



# Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

February 2024

Issue #2



## 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, FEBRUARY 15TH, 2024 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

### Corvallis Elementary School Cafeteria

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.

This month our own Dan Brandorg will present a slide show of 2023 club activities and discuss grants. For more information, 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

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Greetings fellow members,

Happy Valentine's Day! Hopefully there will be chocolates, flowers and nice cards from that special one to you on February 14!

Our big news is that our budget committee completed a draft for the 2024 year and it has passed the Board of Directors. You will be seeing this draft at our next members meeting on February 15. As we were in the red with our budget last year, we had to whittle down a few things and, after doing so, actually succeeded in balancing the 2024 budget in the black! Thank you to the budget committee for their work on this!

Projects are starting to come together and we will be looking for volunteers to help with those soon. First Aid/CPR/AED and Defensive Horsemanship classes are being put together and we are planning a group overnight trip to Rock Creek Horse camp at Lake Como in mid May. This will be for all members even if you don't own stock. We plan on having a dinner that night, a camp over, some horse training and a trail ride or 2. So this will be a combo horse camping and picnic! We hope you can come for all or part of this.

Another thing we are tackling in the next couple months is a reevaluation of our Constitution. It has been 10 years since our last assessment and this document should be looked at to see if changes and/or additions need to be made. I encourage all of you to read this document which is located on BRBCH.org. press the 3 little lines on the top left and go to forms. Scroll down to the bottom and in the box write constitution and tap the search sign. This should bring you up to our Constitution as well as the State BCHMT Constitution and BCH of America's. A committee has been formed for this task and any questions you may have can be directed to them.

We hope to see you at our next meeting! Your President, Jan Bullock

**2024 Committees**

Audit

Audio-Visual Equipment

Budget

Education

Election &amp; Nominations

Equipment &amp; Inventory

Fair and Reports

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 Backcountry Horsemen Officers and Board****Chapter officers**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Contact</b>
President	Jan Bullock	2024	907-242-9853
Vice President	Diane Duffie	2024	
Secretary	Judy Posey	2024	
Treasurer	Barbara Walker	2024	

**Board Members**

Travise Grinnell	2023-24
Carol Johns	2023-24
Dennis Hardman	2023-24
Brad Pollman	2023-24
Joe Kirkland	2023-24
Dan Brandborg	2024-25
Joan Scheffler	2024-25
Greg Schneider	2024-25
Mark Wright	2024-25

<b>State Director</b>	<b>Term</b>
Chuck Miller	2024-25
Brad Pollman	2024-25

<b>Alt. State Director</b>	<b>Term</b>
Ed Duggan	2024

**BRBCH Past President**  
Gene Merrell

**BCHMT State Chairman**

Wade Murphy

**BCHMT Vice State Chairman**

Mack Long

**BCHMT National Directors**

Brad Pollman

John Chepulis

**Alt. National Director**

Henry Gottardi

## Editor's Note:

- A reminder, if you have not paid your club dues for this year by the end of February your name will be removed from the membership and email list. Thank you!
- Also, Leslie Conner - Maiyo will email members an attached questionnaire. The purpose of this questionnaire is to survey our membership as to how they feel about participating in trail projects. The survey is in word format so you may download and complete the questionnaire and also express any comments or ideas on it. Please return the completed questionnaire as a attachment on your email response to Leslie, or download and return a printed copy to Dan Maiyo at our upcoming general meeting February 15th, or mail to: **BRBCH PO Box 1083, Hamilton, MT 59840**. I will also have additional copies on hand at the meeting for you. Thank You!!
- Finally, the BRBCH Board of Directors, in their review of the 2023-2024 budget, have directed me to limit expenses in the publication of this newsletter. Therefore, further mail-outs of the newsletter will cease beginning next month. Please let me know if you wish to continue to receive the newsletter in the mail and I will accommodate your request. You will always be able to continue to access the newsletter on our Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen website. Thank You!

