



# Nag News

## Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

October 2023 Issue #10



### 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, OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup> 2023 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

**Corvallis Grange Hall, 130 Dutch Hill Road**

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

**Meeting: 7:00 pm**

The Corvallis Grange Hall is located on the north side of Dutch Hill Road, just west of the intersection of Hwy 93 and Woodside Cutoff. 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.

This month we are pleased to welcome Kristin Mortenson, County Preparedness Fire Prevention Specialist with the State of Montana Southwestern Land Office and Member of Fire in the Root Counsel. Topic: General Wildfire Preparedness from the Homeowner, Livestock Owner and Recreationist Perspectives, Including Guidance for Evacuation Planning. The mission of the Fire in the Root Council is to promote and facilitate the long-term reduction of risk from wildfire, and adaptation to wildfire by communities and residents throughout Ravalli County.

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/fireintheroot/home> Five new Forest service staff will be introduced at the meeting as well.

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). Facebook: **Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH).**

### HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

- Editor's Note
- State Lands Conservation License Explained
- Horse Sense
- Back Country Kitchen
- September General Meeting Minutes (Draft)
- October Board Meeting Minutes (Draft)

**DEADLINE FOR THE  
NOVEMBER 2023  
NAG NEWS is  
Thursday, November 9th**

**SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES  
AND ADS TO:**

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



**Editor's Note:**

Jan is due to return from the wilds of Mongolia by the publication of this newsletter. There is no Presidents message this month.

**Montana State Lands Conservation  
License Explained**

As of July 1, 2023, any individual recreating on State of Montana land must have a Conservation License. These lands include Fish, Wildlife and Parks, MT Trust Land, and other Mt lands. Recreating includes riding horses, hiking, bird watching, skiing, boating, fishing and hunting. Individuals with hunting and fishing licenses already have a Conservation License. Conservation Licenses costs \$8 for residents between the ages of 18 and 62. Over the age of 62, the cost is \$4. Conservation Licenses may be purchased on-line or at Fish, Wildlife and Parks offices. Montana State lands are scattered throughout the Bitterroot Valley. Probably the most familiar state lands to our members are the wildlife management areas Three Mile and Calf Creek. But sections of state land are numerous on the east side and locations such as a section along Blodgett Creek just east of the Blodgett Canyon Campground and along Tin Cup Road just east of the Tin Cup trailhead.

**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

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Monday – Friday 8 – 5:30

Saturday – 9 – 4

## Why Is It So Hard? Article by Kathleen Beckham

Published in Eclectic Horseman Magazine Issue 114.

*Kathleen grew up riding and training hunter jumper show horses until a stroke sidelined her career at age 28. It became clear to Kathleen that she was at a fork in her horsemanship road, and in 1995 she moved to Colorado and began to study horsemanship in earnest, in hopes of learning to work "smarter, not harder" with horses.*

Have you ever gotten unsolicited advice from a fellow horse person? Have you ever sat in the audience at a clinic or at a horse show and all you could hear was "arm chair quarter-backing" from your fellow spectators? Ever been on one of those horsey discussion groups and read pages and pages of "expert" advice? Ever heard an instructor lose their patience with a student?

We horse people (and other people, of course) have a problem that causes a lot of that stuff I just mentioned. This is the thing. We have a really hard time watching people learn. For some of us, it's near to impossible for us to watch someone learn. For others of us, we are fascinated by the processes we see when we watch someone learn.

Years ago, when I was traveling with horseman Mark Rashid, we were in England, and a spectator raised her hand to ask a question while Mark was teaching a lesson. "Yes?" he said. "You know, of course," the woman said, a bit impatiently, "that the rider is posting on the wrong diagonal." I thought I could see Mark count to 10 or so in his head, and then he nicely said, "Yes, we can see that, but that's not what we're working on right now."

That probably happened every weekend, every clinic, where someone had to point out something a rider was doing wrong and ask Mark about it to make sure he was aware of it. Or they'd ask why he wasn't working on something yet. There are many versions of this question. The reason people ask these questions is the same reason why we all get so much unsolicited advice: it's difficult for people to watch other people learn.

Now, of course, I have to say here that there are times when unsolicited advice is offered in the spirit of preserving life and limb, or from selfless, kind humility. There are times when unsolicited advice changes someone's life for the better and thank goodness for those times. But most unsolicited advice is offered for reasons more about the advice-giver rather than the advice-receiver. We offer advice often because we are impatiently watching someone make mistakes or otherwise flail around.

