



# Nag News

## Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

July 2023 Issue #7



### 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, JULY 20<sup>TH</sup> 2023 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING Larry Creek Trail Head

**Pot Luck Dinner: 6:30 pm**

**Meeting: 7:00 pm**

To reach the Larry Creek Trailhead, drive approximately 3.7 miles north from the intersection of Hwy 93 from Stevensville and turn west onto Bass Creek Road, continue for 2 miles and veer right at the sign for the Larry Creek Trailhead on FS Road #1316.

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 **Myron Amsden: "Prepare your horse for the trail ride - Compare various philosophies of Farrier science."** For more information, please call Gene at 208-310-6326 or check out the website at: [www.bchmt.org/bitterroot](http://www.bchmt.org/bitterroot). Find us on Facebook at: **Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH).**

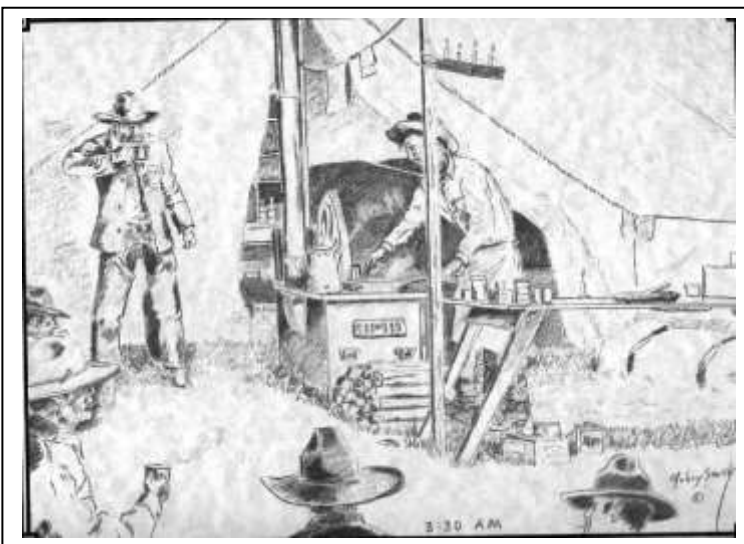
### HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

- President's Message
- Boulder Creek project report
- Coyote Coulee project report
- East Fork Guard Station report
- Sign Creek Trail project report
- Horse Sense
- Back Country Kitchen
- June General Meeting Minutes (Draft)
- July Board Meeting Minutes (meeting canceled)

**DEADLINE FOR THE  
AUGUST 2023  
NAG NEWS is  
Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**

**SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES  
AND ADS TO:**

[djmaiyo@gmail.com](mailto:djmaiyo@gmail.com)



### A message from our President:

Hello Fellow Members and welcome to Summer! The hot weather is here but luckily there is no wildfire smoke!

We have been busily working on projects and getting lots done. I and other members attended the East Fork work party and we managed to roll up lots and lots of old barbed wire and remove old fence posts at the cabin! That wire had been there a long time and had been used to surround a pasture for stock when pack strings were kept there by the US Forest Service! Although we only removed wire from one side, it sure looks better gazing over that nice field when sitting under the picnic kiosk! We also cleared a lot of trees from the Sign Creek Trail. Over 70 trees that had fallen over the trail were removed, lots of them over 18 inches in diameter! Our new electric chainsaw proved it could handle the job and had no issues cutting through those trees like butter. It was quiet and the battery lasted just long enough to complete our day! We also ate very well on the project thanks to Kathy and Max! The steaks on the last night of the project were awesome!

