



# Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



January 2024 Issue #1

## 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, JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2023 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

### Corvallis Elementary School Cafeteria

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

For this month's guest speakers we are pleased to host equine photographers Bonnie Cazier and Debbie Driggers. For more information, please call Gene at 208-310-6326 or check out our website at: [www.bchmt.org/bitterroot](http://www.bchmt.org/bitterroot). Facebook: **Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH)**.

### HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

- Membership Involvement
- President's Message
- Horse Sense
- Back Country Kitchen
- December General Meeting Minutes (Draft)
- January Board Meeting Minutes (Draft)

### 2023 Membership involvement:

In 2023, out of 140 BBCH members, 40 members participated in projects, which was 28.57% participation! Thank you Members! Thank You Christy!!

**Editor's Note:** Thank you Jenna Wright for stepping up to take care of the Sunshine Cards!!



*The Annual Meeting of "Montanans for Global Warming"*

Meeting to be held concurrently with General Meeting.

**2024 Committees**

Audit

Audio-Visual Equipment

Budget

Education

Election & Nominations

Equipment & Inventory

Fair

Advertising

Grants

Historian

Issues

Memberships

Newsletter

Parliamentarian

Programs

Projects

Social Marketing

Sunshine

Trail Rides

Training

Website Design

**2024 Chairs & Members**

Joe Kirkland, Shawn Kern, Judy Posey, Bonnie Morgan

Ed Bullock

Gene Merrell, Jan Bullock, Barb Walker

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, Kathy Stropple-Holl, Julie Schram

Cheyenne Grinnell

Dan Maiyo

Rebecca Jones

Monica Stanton

Dan Brandborg

Travise Grinnell

Jenna Wright

Jan Bullock, Dan Maiyo

Bonnie Morgan

Nancy Pollman

**Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen 2024 Officers & Board****Chapter Officers**

Position	Name	Term	Contact
President	Jan Bullock	2024	(907) 242-9853
Vice President	Diane Duffie	2024	
Secretary	Judy Posey	2024	
Treasurer	Barbara Walker	2024	

Board Members	Term	State Director	Term
Dan Brandborg	2024-25	Chuck Miller	2024-25
Joan Scheffler	2024-25		
Greg Schneider	2024-25	<b>Alt. State Director</b>	
Mark Wright	2024-25	Ed Duggan	2024
Travise Grinnell	2023-24		
Carol Johns	2023-24	<b>BRBCH Past President</b>	
Dennis Hardman	2023-24	Gene Merrell	
Brad Pollman	2023-24		
Joe Kirkland	2023-24		

**BCHMT State Chairman**  
Wade Murphy

**BCHMT Vice State Chairman**  
Mack Long

**BCHMT National Directors**  
Mark Himmel  
John Chepulis

**Alternate National Director**  
Brad Pollman

## President's Message

### Editor's Note:

Due to circumstances beyond her control, Jan is unable to provide her President's Message this month. However, on behalf of our president, yours truly wishes all of our valuable members a Happy New Year and whole-hearted thanks for all the work that you have done for this club! This coming year is filled with exciting activities and projects that benefit our community, our wonderful state, and our cherished federal lands; thereby fulfilling the Mission of the Back Country Horsemen. We should all be proud to be part of this outstanding organization! Stay warm!

*May the Horse be with you!*

Dan Maiyo – Editor, Nag News



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Monday-Friday 8 – 5:30

Saturday–9 – 4:00

## Keeping Your Horse Warm in Winter; To Blanket Or Not To Blanket

**Part Two of Two** This article appeared in the Feb. 2022 Nag News

6. **Blanket washing.** Most horses won't go the entire season without soiling their blanket beyond use (and some can't even seem to make it overnight!) A favorite solution is the oversized washing machine at your local laundromat, but laundromat owners and other users sometimes object. If you do have a laundromat which allows- or does not disallow-this use, be sure to take extra time to clean up after yourself to help ensure this availability in the future. Blankets that can't be machine washed can be scrubbed by hand; commercial blanket cleaning is also available.
7. **Blanket repairs.** Strap failures and tears are the most common damage even in the highest quality blankets; horses are hard on blankets. You can make some repairs yourself with a heavy needle and carpet thread. For more extensive repairs, commercial services are available; ask at your local tack shop.
8. **Blankets and warm days.** If you leave your horse blanketed after breakfast on a chilly morning and the temperature climbs in midday, the horse will sweat under the blanket. When the temperature falls again in the evening, you have a wet horse wearing a damp blanket. Or, his skin itches and he scratches, tearing the blanket. This situation has obvious drawbacks, and most of us can't run home to change/remove blankets midday. There are breathable blanket materials on the market; these work in varying degrees, and add to the cost. The horse with a natural winter coat will, similarly, get warm in the middle of the day, but he can regulate his temperature more easily himself.

