



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



December 2023 Issue #12

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ISSUE

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, DECEMBER 21ST 2023 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Corvallis Elementary School Cafeteria

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK AND RAFFLE!!

Pot Luck Dinner: 6:30 pm

Meeting: 7:00 pm

The next General Meeting will be at the Corvallis Elementary School Cafeteria. From Hwy 93 at the Woodside Cutoff light, drive east to the 4-way stop in Corvallis. Turn left (north), then an immediate right into the parking lot on the west side of the school. Additional parking is off 2nd Street at the NE corner of the school. 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's speaker is Jan Bullock who will share stories from her trip to Mongolia. For more information, please call Gene at 208-310-6326 or check out our website at:

www.bchmt.org/bitterroot. Facebook: **Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH)**.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

- President's Message
- 2024 newly Elected Officers and Board Members
- Santa Rides Again!
- Pantry Partners
- Horse Sense
- Back Country Kitchen
- November General Meeting Minutes (Draft)
- December Board Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Editor's Note: Happy Solstice! The same night as our general meeting! For our annual Christmas raffle, ***everyone who has paid dues for next year can participate in the Raffle for great prizes!*** I also would like to extend special thanks and appreciation to **Cowpoke Supply** for donating rubber insulated gloves, to **Tammany Veterinary Hospital** for donating a complimentary Equine Oral Examination & Routine Float, to the **Shirt Spot** for donating a camo duffle bag and t-shirt, to **Murdocs** for horse treats and worming paste, and to other businesses and members who also donated items. Thank you very much!!



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings and Happy Holidays fellow members!

Well, our year is coming to an end and a fresh new year will be here before we know it! We have accomplished a lot in 2023 and I want to thank you all for making that happen! As we look forward to the New Year, I encourage you to make suggestions on how we can do things better! We have many new fresh faces that have joined our Chapter and any suggestions for improvement are always welcome. There will be some new folks taking on the responsibility of Officers and Board Members and I would like to thank them for stepping up. I would also like to thank those that are stepping back but need to remind them that we still value their experience, information and hard work and hope they will continue to use their skills to further our mission.

Our last membership meeting is coming up on Thursday December 21st and this will be our annual Christmas Party! We have lots of great prizes for our raffle and I am sure there will be more arriving on that evening. To be eligible for a raffle ticket you will have already paid your membership dues for 2024 or can still pay **before** the meeting starts. Each member will receive one ticket and if your ticket is pulled out of the hat you can choose a prize of your choice. In years past there have been many great prizes donated by local vendors as well as some of our members so get your dues paid and get in on the action. Tickets will be drawn frequently during the meeting and hopefully, everyone will go home with a prize.

Also, yours truly will be doing a talk and slide show about my visit to Mongolia this past fall. This was my second trip to Mongolia and my 2 horseback treks into some of Mongolia's National Parks and wilderness areas were amazing! I have lots of pictures but will pick out the best ones to share with you. We will also be talking about our big project coming up in 2024! This is called the Bitter Root Connection Project and will, along with other volunteer groups, start the process of reopening the connection of the Mill Creek and Fred Burr trails! A lot of work is planned for this project, and I encourage you to sign up to help out. Positions that we need filled and dates will be available soon. This big project will be taking place in the backcountry and the opportunity to see some beautiful areas in our Bitterroot mountains that one normally does not encounter will be available to us with transportation provided for those without stock! We have applied for grants to make this project happen and I hope you will have the opportunity to participate.

So come and enjoy some wonderful Christmas food brought in by our members and pick a prize from our raffle! And, while you are enjoying your meal, see some beautiful pictures and learn about the wonder that is the country of Mongolia!

See you soon

Your President

Jan Bullock

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED AND RE-ELECTED 2024 OFFICERS, BOARD AND STATE DIRECTOR OFFICER!



