



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

May 2024

Issue #5

In Partnership With



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, MAY 16th, 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 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.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

P. 2. President's Message

Pp. 3. Trainings, Larry Creek project announcement

P.4. 2024 Project Schedule

P. 5. Draft April 18 General Meeting Minutes

Pp 6,7,8. Draft April/May Board Meeting Minutes

P.9. Horse Sense

P.10. Back Country Kitchen

P.11. List of Officers and Board

Pp.12,13. For sale/Advertisers

Our May speaker is Jerry Fowler. "Five factors that are key to bits and biting that impact your horses' behavior." Jerry is a National Reining Horse Association Professional. He trains horses and students for competition and is a highly respected competitor himself.

For more information call Gene at 208-310-6326 or check out our website at: www.bchmt.org/bitterroot.

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

DEADLINE FOR NAG NEWS

Thursday, June 13th

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES
AND ADS TO:

djmaiyo@gmail.com

Editor's Note: In this issue, the April 4th *draft* Board Meeting minutes are presented for approval due to a lack of quorum at the last general meeting.

A Message from the President

Greetings all and Happy Mother's Day all you Mom's out there! I have just returned from our beautiful campout weekend at Lake Como! What beautiful weather we had this weekend and we even saw the aurora from up on the dam! We had some great horse rides on new trails and great food prepared by the Pollmans, and the Holls. The wildflowers were just gorgeous! Take a look at some of the photos on our website to see some great pictures from this first event.

So our summer season has begun and our projects are coming up soon. Take a look at our list and please sign up for some at our next Meeting. The USFS has gifted to our Chapter a brand new chain-saw and all the the PPE to go with it!

I hope to see you this Thursday at our membership meeting at the Corvallis Elementary School. The potluck starts at 6:30.

Your President,
Jan Bullock
907-242-9853

Forest Service gives BRBCH a chain saw and PPE

On Monday May 6th after the West Fork Forest Service meeting, Mark Smith presented a chain saw, hatchet, wedges, 2 packets of work gloves, 2 helmets, 2 pairs of chaps and safety glasses to the BRBCH!!



Saturday evening after the Lake Como trail ride, at the Rock Creek Campground, a delicious pulled pork and chile dinner was prepared and served with dessert by Brad and Nancy Pollman. Thank you Brad and Nancy!

Saw trainings

Chain Saw training: Members wishing to renew their saw certifications will be able to do so on a project, so contact Dan Brandborg, Brad Pollman, or Travise Grinnell to arrange a renewal. A second class for people new to the FS certification program is currently scheduled for June 7-8.

Crosscut training: Renewals for crosscut certification will be held during projects. Contact Ed Duggan and Travise Grinnell to arrange a session during a project. A date will be set to fit the schedule of the trainers and folks new to the FS crosscut saw program.

Upcoming Project Opportunity:

LARRY CREEK PROJECT

Saturday, June 1, 2024 (National Trails Day)

Project leaders Brad & Nancy Pollman invite you to join them for this Level 1 maintenance trail project on National Trails Day. Portions are available for both riders and hikers.

When/Where: We'll meet at the Larry Creek horse trailer parking lot. The safety briefing will be at 8:45 a.m. and be on the trail by 9:00 a.m. Cars should park in the car parking areas or along the road to leave room for horse trailers, please, as the public will be using the trails that day, too. We'll split into multiple groups; there are plenty of trails to accommodate both hikers and riders on this project. Hikers will be transported to the top where the trails intersect with the road, so the project work will be done only going downhill -- *nice!!* Those with stock will be riding the outer trails.

Lunch: Lunch is on us and will be served about 11:30/noon. This is not a potluck; it's our pleasure to thank and treat you for your time on the project.

What to bring? Your favorite tool (shovel, rake, hoe, polaski, loppers, nippers, handsaw, etc) that works for you for clearing trail. Don't forget a drink(s), sunscreen, and a chair for lunchtime.