## Horse Sense - Sponsored By:



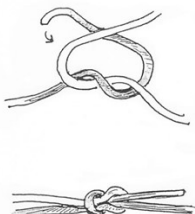
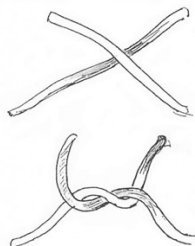
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406-961-4917  
Monday-Friday 8 – 5:30

## Tying Knots That Work for Horses

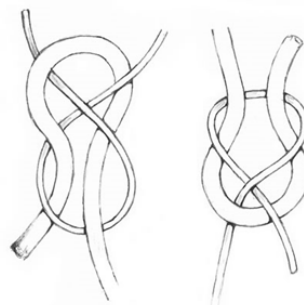
There are several knots that every horseman should know how to tie—that are useful when working with horses. There are times you need a knot that will never work loose, and other times you need one that can be untied easily and quickly, even if the horse has pulled back on the rope. Sometimes you need a slipknot, and other times you want a knot that will never slip or tighten up. For your own safety and the safety of your horse, know how to tie the right kind of knot for each situation.

**SQUARE KNOT** – This is often the best knot to use when tying two ropes or twines together, when you don't want the knot to slip or come undone—as when tying a broken rope back together or tying a rope or piece of baling twine around a gate and gate post to keep the gate shut. A square knot is very simple: two overhand knots, one on top of the other, but the second one in reverse direction. Before it is pulled tight, the square knot looks like two closed loops leading in opposite directions and linked together.



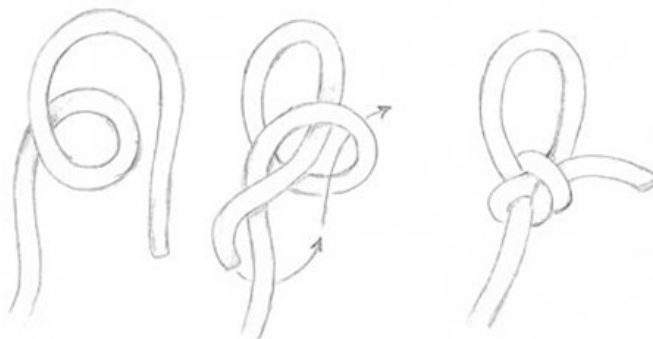
A properly tied square knot won't slip if the ropes or twines being tied together are of similar size and not too slippery. Make sure you don't tie a "granny knot," however (two overhand knots tied in the same direction). It will slip when pulled on and is not a dependable knot if you need it to hold securely.

**WEAVER'S KNOT (FISH-LINE KNOT)** – If you are tying two ropes of vastly different diameter together (or ropes that are very slippery), a square knot may not hold. In this situation you can use a fish-line knot, like you'd use to tie a leader to a fish-line. Make a bend in the larger diameter rope and thread the smaller rope through and then around it, coming back out under itself. Then pull everything tight. Or, make a bend in the larger rope, put the smaller one through it, around one side, under the other side and back over itself, then tucking under the bend of the larger rope. When you pull everything tight, these knots will hold, and secure the two ropes together.

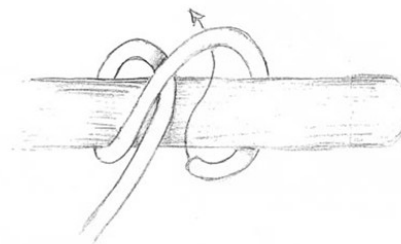


**BOWLINE** – This is a good non-slip knot and one of the best to use if you ever have to tie a rope around a horse's neck—without danger of it tightening up when the rope is pulled. This knot is also fairly easy to untie.

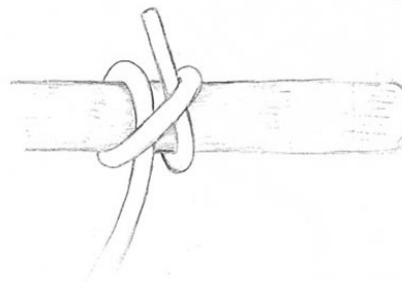
Position the rope so the standing part (long end) is to your left, and the working end to your right. Form a right-hand loop by passing the working end over the long part. Secure the loop by putting the place where the rope crosses between your thumb and index finger of your left hand. Insert the working end of the rope into the loop from the back. Then cross the working end over the top of the standing part and wrap it around the back of the standing part. Re-insert the working end into the loop from the front. Hold the working end and the right hand part of the loop in your right hand, and the standing part of the rope in your left hand. Pull it to shape and secure the knot. The size of the loop (the portion going around the horse's neck or body, or fence post or through a tie ring) will depend on the amount of working end that you originally allowed for.



