, visit the [UM Summer website](#).



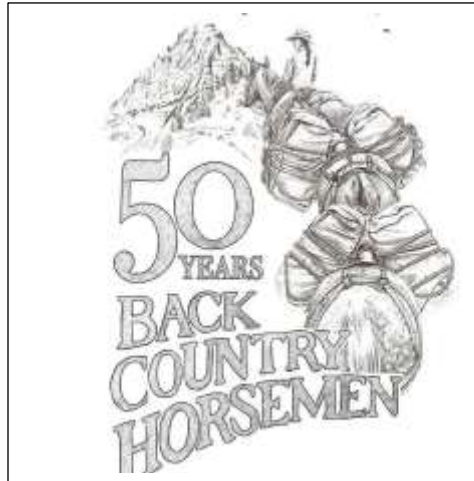
Back Country Horsemen 50th Anniversary Convention - 50 Years of Service

April 14th-16th Kalispell, MT

We are now under 40 days until the 2023 convention and would like to remind you that the cost of the banquet will increase to \$50 after March 14th due to catering and cost requirements. *You do not need to be a delegate to register!*

You are formally invited to register for the convention and download the Whova app for the 50th Convention. The app will help during the event to keep you up to date on all changes and locations, see the agenda, speaker information and allow interactions with other attendees. You should get an email with an invitation to download the app after registering, if you don't receive an email go to the convention website below to download. If you cannot make it to the event you can watch it being streamed by registering as a remote attendee from the Whova app.

It is with great honor that the Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead and Back Country Horsemen of Montana invite you to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the organization of the **Back Country Horsemen**. We are celebrating everyone who is, or ever has been, part of BCH. It doesn't matter if you have just become a member or if you have been a member for all 50 years - you are welcome to join us. For more information please go to the Convention website at <https://bchmt.org/wp/flathead/50-years/>



Rally for Public Lands

On Thursday, February 23rd, Noon – 1:00, outside of the Montana State Capitol Rotunda in Helena, almost 500 citizens braved sub-zero temperatures to attend the Public Lands Rally. BCH of MT, along with several BCH chapters and other outdoor-oriented groups, attended the event. Participants were there to show legislators their support for protecting clean air and water, wildlife habitat and access to our public lands. Kathy Stroppel-Holl and Karen Philips showed off our banner!



Defensive Horsemanship Safety

Bonnie Morgan –Training Committee Chair

Saturday, March 4, was our Defensive Horsemanship Safety Demonstration day at the C-Max Stables at 657 Bass Lane, Corvallis. Thank you each and every one for a great Defensive Horsemanship Safety clinic- speakers Jan B, Betsy R, Ed D, Christy S-D, Joe K, and Travise G, and the lovely lunch, chili, cornbread, all the fixings, salads, donuts, and desserts.



Good turnout on a frigid morning



Dr. Betsy Rogan discusses "Conditioning Your Horse"



Bonnie Morgan discusses "Trailer Loading and Backing"



Joe demonstrates the manty tie



Lots of yummy chilie



Ed explains a quick release knot

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406-961-4917

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

Six Tools for Vaporizing Anxiety



By Scott DePaolo, manager of Butte Creek Ranch, Boy Scouts of America for over 30 years. Edited from Eclectic Horseman Magazine, issue No. 108

We have a choice to go forward or back to safety. In horsemanship, a lot of people tend to step backwards into safety. "If something can go wrong, something will go wrong," we say. We bypass anxieties. We ride our horses with strings attached. "I'm a real horseman, but I don't go in the mountains because I'm not good enough," or "I don't perform for people because I'd hate to mess up," or "I don't load my horse on a trailer because you never know what could happen." Our human race has been known to be watchful, wired to stay away from a saber-tooth tiger.

It's not the big scary things we tend to worry about; it's the small things that get us, little by little, day after day after day.

So how do we vaporize anxiety? Here are six tools. Not all of these tools will work for everybody, but it's better to find two that work really well than remembering all six. These tools work in conjunction with learning how to use them. If we don't spend time practicing when we're not anxious, they're not going to work when we need them.