Projects with FS approval 2024 Updated 5/10/24

Project or Training	Description	Project leader	Dates
Defensive Horsemanship	Demonstrations, C max	Bonnie Morgan	March 23rd 9-2:00
Defensive Horsemanship	C max Stables	Bonnie Morgan	April 6, 9 - 12:00,1-4:00
Horse Camp Out at Como Trailhead	Day Ride and Camp Refresher	Bonnie Morgan	May 11th-12th
Larry Creek	Clear all trails	Brad Pollman	June 1st
Coyote Coulee	Clear both loops of trail	Travis Grinnell	June 15th
East Fork - Guard Station	Wire fencing removal	Dan Maiyo	June 21-23
Bitterroot Connection Fred Burr	Fred Burr to Mill Pass	Dan Brandborg/ Joe Kirkland	July 1st-9th
Saint Mary's Pack Support	Supplying Lookout with stock	Ed Duggan	TBD
Big Creek lake Pack In Support Hitch 1	SBFC Pack support	Christy and Ed Duggan	July 31st- August 1st
Crazy Creek Campground	Trailhead horse camp	Dan Maiyo	August 1st- 4th
Big Creek lake Pack Out Support Hitch 1	SBFC Pack support	Christy and Ed Duggan	August 6th-7th
Big Creek lake Pack Support Hitch 2	SBFC Pack support	Christy and Ed Duggan	August 13th-14th ?
Big Creek lake Pack Support Hitch 2	SBFC Pack support	Christy and Ed Duggan	August 20th-21 ?

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 18, 2024

The April 2024 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Jan Bullock at 7:01 pm. The meeting was held at the Corvallis Primary School cafeteria. Approximately 31 members were present. There was a Board quorum. Lionel Lavallee led the Pledge to start the meeting. Guests: Steve Ray.

PROGRAM

Steve Brown, Darby/Sula District Ranger - "An Update of Bitterroot National Forest Activities": Steve Brown spoke about several projects around the Bitterroot Forest, including Rock Creek Horse Camp expansion and Mill Creek parking improvements. The Mud Creek project in the West Fork area is on hold, with a decision on Phase 1 anticipated in September 2024 for work to start in 2025 and Phase 2 the following year. The Gold Butterfly project in the Sapphires has treatments to the north and south of Willow Creek, and improvements to the Gold Creek Campground. The Bitterroot Front project covers from Lolo to Conner. Treatments will mitigate for fire risk. The ultimate goal is to use fire to control the fuels. No clear cuts are prescribed. Bear and Gash Creeks will be the first areas worked. The BR Front project will go over many years. The Eastside project goes from Florence to Sula/East Fork. The goal is to improve wildlife habitat. The Fuel Breaks project runs through areas that burned in 2000; the canopy can only be reduced by 50%. Project maps are available online. There will be a food storage order on the forest soon, with public education being done first. Bear boxes/panniers are a good way to store food on projects.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The March minutes were printed in the April Nag News. **Bonnie Morgan motioned and Lionel Lavallee seconded to accept the March minutes as published. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: The April treasurer's report was provided. **Ed Bullock motioned and Karen Philips seconded to accept the April Treasurer's report. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Intro of New Officers and Board Members: Jan introduced the following: Dan Brandborg is the new VP, Kathy S-H and Karen Philips are co-secretaries; and Lionel Lavallee and Cherie Barton are new Board members.

Thank You: Barb thanked Diane Duffie and Dennis Hardman for their service and leadership.

Fairgrounds Play Day: Dan M spoke about the play day on May 5 at the fairgrounds. Folks can introduce their horse to trail etiquette. A fairgrounds release form will need to be signed. He also noted that the Nag News has a unique article on disposing of dead horses for folks to read.

Safety Moment: Be careful of putting your horses on spring grass; mornings are better to graze. Be aware of how much water horses are drinking out of cold streams.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants: Presented by Dan B. Will start pursuing grants in the fall. BRBCH was not selected for the REC POC. We can apply again next year.

Projects: Presented by Dan B. The signup sheet will be available soon on the website. The Fred Burr project may still get some MCC crew support from the FS. A weekly trail report will be available as the FS crews finishes clearing. Form 301B needs to be signed if anyone wants to work on a FS trail project (Travise started a copy to sign at the March meeting).

Copies of the FS Volunteer Services Agreement are available.