I think it's interesting to study how watching someone struggle makes me feel. Do I feel empathy or sympathy? Does it make me remember the times when I struggled with similar things? Am I embarrassed, for them or for me? Does it make me feel stressed or impatient? Does it make me feel frustrated? Does it make me want to take some sort of action? Does it make me want to step in and take over? As a teacher, I have an additional question for myself. If I do start to feel impatient or frustrated with a student, can I master those emotions so they never make it past my own awareness of them? Can I keep them out of my voice and my body? Is my frustration not with the student but with myself?

The truth of the matter is, anyone who is TRYING is going to struggle and fall short. Anyone who is trying is going to make mistakes. This is a natural and essential part of the learning process. True learning is not painless to the student, and it's not necessarily painless to the observer either. Another thing we need to understand is that a student can only keep track of a couple new ideas or movements at a time. This is a scientific fact. A lot of times, we will see



a student working hard on some things, while other things are wrong or utterly neglected. I like to say, "There are no more brain cells available" at that point. It can be frustrating to watch, but every teacher knows that they must pick carefully how many things to offer a student at one time, and WHAT things to offer at any given time. An instructor may have to pick some things to neglect for a while, until the student has gained more competency with new information or skills. To use a string of clichés, we must "decide which mountain to die on" or we might have "bigger fish to fry." I think it's very informative to ask WHY an instructor is teaching things in the order they are (rather than why they're not teaching something RIGHT NOW), because that will often reveal very important core principles at the heart of their philosophy. Some folks simply need to make mistakes (sometimes even create disasters) to own what they are learning.

We can be mindful observers. We could choose to study why, for us personally, it's hard for us to watch people learn. We could figure out ways to support the learning process in others rather than offering criticism and unsolicited advice.

Yes, it can be difficult to watch people learn. But here's the kicker. Is it hard to watch a horse learn? What's the difference? Now, go back to the beginning of this blog, and insert "horse" every time the "student" is referenced. If it's hard for us to watch people struggle and learn, it's probably difficult for us to watch horses struggle and learn. That's why we push and mash, look for shortcuts, use gadgets, bigger bits and bigger sticks and generally get frustrated. We just can't be troubled to watch a horse learn. It's a funny thing. I bet that the better we are at watching people learn, the better we'll get at watching a horse learn. Heck, we could all use the practice, anyway.

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## **BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN**

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### **SALT - FRIED STEAK FOR THE CAMP SITE**

- ½ inch thick steaks
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/8 teaspoon ground pepper
- 1 tablespoon dry mustard
- Trail Tip: Freeze meat back home, it will stay fresh for an extra day as it defrosts.

Rub steaks with the blend. Slap steaks in a hot skillet and quickly sear till brown. Turn and repeat, and the steaks are done!

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**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN**  
**(DRAFT) GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> 2023**

The September 2023 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by Past President Gene Merrell at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held at the Corvallis Grange. Approximately 32 members were present. There was not a Board quorum. Bonnie Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting.

Guests: None

**PROGRAM**

**Tracey Hawkins - Riding Basics from Trail to Arena:** Monica introduced the speaker, Tracey Hawkins. She raised 3 daughters on a California ranch where they learned to ride together. She now resides in Stevensville and competes in barrel racing and ranch rodeos. Her philosophy is that every ride is a lesson; by being one with your horse on the trail or in the arena, every ride is an opportunity to improve skills and performance. Equitation ties all riding practices together. Be an active rider, check tack every ride, be courteous on the trail, and work horses toward being ok with unexpected wildlife.

**BUSINESS**

**Minutes:** The August minutes were printed in the September Nag News; there were no corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** Barb presented the September treasurer's report. There were no updates.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Safety Moment:** Wear hunter orange when riding now. Carry a whistle in shooting areas. Pasture grass is getting more sugar, so watch for laminitis.

**Fair Volunteers Potluck Appreciation Dinner:** See flyer or Leslie's email for the event. It will be Oct 10, 5:30pm, at the Event Center. RSVP to the person listed on the flyer.

**Big Creek Trip:** Julie, Ross, and Judy spoke about the group pack ride up Big Creek to clean up/burn wood debris around the lake area. They encountered bees/wasps going in and out. The trail was easy up to Tipi Rock, then more difficult. Riders and stock should be experienced after that point.

**Coffee/Hot Water Signup:** The signup form was circulated.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Grants:** The committee is waiting for grants to be released on 11/1. They are collecting info and lining up crews for the 2024 projects.

