



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

June 2023 Issue #6



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, JUNE 15TH 2023 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING Coyote Coulee Trailhead

Pot Luck Dinner: 6:30 pm

Meeting: 7:00 pm

To reach the Coyote Coulee Trailhead, on Hwy 93 drive approximately 9 miles south from Hamilton and turn west onto Lost Horse Road, continue for 2 miles and veer right at the sign for Coyote Coulee and Camas Lake onto FS Road 496. The trailhead is ¼ mile ahead.

A potluck dinner will be served at 6:30 pm followed by our monthly meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm. This month the program speaker is **Chad DeVall**, owner of Red Barn Bikes, who will describe and demonstrate the e-bikes he brings. 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
- Project List
- Larry Creek project Follow Up
- Monture Ranger Station Rendezvous
- Horse Sense
- Back Country Kitchen
- May General Meeting Minutes (Draft)
- June Board Meeting Minutes (Draft)

**DEADLINE FOR THE
JUNE 2023
NAG NEWS is
Thursday, July 13th**

**SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES
AND ADS TO:**

djmaiyo@gmail.com



Editor's Note....

Dear BRBCH Members,

Due to circumstances beyond her control, Jan is unable to provide a president's message this month. However, that does not preclude yours truly from humbly filling in some valuable information.

Lots o' stuff has been and is in the pipe for this month. On Saturday June 3rd BRBCH members successfully completed Level 1 trail work on the Larry Creek trail system. Coming up on Saturday June 17th is Level 1 maintenance at Coyote Coulee, and from Friday June 23rd – Saturday the 24th starting at the Boulder Creek Campground is Level 1 maintenance on the Boulder Creek Trail with a two night stay at 7-mile meadow.

Also on the weekend of June 23rd is the annual Monture Guard Station Rendezvous just north of Ovando. A rundown of these and more projects and events will be presented at our upcoming general meeting and potluck dinner at the Coyote Coulee trailhead this Thursday the 15th. That will round out monsoon June.

The East Fork Guard Station is reserved July 3rd – noon July 5th. We will be rolling up old wire fence and performing miscellaneous duties. Bring your camper. Bring your horse. Escape the fireworks! Dinner to be provided the evening of July 4th. A trail clearing project is also tentatively scheduled near the East Fork starting the 4th.

Finally, If you haven't signed up for the Monture Gathering yet, there is still time. The deadline to purchase tickets for the catered Saturday evening dinner is June 17th. Cost is \$10 per person; please make checks payable to BCHMT. Please send checks to 2130 9th Street West #109, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Please feel free to reach out to the Rendezvous committee if you have any questions or ideas.

Scott Kiser: 406-260-8398
scott.kisermt@gmail.com

Mark Potter: 406-250-3965
mark.potter@mso.umt.edu

Bonnie Kiser: 406-253-0177
bonniekiser@centurytel.net

Thank you one and all for your hard work and dedication. May the Horse be with you! Stay safe!

Dan Maiyo
Nag News Editor



2023 Committees

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

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

Brad Pollman	2022-23
Chuck Miller	2023-24

Alt. State Director

Ed Duggan	2023
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Past President

Gene Merrell

BCHMT State Chairman

Wade Murphy

BCHMT National Director

Brad Pollman 2023-24

Remaining Project List: June – August 2023

- **Coyote Coulee - Date: June 17, 2023**

Project Leader: Julie Schram - Level 1 maintenance. Clear trail on both loops.

Directions: From Hamilton, drive approximately 9 miles south on Hwy 93 and turn west onto Lost Horse Road, continue for 2 miles and veer right at the sign for Coyote Coulee and Camas Lake onto FS Road 496. The trailhead is ¼ mile ahead.

- **Boulder Creek - Dates: June 23-25, 2023**

Project Leader: Dan Brandborg - Level 1 maintenance. Two night stay at 7-mile meadow.

Directions: From the Darby Post Office, drive 4.4 miles south on Hwy 93. Turn right on Route 473, the West Fork Road. Drive 14 miles to the Boulder Creek Road, marked by a Forest Service sign for the “Boulder Creek Campground” Turn right and follow this road 1.4 miles to the campground/trailhead area.

- **East Fork Guard Station - Date: July 3-5, 2023**

Project Leader: Dan Maiyo – Roll up old wire fence through site, finish corral re-build as needed. Meals to be planned. Camp at guard station.