9. **Wet weather.** The horse's winter coat is well designed to shed water-mostly without wetting his skin. Look closely at your horse after a rain and you'll see the water dripping from his sides where the long hairs hang along his barrel, leaving his underside dry. Horses do not need to be blanketed in wet weather; they have lived outdoors for thousands of years. If your blanketed horse is to be out in the rain, you do need a blanket that sheds water; there are many good fabrics on the market today that do a creditable job. Dressing your horse in a raincoat is much like dressing yourself in one, it's hard to get just the right balance of water repellency and breathability. (The ultimate rainproof material doesn't breathe, while the best breathable material isn't entirely waterproof.) It is possible to find a good balance check with friends who blanket to see what works in your climate.
10. Cold, wet weather, however, is the hardest for the horse to handle because once he's wet to the skin he is very susceptible to cold temperatures. Wind makes the situation worse. Aged horses and youngsters are particularly susceptible to these conditions. If you can predict the weather and have the facilities, keep the horse under a shelter (he does not have to be indoors) on these days. You don't have to keep him warm in this case; just keep him out of the pouring rain. Wild horses have no choice, and this is one situation where our domestic horses don't seem to take advantage of our offer. Our horses mostly choose to stay outdoors even in this type of weather and can get very chilled in the process. It's desirable to close your horse in on these days.
11. **Providing shelter.** One of the most effective ways to keep your horse comfortable in the winter is to provide a roofed shelter, which blocks the wind and rain, in his pasture or paddock. Plan your shelter so that it's easy for you to access (near the house), higher than the surrounding ground (to avoid water pooling), and oriented to block the prevailing cold winter wind. This does not have to be a closed structure. In fact, a barn tightly closed against the weather is warmer but less healthy for the horse because the ammonia build-up is hard on the horse's respiratory system. The air in the barn must circulate, and fresh air must be added, to provide a healthy environment.
12. Given the choice, your horse will choose to stay outside-and be perfectly fine in most types of weather. If you provide a shelter he can get under at will, and that you can keep him in when necessary, he will mostly care for himself.
13. **Heating the barn.** It's nice for us to go into a toasty barn in the evening, and we feel we are pampering our horses, but horses do not need heated barns. The problem with heated barns, or even heated arenas (should you be so fortunate), is that the horse must eventually go outside. Exercising in one temperature and living in the other is a challenge because the horse must adjust each time you move him. If you do choose to heat your barn, be absolutely sure that there is no chance of fire; barn fires kill many horses each year.
14. **Water.** Whether you blanket or not, water is essential for the horse's health during the winter. When eating dry hay he needs more moisture for digestion than he does when eating grass. The water temperature is important too; if the water is too cold the horse may not drink enough and can suffer from impaction colic. Solutions include adding granular salt to the feeder to encourage drinking, checking the water often to make sure ice has not formed on it, and breaking the ice if it forms; adding hot water at feeding time to bring the water temperature up to a comfortable temperature (be careful not to make it too hot); insulating your water bucket(s) to keep the water liquid longer (place it in a larger container with insulating material in between); and adding a tank heater (be absolutely sure there is no danger of electric shock). Check the water level at each feeding to be sure your horse is drinking.
15. **Hay for warmth.** If you anticipate your horse getting chilled on any given day (or night), you can help without blanketing. When he's truly cold, he'll shiver. Digesting roughage creates heat; the chewing and biological processing of hay is a good natural body warmer. ***Bacteria in the gut actually produces heat when breaking down fiber.*** Feeding hay will usually be enough to raise his temperature and stop the shivering. This must always be good quality hay: without dust or mold. It does not have to be high in protein; the carbohydrates provide the energy, so you don't need a more expensive legume (like alfalfa) mix hay. Grass hay is fine. Throwing your horse a few extra flakes of hay on those cold nights, or when the wind howls during the day, will give you the peace of mind that you are helping your horse stay comfortable during cold weather.