Issues: No report – deferred to Steve Brown's talk.

State Directors: No report. The last founding father of BCH, Roland Check, recently passed away.

Education & Training: Presented by Bonnie. The May 11-12 Rock Creek Horse Camp (at Lake Como) signup was passed around. Sat dinner and Sun breakfast will be provided. Workshops and trail rides are planned, as well as trailer tours. A women's bike retreat will be nearby at the Three Sisters group site, so they will be sharing the woods with us. They'll bike south of the lake while trail rides will be on the north side. Be sure to bring water for your horses as the campground is dry. Dogs must be on a leash in the campground, and do not bring them on the group ride. Twelve folks were CPR/FA trained on April 13 with Connie Long. The next CPR/FA training is April 20 with Jan.

Membership: There are 71 memberships and 113 members.

Outreach: Presented by Karen. She will contact the groups that helped pay for the Calf Creek toilet in the past and others who might be willing to chip in.

Program: Presented by Monica. Jerry Fowler will speak about reining in May.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Trail Project Survey: Presented by Dan M. He received 23 responses to the survey. He will present the results to the Board and determine if any follow up is needed.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mission Valley BCH has a fundraiser ride on May 19. Info available at <https://bchmt.org/wp/mission/spring-ride-2/>. Contact: Marie: 406-676-0231 or Bonnie 406-253-0177; e-mail: MissionValleyBCHnews@gmail.com

The Maiyo's have a bag of alfalfa pellets to sell. Larry Creek road has been graded. Barb showed off great looking BRBCH shirts & hat from the Shirt Spot that were raffled off at the end of meeting. Ann, Amy, Jan, and Chris were winners!

Next Meeting: May 16 at the Corvallis Primary Cafeteria, potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm. Coffee: Karen Philips; Hot water: Jan Bullock

Karen Philips motioned and Joan Scheffer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. The motion carried.

Kathy Stroppel-Holl, Co-Secretary BRBCH

**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 4, 2024**

The April 2024 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by Jan Bullock at 5:05pm. Present were President Jan Bullock and Treasurer Barb Walker; Board members Dan Brandborg, Travise Grinnell, Joe Kirkland, Carol Johns, Brad Pollman (also State Director), Joan Scheffer, Greg Schneider, and Mark Wright; Past President Gene Merrell; and State Director Chuck Miller and Alt State Director Ed Duggan. Absent were VP Diane Duffie, Secretary Judy Posey, and Director Dennis Hardman. There was not a board quorum. Everyone led the Pledge.

Committee chairs/members present: Bonnie Morgan, Dan & Leslie Maiyo, Ed Bullock

BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report: Barb provided the account balances. There were no questions. Brad appreciated the quarterly report Barb emailed to the Board.

Minutes: No report.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Smoke Elser's book presentation is this evening. Dan wants to get to the presentation early since the Missoula book presentation was well attended, so he would like the meeting to be over by 6:30.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Projects: Presented by Dan B. Waiting on the FS to get back to him for timing on Fred Burr project; depends on availability of their blasters. Dan M has the East Fork cabin for another weekend to continue wire cleanup there. Need a project leader to lead a trail clearing project around the same time – East Fork, Clifford Cr, etc. Someone put their hand up to lead it. Brad spoke to Caleb (Stevi District) about the Larry Creek project (on June 1); Caleb is putting in a special order to grade the road. A couple waterbars will be added on the upper loop.

Grants: Presented by Dan B. The Wilderness Lands Grant came up and closes this week; could pursue it next year. Brad provided a short update on that grant – they never know how much funds they'll have, depends on Washington's funding. Jan noted the Ravalli Electric Co-op Power of Change sent a letter that BRBCH was not selected for funding the Calf Creek porta-potty. She notified Rebecca Mowry that BRBCH will not put in a potty unless other groups come through with funding.