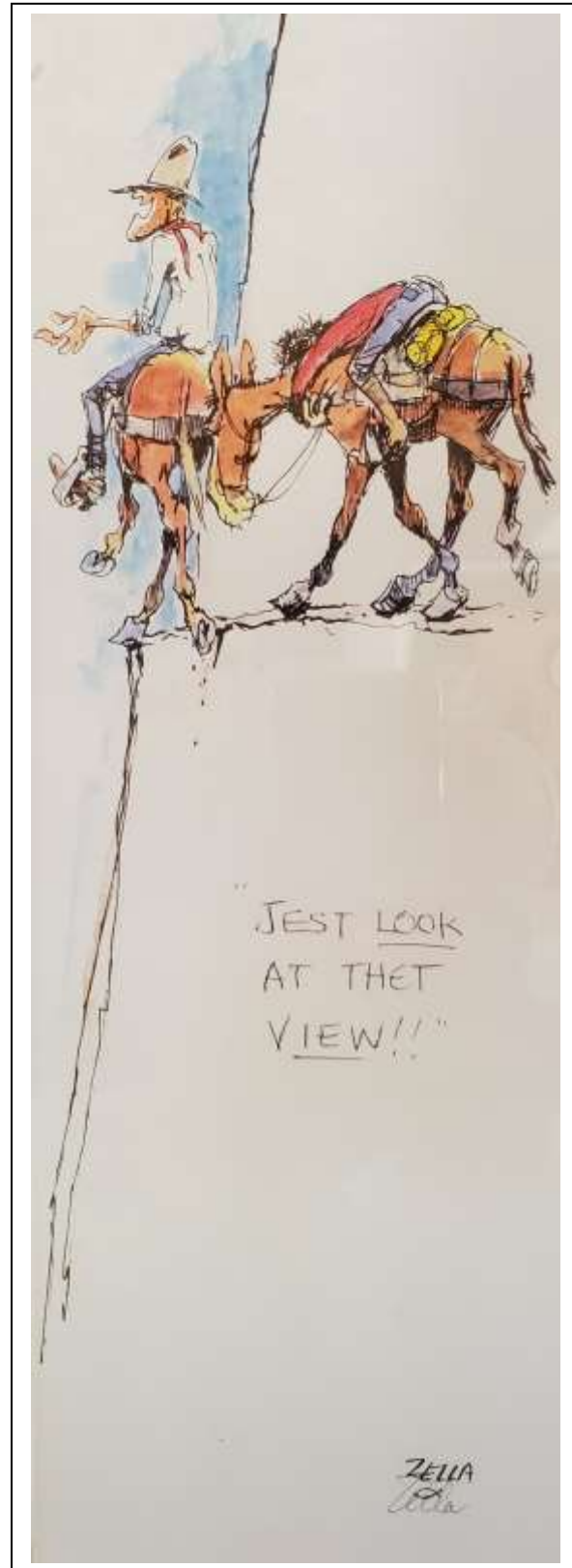
Calf Creek, Larry Creek, Coyote Coulee and Boulder Creek Projects have now been completed. Coming up is a foray up Bear Creek to see what work needs to be done there. This trip will be an overnighter. Please volunteer if you can, even if you do not have pack stock. I am sure other members with pack animals can help carry your gear for you. Contact Joe Kirkland to sign up. This is a great way for members new to the Bitter Root Valley to get to know the trails and see some beautiful country. If you think that you are past the years of wielding a Pulaski, there are other duties that don't require physical labor such as helping with food, keeping paperwork up to date, learning what we do out there so you can tell others as well as just enjoying the camaraderie of good friends around the campfire. We seem to be coming up short of willing members to help out on our projects. Remember our Mission Statement! If we don't help to keep these trails open and passable, they may become neglected and fall into disuse or be taken over by other users that don't necessarily want horses on the trails! This is happening all over the country! Other users besides riders and packers are convincing their Legislators to disregard horse and mule use and, instead, open trails to off road machines, electric bikes, motorcycles, dirt bikes, dune buggies etc. We need to fight hard to keep Montana equine friendly!

Many of you are currently cutting, tendering, bailing, picking, stacking and getting in your hay for this winter! Luckily our spring rains have created a bumper crop of really nice hay. If you need to find good hay and are new to the Valley, ask some of us locals to steer you in the right direction! Also, if you have kids or grandkids that are willing to do some work, there is an extreme lack of personnel to help get the hay from the field to the barn this year! Many of us older folks are struggling to get our hay put up and could really use some help! Usually there is some pay involved too. Enough said!

Don't forget that the Ravalli County Fair is coming up next month and the BRBCH has been covering the ticket sales for that event for many years! Please sign up to do a shift or 2 which will get you into then Fair for free! Call Christy Schramm-Duggan to get on that list. You do not have to be a member of our chapter to help out. Friends, neighbors and relatives can get into the Fair for free by helping with a shift or 2.