From Left to Right
Mark Wright - Director, Barb Walker - Treasurer, Jan Bullock - President, Judy Posey - Secretary, Ed Duggan - Alternate State Director, Joan Scheffer - Director, Greg Schenider - Director, Diane Duffie - Vice President, Dan Brandborg - Director, Chuck Miller - State Director

2023 Committees

Audit

Audio-Visual Equipment

Budget

Education

Election & Nominations

Equipment & Inventory

Fair

Advertising

RTP Grants

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

Bonnie Morgan, Diane Duffie, Leslie Conner-Maiyo, Judy Posey

Ed Duggan

Christy Schram-Duggan

Ed Bullock

Dan Brandborg, Diane Duffie, Barb Walker

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	State Director	Term	BCHMT State Chairman
Dan Brandborg	2022-23	Brad Pollman	2022-23	Wade Murphy
Carol Johns	2022-23	Chuck Miller	2023-24	
Dan Maiyo	2022-23			
Karen Philips	2022-23	Alt. State Director		BCHMT National Director
Travise Grinnell	2023-24	Ed Duggan	2023	Brad Pollman 2023-24
Joe Kirkand	2023-24			
Diane Duffie	2023-24	Past President		
Dennis Hardman	2023-24	Gene Merrell		
Brad Pollman	2023-24			



HI-YO-HO-HO - SANTA RIDES AGAIN AND AGAIN!!

On Nov 24th during the Christmas tree lighting ceremony in downtown Hamilton, Santa, accompanied by his elves, rode through the town's streets on his trusty mare Nikawa, delighting young and old alike! Children loved being near Santa and gentle Nikawa (her name is River Horse in the Osage language). Thanks to Santa Ed Bullock, Mrs. Claus Jan Bullock, and elves Gene Merrill, Joan Scheffer, and Leslie and Dan Maiyo, for spreading joy to so many. The event, in its second year, was sponsored by the Hamilton Downtown Association, in collaboration with Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen.



PANTRY PARTNERS FOOD PACKING EVENT

For nearly to 30 years, the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen have packed food boxes for Pantry Partners! On Thursday, November 30th, from 1-3 pm we assembled boxes and set food items out on tables. On Friday, December 1st from 9-10 am we filled, sealed and loaded 240 boxes in a trailer for delivery to the Pantry Partners' facility for distribution for those in need. A big shout out to all that participated in this annual event! Thank You!





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

To Blanket or not to Blanket **Part One of Two** *This article appeared in the Feb. 2022 Nag News*

1. How a horse stays warm: Horses have developed very efficient means of staying warm, even in very cold temperatures. Your horse's coat is comprised of two types of hair: longer stiffer guard hairs; and a soft, fluffy undercoat. The guard hairs "guard" or protect the soft hairs from dirt and water, shed off rain, and collect moisture from sweat that might damage the undercoat. The softer, fluffier hairs of the undercoat trap warm air between and act like insulation around your horse. Natural oils are produced that coat the hair to make them water resistant. Each hair is connected to the piloerector muscle. This muscle allows the hairs to be stood up or laid flat. When they stand up, warm air trapped between them, just above the surface of the skin. When they lie down, warm air is released from between them, cooling the area above the surface of the skin.

2. How much winter hair will my horse get? Horses will start to grow their heavy winter coats sometime in late August in most parts of the United States. The hair growth is actually linked to the length of daylight, not the temperature. How thick their coat will grow does depend some on where you live. A horse in Florida will not grow nearly as heavy a coat as a horse in Minnesota does, but they all grow a thicker coat for winter.

3. How much cold can a horse tolerate? A Canadian study found that horses can tolerate temperatures

down to 5°F before they show any drop in body temperature. However, certain conditions do change your horse's ability to keep warm. Rain and wind are the two most important. Rain will flatten the hair coat and prevent the undercoat from providing that layer of warm air. Wind will blow the warm air from the surface of the skin. Snow is less of a problem. In fact, snow will collect on your horse's coat and act as a layer of insulation.

4. When don't I need to blanket my horse?

- When he has a natural winter coat
- When he is healthy and in good body weight
- When it is not too windy or raining
- If the temperature says above 5°F

5. When do I need to blanket my horse?

- When he has been clipped for winter
- When he is sick or injured
- When he is underweight (or any "hard keeper")
- When he is older, with weight issues, or difficulty moving around
- When he has been recently moved to a colder climate (Expect it to take 10-21 days for a horse to acclimate to a new climate)
- When it is windy or rainy or both, and
- When there is no available shelter

**PART TWO WILL APPEAR IN THE
JANUARY ISSUE OF NAG NEWS!**



BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN

SPONSORED BY:



The Shirt Spot

1704 N 1st St Unit C
Hamilton MT 59840
406-389-4096

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!