An easy way to remember how to tie a bowline is the rabbit and tree story. The first loop is a rabbit hole; the standing part of the rope is a tree, and the working end of the rope is a rabbit. The rabbit comes out of the hole, runs around the tree and goes back down the hole.

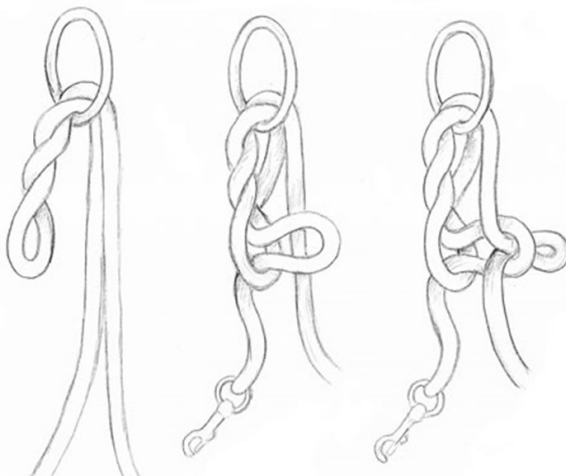


**CLOVE HITCH** – This is a simple wrap around a pole, created by putting the rope once around the pole (going over itself to start a second loop) and poking the working end of the rope under itself as you bring it around to complete that second loop. This knot should only be used to go around something a horse cannot pull off (a pole fastened to the far side of the fence posts, or a pipe fence rail) and isn't quite as easy to untie if it gets pulled hard. But it can be very handy when used in conjunction with an easy-untie knot, since it keeps the rope from sliding along the pole.



### RING KNOT –

This is a good knot to use for tying a horse to a ring of any kind. Twist the loop in the rope a few times and put the twisted loop through the ring. Then a loop (in the end going to the horse) can be put through the loop created by the twists, creating a second loop. A loop is then made in the working end of the rope, to put through that loop, leaving a tail on the working end of the rope that can be pulled for untying. This makes a secure tie that won't tighten up very much if a horse pulls on it. It also has the advantage of quick and total release if you pull on the tail end. A quick jerk, and the knot comes free and the rope falls out of the ring. Thus you only need one hand to undo it, and never need to let go of the rope end to pass or retrieve it through the ring.





## BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN SPONSORED BY:



### The Shirt Spot

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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!

### DUTCH OVEN POLISH SAUSGE, SAUERKRAUT, AND POTATOES

- In a 12-inch Dutch Oven, add:
- 2 cans (14 ounces each, or 1 (2 lb. bag) sauerkraut, undrained
- 5 or 6 large potatoes (golden, red, russet, or your choice) peeled (or unpeeled) and cut into chunks
- 1 cup water
- 1 lb. Polish sausage, cut into chunks (or smoked sausage, or bratwurst)
- 1 tsp caraway seeds
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- Put the Dutch Oven over 6-8 briquette coals and 18 on the lid. Bake for 30-45 minutes.
- This recipe also works fine in a 375 degree oven for about 40 minutes.

### BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN (DRAFT) GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 18, 2024

The January 18 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 Corvallis Primary School cafeteria. Approximately 44 members were present. There was an officer and board quorum. Bonnie Morgen led the Pledge to start the meeting.

Guests: 2 guests were present, they were here to see the program.

#### PROGRAM

Debbie has been in the horse industry for over 40 years, managing horse breeding and training facilities

in California, Arizona, and Montana. After moving to Montana Bonnie Cazier started an equine marketing business selling horses from Bonnie and professional horse trainers and breeders. Bonnie presented a slide show of how to take pictures of your horse and Debbie presented videos that she took with a camera and drone.

