



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

August 2023 Issue #8



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, AUGUST 17TH 2023 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Lake Como Rock Creek Horse Camp

Pot Luck Dinner: 6:30 pm

Meeting: 7:00 pm

To reach the Lake Como Rock Creek Horse Camp drive 13 miles south from Hamilton on Hwy 93 to the intersection of Lake Como Road, turn west and drive 3.5 miles. Turn east (left) into the campground (located on a stretch of road between the beach turn off and boat launch turn off). The road follows a circular path so drive down past the kiosk and just before the first corner there is an area with benches and a fire pit. It would be best to let guests off there with food and chairs and then continue around the loop and park at the area reserved for day use. Chuck Wagon will be available for the use of tables.

Christy Duggan will be talking about the upcoming fair. A potluck dinner will be served at 6:30 pm followed by our monthly meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm. Guests and new members always welcome.

For more information, please call Gene at 208-310-6326 or check out the website at: www.bchmt.org/bitterroot. Facebook: **Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH)**.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

- President's Message
- Horse Sense
- Back Country Kitchen
- July General Meeting Minutes (Draft)
- August Board Meeting Minutes (Draft)

**DEADLINE FOR THE
SEPTEMBER 2023
NAG NEWS is
Thursday, Sept 14th**

**SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES
AND ADS TO:**

djmaiyo@gmail.com



A message from our President:

Greetings Fellow Members!

I hope this finds you in good health! Thank goodness our very hot July is over. August seems to be a little less sweltering and I have noticed that even some foliage is starting to turn color! Let's hope for a nice fall so we can get out and do some riding or hiking. Most of our projects have been completed for this summer. Joe Kirkland and his crew finished up with Bear Creek and did some clearing along the trail. There may be an opportunity to check out the trail above Fred Burr Reservoir. Dan Brandborg is heading that one up, but a date has not been decided on yet. Ed Duggan is packing various groups to Saint Mary's Peak and is always willing to take folks along. It is a great way to learn how to pack a stock animal and to see our beautiful valley from the highest peak in the area. Get hold of Ed if you would like to help out.

The Ravalli County Fair is coming up this month. We have been the ticket sellers and takers for many years, and this is our way of making money to keep the Chapter solvent. Bonnie Duggan is in charge of sign ups or you can sign up on our website. We still need some folks to fill in about 34 more spaces to complete all the slots. If you put in a shift of 4 hours, you can get into the Fair for free! So please help out by signing up and perhaps ask a neighbor, friend or relative to sign up too. They do not have to be a Chapter member to help us complete this project. Christy Duggan and the crew have done lots of upgrades to the buildings that we will be using to make them more comfortable for us to work in. Many issues that have occurred over the years have been solved by the Fair Committee so all will go much more smoothly. Please sign up soon so we can fill all the spots needed.

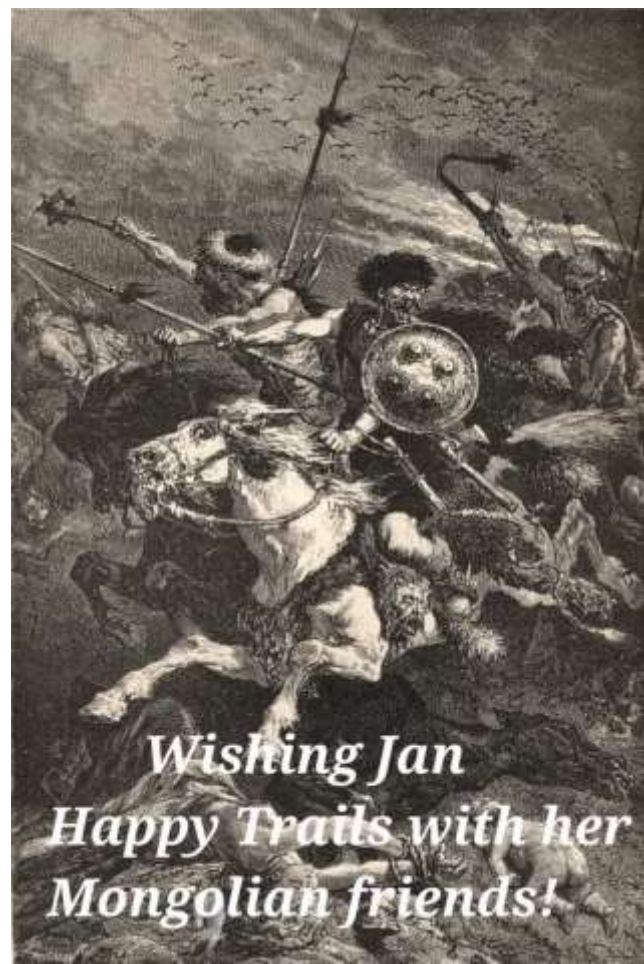
Ed Bullock visited a local printing shop and had secured sponsorship for our Back Country Kitchen in the Nag News. Ryan runs Shirt Spot Montana and is located in the old Sears building at 1704 North First St in Hamilton. Ed and I visited his store, and he is able to create logos for t-shirts, hats, jackets, etc. and also make banners! The prices were reasonable, and the products were good quality! Perhaps one of our members can step up and get some orders for shirts or jackets with our logo on them! Ryan is excited to help us with this and I think it would be a good opportunity to get our name out there. Please let me know if you are interested in helping with this. Stop in and say hi to Ryan and his Mom and Dad. They are nice folks