PEMMICAN CAKES

- 1 package beef jerky
 - 1 cup dried berries, such as dried blueberries, cranberries, or cherries
 - 1 cup chopped nuts or sunflower seeds
 - ¼ cup beef suet or vegetable shortening
 - Honey to taste (1-3 teaspoons)
 - 12 – cup muffin tin
1. Line muffin cups with paper liners (or grease cups well).
 2. Grind or chop beef jerky into confetti size pieces to make about 1 cup. Melt suet or shortening in a saucepan.
 3. Remove from heat, stir in beef jerky, dried berries, and seeds. Stir in honey.
 4. Spoon about ¼ cup of the pemmican mixture into each muffing cup. Press down firmly to make a cake, smoothing the top.
 5. Refrigerate until well set. Serves 12

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

The November 2023 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Jan Bullock at 7:12 pm. The meeting was held at the Corvallis Primary School cafeteria. Approximately 55 members were present. There was an officer and board quorum. Trish Foster led the Pledge to start the meeting. There were no guests.

Jan noted that since this is a thankful time of the year, she asked folks to help out others where they see the need. Be kind and be thankful!

2024 Elections: Bonnie Morgan conducted the election process for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, four Board Positions for 2024-2025, State Director for 2024-2025, and Alternate State Director. Ballots were completed via email or in person at the meeting. Per election protocol, Bonnie asked for nominations from the floor three times for each position. The ballot results are as follows.

For President, Jan Bullock and Christy Schram-Duggan are nominated. There were no

nominations from the floor. **Brad Pollman motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded that nominations for President be closed.** After tallying the ballots, Jan Bullock was voted in.

For Vice President, Diane Duffie and Julie Schram-Duggan are nominated. There were no nominations from the floor. **Brad Pollman motioned and Judy Posey seconded that nominations for VP be closed.** After tallying the ballots, Diane Duffie was voted in.

For Secretary, Judy Posey is nominated. There were no nominations from the floor. **Travise Grinnell motioned and Ross Posey seconded that nominations for Secretary be closed.** After tallying the ballots, Judy Posey was voted in.

For Treasurer, Barb Walker is nominated. There were no nominations from the floor. **Travise Grinnell motioned and Ross Posey seconded that nominations for Treasurer be closed.** After tallying the ballots, Barb Walker was voted in.

For 2024-2025 State Director, Chuck Miller is nominated. There were no nominations from the floor. **Travise Grinnell motioned and Helen Engle seconded that nominations for State**

Director be closed. After tallying the ballots, Chuck Miller was voted in.

For 2024 Alternate State Director, Bob Driggers and Ed Duggan are nominated. **Travise Grinnell motioned and Bonnie Duggan seconded that nominations for Alternate State Director be closed.** After tallying the ballots, Ed Duggan was voted in.

For the four 2024-2025 Board of Directors, the following candidates were nominated: Dan Brandborg, Shawn Kern, Carol Johns, Joan Scheffer, Greg Schneider, Julie Shram, and Mark Wright. **Travise Grinnell motioned and Ross Posey seconded that nominations for Board Directors be closed.** After tallying the ballots, the 2024-2025 Board members are Dan Brandborg, Joan Scheffer, Greg Schneider, and Mark Wright.

All newly elected folks, as well as any members, were invited to attend the Dec Board meeting at the Daly-Leach Chapel. Since Diane Duffie is a current Board member, the Board will determine her replacement for her remaining 2024 term at the January Board meeting.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The October minutes were printed in the November Nag News; there were no corrections. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to accept the Sep and Oct general meeting minutes. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barb presented the November treasurer's report. There were no updates. **Travise Grinnell motioned and Joan Scheffer seconded to accept the Oct and Nov treasurer's reports. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Safety Moment: Bucks are in rut and not paying attention to cars. Be careful driving! Hwy 93 had 2 fatal accidents in the past few weeks. Watch out and ride as far over to the right as legal. Also, watch for folks running stop signs. Be a defensive driver.

Dec Meeting Members Raffle: Leslie is collecting items for the members raffle at the December meeting. Be sure to renew your membership in order to get a raffle ticket at the meeting.

Cook Trailer Storage: The chapter would like it to be under a roof during the winter. If anyone has available space, let Jan or Kathy know. It is currently outside at the Maiyo's home.

Haven House Pass the Hat: Jan passed the hat for Haven House, the Hamilton food pantry for which the chapter annually collects a cash donation. Dennis provided the hat that was passed around. Members donated \$205 to Haven

House. Jan will deliver this to Haven House on Friday, 11/17.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants & Projects: Presented by Dan Brandborg. The grant committee has met with the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church (SBFC) Foundation, who has funding to work the Idaho side of one proposed project (Big Creek thru an Idaho trail to connect to Bear Creek) so a grant won't be pursued for that work; however, pack support will be provided. The other project is a loop from Fred Burr to Mill Creek with multiple switchbacks up Fred Burr, and a grant will be pursued for that work.