Well as soon as it gets a little cooler today Ed and I will be back out trying to get more hay into our barn! We hope to see you at our next outdoor meeting on July 20, 6:30pm at the Larry Creek stock parking area. Bring a dish to share and I will see you there.

Your President, Jan Bullock



**2023 Committees**

Audit

Audio-Visual Equipment

Budget

Education

Election &amp; Nominations

Equipment &amp; 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

Monica Stanton

Dan Brandborg

Travise Grinnell

Cindy Beck

Jan Bullock

Bonnie Morgan

Nancy Pollman

**Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen 2023 Officers & Board****Chapter Officers**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Contact</b>
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



## Project List: June – August 2023

### COYOTE COULEE Project Leader: Julie Schram *Complete!!*

On Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> BRBCH members armed with horses, pack mules, Pulaski, chain saws, hoes, and other implements of the trade to perform level 1 maintenance on two trail loops, cut down timber on trails and clean water bars. Luncheon supplies and menu supplied by Kathy Stroppel-Holl, Shawn Kern and Dan M. prepped the serving site and the lunch for hungry workers as they returned from the trail. Thank you to project leader Julie Schram for excellent organization and congrats to all on a job well done safely!





## **BOULDER CREEK** Project Leader: **Dan Brandborg** *Complete!!*

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>, BRBCH wilderness packers cleared the Boulder Creek trail in the Selway-Bitterroot wilderness to the Idaho pass and to Boulder Lake for a two-night stay at 7-mile meadow. Approximately 50 trees were cut and cleared. The mule spotted a moose visiting their camp. Thank you to Dan Brandborg, Joe Kirkland, Dennis Hardman, and Rick Russell for your hard work and safe return!!





## **East Fork Guard Station Project Leader: Dan Maiyo *Complete!!***

Monday July 3<sup>rd</sup> - Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, BRBCH members in coordination with Brand Browning; FS Recreation Specialist for the Darby Ranger District, met at noon Monday at the historic East Fork Guard Station. Equipped with bolt cutters, fencing pliers, T-post puller, heavy leather gloves and other tools we rolled up approximately 600 lineal feet of 3 and 4 strand old barbwire fence throughout site, removed metal t-posts, and constructed a slide gate to an entrance to the rebuilt corral. Thank you Kathy and Max for the breakfast, lunch and dinners, especially the 4<sup>th</sup> of July steak dinner and a star spangled dessert. Thank you Jan Bullock, Kathy and Max, Carol Johns, Leslie Conner-Maiyo, and especially Bob Driggers for his expert advice on barbwire rolling technique!



## **East Fork – Sign Creek Trail Project Leader: Carol Johns *Complete!!***

On Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Dan Brandborg, Jan Bullock, Bob Driggers and Carol Johns cleared 70 trees from Sign Creek Trail. The Eclectic Horsemen put the Electric Chainsaw to the test! Thank You all for a job well done!

## **Coming up!**

**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**

## **Horse Sense**

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Monday – Friday 8 – 5:30

Saturday – 9 – 4

**Hoof Function in Movement** By Sue Stuska Ed.D Eclectic Horseman Magazine, November 2005. *The horse's hoof is an amazing structure. Understanding how it works will help us make good shoeing and trimming decisions in cooperation with the farrier.*

The barefoot hoof lands on the full near-circular extent of the wall. The wall's toe is relatively thick (from inside to outside), so it doesn't flex much, but the wall at the quarters is thinner and allows the hoof to flatten out as it contacts the ground. The heels of the wall are also relatively thin and flexible, and these widen as the hoof lands. The wall gets its flexibility from its tubular fibrous nature, which, like many hairs stuck together, grows downward from the top (coronet band) and is connected to the underlying tissues (the sensitive laminae). The wall has a lot in common, anatomically, with our toenails.

Part of the shock of landing is taken by the wall and its expansion. Additional shock is absorbed by the frog. The frog is made of the softest, most resilient, tissue on the bottom of the hoof. The frog flattens out as it contacts the ground, pressing outward on the bars and thus on the wall.