Directions: From Sula, drive approximately 15 miles northeast from the intersection of State Hwy 93 and East Fork Road, 18 miles south of Darby, Montana, along the East Fork of the Bitterroot River. The paved road ends and gravel road continues for another mile until you cross a bridge, then turn right at the sign for the East Fork Guard Station.

- **East Fork – Various Trails - Date: Exact Date TBD (around July 4, 2023)**

Project Leader: Carol Johns - Trail clearing on trails near Guard Station. Camp at East Fork Guard Station.

- **Bear Creek - Date: July 21-23, 2023**

Project Leader: Joe Kirkland - Clear trail and possible connection to Big Creek. Attend all or part as you're able.

- **St. Mary's Lookout Support - Dates: Multiple Dates – TBD**

Project Leader: Ed Duggan - Pack Support/Re-supply: 3 or 4 resupplies to Lookout, Mid-July to early September.

- **Fred Burr Upper Trail - Date: TBD, Project Leader: Dan Brandborg**

LARRY CREEK PROJECT FOLLOW-UP By Nancy Pollman

On National Trails Day, Saturday June 3rd, an amazing group of 21 volunteers gathered at the Larry Creek Trailhead in Stevensville, MT for its annual trail project. The site is located approximately 3.7 miles north from Stevensville on Hwy 93, and is accessed from FS road #1316 at the terminus of Bass Creek Road, 3 miles west of the intersection of Hwy 93 and Bass Creek Road. Located within the Bass Creek Recreation Area, the site is administered by the USDA Forest Service, Stevensville Ranger District.

Project Leaders Brad & Nancy Pollman performed the safety briefing, which included an overview of how to clean the rolling dips. We're all familiar with the process for cleaning water bars, but rolling dips, which have more recently been added to this trail system, do not require the annual maintenance like water bars do.

Over a period of years the bottom of the rolling dips can end up lower than the side(s), which creates puddles, requiring the sides to be lowered and a path created for water to exit. Members were on the trail about 9 a.m. and back by 12:30 p.m. to settle in and enjoy a meal while sharing all that had been accomplished within the past few hours. Requested recipes are provided in this newsletter!

A couple members had started their work previous to this date: Laura McManus came to clean the parking lot prior to it being so full and busy as she knew it would be this day. A couple of weeks prior Brad cleaned out the manure bin, hauling the

contents off-site. The manure bin signs, which read "So we don't end up knee-deep in poop, please use this bin and handy scoop" now have a small addition that reads "Please, no dog baggies. They do not compost." Personally, I don't understand why – in this environment – folks don't just let it disintegrate with the weather or push it out of the way if in too offensive a location, rather than putting it in plastic and leaving it for others to take care of. Anyways, back to our progress...

Our group of 21 consisted of 8 riders and 13 hikers. Groups were formed which allowed most of the trail system to be covered, including the Nature Trail that is handicapped accessible. Each group returned with markings on their map showing the routes covered, work performed, and locations marked where some problem areas may need more work in the future. Max and Kathy unearthed an old dump site which probably originated prior to the trail system; some of the debris was removed but since it wasn't in the path of the trail, the decision was made not to dig too deep for fear of what else may be found!

A quick shout-out and thank you from the co-chairs to all who participated in the project: Joan Scheffer, Travise & Cheyenne Grinnell, Julie Schram, Dennis Hardman, Diane Duffie, Max & Kathy Stoppel, Virginia DeLeo, Dan & Leslie Maiyo, Karen Philips, Bonnie Morgan, Jan Bullock, Barb Walker, Pam Ristad, Ed & Christy Duggan, and Laura McManus.



MONTURE BCHMT 2023 RENDEZVOUS

*** FREE CAMPING AND CLINIC ***

Come for all, a day, or just for the Saturday BBQ!

**Back Country Horsemen of Montana
2023 Rendezvous camp and ride
at Monture Ranger Station - June 23-25, 2023**

The Monture Guard Station is about 8 miles north of Highway 200 near Ovando, MT. It is a main trailhead for entry into the south end of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

We have permission to use the historic guard station with plenty of room to set up your high line or portable corrals. Lots of room to park your trailers and campers too.

The public trailhead (Monture Creek) across the creek from the station has corrals, feed bunks, and hitch rails. There are several trails in the area for all riding abilities.

Bring weed-free hay for your horses and mules. There is water for your horses in Monture Creek and multiple hydrants around the property. Please plan to provide meals for you and your family with the exception of the Saturday evening BBQ.