#### BUSINESS

**Minutes:** The December minutes were printed in the January Nag News; there were no corrections. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned, and Kathy Stroppel-Holl seconded to accept the January general meeting minutes. The motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Barb presented the January treasurer's report. There were no updates. **Christy Scram-Duggan motioned and Ross Posey seconded to accept the Jan treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

## CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barb presented a new t-shirt with the BRBCH Horse logo on it – Barb did donate the setup fee. Any member can go and get a T-shirt at the Shirt Stop in Hamilton with any type of clothing and get this printed on their clothing. Barb is also looking into an embroidery person so they can do jackets, and vests with BCH logo and name.

Bonnie discussed the election last November 2023 in re-electing Chuck Miller who is already serving his term of 2023-2024 and did not need to be re-elected. To correct that, the chapter needs to Nullify his 2023 election results. It was Brad Pollman's term that was up for re-election for 2024-2025. An e-mail was sent out to the members to see if anyone else wanted to run for the State Director there were no nominations. BCH needs to re-elect another State Director. **Kathy Stoppel-Holl motioned to Nullify the November 2024 state director vote and Ed Duggan seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

For 2024-2025 State Director, Brad Pollman is nominated. There were no nominations from the floor. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned to have the nominations for the State Director be closed and Brad Pollman be elected by acclamation, and Julie Schram seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Christy read the following from Keni Hopkins the secretary of BCH of Montana, "It is with great sadness that we share that our mother, Phyllis Ausk, passed away on January 14th, surrounded by her loving family. As most of you know, Phyllis was Ken Ausk's wife, one of the four founders of Back Country Horsemen. My sisters and I invite you to join us for her funeral services on Friday, January 26, at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Richard's Catholic Church, 1210 9th Street West in Columbia Falls, followed by a luncheon. Condolence cards may be sent to the Ausk Family at 3020 Middle Road, Columbia Falls, MT 59912."

**Safety Moment:** Christy reminded folks to make sure your horse(s) have plenty of water and salt throughout this

winter. Horses tend to get colic more in the winter than in any other season.

**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 B. wasn't present, Diane D. stated that the Grant committee submitted the RTP grant, and we won't hear back until March which is the first preliminary saying if we passed the first hurdle. The RAC Grant is going through a redo of the charter and is at the Washington DC level. They have to reorganize everything then they will have to get a committee together. We are looking into May before we know anything.

**Projects:** Dan B was not present.

**Issues/Public land:** This was presented by the new committee Carol Johns, Julie Schram, and Kathy Stoppel-Holl. Carol talked about the Lake Como/private property more information to come out later. Jan will be sending more information out to the members about where you can ride and where you can't ride. Information on Sheep Creek Mine and Rare Minerals; US FWS Proposal for Grizzly Reintroduction in the Bitterroot. Public meeting dates Feb 5, 2024 @ 6:00. Feb 13, 2024 @ 6:00 Feb 14, 2024 @ 2:00. Information on the CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) Collaboration. Homeowner / Landowner Fire Mitigation. Contact Carol Johns for more information. Information sheets were passed at the general meeting.

**State Directors:** Fish and Wildlife had an article in the Missoulian on January 17<sup>th</sup> concerning the introduction of Grizzly bears in the Bitterroot Selway National Forest. The contact is through the Missoulian, and you can click the links and make your comments. Brad discussed the requirements of bear resistance containers for the BNFS that are coming from the FS.

**Education & Training:** Bonnie discussed the upcoming Defensive Horsemanship classes at C-Max stable for training on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The obstacle class for Defensive Horsemanship, bring your horse day, will be on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Bonnie discussed a campout at Lake Como with your stock, the tentative dates are May 11 or 18 -19. The sign-up sheet for Chainsaw and Crosscut training and First Aid training is being passed around at the General meeting. This will be in late February or early March. If you want to carry a firearm for the sole purpose of euthanizing a horse only, you must apply for a permit. Bonnie will send a list of members to Mark Smith who wish to carry a firearm. He will send you an email with the application form that you will fill out. Then he will tell you in his email where to send it to. The Forest Service has a law enforcement Officer available to process the application. You will receive an email if you are approved to carry a firearm.