The concave sole flattens out somewhat as the horse steps down. This is one reason why it's hard to keep a flat-soled horse sound when he's ridden on rocky ground: the sole should contact the ground when the soft earth is pressed up into the hoof, but the sole itself should not be the primary contact point with unyielding ground.

Traction is facilitated by the cupped sole and by the somewhat sticky frog.

Inner shock absorbers include the central-rear wedge-shaped elastic plantar cushion and the lateral cartilages (which harden in the ailment called side bone). Both have cushioning functions and react to frog pressure by expanding sideways.

The circulatory system benefits from all these structures doing their job. Most of the blood (and lymph fluid) present in the sensitive structures and that in the vessel plexus under the coffin bone and plantar cushion is pressed out and

away from the bottom of the hoof. Some remains and acts as a hydraulic cushion. The blood-pumping action of the hooves has been likened to accessory hearts; anyone who's had a horse "stock up" from standing in a stall knows the value of his moving around. One-way valves in the vessels keep the blood from reacting to gravity; the blood continues to flow up the leg.

As the horse's body travels forward, the hoof changes from its shock-absorbing function to that of a lever. The (flexor) tendons and muscles tighten. The hoof rocks forward onto the toe, the toe digs into the ground, the hooves push back against the ground as the horse propels himself forward. The critical point between shock absorption and lever function is the breakover. Ideally, the toe will be able to dig into the ground during breakover for maximum leverage and traction.

As the hoof takes off into flight, the structures that expanded during weight bearing now contract. Taking the pressure off the hoof allows blood to flow back into the hoof, starting the next pumping cycle.

**Hoof Growth.** The hoof, like our toenails, is constantly growing. Growth slows during dry times and cold months, but generally the hoof grows half an inch every six weeks. The toe tends to grow faster than the heels (probably as an adaptation to the toe wearing off during movement). You may be able to see roughly horizontal growth rings in your horse's hooves that are slightly wider apart in the toe than the heels. (A foundered hoof, with the hoof wall—and, particularly, toe—circulation compromised, will instead have growth rings that are wider apart at the heels.)

In the ideal circumstances, the horse would wear off his hoof walls at the same rate they grow. But the majority of the time this doesn't happen. So, as time goes by, the toe grows longer. The quarters, wearing more readily because they are thinner and growing more slowly to boot, often get shorter so that the horse is contacting the ground on the toes and heels. The problems with this are many; they include delayed breakover, which can stress the flexor tendons (tendons that flex the leg) and increased pressure on the toes, which may result in cracks from the ground surface up at the toe or quarters. All can make the horse lame.

**Hoof Balance.** Whole books have been written about hoof balance, but the basics follow. From the front, the horse should be built so that his coronet band parallels the ground—and he should be trimmed this way as well. From the side, the front of the hoof should extend the line down at the same angle to the ground (the "hoof angle") as the front of the pastern—and the trim should reinforce this. Some people are more easily able to follow the imaginary line bisecting the pastern and extending down into the hoof.

Of course, each horse (and sometimes each leg) is different, and each must be trimmed according to conformation. The trim should help the horse approximate ideal form while following his individual needs. It's a challenge to be able to see (analyze) this, and even more of a challenge to be able to trim correctly. That's why farriers go to school, apprentice, and continually learn and perfect their art.

If the hoof is not balanced according to the horse's conformation and the best approximation to ideal, this can create all sorts of problems. The horse may move poorly, perhaps striking the opposite leg; he may put excess stress on his flexor tendons; he may develop arthritis; or the hoof may develop stress cracks.

**Shoeing.** Shoeing is a necessary evil. It would be desirable if horses could go barefoot all the time, but this is sometimes impractical and/or impossible.

Shoes are needed to keep the hoof from wearing down faster than it can grow. In the wild, a horse who wore his hooves too short would get sore and would move around less until they grew out. But we ask our horses to work more than the hooves can keep up. We also ask our horses to work in rough footing where the bare foot cannot protect itself. Shoes raise the sole off rocky surfaces and keep the walls from chipping.