Dinner tickets for Saturday night need to be purchased by June 17th for \$10 each meal, please send payment to: **BCHMT Monture Rendezvous**

2130 9th St. W. #109

Columbia Falls, MT 59912

All are welcome to arrive on Thursday afternoon, set up camp, ride trails on your own and then share good company around campfire. Maybe Wade will play guitar for us too... *hint..hint..*

For more information contact:

Scott Kiser, 406-260-8398 or Mark Potter, 406-250-3965, or scott.kisermt@gmail.com.

Thursday Afternoon:

Arrive and Ride on your own

Friday Morning:

Ride the trails on your own

Friday Afternoon,

2-5 pm - Horseback clinic

Taught by Wade Murphy

Limited to 12 riders

To reserve your space,

Contact Wade to 406-431-1717

wadeandlonnie@hotmail.com

Friday Evening:

No-Host Campfire Gathering

Everyone is welcome to watch the clinics from the sidelines. Please bring a lawn chair.

Saturday Morning:

Ride the trails on your own

Saturday Afternoon:

2:00-4:00 pm-Groundwork Clinic

Taught by Wade Murphy

4:30 pm - Light On The Land -

Awareness Course by Mack Long

6:00 pm - Catered Group BBQ

& Stories at Campfire

Sunday: Enjoy a ride then head home.

See you next year.

Horse Sense

Sponsored by:



We carry all your equine vaccination and deworming needs, plus a large supply of animal health products.

Visit us in Corvallis or Deer Lodge,
on Facebook, or

www.cowpokeranchsupply.com

406-961-4917

Monday – Friday 8 – 5:30

Saturday – 9 – 4

Importance of a Safety Check

Completing a good safety check every time you mount only takes a few moments and will allow you to enjoy a lifetime of incident-free riding.

1. Start with yourself, making sure that you are dressed for success. Long pants, good riding boots, with a smooth sole and heel, clothing that is neither too tight nor too loose, no hanging items that could get caught (especially around the neck), as well as proper, protective headgear. Wear either an ASTM-certified helmet or a western style hat. Also, check your attitude. This can oftentimes be one of the most important parts of the safety check. Be mentally ready, present, and an encouragement to yourself by using positive self-talk.

2. Your horse is your partner, and as the herd leader, you are expected to make sure he or she is able to perform. Check for any cuts, wounds, abrasions, swelling or hot spots. Pay attention to your horse's attitude, making sure that they are able and ready to be a willing partner. Do enough groundwork to establish a baseline for a quality relationship. A little extra time doing groundwork to make sure your horse is comfortable and willing is well worth the effort.

3. Your tack. This can oftentimes be an area that some riders ignore or don't understand fully. Saddle pads or blankets need to be cleaned and free of debris. Hay and pine needles can cause irritation and sores; pick or brush them away. Ensure there are no folds or wrinkles, and your saddle pad should be pulled up into the gullet of the saddle. Blanket and saddle pads should be straight and even with as much extra in front of your saddle as in the back. The saddle should be fit properly and match the horse's back. The underside should be routinely checked for lump, bump, and nails protruding through the fleece. The saddle should be properly set in the saddle

pockets on the horse's back, just on and behind the withers. As you go to the off side, make sure no straps or saddle strings are tucked under the saddle. Carefully inspect all of the components that hold your saddle securely to your horse. This would include the rigging, D-rings, latigo, as well as the cinch or girth. They should be free of cracks and have appropriate but not excessive wear. Inspect all of the components that hold you in the saddle. This mostly means stirrups, stirrup leathers and fenders. All of these items should be crack and tear free as well as supple enough to move freely. Also important but oftentimes neglected is the bridle. A bridle should not only be in good repair, adjusted properly and fit to the horse comfortably; it should also be appropriate for the level of knowledge and training of both horse and rider. If you are using the headgear commonly used for the horse, check wear areas, chicago screws, and proper adjustment.

4. The environment. This will include all of your surroundings. If you are in an arena, it may mean that you check that gates are shut, that all of the obstacles and equipment you will not use are picked up. Don't forget to do a once-over of the fencing. Be observant of items such as coats, chip boards, banners, mounting blocks, trot poles, flags and all other spooky things that accumulate in a riding area. The environment also includes the weather: cold, hot, wet, windy, or icy. Are you prepared? Maybe it's not a big deal on a short trail ride, but if you are going to be out all day, what will you need? What if you or someone you are riding with has an emergency?

A good safety check should be a habit for every time you mount. It is that simple and takes just a few moments. That what is easy to do is also easy not to do.