**Issues:** The last Badger-Two Medicine lease has been retired and the area is now protected from drilling. The Bitterroot Front project has an

emergency action authorization that allows the FS to take any action to prevent an emergency. Recreation has been eliminated as an action. Treatment areas are not defined, logging will be done, and trails may be affected.

**Projects:** Dan noted that 2024 projects are being developed. These include Bear Creek to Big Creek to complete the loop and Fred Burr to Mill Creek loop. Planning, budgets, funding, and FS interaction are being worked on. Let Dan know if you want to do a project.

**State Directors:** BCHMT's quarterly meeting is at the end of September. BCHA is looking at a dues increase of \$5/membership to cover paid BCHA staff. States need to ratify the increase. The National Vice Chair and Public Lands person recently met with the BLM. There is increase interest in improved recreation on BLM lands and partnering with groups. MT is represented by 5 individuals on the national level.

**Education & Training:** Brad is offering a trailer backing clinic at his place. If members are interested, it will be posted in the newsletter and offered in October. A weekend is preferred.

**Membership:** Leslie reported there are currently 88 memberships and 139 members. Renewals will start for 2024. A new membership chair is needed as she is stepping down.

**Outreach:** No report.

**Program:** There will be a fire safety speaker at the Oct meeting.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

Christy will provide a fair report at the October meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Nominating Committee:** Diane, Bonnie, Judy, and Leslie volunteered for the committee. Gene will provide guidance and will contact the current officers and Board members whose positions are up for election. He spoke about the need to contact all members for the open positions.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Coyote Coulee has several trees down on the loops. Riders should get GPS coordinates and let the FS know. Soft Rock area also has a large tree across a trail.

Gene spoke about his experience with the Chief Joseph Trail Ride.

Karen brought free horse tack from Patty Martin.

Brad spoke of an event at the Big Sky Horse Park on Oct 14. The presentation is on Managing Horses on Small Acreage.

**Next Meeting:** October 19 at the Corvallis Grange, potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm. Coffee: Diane Duffie, hot water: Susan Slemph

**Travise Grinnell motioned and Diane Duffie seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Kathy Stoppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH

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## **BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN (DRAFT) BOARD MEETING AGENDA, OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> 2023**

The October 2023 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order at 7:00 pm by Christy Schram-Duggan. Present were VP Christy Schram-Duggan, Treasurer Barb Walker, and Secretary Kathy Stoppel-Holl; Board members Diane Duffie, Travise Grinnell, Dennis Hardman, Carol Johns, Joe Kirkland, Dan Maiyo, Karen Philips, and Brad Pollman (also State Director); State Director Chuck Miller and Alt State Director Ed Duggan; and Past President Gene Merrell. Absent were President Jan Bullock and Board member Dan Brandborg. Christy led the pledge.

Committee Chairs present: Bonnie Morgan, Leslie Conner-Maiyo

### **BUSINESS**

Minutes: The August 2023 meeting minutes were published in the August Nag News (there was no Sept Board meeting) – there were no updates. **Karen Philips motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to accept the minutes as published. The motion carried.** Kathy will be out of town for the Oct general meeting and needs minutes taken.

Treasurer's Report: Barb provided the account balances – there were no questions on the report. **Diane Duffie motioned and Joe Kirkland seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.** BRBCH received a \$4000 check from the County for fair gate and ticket duties. Barb will be out for the Oct general meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Oct general meeting will be at the Corvallis Grange. Christy has the key from Barb.

Former members, Jim and Irene Shatney, have apples available. See Karen for their phone number and address.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Grants:** No report.

**Issues:** No updates. Gene reminded that a recreation permit is needed to use State land (e.g., Soft Rock, Calf Creek). Bonnie noted that there is a large tree down at Soft Rock; DNRC needs to be informed about it.

**Projects:** Christy has received project reports from project managers so she can prepare the State and FS reports. The 2024 project that goes into Idaho will be covered by the Region 1 volunteer agreement.