Finally, our last outdoor meeting will be held at Lake Como at the Rock Creek Horse Camp on April 17. We usually have this meeting at the picnic area but could not secure that for our August meeting this year. So, we will be having the meeting at the Rock Creek Horse Camp across the road from the picnic area. You will see the sign for the horse camp and will take a left. The road follows a circular path so drive down past the kiosk and just before the first corner there is an area with benches and a fire pit. It would be best to let guests off there with food and chairs and then continue around the loop and park at the area reserved for day use. Our chuck wagon will be available there for the use of tables.

We will be meeting at Corvallis Grange again in September and October and then will switch to the Corvallis Primary School for the rest of the year and hopefully beyond. There is plenty of parking there and Kathy Stoppel-Hall has assured me that the tables are comfortable. Best of all the price is free! We will collect a donation at Christmas to give to the janitor for staying late to finish his work when we are finished with our meetings. Thank you, Brad Pollman, for making this happen.

I hope to see you all on August 17 for our last outdoor meeting of the summer. Pray for good weather, no thunderstorms and smoke free air.

With Best Regards, Jan Bullock, President.



Congratulations to the **Chief Joseph Trail Riders**; to **Gene Merrell**; trail guide and scout, and to **Myron Miller**; farrier for the group, who rode a 98 mile portion of the 1,300 mile route of the flight of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) Tribe in 1877. On Monday July 31st, 80 riders aboard Appaloosa horses began the ride from the Wendover campground west of Lolo Pass in Idaho. On Friday August 4th they completed the ride at the OZ Ranch just west of Elk Meadows near the Woodman School along Route 12 west of Lolo. The ride is an annual event that spans 13 years. 100 miles portions of the route are ridden each year by the group. The entire route begins at Wallowa Lake, Oregon, and ends at the Bear Paw battlefield near Chinook, Montana. For more information see Nez Perce National Historic Trail, USDA Forest Service, and Facebook: Chief Joseph Trail Riders.

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
 Monica Stanton
 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

	Term
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

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Monday – Friday 8 – 5:30

Saturday – 9 – 4

Trading Physical Scars For Mental Scars By Martin Black *This article originally appeared in Eclectic Horseman Issue No.31*

Many times what people identify as discipline problems with their horses are really frustrated and confused horses, basically caused by the horse having an identity crisis, and or too much stored energy.

Horses that are confined and isolated for extended periods where they are denied social interaction with other horses can develop emotional problems. Then to compound the problem, when they consume high-energy feeds and are not allowed the opportunity to exercise to burn this energy off, we can have a hyperactive social misfit.

When dealing with the psychological problems these horses have, I ask myself, would horses act like this if they had grown up with other horses and were not overfed? Dealing with ranch horses and wild horses may pose different problems than with horses that have been humanized, but they are mentally sound. Horses that get little or no interaction with other horses, spending more time with people and their environmental influences than learning social skills with other horses, can become frustrated and confused. This is not seen with horses in herds roaming around harsher country where it requires a considerable amount of traveling and exercise to graze and go to water.