CHERYL'S COLE SLAW

...Shared by Nancy Pollman

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 medium head cabbage, shredded
- 2 medium carrots, peeled and grated
- 1 green bell pepper, diced
- 2 T finely chopped onions

Dressing:

Mix together and add to cabbage mixture

- 1 C mayo
- 1/3 C sugar
- 1/8 C Dijon mustard
- 1/8 C cider vinegar
- 1 T celery seed
- 1/2 t salt
- 1/8 t pepper

RHUBARB DREAM BARS ...Shared by Nancy Pollman

Crust:

- 2 C flour
- 3/4 C powdered sugar
- 1 C butter
- Mix crust and press into 9" x 13" pan. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes. (Do not overbake at this stage because it will be baking a lot longer later on.)

Filling:

- 4 eggs, hand-beaten
- 2 C sugar
- 1/4 C flour
- 1/2 t salt
- 4 C rhubarb, chopped
- Combine eggs, sugar, flour, and salt. Mix (do not beat). Fold in rhubarb. Pour on top of baked crust. Bake at 350° for 40-55 minutes until set and edges start to brown.

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN **(DRAFT) GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, MAYTH 2023**

The May 2023 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 Grange. Approximately 40 members were present, with a Board quorum. Julie Schram led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting.

Guests: Wendy Ohnstad; Zac & Justin Murray, Riley Curry

PROGRAM

Christy Schram-Duggan, Project Forms: Christy went over the project binder and forms for FS projects. The notebook will travel from project leader to the next project leader. Christy holds the master binder. There are several forms the PL needs to track and fill in. The info on these forms is also used by BCH MT to reimburse for mileage and track hours and stock use. If a child is brought on a project, be sure to contact Christy ahead of time to get permissions done. Christy also spoke about and showed the Garmin Mini In-Reach. The FS dispatch number will be programmed into it. Luke Barrett, FS Partnership Coordinator, spoke a bit about training with dispatch with the Garmin.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The April minutes were printed in the April Nag News; there were no corrections. **Karen Philips motioned and Julie Schram seconded to accept the April general meeting minutes. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barb presented the May treasurer's report. **Gene Merrell motioned and Karen Philips seconded to accept the May treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Safety Moment: It's high water season, so don't bring your dogs on the trail if they can't be under control. Watch your pastures and take care of weed control quickly – Gene is dealing with white top weed. Be sure to let your neighbors know NOT to throw grass clippings into your horse pasture – can kill a horse!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: Carol spoke about a proposed subdivision next to the Calf Creek Wildlife Management Area and provided a suggestion for impact mitigation by the developer increasing horse trailer parking there. She also spoke about the proposed Sheep Creek Mine in the West Fork area; she noted that the Friends of the Bitterroot have useful info on their website.

Projects: Bonnie provided a summary of the Lake Como Rock Creek Horse Camp picnic table project. BRBCH provided a wonderful set of workers with impact drills; the FS was very happy with the work. The 12 tables look great, and the work was done by noon. Jan discussed the Calf Creek project happening on May 20, starting at 9 am. There will be 5 FWP staff there to help. There could be lopping and weed pulling, bring gloves. Lunch will be served. Larry Creek will be June 3. Brad asked if anyone riding there before June 3 sees something to be done to let Nancy and Brad know. Brad also spoke about the recent FS meeting concerning the parking area. The FS will provide signs to put up at Larry Creek to suggest where car parking should be so as to not block the horse trailers from being able to exit.

State Directors: Brad thanked Christy for her work on the PL training. Chuck Miller is now co-chair for MT State Lands. Brad is now a National Director for MT.

Education & Training: Bonnie noted Brad and the trainers will hold a chain saw class for new people on June 9-10; Brad will be in contact with folks signed up. Crosscut renewal can be done on a project; for new folks the date is TBD. Chain saw class recert for Carol, Mike C, and Dan M was done on May 13.

Membership: Leslie reported there are currently 79 memberships and 126 members.

Outreach: Karen spoke about how BRBCH makes a \$50 contribution to Bitter Root Humane Association when a member passes away, and their name is put on a plaque that is displayed at BRHA.

Program: The June meeting will Chad Duvall from Red Barn Bicycles discussing and displaying e-bikes (the idea for this program came from

members Katie & Travis Williams). A new program chair is needed to get speakers for our meetings – see Karen if you are interested.

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

Grant Committee: Barb said the committee is meeting May 22, 10 am at Ahava Coffee, Stevensville. Anyone can attend.