**State Directors:** BCHMT held their Sept meeting in Deer Lodge. The State is doing well monetarily. The State Convention is Mar 8-10 at Fairmont Hot Springs. The 2024 National convention will be in Casper, WY. BCHA has forms available for trailhead parking and e-bike encounters. The Wild Horse Plains BCH chapter has been retired for lack of participation. The State newsletter costs over \$1K/year for printing/mailling. A proposal to only send it out via email has been tabled to the Dec meeting. The Board discussed how many BRBCH members get a mailed copy of the newsletter. The cost share mileage is due Nov 30 to the State; Christy is handling this. The BCHA youth program has a grant available to disperse funds with an easy application. The Pollmans have given various grant info to the BRBCH grant committee. Brad spoke about public lands/government issues and getting info gathered and shared. Quarterly meetings are proposed for chapters to provide input on public lands issues. BCHA is asking for a \$5 increase in dues. There was further discussion on how the increase in national dues would be handled. Some chapters are donating an amount for 2023, and then will have their members cover the potential increase in 2024. This BCHA dues increase and a possible 2023 donation will be discussed at the November general meeting.

**Membership:** Leslie would like the membership be informed about the conservation fee since it affects Calf Creek where many folks ride. A secondary membership application has come in that will be applied to 2024. **Joe Kirkland motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to accept the membership. The motion carried.** Membership renewals for 2024 are being accepted. There are 89 memberships and 140 members.

**Outreach:** Karen noted Joe Tenzer is in a hospital and a card will be sent. The photo for the new thank you cards turned out well. Travise will get

the fair volunteer dinner info on the FB page. Karen proposed a thank you \$500 cash donation to the Duggans for their extensive fair work, improvements, and commitment over the past 2 years. **Carol Johns motioned and Diane Duffie seconded the Board approve this donation and present it to the general membership for approval. The motion carried.**

**Program:** The Oct program speaker from DNRC will speak about fireproofing your home and barns. Five new FS staff will be introduced at the meeting as well.

**Education & Training:** Brad has 3-4 folks interested in the trailer backing class on Oct 14. There wasn't enough interest in having a crosscut or chain saw classes this fall. Carol asked about borrowing the electric chainsaw to help the XC ski club clearing projects this month. She would need to work with a B certified sawyer.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Fair Recap:** Christy presented highlights from an informative fair summary. She noted that the Fair Board was very pleased with BRBCH work this year. The chapter provided over 1,559 volunteer hours. Ticket sales were \$198,593 (\$10K more than 2022). Susan Slep decorated the milk cans that will sit by the new memorial bench. Bitterroot Beanery donated coffee each day. The fairgrounds will get \$50 and \$100 marking pens to check those bills and will obtain 5 new iPads. East Gate ran the smoothest ever, and the data obtained greatly

informed the commissioners of the need to keep the gate. The lunch promo went very well - it was suggested that the promo be offered at the north and south gates in 2024. There are projects to finish up at the gates for 2024. Christy asked the Board about painting the BRBCH office and shed to match the other gates. The fairgrounds would supply the paint and sprayer, BRBCH would supply the labor.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Nominating Committee:** The committee has started calling the membership. They are letting folks know the positions (4 Board, 4 Officers, 1 State Director, 1 Alt State Director) are all available for candidates.

**Thanksgiving Meal Signup:** Kathy will send the signup sheet to Christy, Jan, and Karen to circulate at the October general meeting. The chapter covers the meat costs (turkey and ham).

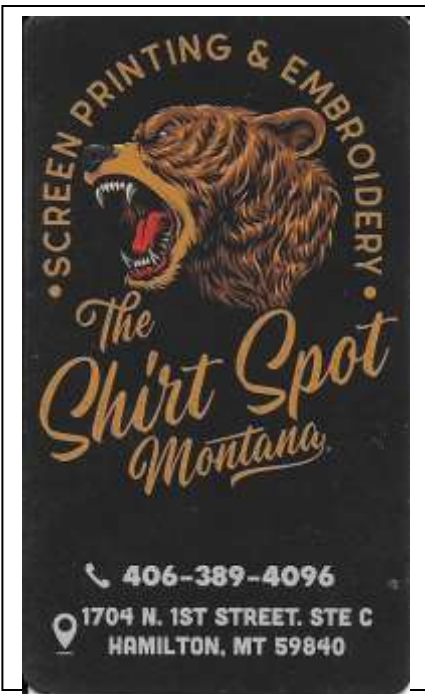
**Christmas Santa:** Gene said the Hamilton Downtown Association has been in contact with us.

**Pantry Partners Food Pack:** There has been no contact from them as yet.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

**Travise Grinnell motioned and Karen Philips seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm. The motion carried.**

Kathy Stoppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH





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# Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



## **NEXT BRBCH MEETING**

**Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Location:**

**Corvallis Grange Hall**

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

**Visit our Website:**

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