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## BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN

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### DUTCH OVEN SOURDOUGH BISCUITS (YUM!)

- 2 cups starter
  - 2 cups butter milk
  - 4-5 cups flour (don't use self-rising)
  - 2 Tbsp. honey or sugar
1. First thing in the morning, mix starter, butter milk, about 2 cups of flour in a large bowl.
  2. Stir to mix fairly well then cover with clean dish towel and set in a warm place.
  3. Before its time to get dinner started, mix remaining dry ingredients and add them to your stater/butter milk mixture. Work into a smooth dough and knead for about 10 minutes.
  4. Roll out about ¾" thick and cut with a biscuit cutter.
  5. 1 Tbsp. baking powder
  6. 1 tsp. baking soda
  7. 1 tsp. salt
  8. Recipe will fill three 12 inch Dutch Ovens
5. Place biscuits close together in a Dutch O after you butter the bottom.
  6. Let raise for 30-40 minutes in a warm place.
  7. Put the Dutch O over 6-8 briquette coals and 18 on the lid. Bake for 25-30 minutes until golden brown.
  8. 2 or 3 times, give the Dutch O a partial turn over the briquettes to make sure the bottoms brown evenly.
  9. This recipe works fine in a 375 degree oven.

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

The December 2023 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Jan Bullock at 7:00pm. The meeting was held at the Corvallis Primary School cafeteria. Approximately 40 members were present. There was an officer and board quorum. Ross Posey led the Pledge to start the meeting. Guests: Tina \*\*\*\* - moved here from Germany.

#### PROGRAM

Jan Bullock shared stories from her trip to Mongolia. Did a presentation slide show and brought in items that came from Mongolia.

#### BUSINESS

**Minutes:** The November minutes were printed in the December Nag News; there were no

corrections. **Bonnie Morgan motioned, and Joan Scheffer seconded to accept the November general meeting minutes. The motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Barb presented the December treasurer's report. There were no updates. **Karen Philips motioned, and Brad Pollan seconded to accept the December treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

#### CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Safety Moment:** Jan: don't ride your horse on the icy roads.

**Membership Application:** Leslie will be passing out raffle numbers for members who have renewed their membership.

**Dec Meeting Members Raffle:** Cheyenne's two daughters, Kira and Laramie, pulled numbers throughout the meeting.

**2024 Coffee and Hot Water Sign Up:** Judy passed around the signup sheet for coffee and hot water provided at the 2024 general meetings.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Grant Project:** Dan wasn't present so Diane talked about the RTP grant. Dan got the grant written and submitted to the editor and will know Mar/April if it is awarded. RAC Grant is not available to apply for at this time. The title of the big project is Bitterroot Wilderness Connection Project (the Mill Creek/Fred Burr loop)

**Projects:** Dan B wasn't present, so Dan M talked about other projects with Brandon Browning - Recreation Specialist, Sula Ranger Station, Darby Ranger District. He would like BRBCH to do the East Fork barbed wire removal project June 21-23; and the Crazy Creek Horse Facility Aug 1-4; cleaning brush and general maintenance. Both are none riding projects. Brandon Browning has the EF cabin dates reserved for us.

**Issues:** Presented by Carol Johns. Steve Brown is moving to Darby/Sula as the Darby/Sula district ranger, Abby Josie has retired. Carol will contact Jacquie Parks regarding an 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 Pollman discussed the State meeting. There will be a Christmas party after the meeting. The Defensive Horsemanship is being revamped. Cost and share agreement region 1 were discussed. State Convention is coming up in March. Chuck discussed - There is a new program being looked into about donating new or used tack to the youth group program, will find out more later this year. The Beaver Deer Lodge NF based out of Dillon will triple the outfitters and guide numbers allowed into the area, which is a big area. The guide will include Hiking guides, Hunting Guides and Fishing guides. The state newsletter isn't getting out on time in order to have it come to each individual emails. There will be further discussion on this later. Brad discussed a bill on the senate 30-20 tax bill co-sponsored. Current IRS for volunteer work mileage is \$0.14 cent mile and we are getting reimbursed at \$0.50 or \$0.60 cent a mile - claiming the difference as income. The bill is to change that to make it match what

reimbursement rate is. It will change what the current rate was at this time.