OLD BUSINESS

2023 Fair Gates Work: Christy summarized the recent work efforts. The East gate was leveled and a security lock put in. The South gate will be worked on May 21. She is excited about the new office look at the West gate. Sign up for the fair gates will be posted on the website soon. The Fair is the week before Labor Day. Travise got a big wood donation from the company he works for to help with construction needs at the gates.

NEW BUSINESS

Animal Evacuation Emergency Contacts: Jan spoke to the BRHA director about how equine are handled during an emergency. She is the point of contact for the Office of Emergency Management for equine needs. She passed around a signup sheet for folks to provide trailer, pasture, and/or barn support during an emergency.

Electric Chain Saw: Joe K spoke about whether the chapter should purchase an electric chain saw. There was discussion about whether FS certification would be needed for electric chain saw use – Brad noted any chain saw can cut quick and deep, so certification would be done. The electric chain saw must have the 3 safety features: chain break, chain catch, and trigger safety. Carol was recently chain saw certified and used an electric chain saw for that training. She said the electric saw was fun to use. Brad feels it can be easily used for training purposes and is less intimidating. **Karen Philips motioned and Mike Costanzo seconded for the members to**

authorize the Board to select an electric chain saw and battery for purchase up to \$1500. The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

MT Mule Day: Justin Murray spoke about Mules Day on June 2-4. They need help at the gates and set up courses for free entry. Different classes will be on each day. Contact him to help.

Conservation Field Days at Lake Como: Julie talked with school kids about Light on the Land principles on Mon-Wed, May 15-17, at Lake Como. There were about 300 kids over the 3 days.

Fun Rides: Jan asked if members were interested and what day they may want to ride. Send her an email.

BCH MT Website: BCH MT decals and other items for sale on the website.

Meeting Location: Brad submitted the Corvallis School application for using the facility this fall.

Next Meeting: June 15 at Coyote Coulee, potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm. Karen Philips has the coffee pot and Diane Duffie has the hot water pot for summer storage.

Travise Grinnell motioned and Julie Schram seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Kathy Stroppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH



BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
***DRAFT* BOARD MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 1ST, 2023**

The June 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, and Treasurer Barb Walker; Board members Dan Brandborg, Diane Duffie, Travise Grinnell, Dennis Hardman, Dan Maiyo, Karen Philips, and Brad Pollman (also State Director); Alt State Director Ed Duggan; and Past President Gene Merrell. Absent were Secretary Kathy Stoppel-Holl, Board members Joe Kirkland and Carol Johns, and State Director Chuck Miller. Diane Duffie led the pledge. Committee Chairs present: Bonnie Morgan, Nancy Pollman, Leslie Maiyo

BUSINESS

Minutes: The May 2023 meeting minutes were published in the May Nag News – there were no updates. **Karen Philips motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to accept the minutes as published. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barb provided the account balances – there were no questions on the report. **Travise Grinnell motioned and Karen Philips seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ag Research Center, Quast Lane, Corvallis: June 14, 6-8pm, BBQ and discussion on stock/ag user issues and how to resolve them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Issues: Regarding the Hamilton Heights Subdivision, Jan was contacted by an FWP person who did put in a response to the subdivision proposal.

Projects: Jan said the Calf Creek Project on May 20 had lots of riders and hikers; a big tree was removed prior to project by someone else. Brad will contact the FWP recreational manager in regards to future road work needs. Larry Creek will be on June 3, Coyote Coulee on June 17. Boulder Creek recon was on June 1; project is June 23-25. Dan B and 2 others spoke to Steve Bull at the West Fork office; Mark Smith arrived and the radio issue was discussed. The FS is short on radios everywhere. Will use cell phones at Larry Creek. Jan will talk to Matt Anderson, Brad will talk to Steve Brown. BRBCH may contact the Regional Office to help the district offices with the issue. FS radios are needed for emergency helicopter contact. Brad will check into whether a radio could be purchased (similar to a fire dept radio) and programmed to the FS frequencies. The

Larry Creek Project was discussed – Level 1 maintenance to be done, no trees reported down. Discussed parking signs needed to stop parking between outhouse and kiosk – makes it difficult for horse people to turn trailers out. Brad will check a waterbar that was removed and add rolling dip clearance to the project. The FS has a spreadsheet of trail work activities that is available – Christy will obtain the file and forward it to Leslie for distribution to the members. Dan M will talk about the East Fork Project at the June general meeting. He spoke to Brandon Browning, new FS recreational specialist, about the project activities. Lower trail at Fred Burr needs work, but it is not FS property or trail. It's a courtesy trail for the adjacent landowner. Use the road to ride past the cabin.