1. Guard self-talk. Sixty percent of self-talk is negative. We can realize what we are doing that's causing anxiety and change it by predetermining what to say with self-affirmation. "I" statements are most important for people who have poor self-talk. "I can," "I will," "I am." Ask, "What would I say to a best friend going through my situation?" Write out affirmations that can be read every morning and moved into the day with.
2. Breathe. Shallow, short breaths cause a fearful, flighty mind set, and nervousness results in short breaths and panic response because our bodies are saying, "You're suffocating." Deep breathing releases negative endorphins. Take 15-second breaths to change the focus to breathing and counting. Start with breathing out through the mouth in short puffs or "woosh" sounds. Then, breathe in through the nose for four seconds, out through mouth for seven, and in through the nose for six. Focus on really getting rid of anxiety with every exhale.
3. Power posture. We can unconsciously rate people by their appearance, and we perceive that those who have poor posture commonly lack confidence and self-respect. Look at a chicken's posture when she's taking care of her young; she makes herself as big as possible. Horsemen feel unstoppable when riding horses in power posture. This stance opens up the lungs, increases testosterone, and decreases cortisol for both men and women. Hold a power posture for two minutes by pulling shoulders back, keeping head and chest up, and standing up straight. Think of superheroes, like Wonder Woman or Superman, ready to do something super. Raising your arms up in a "V" for "victory" can have the same effect.
4. Feel a hair. We are only able to think about one thing at a time. If we stop to feel the intimate detail of any object, it will move the focus off of the fear. When driving, passing a semi-truck on a dark, rainy night, people often clench jaw muscles together and dwell on the thought process. Try taking a hand off of the wheel to feel every detail of the seat belt. It takes practice, but once there's a little success, the results are indescribable.

5. Say "I am excited." There is very little difference between the endorphin release of fear and excitement. Our minds can change the meaning. If we think about becoming happy, we will smile. If we smile, we will be happy. Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl said, "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." When I'm going on stage to speak, is what I'm feeling panic or excitement? Endorphins give a feeling we may not be used to. Step into that excitement, for "stop" actually means "go."

6. Just do. If we do the thing we fear, then fear will disappear. Thought precedes action, and action precedes feeling. Let's not hold back because we're not willing to fail or be embarrassed. Move on from there. Anxiety is common for almost anything we try to do the first two times. If we're willing to fail to be great at something that we're unsure of, we will grow in confidence.

Dr. Stan Beecham said, "Fear is keeping you from reaching your potential. Conquering fear should be your primary goal in life." Bull riders have no self-reservation; they are the ones who would be eaten by the saber-tooth tiger. We don't all need to be bull riders, but we're certainly not doing what we could. Let's pick up a tool that we can use tomorrow because the easiest way to change the world is to change ourselves.

Editor's Note: In recognition of the 58th anniversary of passage of the WILDERNESS ACT, the following is the 7th and **FINAL** installment of the ACT. 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))

STATE AND PRIVATE LANDS WITHIN WILDERNESS AREAS

Sec. 5. (a) In any case where State -owned or privately owned land is completely surrounded by national forest lands within areas designated by this chapter as wilderness, such State or private owner shall be given such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate access to such State -owned or privately owned land by such State or private owner and their successors in interest, or the State -owned land or privately owned land shall be exchanged for federally owned land in the same State of approximately equal value under authorities available to the Secretary of Agriculture: Provided, however, That the United States shall not transfer to a State or private owner any mineral interests unless the State or private owner relinquishes or causes to be relinquished to the United States the mineral interest in the surrounded land.

(b) In any case where valid mining claims or other valid occupancies are wholly within a designated national forest wilderness area, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, by reasonable regulations consistent with the preservation of the area as wilderness, permit ingress and egress to such surrounded areas by means which have been or are being customarily enjoyed with respect to other such areas similarly situated.

(c) Subject to the appropriation of funds by Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to acquire privately owned land within the perimeter of any area designated by this chapter as wilderness if (1) the owner concurs in such acquisition or (2) the acquisition is specifically authorized by Congress.

GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Sec. 6.(a) The Secretary of Agriculture may accept gifts or bequests of land within wilderness areas designated by this chapter for preservation as wilderness. The Secretary of Agriculture may also accept gifts or bequests of land adjacent to wilderness areas designated by this chapter for preservation as wilderness if he has given sixty days advance notice thereof to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Land accepted by the Secretary of Agriculture under this section shall become part of the wilderness area involved. Regulations with regard to any such land may be in accordance with such agreements, consistent with the policy of this chapter, as are made at the time of such gift, or such conditions, consistent with such policy, as may be included in, and accepted with, such bequest.

(b) Authorization to accept private contributions and gifts The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept private contributions and gifts to be used to further the purposes of this chapter.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Sec.7. At the opening of each session of Congress, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior shall jointly report to the President for transmission to Congress on the status of the wilderness system, including a list and descriptions of the areas in the system, regulations in effect, and other pertinent information, together with any recommendations they may care to make.(16 U.S.C. 11 36)

APPROVED SEPTEMBER 3, 1964

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN (DRAFT) GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 16TH 2023

The February 2023 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Jan Bullock at 7:04 pm. The meeting was held at the Corvallis Grange. Approximately 45 members were present, with a Board quorum. Chuck Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting.

Guests: Dick Renfro, Joe & Teresa Mueller, Adam & Ava Onsrud.

PROGRAM

Adam Onsrud, Bitterroot Weed Management: Dan Maiyo introduced Adam, who discussed noxious weeds and preparing your stock to reduce weeds in the backcountry. He graduated from UM, worked for the FS doing invasive weed work in the backcountry, and started his business in 2012. He touched on several poisonous plants of the Bitterroot Valley, including hoary alyssum, leafy spurge (very deep root system), houndstongue, blueweed, Russian knapweed, black henbane (one of the most toxic), nightshade, hemlocks, lupine, death camas, larkspur, chokecherry, milkweed, and false hellbane. Weeds found on trails can be problematic and compete with native plants. What you feed your stock is what comes out on the trail, so feed weed seed-free forage 2 days ahead of

riding in and bring the same forage on your trip. Groom your animals at home to get of seeds before riding. Mitigate the weed issue on your property before it becomes a problem. Let the FS know if you see a weed infestation in the backcountry. Weeds at trailheads and the first trail mile are usually managed by the FS. Adam will start spraying in March for cheatgrass, while most other weeds are sprayed in May and June.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The January minutes were printed in the February Nag News; there were no corrections. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Julie Schram seconded to accept the January general meeting minutes. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barb presented the February treasurer's report - there were no updates. **Karen Philips motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to accept the February treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

BUSINESS

Minutes: The January minutes were printed in the February Nag News; there were no corrections. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Julie Schram seconded to accept the January general meeting minutes. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barb presented the February treasurer's report – there were no updates. **Karen Philips motioned and Travis Grinnell seconded to accept the February treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Safety Moment: The weeds are coming, be prepared for riding. Brad suggested feeding your stock pellets or cubes (soaked) ahead of time so they can get used to them.

Haven House Letter: They sent a nice thank you letter to BRBCH for our December 2022 donation.

Training Sign Ups: Bonnie has signup sheets for DHS demo, food, DHS obstacle course, and project leader workshop.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit: Jan noted the audit by Joe and the committee was good thanks to excellent record keeping by Barb.

Budget: Gene presented the Board-approved 2023 budget. He discussed several items, including the reasons for \$1700 deficit between income and expenses. The goal is to have an operating budget of ~\$20K/year. He encouraged the members to ask around businesses and neighbors if they would be interested in donating to the chapter to support what we do. Brad explained how our bank accounts got to where they are at from very successful convention raffle ticket sales. **Karen Philips motioned and Katie Williams seconded to accept the BRBCH 2023 budget. The motion carried.**

Issues: Carol said two bobcat traps were found on the west end of Lake Como in the bridge area. Footloose has a list of items to carry if your dog gets caught, including a cable cutter. The state legislature has redefined electric bikes as being non-motorized – this applies only to state land such as Calf Creek, Sawdust, and Three-Mile. The MT House is looking to re-designate 20% of the voter-approved marijuana tax set aside for habitat purchase to be used elsewhere. She also spoke about suggested federal legislation to use federal lands for housing. The Bitterroot Forest Plan comment period is through March 3. Brad spoke about 2 State bills that aren't decided yet, so contact your representative to comment on them.