**Education & Training:** No report - Bonnie Morgan

**Membership:** Leslie Conner-Maiyo reported that. There are currently 91 memberships and 144 members. Cheyenne Grinnell volunteered to be membership chair.

**Outreach:** Karen and Dan M will be writing a short story to give to the Decker Dispatch on Cowboy Santa and the Food Pack and needs to be submitted by Jan 5.

**Program:** Monica Stanton reported the January speakers will be Bonnie Cazier and Debbie Driggers. Bonnie is an equine photographer with over 30 years' experience. They are both Photographers. Dan B will provide a slideshow on the grant project in Feb. Ted Hall is scheduled to speak in March on the Lewis and Clark decent trail.

**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. (Note: Now Jenna Wright)

### OLD BUSINESS

**Pantry Partners Christmas Food Box Pack:** A success! There were 17 members, and 240 boxes were packed in 45 minutes. Next year box building and box packing could be done on the same day.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Audit Committee:** Joe Kirkland and Judy Posey volunteered to audit the treasurer's books. No Date set as of 12/2023.

**Budget Committee:** Gene Merrell, Cheyenne Grinnell, and Barb Walker volunteered to work on the 2024 budget.

**2024 State Convention, Delegates, Raffle Tickets, Item for State Auction:** Jan and Barb discussed the 2024 BCHMT State Convention at Fairmont Hot Springs on March 8-10, 2024. Barb has raffle tickets on the table. Barb discussed reservations can be found on the BCH State website. The delegates are Brad P, Chuck M, Ed D, Travise G, Jan B, Diane D, Dennis H, and Barb W. Christy S-D will be the alternate. There are 5 items in the raffle. Tickets 1 for \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00.

### OTHER BUSINESS

**Next Meeting:** January 18 at the Corvallis Primary Cafeteria, potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm. Coffee: Diane Duffie; Hot water: Diane Duffie.

**Joan Scheffer motioned, Ross Posey seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm. The motion carried.**

**Judy Posey, Secretary BRBCH**

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## **BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN** **(DRAFT) BOARD MEETING AGENDA, JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

The January 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 Diana Duffie, Treasurer Barb Walker, and Secretary Judy Posey; Board members Dan Brandborg, Travise Grinnell, Dennis Hardman, and Brad Pollman (also State Director); and Alt State Director Ed Duggan. Greg Schneider, Mark Wright, and Joan Scheffer. Absent were Past President Gene Merrell Miller, Joe Kirkland, Carol John. Committee Chairs Present: Bonnie Morgan (Training), Leslie Maiyo (Membership), Karen Philips (Outreach) and Christy Schram-Duggan (Fair and Reports) John. Joan Scheffer led the Pledge.

### **BUSINESS**

**Minutes:** The December 2023 meeting minutes were published in the December Nag News – there were no updates. **Brad Pollman 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 Joan Scheffer motioned Diane Duffie seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Brad discussed to put into a money saving account, 5% City Bank more to discuss further. Karen announced that Cindy Beck has retired from doing Sunshine cards. She has been doing it for 10 years. Joe Rogish was in an accident, and will be getting a card from Cindy. It will be the last card that she will be sending out that he was in an accident. He was Life-Flighted to the hospital. As of 1/4/2024 he is home resting and recovering well. Jan Bullock has taken the role of the Sunshine Cards until a new person is appointed. Christy will be taking the basket of condiments and sunshine card for the general meeting for Karen as she will not be at the next general meeting.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Grants:** Dan B; RTP Grant was submitted Tuesday, Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>. The RAC Grant is going through a redo of the charter and is at the Washington DC level and should here by March. If we are awarded the RTP grant project by July 1<sup>st</sup>, the grant committee will create a Logistics team that will be providing the following schedule for people to sign up to take care of cooking, cleaning, set up the water filtering and managing stock. We will be able to drive to the reservoir at Fred Burr to drop off supplies. Mill Lake is 12 1/2 miles in. Jan suggests setting up a sign-up sheet like we do for the fair. Christy and Ed Duggan volunteered to be on the logistics committee. More info to come later.