Plus, horses don't always have ideal hooves—some have cracks, weak shelly walls, or are recovering from an injury. If your horse doesn't have strong hoof walls, it may be from genetics or from the environment. Be sure to feed him the nutrients he needs (check with your farrier and veterinarian to see if a nutritional supplement like biotin is needed to grow stronger hooves). Secondly, apply any topical treatment



indicated (hoof dressing popularity seems to go in cycles, and need is also determined by how often you wash your horse's legs and if he's in a dew-to-dry environment).

When you shoe, keep natural function in mind. Wide web (wide from inside to outside) shoes are generally considered better at supporting the horse's weight across the walls and inward past the white line. (The white line is actually gray or yellow in color and is the grown-out border between sensitive and insensitive tissues.) Wide web shoes should not contact the sole; the sole should be trimmed up or the shoes beveled down. The shoe should allow the toe to dig into the ground—except in the rocks where it would not anyway. Shoes generally have four nail holes on each side; if the horse's hoof will allow it, the farrier will generally use the front three holes. This allows the heel—from the widest part of the quarter back—to expand when the horse steps down. Most farriers will fit shoes wide in this area for the same reason—when the horse steps down, the hoof wall will slide out but still be supported by the shoe. When you look down at the newly shod hoof, you will see a little shoe showing from the widest part of the quarters to the heels. Horses working on rocky ground benefit from the sole being left (not trimmed). This gives the horse more protection.

**Trimming Necessary.** Regular trimming is necessary, regardless of whether the horse is shod or barefoot. It's best for your horse's limb and hoof health, easiest to fit into your routine, and helps your farrier take the best possible care of your horse. Work with your farrier to schedule regular trims.

The shod hoof must be trimmed regularly, even if the shoes are not worn out. Shoes with enough wear left may be used more than once, or "reset." The shoes have kept the toe from wearing off, so it will grow too long. Hopefully the horse receives care before this, but if not, the toe will carry the shoe forward. At this point, the heels of the shoe press on the "seat of corn," which is the corner of the buttress—and the place most prone to painful corns. When the shoe puts pressure on this part of the ground surface of the hoof, the hoof may show a reddening (bruising) and the horse may go lame. If the shoe is left on too long, the friction of nail head against shoe and the decreasing thickness of the shoe from wear will cause the nail clinches (turned over parts on the hoof wall) to rise. Clinches that stick out may cut another limb

when the legs brush past each other. If the shoe loosens and twists, it can wound another limb. If the shoe is loose and gets pulled off, part of the wall may be broken off.

The shod and unshod hoof will both be increasingly out of balance as the toe grows. This can exacerbate conformational and/or movement problems, stress the flexor tendons, and cause joint problems leading to arthritic changes.

**Shoeing Time-Out.** If your horse has very tough hooves and/or works on soft footing only, he may be able to go barefoot all the time. Other working situations allow horses to go barefoot behind. If you have a season when you don't ride as often or as far, your horse's hooves will benefit from some time without shoes. Going barefoot allows the hooves to go back to their most natural expansion mode. Your farrier will likely trim differently for barefoot than for shoeing; barefoot horses should have a little longer wall left on to maintain the natural concavity.





## Raspberry Muffins

- 1 c. fresh picked raspberries
- 2 c. flour
- ¼ tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 egg
- ¾ c. milk
- ¼ c. butter (melted)

Sift flour, sugar, baking powder and salt together. Beat egg and milk – add melted butter. Make a well in flour mixture – pour egg mixture in all at once – stir it just enough to combine (batter should be lumpy). Fold in raspberries gently. Fill oiled muffin tins ¾ full. Bake at 425 F for 20 to 25 minutes.

### **BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN (DRAFT) GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> 2023**

The June 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 Coyote Coulee trailhead parking lot. Approximately 35 members were present, with a Board quorum. John Banks led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting.