**Membership:** Cheyenne Grinnell presented there are currently **40** memberships and **66** members.

**Outreach:** Karen Philips was not present.

**Program:** Monica Stanton discussed the February speaker will be Dan B. presenting a slideshow on the grant project we applied for. Ted Hall is scheduled to speak in March on the Lewis and Clark descent trail. April – Steve Brown Darby Ranger will be speaking and giving us some background information on what is going on in the Bitterroot. In May Jerry Fowler about horse bits and about training your horse with different bits. In June Eric Brown – a presentation on snakes.

**Sunshine:** If anyone knows of a member who needs a get-well, congratulations, or condolence card, let Jenna Wright know. Jenna's email and phone number are listed in the chapter membership directory.

### OLD BUSINESS

**2024 State Convention, Delegates, Raffle Tickets, Item for State Auction:** BR BCH Live Auction items have been donated by Katie and Nick Painter; handmade leather – wallet and spur straps, and a handcrafted beaded hat band. Cheyenne Grinnell also painted and is donating a beautiful painting.

**Audit Committee:** Joe Kirkland and Judy Posey volunteered. Once the books are finalized – they will get together and do the Audit.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Received their pins for their great work in BRBCH:** Kathy Stroppel Holl – Secretary, Christy Schram Duggan – Vice President, Dan Maiyo – Board Member, Diane Duffie – Board Member, Karen Phillips - Board Member

### OTHER BUSINESS

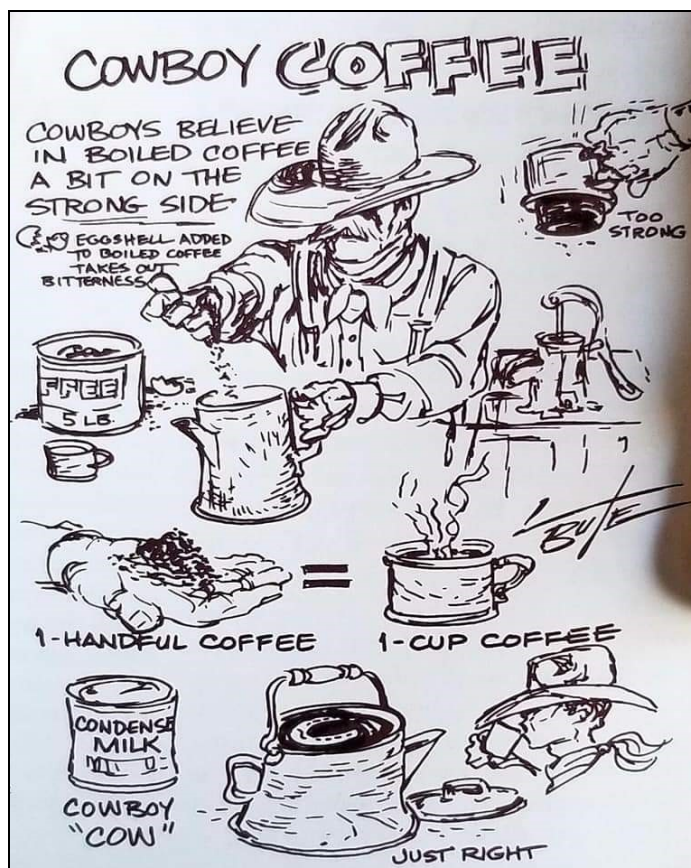
None

**Next Meeting:** February 15 at the Corvallis Primary Cafeteria, potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm.

**Coffee:** Kathy Stroppel-Holl Hot Water: Monica Stanton

**Julie Schram motioned, and Travis seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. The motion carried.**

**Judy Posey, Secretary BRBCH**



**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN  
(DRAFT) BOARD MEETING MINUTES, February 1<sup>ST</sup> 2024**

The January Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order at 7:08 pm by Jan Bullock. Present were President Jan Bullock, VP Diane Duffie, and Treasurer Barb Walker; Board members Dan Brandborg, Travise Grinnell, Dennis Hardman, and Brad Pollman (also State Director); and Alt State Director Ed Duggan. Greg Schneider, Mark Wright, Carol Johns, and Joe Kirkland; Past President Gene Merrell. Absent were, Joan Schaeffer, State Director Chuck Miller, and Secretary Judy Posey. Committee Chairs Present: Bonnie Morgan (Training), Karen Philips (Outreach) and Christy Schram-Duggan (Fair and Reports). The whole board led the Pledge