The laws of nature are inherent and acceptable to animals. What is difficult for the horse is when people with the best of intentions interfere with this cycle by protecting the horse from the elements of their natural habitat. There are important lessons to be learned by a horse from the elements of nature, lessons with other horses that can only be learned from other horses and not duplicated by man.

We all have scars of knowledge; some are superficial, and some are internal. The superficial injuries are obvious for anyone to see so attention is given to prevent them, in many cases causing internal injuries. People seem to accept or ignore the internal problems, maybe because they don't understand the cause and effect or they don't know any different. But confined horses being fed high-energy feeds can have problems such as cribbing, weaving, ulcers, colic, founder, worms, parasites, and viruses. These conditions are not as prevalent in horses on lesser feeds in open spaces.

It is important to know that horses have been bred for thousands of years to work, and like athletes, they would not be carrying extra body weight pulling or packing loads long distances for long hours. Some cattle were bred to work, some to produce milk and some to produce meat. Horses have primarily been bred to work, not to look like feedlot cattle ready for slaughter. It has only been in the last quarter century that horses have become non-working ornaments sitting idle with other "yard art."

Some situations don't allow the horse to have the space he needs, but realizing the effects for what they are and allowing interaction with other horses, and allowing more unrestricted exercise, could help a lot of handling or training problems. When a horse is frustrated with his life before we start handling or training him, we should only expect more frustration when trying to get the horse to concentrate on what we are asking him to do. At this point, putting more restraints to control the horse will only make him more frustrated until enough pressure is applied to where the horse mentally shuts down.

Balanced feeds with less or no grains may help avoid the high-energy issues and make handling

and training easier. Burning excess energy off the horse would mean the horse would be burning more energy than he consumes. So if the horse is 100 lbs overweight he needs to lose a 100 lbs from physical labor or reduce feeds to reduce weight. I see more horses suffer mentally from people "killing them with kindness," overfeeding and underworking them, far more often than I see direct physical abuse. Many times the mental abuse leads to self-inflicted physical injuries of the horse.

Breeding of horses has come a long way in a short time, but not enough attention has been given to the mental abilities of horses to adapt to their new lifestyle and abundant nutritional supply. People need to be more aware of the mental dysfunctions they are causing and balance their concerns with superficial injuries caused by other horses or environmental hazards.

BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN

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The Shirt Spot is new to Montana since April 2023, but has over 20 years' experience in the industry! Services offered include printing, embroidery, sign banners, stickers and business cards. Quality clothing including tee's tank tops, and ladies crop tops are offered at a reasonable price. Also offered is a huge variety of headwear ready for embroidery!

AMARILLO RIBS 'N BLACK NIGHT SAUCE

Mix:

1 cup strong black coffee
1 ½ cups Worcestershire sauce
1 cup catsup
½ cup butter
½ cup lemon juice
2 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon salt
2 teaspoons cayenne

Cook on low heat and let simmer for 30 minutes, cool and then pack it for the trail. To cook ribs, season beef or pork ribs with a generous slap of sauce, wrap in foil and place on grill over slow fire for 30 minutes. Open foil, drain off fat, give ribs another slap of sauce, rewrap, turn and cook 30 minutes more. Unwrap and place directly over fire until brown.

Remaining 2023 Project List:

Complete! 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

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
(DRAFT) GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, JULY 20TH 2023

The July 2023 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Jan Bullock at 7:03 pm. The meeting was held at the Larry Creek horse trailer parking lot. Approximately 45 members were present, with a Board quorum. Christy led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting.

Guests: Tammy & Steve

PROGRAM

Myron Amsden, Farrier: Monica introduced Myron, who spoke about preparing your horse for the trail ride and compared various philosophies of farrier science. For trail rides, folks used to pick out the hooves. Now, leave the dirt in for cushioning, but pick out rocks. For emergencies, bring duct tape & cardboard. Use shirt for packing material. Sole Extension” is another product to use to cushioning. He spoke about the different philosophies of shoeing and the manuals available for guidance. These include US Calvary, cowboy shoeing, 4-pt trim, uniform sole thickness, clog, and natural balance shoe. He diagrammed the hoof and what different cuts can achieve.