Projects: Jan presented the updated 2023 project list. Prospective projects include: Calf Creek (May 6), Coyote Coulee, Larry Creek (June 3), Gold Creek, Upper Big Creek, Bear Creek, East Fork cabin area and trails (July 4-6), Blodgett Creek, Boulder Creek, Upper Fred Burr, Two Good Cabin trails, St Mary lookout support, and Como horse camp picnic tables (May 13).

State Directors: Brad spoke with the State Chair about the 5-yr FS volunteer agreement. Chuck noted the Lolo NF is revising its forest plan.

Education & Training: Bonnie said two First Aid training sessions are done. She spoke on the upcoming DHS demonstration on March 4 and what topics will be presented. Backing trailers will be one of the presentations! The Duggans have lots of burger available for making chili – see them to get some. DHS obstacles are on March 25 and April 1 with 40 slots available. Christy spoke on project leader training workshop on March 18 from 9-2 at Coffee Cup; food will be provided. Brad spoke about saw training – Brad, Dan B, and Ed D are due to have their trainer certs updated. He expects end-March/mid-April for member saw training. Members who will be working projects will have priority for training. Saw renewals can be done on projects. Firearm certification for carrying on FS projects is good for 3 years.

Membership: Leslie reported there are currently 63 memberships and 109 members.

Outreach: Karen said the Public Lands Rally is Feb 23 in Helena, with free bus rides if signed up by Feb 19. Buses will be staged at Scheel's parking lot.

Program: Phil noted the speaker for March is being worked on. Give him suggestions if you have one. A K-9 officer could be a future speaker.

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

OLD BUSINESS

State Convention Raffle Tickets: Barb has tickets if you want to buy or sell them. Prizes include a Smoke Elser pack saddle, 50th anniversary handmade quilt, Henry rifle, and Garmin In-Reach mini with one-year subscription.

2023 State Convention Non-Delegate

Attendance: Jan noted anyone can attend the state convention. Non-delegates would have to pay for their meals and lodging. Parts of the convention meetings will be broadcast via Zoom.

Chapter Item for 2023 Convention Live

Auction: Bonnie made a mohair cinch to donate as BRBCH's contribution to the State live auction.

Outdoor Meetings: The summer meetings will be held on 6/15 at Coyote Coulee, 7/20 at Larry Creek, and 8/17 at Three Sisters group site at Lake Como. Jan will check availability at Como.

NEW BUSINESS

First Aid Kits: Jan needs one or two folks to go through, inventory, and order any needed supplies. Judy and Ross Posey and Leslie Conner-Maiyo volunteered to handle this. It needs to be done by May 1 before the first project.

UM Wilderness Policy and Packing Class Donation: Karen discussed the UM class taught by Eva-Maria Maggi (BRBCH member) that has a packing component. The Board approved a \$1000 donation for students to go on the pack trip, and it was presented to the members to vote on. **Julie Schram motioned and Ed Duggan seconded to approve the \$1000 donation. The motion carried.** Karen will let Eva know of this approval. Past scholarship recipients have spoken about their packing experience at a BRBCH outdoor meeting. Eva is also writing a book about Smoke Elser's stories. She will be doing a book reading session at the State convention.

OTHER BUSINESS

Youth Outdoor Events: Bob Driggers noted an organization sponsoring youth outdoor scholarships is having a fundraising banquet on Mar 11 at St Mary's Family Center in Stevi.

Post-meeting note: The Teller Wildlife Refuge will have their annual Youth Conservation & Education Expo on May 20 at the Slack Barn with their usual sponsors and many organizations participating.