**BUSINESS**

**Minutes:** The January 2024 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 Ed Duggan motioned Joe Kirkland seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jan went over the Thank you note from Haven House.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Grants:** Dan B went over the grant that was applied for and it would be about April timeframe until we hear back. Anyone that has slides please give them to Dan for his slide show for the Feb. General Meeting. Dan asked if we could get a Logistics Committee for the grant. The following are the volunteers: Ed and Christy Duggan, Kathy Stoppel-Holl, Jan Bullock, Joe Kirkland, Dan Maiyo, Dennis Hardman, and Mark Wright.

**Projects:** Dan B. will email the dates to the Board of the tentative projects. Dan Maiyo discussed the East Fork Project that is taking place in June, and Crazy Creek Horse Camp Aug 1 – 3. SBFCF got more money and has asked for additional pack support the second week of August into Bear Creek Overlook.

**Issues/Public Land:** Carol went over the USFWP proposing the re-introduction of Grizzly Bears into the Bitterroots. The Bitterroot Star had a good article about this and had some maps. USFWP is currently taking comments. The following are the two options either bring some Grizzly Bears down into the Bitterroots or make the habitat more suitable for them to come them in naturally.

**State Directors:** Brad no news to report. No resolutions for the Convention, National - The floor was given to North Carolina as they are having massive issues with e-bikes.

**Membership:** Travise presented the renewals and new memberships to the Board. **Greg Sch. motioned and Ed Duggan seconded to accept new and renewed memberships. The motion carried.** There are 48 memberships and 77 members.

**Outreach:** Karen discussed the articles that went to the Decker Dispatch. The Santa and Elves and the Pantry Partners. Thank you, Dan M., for writing the articles.

**Program:** Dan B. will speak in February about the grants and will present a slide presentation. March is Ted Hall, talking about Lewis & Clark.

**Education & Training:** Bonnie discussed the March 23, demo at CMAX, one obstacle day this year, April 6th, (mostly new people), and Lake Como Campout taking place either May 11th or 18th. Bonnie is waiting on a response back from Steve Brown to see if we can close the Horse camp to just the BRBCH. Discussion about some work that needs to be done at the Horse camp to get it up to specs. Bonnie gave a quick update on the State Defensive Horsemanship. Dan M. and Bonnie discussed about a May play date at the RCFairgrounds, date, and details coming soon.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**2024 State Convention Delegates and State Auction Item:**

There are raffle tickets to be sold, see Barb Walker to get the raffle tickets.

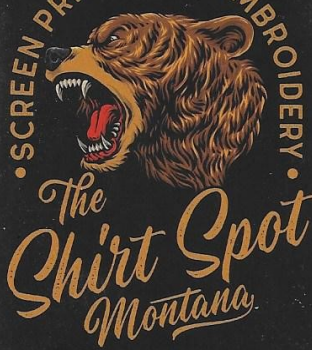
**Survey:** Dan M. went over the second draft of the survey that has the corrections and suggestions. **Brad Pollman motioned and Greg Sch. seconded to Dan M. to collect data from the Survey of Trail Partnership to be given to the BRBCH members. The motion carried.**

**Christy Schram-Duggan, BRBCH  
Filling in for the Secretary**

**DEADLINE FOR  
NAG NEWS is  
Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>  
SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES  
AND ADS TO:  
[djmaiyo@gmail.com](mailto:djmaiyo@gmail.com)**




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# Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



## NEXT BRBCH MEETING

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

Location:

Corvallis Elementary School Cafeteria

Visit our Website:

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

### HORSE WANTED

Senior woman looking to buy experienced trail horse. Prefer gelding that can lead mule(s) to Bass Lake, around Larry Creek mostly.

Any breed, grade considered.  
Prefer 6-18 years old.  
Contact Sandy 406-239-1796

or Amy Greer 406-961-4429

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

P.O. Box 1083

Hamilton, MT 59840

**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