State Directors: Chuck spoke about the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation's Youth Wilderness Expeditions in 2024. Older teenager trips – July 16-19 and July 30-Aug 4 in wilderness areas. Younger teenager trips – Aug 13-16 and June 18-23 in the Bitterroot NF. The SBFCF pays for all expenses. Online applications are due soon. Brad provided an update on the National Convention in Casper, WY. A balanced budget was presented. Light on the Land (LOTL) (copyrighted by BCHA) was introduced, with info on it available for free on the website (as opposed to Leave No Trace, developed by BCH but now owned by another entity). LOTL

info is unique to different regions around the US. FS buy-in is being pursued. The National live & silent auctions raised ~\$29K. A signed crosscut cookie's auction money was earmarked for youth grants to chapters. The bicycle issue was discussed more in-depth. Brad was elected to the National Executive Committee. Travise was awarded a one-handed crosscut saw – he was interviewed during the State Convention for this award by the man who builds the saws. The man takes old saws and re-works them.

Membership: Renewal memberships were discussed and will be approved at the next Board meeting. There are 70 memberships and 112 members.

Program: Steve Brown will present on an update on FS activities at the April general meeting.

Constitution: Presented by Dan M. Working to separate constitution from by-laws, with a target date of Nov to complete the updates and. Next meeting is April 14.

Education & Training: Presented by Bonnie. DHS obstacle class is April 6. DHS obstacles will be put up April 5 at C-Max. The afternoon class will help take them down. FA/CPR class is April 13, taught by Connie Long. A date will be set for another class later in April. Saw training is coming up in May – Brad spoke more about that. Bonnie will contact Dan and Travise if someone who is not on the list wants training. May 11 is reserved for the Lake Como campout. Nancy is making dinner. Dan M will pick up the "Chuck" wagon to bring to the event.

Issues: No report. (I think, couldn't quite hear Carol.)

OLD BUSINESS

Joan will get certified as a second FA/CPR instructor.

Carol said Eric Wren (a herpetologist) can do rattlesnake training for horses. He is speaking at the June general meeting. She will check if he's available for the May campout.

Ed D noted the toolshed equipment has been checked, and there are some items that need repair.

Dan M asked for a date for the fairgrounds play date. A Sunday date in May is best, likely May 5 or 19 (backup day). Start around 10 am.

NEW BUSINESS

Diane Duffie and Dennis Hardman submitted their resignations as VP and Director, respectively. They will remain as members. Jan will note the need for another Board member and VP in her next president's message. Judy (Secretary) is indisposed for medical reasons – Jan will talk with her and see if she wants to resign for now. Mark asked if there were runners up from the Nov election who might be interested in filling the open positions. Bonnie will call these folks and see if anyone is interested; if anyone knows of someone interested in a position, have them call her. Dan M noted Art V, Sec 5 delineates how open positions are filled by the Board.

Continued next page

Art VI, Sec 6 was brought up. There wasn't a quorum to make a decision. Travise was requested to submit a hard copy of his email. Dan noted there were lots of good folks in the group, and hopefully the chapter can get through this without losing anyone. Joan does not have a bias either way and is unfamiliar with the cause of the issue, so she doesn't feel she can vote on it. Brad discussed the overload of emails he received, and that he will address things in a meeting and not via email. Joe noted the amount of 2023 volunteer work hours that Christy recorded for the chapter, and that members provide a lot of valuable work. He doesn't feel the Board should referee individual disputes. Mark discussed the Missoula BCH and how a comment would cause a person to quit. He noted we need to be honest but kind and know

that words can hurt. We are all important to each other; if someone screws up, discuss it and move on. Carol would like to respond, but without a quorum nothing can be done. A mediator was suggested, but it would not have value. Ed D spoke about the issue causing strong emotional distress. There was further discussion about folks behaving in a professional manner and controlling their emotions (similar to controlling emotions when working with a horse).

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting ended at ~6:25pm.