BUSINESS

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

Treasurer’s Report: Barb presented the July treasurer’s report. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Karen Philips seconded to accept the July treasurer’s report. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Safety Moment: Watch out for cheat grass on dogs – check between the pads and in ears. Be sure to have electrolytes on rides – bring water. Tie a trail saw to your saddle for any ride.

Certified Hay for Sale: Karen has 2 tons of certified hay for sale; \$275/ton, 30 bales to the ton. Last year’s hay is available for \$225/ton.

Security for Chief Joseph Trail Ride: Gene spoke about the trail ride, which will involve a segment from Lolo Pass to Woodland School. A security person is needed from July 30-Aug 4 to stay with trailers that aren’t moved; will be paid \$120/night. See Gene for further information.

Meeting Location: Sep and Oct meetings will be at the Corvallis Grange. Nov thru May meetings will be at the Corvallis Primary School cafeteria.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants: Diane said they are working on the grants.

Issues: As of July 1, a conservation license is required to use State lands, such as Calf Creek. These are automatically attached to fishing and hunting licenses. They can be obtained at Bob Ward’s and other businesses that sell hunting and fishing licenses.

Projects: Bear Creek Project is July 21-23, with Joe Kirkland as project leader. Candice and Ed D went up July 13 on the first run for St Mary’s Lookout Support – future runs are July 27, Aug 10 & 24, Sep 7. The trail is clear. Contact Ed D for more info. This effort supports the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation. Ed D has started Mill Creek runs for the irrigation district, every 5 days; 20-mile roundtrip ride. He starts around 7:30am, back by 6:30pm. Fred Burr Upper Trail Project will be finalized soon. Dan M spoke about the East Fork projects on July 3-5. Rolled up barbed wire, removed t-posts, and installed a slide gate on the corral. About 70 trees were cleared from Sign Creek, over 3.5 miles. The meadow looks beautiful and safe now, and a person can ride from the cabin to the East Fork Trailhead.

State Directors: No report.

Education & Training: Any new folks need to see Bonnie M to get training if they want to ride on a project.

Membership: Leslie reported there are currently 86 memberships and 135 members.

Outreach: Karen noted Travise is doing a fabulous job getting info to the papers and onto the Facebook page.

Program: There is no August meeting speaker; will be discussing fair gate duties. A barrel racer will speak at the Sep meeting.

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

OLD BUSINESS

2023 Fair: Christy discussed the Fair, which the chapter has been supporting since 1978 as our only fundraiser. Folks work the gates selling and taking tickets/stamping hands. The signup sheet is on the BRBCH website or contact Bonnie Duggan. Volunteers check in at the West gate. Crushed asphalt will be added to the North and West gate areas. Shifts are 4 hours, and you get into the fair for free. Shifts are usually 8-noon, noon-5, and 5-9pm. More training will be provided at the August meeting. The fair committee will meet Aug 26-27 to do final work. Day/Evening managers will meet Aug 27 to get familiarized with the new gates and paperwork. Fair will be Wed, Aug 30 thru Sat, Sep 2. Christy brought and showed the memorial bench, which will be installed at the West gate. Any Fair questions, see Christy.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jan needs help moving hay! It's become more difficult to get hay in so if anyone has ideas as to how to get kids hired to move hay, let Jan know. Put the word out for this need.

Next Meeting: August 17 at Rock Creek Horse Camp, Lake Como, potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm.

Tim Meyer motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Kathy Stoppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN (DRAFT) BOARD MEETING AGENDA, AUGUST 3RD 2023

The August 2023 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order at 7:02 pm by Jan Bullock. Present were President Jan Bullock, VP Christy Schram-Duggan, Treasurer Barb Walker, and Secretary Kathy Stoppel-Holl; Board members Dennis Hardman, Carol Johns, Joe Kirkland, Dan Maiyo, Karen Philips, and Brad Pollman (also State Director); and Alt State Director Ed Duggan. Absent were Board members Dan Brandborg, Diane Duffie, and Travise Grinnell, State Director Chuck Miller, and Past President Gene Merrell. Jan led the pledge.