Issues: Presented by Carol Johns. She has looked into the shaded fuel breaks the FS is proposing for projects. They are categorical exclusions, so the NEPA process is not done. She spoke to Jackie Parks with the Darby-Sula District and learned more about shaded fuel breaks. Further info was provided on various FS projects areas around the valley and how they would affect trails, accesses, and roads.

State Directors: Presented by Chuck Miller, who is the public lands person at the BCH MT level. The Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act is in Congress. He also spoke about the SBFC Foundation, a sister organization that does similar trail work as BRBCH, and provided the 2023 trail work data the SBFC accomplished. He brought 2 copies of the definitive axe book, which he donated to the crosscut and chainsaw folks. Brad P spoke about public lands and problems/issues that will be tracked. The next State meeting will be in Dec.

Education & Training: No report.

Membership: Presented by Leslie Conner-Maiyo. There are currently 91 memberships and 144 members. Renewals have started for 2024.

Outreach: Presented by Karen Philips. Long-time member Joe Tenzer is in Discovery Center care and would appreciate any contact, letter, call, or visit. BRBCH needs to submit an article with photos for the BCH MT January newsletter.

Program: Jan Bullock will share stories from her trip to Mongolia during the December meeting. Dan B will provide a slideshow on the grant projects in Feb. Ted Hall is scheduled to speak in March on the Lewis and Clark decent trail. Need a January speaker. Will try to get one of the UM pack scholarship recipients to speak at the April meeting.

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

phone number are listed in the chapter membership directory.

OLD BUSINESS

Pantry Partners Christmas Food Box Pack: Gene said Box Prep is Thu, Nov 30, 1-3pm, and Box Pack is Fri, Dec 1, 9am. Both are at the St Mary's Family Center. A sign up sheet was passed around. About 200 boxes will be packed.

NEW BUSINESS

BRBCH Chapter Donation for BCHA: Brad spoke about this topic at past meetings, and provided additional info on why BCHA needs the dues increase. BCH MT will discuss and vote on this measure. If passed, it will take 3 years for the revised dues to be put in place. The BRBCH Board approved a \$5 per membership donation to BCHA for 2023 to help defray expenses. Need a seconded motion from the membership to approve this. Jan noted that this donation is coming out of the chapter's account, not from the members. **Helen Engle motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to make this donation to BCH MT to go to BCHA. The motion passed with a majority of yeas and one nay.**

Thank You/Monetary Gift: Jan noted that this topic has been tabled to the Dec Board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Gene is looking for someone to handle the Pantry Partners food box pack next year. Leslie is looking for a replacement for membership chair.

Gene and Cheyenne will be working on the 2024 budget. Think about the organization and what is needed.

Ed Bullock will be the Cowboy Santa for the Hamilton Downtown Association. He would like some help Friday, 11/24 with crowd control around his horse. Will meet in the parking lot near the Post Office. When the tree is lit, then Santa shows up!

Next Meeting: December 21 at the Corvallis Primary Cafeteria, potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm.

Coffee: Karen Philips; Hot water: Travise Grinnell

Gene Merrell motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. The motion carried.

Kathy Stoppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN (DRAFT) BOARD MEETING AGENDA, DECEMBER 7TH, 2023

The December 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, Treasurer Barb Walker, and Secretary Kathy Stoppel-Holl; Board members Dan Brandborg, Diane Duffie, Travise Grinnell, Dennis Hardman, Carol Johns, Joe Kirkland, Dan Maiyo, Karen Philips, and Brad Pollman (also State Director); and Alt State Director Ed Duggan. Absent were Past President Gene Merrell and State Director Chuck Miller. Greg Schneider led the Pledge.

Committee Chairs and New 2024 Officer/Board members present: Bonnie Morgan, Leslie Conner-Maiyo, Judy Posey, Greg Schneider, Mark Wright, and Joan Scheffer.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The November 2023 meeting minutes were published in the November Nag News – there were no updates. **Christy Schram-Duggan 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. **Karen Philips motioned and Travise Grinnell**

seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jan welcomed all the new 2024 officers and Board members.

Dan M noted "Chuck Wagon" has a new home at Laura McManus's barn. Thanks, Laura!