Guests: Debbie Lund (from Las Vegas BCH), Chris & Dorothy Carrera (from CA), Joyce Kellenberger (from WA BCH, family nearby), Elaine Driskell (from CA, family nearby)

#### **PROGRAM**

**Chad Duvall, Red Barn Bikes:** Karen introduced Chad, who is the owner of Red Barn Bikes. He gave a presentation and demonstration of e-bikes. Three classes of e-bikes: Class 1, pedal assist, motor cuts out at 20mph, legal only on motorized trails (expects it to be the most seen in the Bitterroots); Class 2, throttle assisted (like a motorbike), doesn't require peddling, can change level of assistance, in specialty stores; and Class 3, city bike, higher speeds. There are places in the US where they are so popular that public land agencies are creating trails for them (i.e., Moab). Region 1 FS specifies e-bike use on motorized trail only. Prices range from a couple thousand dollars to \$8k. Batteries can last for 50-60 miles if kept in the low range; replacement batteries are over \$1k. Chad works to educate folks who purchase mountain bikes as to how to ride trails where horses are, and for e-bikers where to ride motorized roads/trails.

#### **BUSINESS**

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Barb presented the June treasurer's report. **Karen Philips motioned and Julie Schram seconded to accept the June treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Helen Engle!**

**Safety Moment:** Learn to recognize e-bikes! Leave gates closed in Larry Creek while cattle are grazing there. Moose are around Shannon Pond at Lake Como.



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Issues:** Carol spoke about some FS projects where timber cutting will start soon. FWP noted primary use of Calf Creek is for wildlife, not recreation. Carol sent a personal comment (not BRBCH) to have the developer donate a parcel of land for parking, which could be supported by FWP.

**Projects:** Julie said the safety meeting for Coyote Coulee on June 17 is at 8:45. Will be back to the TH by 3 for lunch. Boulder Creek will be June 23-25. Brad thanked folks for their support at Larry Creek – a lot was accomplished! More water bars will be installed there. Dan M spoke about the East Fork project on July 3-5. He scoped out the project area – will be rolling up barbed wire, removing t-posts, and installing a slide gate on the corral. Bring leather gloves, eye protection, chaps, heavy clothes and shoes for PPE. Carol spoke about the East Fork trail work that will occur during the same time period. Dan M will check if the FS has a wire roller.

**State Directors:** Brad said the Monture Creek Rendezvous is June 23-25. Several BRBCH members will be doing group meals there and will bring the chapter banner.

**Education & Training:** Brad, Ed, and Travise held saw classes for new people on June 9-11. Chain and crosscut sawyers were certified. Contact Ed or Travise if you need crosscut recert and are on a project they are working. New members contact Bonnie for DHS training.

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

**Outreach:** Karen complimented Travise for his communications with Tod McKay with the FS.

**Program:** The July meeting speaker is pending. Monica Stanton will be the new program chair – see her or Karen if you have a speaker idea. Thanks Monica!

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

## OLD BUSINESS

**2023 Fair Gates Work Update and Fair:** Christy thanked the work group who put in the time and effort to update and repair the gates. Big thanks for their work! She summarized all the work done at each gate over the past 3 months. Crushed asphalt will be put around the West and North gates. Solar lights will be installed on every gate. Fair will be Wed, Aug 30 thru Sat, Sep 2. Signup sheet is on the BRBCH website. Volunteers check in at the West gate. Day/Evening managers will meet Aug 27 to get familiarized with the new gates and paperwork.

**Electric Chain Saw:** Dan M demonstrated the new electric chain saw before the meeting started. It's an NSA Stihl electric chainsaw, with 2 batteries, 2 spare chains, and charger for \$1409.

**Grant Committee Follow Up:** Dan B spoke about 2 projects the committee is working to get grants for: a vault toilet at Calf Creek and the Fred Burr Trail above the reservoir. Two 9-day hitches are reserved with the MCC for 2024, with 5-7 crew members. Cost will be \$32k. BRBCH could supply meals at the base camp. Food planning and cost will need to be projected to include in the grant request.

## NEW BUSINESS

None.

## OTHER BUSINESS

None.

**Next Meeting:** July 20 at Larry Creek, potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm.

**Travise Grinnell motioned and Julie Schram seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.**

Kathy Stoppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH

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**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN  
BOARD MEETING AGENDA, JULY 6<sup>TH</sup> 2023**  
The Board voted that no July meeting be held



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# Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



## **NEXT BRBCH MEETING**

**Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Location:**

**Larry Creek Trailhead**

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

**Visit our Website:**

**[bchmt.org/bitterroot](http://bchmt.org/bitterroot)**

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