Transcribed by Kathy Stroppel-Holl for Judy Posey, Secretary BRBCH

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, MAY 2, 2024

The May 2024 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by Jan Bullock at 7:08 pm. Present were President Jan Bullock, Vice President Dan Brandborg, Co-Secretaries Karen Philips and Kathy Stroppel-Holl, and Treasurer Barb Walker; Directors Joe Kirkland, Carol Johns, Lionel Lavallee, Joan Scheffer, and Mark Wright; Past President Gene Merrell; and State Director Chuck Miller and Alt State Director Ed Duggan. Absent were Directors Cherie Barton, Travise Grinnell, and Brad Pollman (also State Director). There was a board quorum. Committee chairs/members present: Bonnie Morgan, Dan Maiyo. All led the Pledge.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The March 2024 minutes were published in the Nag News, and the April 2024 minutes were emailed to the Board. There were updates to the April 4 minutes: Under Projects and Grants, Dan M is Dan B; under Old Business the name is Eric Gren; under New Business Ed D is Ed B in the third to the last line in the second paragraph. **Lionel Lavallee motioned and Joe Kirkland seconded to accept the March and amended April minutes. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barb provided bank transactions for April and account balances. There were no questions. **Gene Merrell motioned and Lionel Lavallee seconded to accept the April and May treasurer's reports. Motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Squash Misinformation: Kathy asked that if BRBCH officers, directors, or members hear talk or social media chatter about the Duggans leaving the chapter, they need to squash that misinformation. The Duggans are not leaving the chapter. We need to promote the chapter in a positive manner and talk about all the good things our members do. Jan noted that she has had to handle negative misinformation as well.

Card to Sign: Karen circulated two cards for board members to sign: One for Greg Schneider's wife Lou, who is going through treatment for multiple myeloma, and one to thank Taylor King, State Farm Insurance Agent, for his \$200 dona-

tion to help fund the Calf Creek porta-potty.

Youth Events: Two youth-oriented outdoor events are coming up. MT Matters Youth Outdoor Experience is May 4, 10-3, at the fairgrounds. Youth Conservation & Education Expo is May 18, 10-3 at the Teller Refuge Slack Barn.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants: No report

Projects: Dan B. reported that project committee members are Dan B, Carol, Joan, Christy, Bonnie, Jan, and Joe. Christy and Nancy Pollman will handle compiling project reports. At least 3 committee members will meet with Mark Smith at the West Fork Ranger District on May 6, 10 am. The FS Point of Contact (POC) position duties and who should be the POC were discussed. Ed D will ask Christy whether she wants to continue as FS POC. General discussion followed including that ideally each project member should report their own odometer readings to project leaders, but that doesn't always happen. Joe said the project leader is responsible for getting the information to Christy and Nancy; the forms do require odometer readings, not just mileage. Bitterroot National Forest (BNF) requires a project update report every 2 weeks. Board members felt we should send a report even if one isn't done. Carol explained the Volunteer Service Agreement with the FS, along with the 301B volunteer forms required each year. Mark suggested that Dan B get clarification on how the FS wants us to handle providing project reporting to the agency at the May 6 meeting. The campout on May 11-12 is considered a training activity but still requires attendees to sign the 301B form. Travise will need to bring his 301B list to the campout so names can be added. Copies should be made of all 301B lists submitted to the FS, so project leaders have the names of volunteers who have signed it.

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Issues/Public Lands: Carol read a BNF press release of a notice of intent to conduct mineral exploration at the Sheep Creek Mine. A House of Representatives bill (Explore Act) to benefit a variety of recreation opportunities was passed unanimously and is going to the Senate. Chuck said that discussions on the proposed Sheep Creek Mine don't fit the BCH mission statement regarding equine activities, and the issue has been discussed at the BCHMT level. Dan B disagreed and said we should continue to be informed. Chuck said we do need to stay informed but letters on the issue should be sent personally.

State Directors: Chuck said the next BCH MT meeting is May 18 in Deer Lodge at the Elks Club, starting at 10 am. Zoom participation is an option.

Membership: Joan reported a list of the 23 new and renewal memberships to approve. **Kathy Stroppel-Holl motioned and Joe Kirkland seconded to accept the new and renewal memberships discussed at this meeting and at the April meeting. Motion carried.** There are 74 memberships and 118 members.

Outreach & Program: Jan presented information on the Mission Valley Spring Ride on May 19. Kathy showed an ad purchased by Selway-Pintler BCH in the Bitterroot Star. May general meeting speaker Jerry Fowler will talk about bits and how they impact equine behavior.