Jan said Cowboy Santa Ed, Nikawa (the pony), and the pony's Elf escort had a good time at tree lighting in Hamilton on Nov 24. Pictures were taken with Santa, the pony, and visitors. A photo of the event is on Facebook.

Leslie provided a list of 11 items she has for the December members' raffle. Barb and Jan gave additional items for the raffle.

Kathy noted that Leslie will have the key to check the PO box for memberships until the Dec general meeting. Leslie will give the key to Judy afterwards. Jan and Barb have the other 2 PO box keys.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants: Dan spoke about the Bitterroot Wilderness Connection Project (the Mill Creek/Fred Burr loop), the MCC crew, and FS involvement. A BCHA grant was looked into that

would cover equipment, such as folding tables, chairs, and bear resistant boxes. The committee is applying for the RTP grant, and will know in Mar/Apr if it is awarded. Brad noted the BCHA grant is worth going after, and it is separate from the RTP grant. The chapter has good wilderness equipment. Christy suggested 1 set of bear boxes (have 1 set already). There are 2-3 areas for matching funds from BCHA, BCH MT, or the Flathead chapter to cover costs before the grant moneys are available. Dan discussed the proposed itinerary that will start July 1, with two 9-day hitches, how many volunteers are needed in camp (2-3 for 3 days, rotated out twice with others). The first camp will be 6 miles from the Fred Burr reservoir. Jan suggested asking the membership as to who would be interested and available. The camp volunteers would prep coffee, dinners, and oversee camp. The MCC crews are self-contained, so BRBCH volunteers would be providing a dinner every 3 days for the crew. Leslie noted a lot of members could be interested in spending 2-3 days in a camp setting like this. Stock is limited to 20 animals packing; Christy noted the stock could be taken out after packing in. Food costs per day could range from \$20-\$24/person/day. With inflation, \$25/person/day should be budgeted. Ed talked about what these crews eat on similar pack trips. There was further discussion on this project. The final suggestion was for \$30/person/day to put in the grant costs. Christy, Ed, and Travise will provide pack support. An email will be sent to the membership on this project.

Projects: It was suggested that 2024 projects be minimized due to the big project effort for the grant. Dan M noted Brand Browning would like BRBCH to do the East Fork barbed wire removal project June 21-23 or May 24-26, and the Crazy Creek Horse Facility maintenance project Aug 1-4. Brand has the EF cabin dates reserved.

Issues: Carol said Steve Brown is the new Darby/Sula district ranger (Abby Josie retired). Carol will contact Jackie Parks regarding a FS projects map. The FS has contacted tribal entities regarding historical/archeological sites, such as the peeled Indian trees. FS winter burns will be done after the Hog Trough burn. Some national parks are attempting to replant in wilderness areas, but are being challenged on this issue. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan now has the Wildland Urban Interface buffer at 1.5 miles (change from ¼ mile) for communities.

State Directors: Brad said the state meeting is Dec 16 in Missoula, followed by a Christmas party potluck. See Brad if you have questions about BCH MT or BCHA. Kathy presented the FS Region 1 Oct/Nov year end summary newsletter, which will be emailed to the Board. Brad provided further

info on a recent BCHA letter regarding grant money.

Membership: Leslie said Cheyenne Grinnell will be the new membership chair. A list of new and renewal memberships to approve were discussed. For 2023, there are 91 memberships and 144 members. **Karen Philips motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to accept the new and renewal memberships as presented. The motion carried.** For 2024, there are 29 memberships and 49 members.

Outreach: Karen suggested the Cowboy Santa story be submitted for the Decker Dispatch. Christy suggested the Food Pack story also be submitted. Dan M has photos. The submittal is due Jan 5.

Program: Jan Bullock will speak at the Dec meeting about her Mongolia trip. Debbie Hamilton, a photographer, may be the Jan speaker. Dan B will speak in Feb about the grants projects. Other winter meeting speakers include the FS talking about shaded fuel breaks.

Education & Training: Jan's first aid training is coming up in January. Let Bonnie know if you have any ideas for DHS training, such as a veterinarian for a vet talk. Bonnie would like to forego Wilderness Skills Weekend in lieu of a May campout at Rock Creek Horse Camp. Folks thought it was a great idea to get members oriented to easy camping and trail riding.

OLD BUSINESS

Pantry Partners Food Pack: Kathy noted there were 17 members, and 240 boxes were packed in 45 minutes. Another successful pack! Next year box building and box packing could be done on the same day.