Next Meeting: Mar 16 at the Grange, potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm. Coffee: Bonnie Morgan, Hot Water: Christy Schram-Duggan

Karen Philips motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Kathy Stroppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

***DRAFT* BOARD MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 2nd, 2023**

The March 2023 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order at 7:04 pm by Jan Bullock. Present were President Jan Bullock, VP Christy Schram-Duggan, Secretary Kathy Stroppel-Holl, and Treasurer Barb Walker; Board members Dan Brandborg, Diane Duffie, Travise Grinnell, Dennis Hardman, Carol Johns, Joe Kirkland, Dan Maiyo, and Karen Philips; State Director Chuck Miller and Alt State Director Ed Duggan; and Past President Gene Merrell. Absent was Board Member Brad Pollman. Dan B led the pledge.

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

BUSINESS

Minutes: The February 2023 meeting minutes were published in the February Nag News – there were no updates. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Gene Merrell 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. **Karen Philips motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Google Drive Update: Tim spoke about the link to the Google Drive and setting up accounts for folks to upload to the drive. If someone already has a Google account, they would need to make a link to access the BRBCH drives. He provided a printout on how to access the drive. Tim would like an assistant as backup to him – Travise volunteered.

Tim would like accounts for the newsletter, projects, treasurer, and a couple others. He worked with Kathy to set up the Minutes Drive, and the 2007-2018 and 2022 Minutes (and some agendas) Word files were uploaded in easy drag and drop fashion. Tim will ask if a volunteer from the membership would also like to help.

Larry Creek Parking Lot Signage: Bonnie provided a letter from member Lori Conner regarding the need for signage at the Larry Creek parking lot. Several folks noted that this is a FS issue, and that there may be plans to expand the parking lot. Jan will contact Steve Brown, Stevi Ranger District, about this concern. Lori's letter will be forwarded to Steve Brown.

Mules on the Oval: Karen spoke of this upcoming event at the UM Oval on March 23, 12-1pm. Eva Maria Maggi has sponsored this event for a few years to highlight her Wilderness Policy and Packing class. Karen will help at the event.

Public Lands Rally: Kathy and Karen attended the Public Lands Rally at the capital in Helena on Feb 23. They traveled from Missoula with ~50 others on a bus provided by Wild Montana, one of the rally sponsors. The rally attracted several hundred brave souls who stood out in -3°F temperatures to decry legislative attempts to take money away from Habitat Montana, a public land program to protect critical wildlife habitat, maintain traditional working lands, and provide public access to the outdoors. Habitat Montana is funded by voter-approved tax revenue from recreational marijuana sales. A bill has been put

forward to divert this revenue to another use. The rally also brought awareness to a legislative bill to change the MT constitution and delete wording for the right to a clean and healthful environment (Article II, Section 3). Four excellent speakers kept their messages concise and on target, including a Native American, a rancher, a young teacher, and a conservation director for an outdoor media company. BCH MT is one of the several organizations that supported this rally. For more info on HB 462 and contacting your legislator, go to <https://p2a.co/zZAi0KS>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: Carol spoke about HB 462 that is still in committee – the bill looks to revise tax revenue distribution. Gross receipts from marijuana sales in 2022 were over \$30M, with 20% going to Habitat MT. About \$7-8 M would be cut from Habitat MT if the bill passes. SB 357 limits the term of conservation easements to 40 years – it has been tabled. HB 261 was to revise e-bike laws – it failed. Laura Lundquist wrote a good article for Missoula Current about Holland Lake and the actions the FS took in favor of development there.

Projects: Dan noted 8 projects have leaders so far, Larry Creek, Calf Creek, Bear Creek, East Fork Guard Station and Trails, Boulder Creek, St. Mary's Lookout Resupply, and Como Horse Camp Picnic Tables. Projects on the website need to be updated. Joe asked about the FS packers doing St. Mary's– the FS is happy using BRBCH packers. Christy noted FS Job Hazard Analyses are needed so they can be signed. Gene said there have been conversations to coordinate some projects with the Bitterroot Backcountry Cyclists, such as packing in tools. Need solid dates to make this work, and it is still in the working phase. Gene asked if the Board would support him going to a BBC meeting to pursue this collaboration - all agreed he should.

State Directors: Chuck reported that legislative issues have been emailed to the membership on which to comment.