Education & Training: Bonnie reported that 28-30 people have signed up for the May 11-12 campout. She will send out an email to members. Attendees need to bring water and weed seed free forage. Dan M will bring the "Chuck" wagon to the event. Nancy will prepare Saturday night dinner, Kathy will cook Sunday breakfast and Virginia DeLeo will help with all meals. Trail rides at different times will be led by Julie, Bonnie, and Jan. A women's bike group will be camped across the road at the 3 Sisters Group Camp. At this time no additional first aid classes are scheduled. Travise and Ed D can renew cross-cut certifications, but members need to contact them if they want to be renewed on a project. All Firearm permits for firearm carry on projects should be received by now. If not, contact Mark Smith. Chain Saw training is June 7-8, taught by Brad and Travise. Bonnie will contact Dan B and Travise if someone not on the list wants training.

Constitution Committee: Dan M reported they met April 14 and will meet next on May 5 at 4:30. Progress is being made.

OLD BUSINESS

Calf Creek Portable Toilet Funding: Karen reported that we have received \$400 in donations for the Calf Creek portapotty and \$400 more committed from Bitterroot Back Country Cyclists and Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association. Total cost for service provided by Outback Portable Toilets, the company used in the past, is \$715 with no drop off or pick up fees. Barb has this cost verified in a text message. Service dates are May 15 to November 30. **Dan Brandborg moved and Lionel Lavallee seconded that the remaining money needed for the Calf Creek toilet be paid for by donations outside the chapter with reimbursements as needed. Motion carried.** Barb will contact the company to start service May 15.

Trail Participation Survey: Dan M asked the board to study his compiled graphs and data and email him their comments before the June board meeting. He will then publish the summary of comments in the Nag News.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Replacement: Jan reported that because Greg Schneider had to step down Dan Maiyo volunteered to fill the vacancy. **Mark Wright moved and Joe Kirkland seconded to accept Dan's offer to fill Greg's open board position for the remainder of the term ending in 2025. Motion carried.**

Updated Trifold & Printing: Kathy reported that we need to update the brochure, and we are searching for the original file. We can get 100 copies of an edited copy of the chapter's brochure from UPS, printed and folded for \$84. Allegra's cost is \$103. Gene recommended Professional Impressions and Karen will contact them for an additional quote.

Mule Days: Bonnie reported that the Bitterroot Mountettes will handle the gates at Mule Days.

New Stevensville District Ranger: Jan reported that Seth Romocki is the new Stevensville District Ranger. Information on Seth's background was printed and placed on tables for members to read.

Fair Fundraiser: Karen reported that Christy Schram-Duggan will serve as fair manager and Bonnie Duggan will serve as scheduler.

OTHER BUSINESS

Garmin Mini In-Reach: Need for training was discussed. In-Reach training by Ed D will take place Saturday night at the campout.

Spot Device: Barb asked if the subscription should be continued. The device is not used anymore and could be offered for sale to the membership. She will cancel the subscription.

Summer Meeting Locations: Jan texted Shannon Harrison, Darby Recreation Specialist, and hasn't heard back yet about scheduling the 3 Sisters Group Camp for a summer meeting. Post-meeting meeting update: June 20 at Larry Creek, July 18 at Coyote Coulee, and Aug 15 at 3 Sisters Site/Lake Como.

Printer: Dan M. researched printers and found that laser printers are one of the best options but more expensive. He is keeping the monthly printing costs below \$20 at UPS so it doesn't pencil out to buy a printer now. Dan will check out Profession Impressions for printing costs.

Lionel Lavallee moved and Kathy Stroppel-Holl seconded we adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 9:02 pm.

Karen Philips, Co-Secretary BRBCH

Horse Sense - Sponsored By:



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406-961-4917

Monday-Friday 8 – 5:30 Saturday–9 – 4:00

TRANSITIONING HORSES TO SPRING PASTURE (Editor's Note: reprinted from April 2023 Nag News) *Krishona Martinson, PhD, University of Minnesota*

1. Spring grazing should be introduced slowly and delayed until grasses reach 6 to 8" in height to optimize health of the horse and pasture.