Thank You/Monetary Gift: Jan said that Karen had brought up a motion in October to provide a thank you monetary gift to Christy and Ed, which was approved by the Board. The Duggans are not comfortable with this gift, so Karen has been asked to rescind the vote. **Karen Philips moved to rescind the motion that was adopted at the October Board meeting to provide a cash gift to Christy and Ed Duggan for their work at the fair. Travise Grinnell seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Leave No Trace Trailer: Christy said the trailer will be turned into a portable tool trailer with the BRBCH logo on the side. Travise and Ross Posey will pick a date in the next 3-4 months to revamp the trailer. Equipment will be moved out of the shed and into the trailer. Dan B asked where the trailer will be stored since the shed is centrally located. Discussion commenced on where the trailer could be stored. It would be used for the

Connection Project up Fred Burr. Ed D has an inventory of what is currently in the trailer. The FS radio and Garmin will be stored in it. There was further discussion on storing all the tools in the trailer versus the shed since some projects need minimal tools or may not have a way to tow the trailer. It was suggested the trailer be located at the fairgrounds. Christy will speak to the fairground folks.

Audit Committee: Jan said some folks are needed to perform the annual audit of the treasurer's books. Joe K and Judy P volunteered.

Budget Committee: Cheyenne will work with Gene, and Barb will help as well, to develop the budget. Need dollar input from committee chairs. Gene will ask Darryl Reece one more time for project funding.

2024 State Convention Delegates and State Auction Item: The state convention is March 8-10, 2024, at Fairmont Hot Springs. Registration is \$85 for all convention activities and Sat dinner. Early registration is due Feb 1. Christy said 8 delegates and 1 alternate go to the convention. The 2 state directors and alternate state director typically go. The chapter covers registration, one night of hotel (doubling up on rooms is encouraged), and mileage. Delegates are: Brad, Chuck, Ed D, Travise, Jan, Diane, Dennis, and Barb. Christy will be the alternate. There are 5 raffle

FOR SALE

Montana Traveler x Peruvian Paso 12 year old mare. Gaited! One owner. Package includes tack (saddle, bridle, bit etc.) and approximately 1+ ton grass hay. \$4,500.

Also For Sale

Maverick two horse slant load horse trailer. Like new. \$6,000.

Contact Janice Belcher (307) 282-0810

FOR SALE

Three large 55 gallon capacity plastic barrels, two white, one blue. Excellent to use for play in arenas, have used them for circling/lining up for jumping over. \$50.00 ea.

Contact Amy Greer 406-961-4429

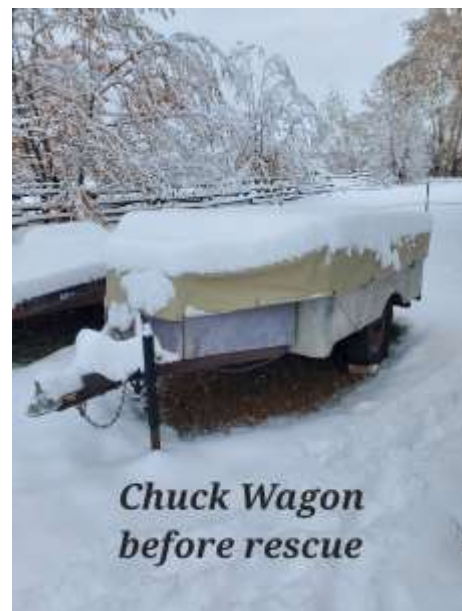
items. Barb will follow up on where the raffle tickets are. The chapter's state \$100 value auction item needs to be determined. The membership will be asked whether anybody can provide this item.

OTHER BUSINESS

Open Board Position: Jan noted the open Board position will be filled at the January Board meeting.

Karen Philips motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm. The motion carried.

Kathy Stoppel-Holl, Secretary BRBCH



EDITORS NOTE: Special appreciation goes out to Laura McManus! She graciously contributed the use of her barn to house Chuck Wagon for the winter. Thank you very much Laura!



SCREEN PRINTING & EMBROIDERY



The Shirt Spot
Montana

406-389-4096
1704 N. 1ST STREET, STE C
HAMILTON, MT 59840

**DEADLINE FOR
NAG NEWS is
Thursday, January 11th**

**SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES
AND ADS TO:**

djmaiyo@gmail.com



**SWEETWATER
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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, December 21st 2024

Location:

**Corvallis Elementary School Cafeteria
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***