Membership: Leslie provided the names of members who are new and renewing. The new members and members who need to need to pay their renewals were discussed. **Karen Philips motioned and Christy Schram-Duggan seconded to accept the new and renewal members who have paid. The motion carried.** There are 71 memberships and 123 members.

Outreach: Karen reported that the Public Lands Rally and Defensive Horseman Safety are on the Facebook page.

Program: The March program speaker was discussed (still need someone). Bonnie will check on a debate team to present at the meeting – she

will attend their presentation to the driving club and report back to the Board. Katie Williams suggested Chad Duvall from Red Barn discuss e-bikes for educational purposes – the June meeting was suggested so he can bring bikes. Christy suggested the Corvallis FFA could be a good speaker. Betsy Rogan was suggested to speak about spring grazing. A Facebook note will be posted about Tammany Vet holding a lameness clinic on March 22.

Education & Training: DHS Demo will be March 4. Travis put a notice in the papers and on Facebook; it is open to the public. Bonnie discussed the prep work is in good shape. DHS Obstacles will be March 25 & April 1; they are filling up fast. Saw training dates are still TBD. The FS is revamping its saw program, and their staff has to be certified first; BRBCH will be handled after that. Bonnie will contact FS Region 1 regarding training at Powell. Christy spoke about the Project Leader Training Guide and the input needed on it. The PL Workshop is March 18 at the Coffee Cup; 24 folks are signed up. Food will be provided, with \$10/person budgeted – this will be funded thru the food budget. Christy wants new folks to be paired with seasoned PLs on the 2023 projects.

OLD BUSINESS

Statewide FS Agreement: Should be ready in a couple weeks; working on a 5-year agreement.

Meeting Places: Jan stopped at Roots and spoke with a person about BRBCH's needs to use the place; it is in the queue for consideration. The Corvallis School District has BRBCH on its list to continue use there. Jan checked with other places – the Fire Departments have training on Thursdays, and the Catholic Church is also not available. The Board discussed if another day of the week were to be available, would it be worthwhile to change the meeting day – this will be considered if necessary, although several thought it wouldn't fly.

NEW BUSINESS

Convention Delegates Mileage Rate & Food Per Diem: Christy checked MACO for state/county mileage reimbursement, which is \$0.655/mile. This year's convention registration is only for the Sat dinner and no other costs, whereas past convention registration fees also covered Sat and Sun meals. She suggested a food per diem that reflects GSA rates, about \$64/day or \$108 for 2 days, be considered for the delegates. There was further discussion on the topics. Provide receipts to Barb. Registration costs are so low that the budgeted convention expenses will easily cover total anticipated individual food and mileage costs. **Karen Philips motioned and Diane Duffie**

seconded that BRBCH pay for delegate convention mileage. The motion carried.

Electric Saw: Dan B suggested the old Stihl hedge trimmer be sold and the cash used to buy a new electric saw. Discussion revolved around trading in the Stihl for an electric saw, donating the Stihl to the next State convention, or checking with the Stihl business in Stevi. Obtaining a new saw and batteries will be brought up to the membership. Dan B will do more research on costs; it could run about \$1000 for the saw, battery, and charger. There was additional discussion on saw size, power, and use in the front country.

OTHER BUSINESS

Kiwanis Speaker: Jan will speak about BRBCH to the Kiwanis group on March 29, at BJ's restaurant, 12-12:30.

Newsletter Articles: Dan M called and thanked Deb Schatz, Decker Dispatch editor, for publishing the East Fork Corral Project. He also sent that article plus the Larry Creek culvert story to Michelle Wade, for the BCHA newsletter; she will send it to the BCHA Board for approval.

BRBCH Clothing: Barb asked about getting a clothing order done. Travise said Nancy P directed him to the embroidery person she used in the past. This will be brought up at the March general meeting.

Karen motioned and Travise seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm. The motion carried.

Kathy Stroppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH



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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, March 16th, 2023

Location:

Corvallis Grange Hall, 130 Dutch Hill Road

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

Visit our Website:

bchmt.org/bitterroot