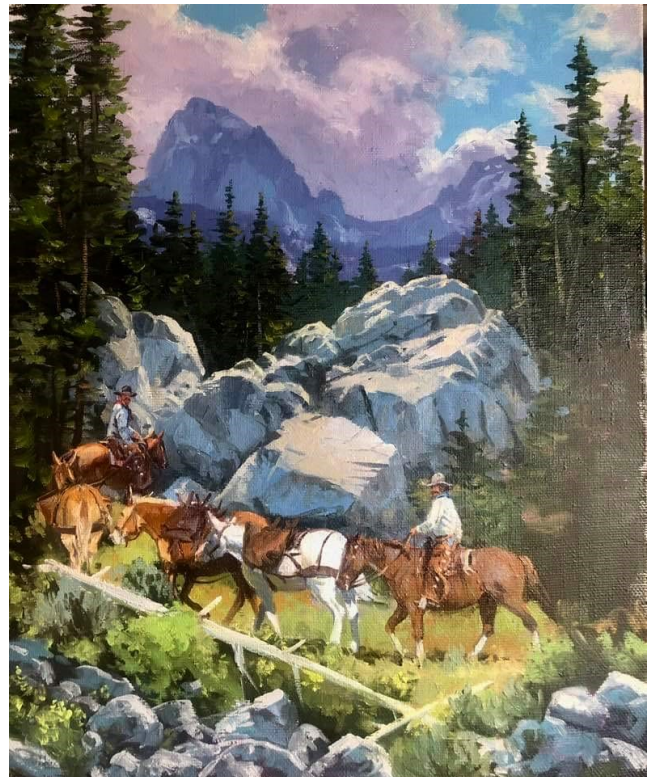
2. When pastures reach 6-8" inches, begin grazing for 15 minutes, increasing grazing time by 15 minutes each day until 4 to 5 hours of consecutive grazing is reached. After that, unrestricted or continuous grazing can resume. Feed horses their normal hay diet before turning them out to pasture during the first several grazing events of the season to avoid rapid intake of pasture grasses.

3. Change feedstuffs gradually. There are significant differences between hay and pasture forms of forages. Dried hay is approximately 15% moisture content, fresh pasture is 85% moisture. Horses are a fermenting herbivore that relies extensively on the microbes present in its gastrointestinal tract to be able to process forages. The microbes are a mix of different organisms that work together. If the foodstuffs the microbes are utilizing change suddenly, there may be little time for the microbial populations to adjust to the change. Instead, large numbers of them die, while others flourish, setting up a situation where toxins may be absorbed by the horse, resulting in digestive dysfunction and possibly colic. A gradual change from one feedstuff to another provides enough time for the microbial populations to adjust.

4. Manage pastures to reduce the chance of laminitis. Laminitis is a painful, disabling, common, and costly equine disease that has many causes. Annual incidence of laminitis in the U.S. is reported to be 2%, but rises to about 5% in the spring and summer. Nearly half of all reported cases in the U.S. occur in animals at pasture. During photosynthesis, green plants produce simple sugars. When sugars are produced in excess of the energy requirement of the plant for growth and development, they are converted into storage, or reserve carbohydrates. Storage of carbohydrates is commonly seen during the rapid growth of spring. The vegetative tissues of cool season pasture grasses (i.e. timothy, orchard grass, brome grass) accumulate fructan as a component of their reserve carbohydrate., which is stored in the stem until required by the plant as an energy source. The sum of simple sugars, fructan, and starch comprises the non-structural carbohydrate (NSC) fraction of the plant. There is some evidence of association, and even stronger evidence of causation between laminitis and rapid intake (and total intake) of NSC. Furthermore, administering high concentrations of fructan to horses has resulted in laminitis.

5. In European studies, fructan concentrations were highest in the spring, lowest in the summer, and intermediate in the fall. Because horses are selective grazers they find feedstuffs with elevated sugar content highly palatable. Avoiding or restricting grazing in the early spring can reduce the chance of rapid NSC intake and laminitis. Seek veterinarian approval before grazing horses susceptible (or with previous episodes of) laminitis as some horses cannot tolerate any grazing.