State Directors: Brad noted the annual rendezvous at Monture Creek is June 23-25.

Membership: Leslie has sent a few emails to the membership. There are 79 memberships and 126 members.

Outreach: Travise has sent all project leaders' info to Todd McKay for publication. Names added on the BRHA plaque were done gratis (thanks to Elaine's Engraving). A new plaque (the other 2 are full) will be \$124. Christy needs the contact person to do engravings on the fair bench. **Brad Pollman motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to approve the purchase of the new plaque. The motion passed.** Karen will be in charge of keeping the plaque until it is needed.

Program: The June program speaker will be Chad Duvall, Red Barn Bikes, discussing and demonstrating e-bikes. A program chair is still needed.

Education & Training: Bonnie said a chainsaw class is June 9-10; she has 6 folks committed to the weekend class. Bonnie will coordinate attendees with the trainers.

OLD BUSINESS

Electric Chain Saw: Dan B noted Joe Kirkland bought the old hedge trimmer for \$250. The membership approved purchase of the electric chain saw up to \$1500. More discussion on electric chainsaws, the ability to service them, and which brand would be optimal to purchase. Dan has contacted stores in Hamilton and Missoula about what they stock. The Stihl 220 saw, two batteries, and the charger would be \$1300. **Karen Philips motioned and Dan Maiyo seconded to approve the purchase of a Stihl 220 electric chainsaw. The motion passed.** Dan M will

purchase the chainsaw in Missoula using the debit card.

Grant Committee Follow Up: Dan B said lots of grant money is available. Looking to go after projects using a grant. One would be Calf Creek latrine with FWP, which would need an Environmental Assessment first. Other entities could be brought in to help with this a 3-yr effort. Another project is the Fred Burr upper trail with the FS, which involves a loop trail from the upper reservoir. Two MCC hitches in 2024 could get this done, at \$12-14k per hitch. Diane spoke about packing in the food and gear for these efforts. Ed D is familiar with packing in MCC crews. There was further discussion on this proposed project. MCC may need to be booked 2 years in advance. Christy suggested applying for a \$50k grant, so at least most of what is needed could be awarded. Steve Brown, Stevi District Ranger, is good to work with on projects.

Animal Evacuation Emergency Contacts Follow Up: Jan has a good list of emergency contacts to transport and house stock during an emergency evacuation only (not animal rescues).

Fair Gates Update: Christy provided an update on the South gate changes. Nearly all gate updates are done. Fine tuning things will occur Aug 27-28 (Sat and Sun). The North gate area will have crushed asphalt put in. The Fairgrounds ordered 8 solar lights, which will be installed at each gate by the BRBCH Fair Committee. The Fairgrounds also purchased and installed security cameras at each gate. The shift signup sheet is on the BRBCH website, a Facebook post will go out soon, and phone calls will be in July. The East gate will have specified volunteer staffing as done in 2022. The office has been reconfigured.

Corvallis Schools: Brad sent an application and Schools as a meeting location. A response letter is anticipated. Christy noted the lunchroom may be undergoing major renovation.

NEW BUSINESS

Sawyer Chaps: Dan M discussed his inventory of the BRBCH sawyer chaps. There are 2 short pairs. He checked out chap prices - \$112 for regulation

44" chaps. Brad noted the FS may donate used serviceable chaps - he will follow up on that. Travise will also check with the FS when he follows up on his certification card. Based on what is heard back from the FS, a decision will be made about purchasing new ones.

MT Mule Days: Christy said a couple members will be working the gates under the grandstands on June 2 and asked if anyone else could help. Bring chairs for the shift. BRBCH will be paid \$300.

Monture Rendezvous: Christy talked about the event (June 23-25) and who is going and when. BRBCH has had a big presence in the past. Good food, good riding, good times. Catered BBQ dinner on Sat night. Mack Long will do a course on Light on the Land on Sat.

OTHER BUSINESS

Water Cooler Purchase: Brad donated a personal water cooler and purchased another one for the chapter. Discussion on what to do with disposing of expired bear sprays. Dennis Hardman and Diane Duffie recommend taking the expired cans of bear spray to the FWP in Missoula for disposal.

Karen Philips motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm. The motion carried.

Christy Schram-Duggan (for Kathy Stroppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH)



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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, June 15th, 2023

Location:

Coyote Coulee Trailhead

Dinner 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***