Committee Chairs present: Bonnie Morgan, Leslie Conner-Maiyo

BUSINESS

Minutes: The June 2023 meeting minutes were published in the June Nag News (there was no July Board meeting) – there were no updates. **Karen Philips motioned and Brad Pollman 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. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Joe Kirkland seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.** Brad commented that reserve funds could be put into CDs again since the interest rates have gone up – this will be discussed at a future meeting. The funds for the electric chain saw could be transferred from the general capital fund to checking, but this is currently not necessary. There was further discussion on the bank accounts.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob White (FWP) let Jan know that there are 4-wheeler tracks in Calf Creek from FWP fence work. Let him know if any cows are spotted in the management area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants: Diane noted via email that she is working on 2 grants, with submittal dates in the late Fall.

Issues: Carol said the Sec of Agriculture approved an emergency authorization for the BR Front Project in the high risk areas and for reduction of fire fuels. The work is to be done in full compliance with NEPA. Jan noted there is a stock parking sign up at Mill Creek, and a car was parked in front of it. She will pass on the photo and info via a BCHA form. Carol also spoke about a recent Sheep Creek Mine presentation, possible impacts, where other rare earth minerals could be obtained, and past issues with the mining company.

Projects: Joe said the Bear Creek Project was successful with ~60 trees cut, waterbars cleaned, and some brushing done. Fred Burr is cleared to the upper reservoir, and Dan B spoke with the FS about clearing more using an MCC crew in 2024 (if grants are obtained). A private contractor could be considered if MCC is not available. The backcountry bike group has hired a private contractor to do new construction or reroutes. St Mary's resupply pack trips are on 8/10, 8/24, and 9/7. The membership will be informed via email about these opportunities – Ed D will provide Leslie the info.

State Directors: No report.

Membership: Two new family memberships were discussed. **Brad Pollman motioned and Christy Schram-Duggan seconded to accept the new memberships. The motion carried.** There are 88 memberships and 139 members.

Program: There is no Aug program speaker. A barrel racer is lined up to speak at the Sep meeting.

Outreach: Karen needs new project photos to create thank you cards.

Education & Training: Any new members needing DHS should contact Bonnie. Crosscut and chain saw classes will be considered in Sep-Oct. Brad discussed offering a trailer backing class to the membership – members will be asked at the next general meeting. There was additional discussion on folks getting their gun certificates and saw cards.

OLD BUSINESS

Fair Update: Christy said the gates are 76% filled. Fair starts Aug 30. A reminder will be sent to the membership noting there are 34 open slots. Sign up online or call Bonnie Duggan for open slots. Camping and stall fees are being collected at the East Gate, and those who have pre-paid will have a parking pass and be on a list. Elaine's Engraving suggested the memorial bench have a textured plastic sign, which is more weather proof. Melissa will try to make the Aug general meeting to discuss the fair. Canopies will be purchased for the ticket takers and will be stored at those gates.

Aug 2023 General Meeting Location & 2023-2024 Locations at Corvallis Grange & Corvallis Primary

School: Directions and parking for the Rock Creek Horse Camp will be in the Aug newsletter. The Grange is available for the Sep and Oct meetings. The primary school cafeteria is available for the Nov thru May general meetings. Kathy visited the cafeteria on July 31 and spoke with Tara in the office and Keith the custodian. They have our meeting schedule. Keith will handle table setup and take down, and put out 2 folding tables for the food and 1 table for Jan and Kathy, trash cans, and an AV screen if needed for a presentation (we would let Tara know in advance). The lunch tables and benches fold out from the wall. Kathy sat at a table and they are much easier to get into and sit at than those at the other cafeteria. Each table setup looks to seat ~10-12 adults (or 16 kiddos), and there are 10-12 sets of tables. The west parking area and main entrance (off of Eastside Hwy near the 4-way light) holds ~20 vehicles. The east parking area holds ~30.

NEW BUSINESS

Electric Saw Paperwork: The filing location for e-saw warranty and paperwork was discussed. A box for the e-saw is in the shed, and the registration, warranty, and manual should be located in it within a ziplock bag.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bonnie will cover for Kathy at the Aug general meeting.

Dan noted that the cook trailer tables need replacement. He will check table prices in Missoula.

The Board discussed converting the Leave No Trace Trailer (stored at the Duggans) to an equipment trailer. This activity may be done this winter.

Karen Philips motioned and Joe Kirkland seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 pm. The motion carried.

Kathy Stroppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH



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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, August 17th, 2023

Location:

**Lake Como Rock Creek Horse Camp
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***