6. Pasture health. Pasture grasses need sufficient growth before grazing is allowed. Photosynthesis occurs mainly with the leaves of the plants. If the leaves are grazed too early (prior to 6" tall) or too often, plants can lose vigor, competitiveness, and root structure due to the lack of photosynthetic ability. This will lead to eventual die back and overgrazed areas being replaced by noxious weed species. Grazing should cease when forages have been grazed down to 3 to 4". Grazing can resume when grasses regrow to 6 to 8". 2 to 3 acres of well managed pasture can provided forage needs for one horse from spring to fall.



BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN
SPONSORED BY:



The Shirt Spot

1704 N 1st St Unit C
Hamilton MT 59840

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 OMELETTE

Ingredients:

- 2 dozen X-large eggs
- 2 cups cubed ham or pork, crumbled bacon strips, country sausage, sausage link pieces or left over steak from the night before (or some of, and/or all the above)
- 1 cup each diced onions & bell peppers
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1 to 2 cups chopped fresh tomatoes
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese (or whatever suits your fancy)
- 1 cup milk
- 1 stick melted butter
- 1/2 cup canola or olive oil

Coat inside of DO with oil. Break eggs into DO, add milk and whip until thoroughly mixed. Stir in the rest of the ingredients except on cup of cheese. Cover and place on heat source. Low and slow is best.

Initial phase of cooking, stir frequently as eggs start to cook. As eggs set up with cooking, lower heat until fully cooked. In last few minutes before serving, spread last cup of shredded cheese over omelette, replace lid and let melt.

Serves 10 to 12

Some of our BRBCH members at the Lake Como Rock Creek Campground after the Saturday afternoon trail ride. Bonnie Morgan hosted a "parade of high lines" set up by each participant at their campsite



2024 Committees	2024 Chairs & Members
Audit	Joe Kirkland, Shawn Kern, Judy Posey, Bonnie Morgan
Audio-Visual Equipment	Ed Bullock
Budget	Gene Merrell, Jan Bullock, Barb Walker
Education	Ed Duggan/Christy Schram-Duggan
Election & Nominations	Bonnie Morgan, Leslie Conner-Maiyo,
Equipment & Inventory	Ed Duggan
Fair and Reports	Christy Schram-Duggan
Advertising	Ed Bullock
Grants	Dan Brandborg, Diane Duffie, Barb Walker
Historian	Tim Meyer
Issues	Carol Johns, Kathy Stroppel-Holl
Memberships	Joan Scheffer
Newsletter	Dan Maiyo
Parliamentarian	Rebecca Jones
Programs	Monica Stanton
Projects	Dan Brandborg
Social Marketing	Travise Grinnell
Sunshine	Jenna Wright
Trail Rides	Jan Bullock, Dan Maiyo
Training	Bonnie Morgan
Website Design	Nancy Pollman

Bitter Root Backcountry Horsemen Officers and Board

Chapter officers				
Position	Name	Term	Contact	
President	Jan Bullock	2024	907-242-9853	
Vice President	Dan Brandborg	2024	406-381-5643	
Secretary	Kathy Stroppol-Holl/Karen Phillips	2024	Kathy 720-244-2943, Karen 406-369-0725	
Treasurer	Barbara Walker	2024		
Board Members	Term	State Director	Term	BCHMT State Chairman
Travise Grinnell	2023-24	Chuck Miller	2023-24	Wade Murphy
Carol Johns	2023-24	Brad Pollman	2024-25	
Joe Kirkland	2023-24			BCHMT Vice State Chairman
Brad Pollman	2023-24	Alt. State		Mack Long
Cherie Barton	2023-24	Director		
Lionel Lavallee	2024-25	Ed Duggan	2024	
Joan Scheffer	2024-25			BCHMT National Directors
Dan Maiyo	2024-25			Brad Pollman
Mark Wright	2024-25	BRBCH Past		John Chepulis
		President		Alt. National Director
		Gene Merrell		Henry Gottardi

Bonnie Morgan explains a tie up on a hitching post at the Rock Creek campsite during the “parade of high lines”.



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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, May 16th, 2024

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
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