**Projects:** Christy mentions how many projects we can do this year. Suggestions are Calf Creek, Larry

Creek, Coyote Coulee. Dan M will be the Project Leader for the East Fork barbed wire removal scheduled for June 21-23. This will be a non-riding project. Jan suggested camping out at Lake Combo. Bonnie suggested May 11 that day for camping and training. Dan M volunteered as the Project leader for the Crazy Creek Horse Facility maintenance and brush cleaning project, tentatively scheduled for August 1 - 3. This also will be a non-riding project. Dan M passed out a *draft* Survey of Trail Project Participation to the Board for comments. The purpose of the survey is to get a better understanding as to why members do or do not participate in projects, and maybe help them feel more comfortable to work on projects. Bonnie suggested that this could help with training as well. The Board made additions and comments on the survey and handed it back to Dan M. Dan M will take all these ideas and put them on one sheet for further discussion. Christy can provide the percentage of participants by the next general meeting.

**Issues:** No issue reported.

**State Directors:** Brad, Chuck, nothing currently. Preparing for State Convention in March.

**Membership:** Leslie said Cheyenne Grinnell will be the new Membership Chair. A list of new and renewal memberships to approve was discussed.

**Travise motioned and Diane Duffie seconded to accept the new and renewal memberships as presented. The motion carried.** For 2024, there are 40 memberships and 66 members.

**Outreach:** Karen and Dan M worked on 2 short stories on the Cowboy Santa and Food Pack. It was submitted Decker Dispatch.

**Program:** Debbie Hamilton and Bonnie Cazier - photographer are the January speakers. Dan B will speak in Feb about the grant's projects. Other winter meeting speakers include the FS talking about shaded fuel breaks.

**Education & Training:** Bonnie has a list of those who need First aid and defensive horsemanship at C-Max Arena or need to get recertification in any chainsaw or crosscut saw, for recertification. Bonnie will be setting up some training days with Jan for first aid training and will set up defensive horsemanship training at the indoor arena. It was

discussed using the Fairgrounds for a play date in the spring. Dan M will present additional information at a later date.

**Sunshine:** Jan will be taking over the sending out the card to Joe.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### **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<sup>st</sup>. 8 delegates and 1 alternate go to the convention. The 2 state directors and alternate state directors are required to go. The chapter covers registration, one night of hotel (doubling up on rooms is encouraged), and mileage. The Delegates are Brad, Chuck, Ed D, Travise, Jan, Diane, Dennis, and Barb. Christy will be the alternate. There are 5 raffle items. **Mark Wright made a motion to have the Bitter BCH cover all meals for the delegates that are attending the Convention. Greg Schneider Seconded the Motion.** The BRBCH Convention Live Auction items have been donated by Katie and Nick Painter's handmade leather-wallet, and spur straps and a handcrafted beaded hat band. Cheyenne Grinnell also painted and is donating a beautiful painting. Everyone

who is going to the convention will make their own hotel reservations.

**Audit Committee:** Joe and Judy – Judy will follow up with Joe Kirkland to set date/Time.

**Budget Committee:** Includes Gene, Cheyenne, and Barbara - Judy will follow up with Gene and set a date/time.

**Leave No Trace Trailer:** Christy, Ross, Ed D and Travise will be getting together to come up with a plan to make it a mobile tool shed. Christy will have a sign-up sheet at the General meeting in January.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Open Board Position:** Jan noted the open Board position will be filled at the January Board meeting. Bonnie will pass out secret ballots for Shawn Kern, Carol John, Julie Schram. The new elected board member is Carol John. Cheyenne will be sending out an email to all members about Smoke Elser's Birthday.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

**Brad Pollman motioned, and Travis seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:53pm. The motion carried.**

**Judy Posey, Secretary BRBCH**

#### 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.

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I'm still going for coffee...



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**DEADLINE FOR  
NAG NEWS is  
Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**

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# Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



## **NEXT BRBCH MEETING**

**Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Location:**

**Corvallis Elementary School Cafeteria  
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***