



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

June 2024

Issue #6

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, JUNE 20th, 2024 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Larry Creek Horse Parking Area

The next General Meeting will be at the Larry Creek horse parking area. On Hwy 93 N. drive 3.7 miles north from the Stevensville intersection and turn west onto Bass Creek Road, continue for 2 miles and veer right at the sign for the Larry Creek Trailhead on FS Road #1316.

A potluck dinner will be served at 6:30 pm followed by our monthly meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm. Guests and new members always welcome.

This month we welcome new members **Steve Rea, Mary & Alex Johnston, Mary Odell and Shawn Deming!!**

HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

P.2. President’s Message

P.3. 2024 Project Schedule

Pp. 4 – 5. Draft May 16 General Meeting Minutes

Pp 5 - 6. Draft June 6 Board Meeting Minutes

P.7. Horse Sense

P.8. Back Country Kitchen

P.9. List of Officers and Board

Pp.10–11. For sale/Advertisers

Our June guest speaker is Dr. Eric Gren. He will talk on living with rattlesnakes in the Bitterroot Valley and will share insights into snake ecology, distribution, and behavior in the Bitterroot, with special emphasis on how we can minimize risks to ourselves and our animals. Dr. Gren teaches biology at Bitterroot College. His research interests include animal venoms, herpetology, behavioral ecology, and conservation biology. Eric and his wife, Kandice, live in Como, with two very spoiled dogs and three snakes.

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, July 11th
SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES
AND ADS TO:
djmaiyo@gmail.com

Editor's Note:

No president's message this month. However, the following was posted by Karen Phillips Sunday morning.

At the Coyote Coulee trail project on Saturday, Julie Schram was involved in a horse-related accident. She is currently at St. Pat's Hospital and has no life-threatening injuries. She is expected to have a speedy recovery, and Jenna Wright will send a card to her at Julie's home address.

On behalf of all of our members, prayers and positive thoughts go out to Julie and her family. May I speak for all of us by saying that our club stands united in support of all our fellow members, as we are also a family. Dan Maiyo, Newsletter Editor



Jenna and Mark show the Wright stuff, Dorothy Carrera clips bushes from the trail.



Some of the Larry Creek Trail Project crew Saturday June 8th



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, May 16, 2024**

The May 2024 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Jan Bullock at 7:05 pm. The meeting was held at the Corvallis Primary School cafeteria. Approximately 27 members were present. There was a Board quorum. Jan led the Pledge to start the meeting.

PROGRAM

Jerry Fowler – “Five Factors of Bits and Biting that Affect Your Equine’s Behavior”: Horses’ mouths have five parts to check regarding bit options: teeth (#1 priority: get them floated—performance float is an option), palate, bars (bar sensitive horses need a bit with bar relief), tongue (they vary in size and sensitivity and tongue sensitive horses need bits with tongue relief), and soft tissue (check out your horse’s soft tissue; it can be thick or harder than you expect). He recommends fat snaffles for young horses. If your horse is unhappy with the bit, try something else. Bit progression is lateral movement first and getting your horse relaxed with that. Balance with hands and legs is very important—it can’t be all bit pressure. Riders need to get “the feel” with their hands and legs. Forceful riders have reached the end of their knowledge, and they need to reach out for help. Lunging first helps relax horses. Jerry fits snaffle bits without a smile on the side, so that the horse has to pick up the bit. With a curb bit he likes two fingers under the curb strap. He makes custom bits and his web site is: fowlercustombits.com.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The April 18 minutes were printed in the May Nag News. There were no changes. **Ed Bullock motioned and Joan Scheffer seconded to accept the April minutes as published. Motion carried.**

Treasurer’s Report: Barb presented the May treasurer’s report. There were no questions. **Bonnie Morgan motioned and Kathy Stroppel-Holl seconded to accept the May Treasurer’s report. Motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Member Replacement: Jan introduced Dan Maiyo as a new Board member; he replaces Greg Schneider who has an illness in his family.

Summer Meetings: June 20 at Larry Creek, July 18 at Coyote Coulee, and August 15 at 3 Sisters Group Site, Lake Como.

Lost and Found: Large mantly box left at Fred Burr. If found contact Kathy Hundley.

Safety Moment: Put out campfires completely. The forest is dry! Read the May Nag News article on transitioning horses to spring grass. Ticks are out--check yourself and your equines. Helpful information for identifying ticks (important if you get sick) is the University of Rhode Island Tick Encounter site.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants: No report.

Projects: Dan B. gave an overview of projects and provided

signup sheets; members can sign up on the BRBCH website early so project leaders know volunteer numbers and their skills. The FS 301B sheet was circulated for members to sign if they haven’t already done so. If in doubt, sign it again. This is required to get liability coverage for those who volunteer.

Issues: Carol reported on the notice of intent submitted by the Sheep Creek Mine company to the FS for surface exploration. She noted BRBCH members differ on whether responding in writing to the Sheep Creek Mine exploration issue meets our mission. EXPLORE Act (HB 6492) expands access to recreational use on public lands, including more parking and toilets. The bill is now in the Senate awaiting a vote. Bonnie and Jan requested that Shannon Harris, Darby District Recreation Specialist, exchange reserved stock sites #6 and #7 that are short for the longer #1A and #1B sites at Rock Creek Horse Camp. That change will happen, and additional stock sites are planned in the future near Rock Creek. Bear resistant food storage requirements are coming to the BNF. Conservation licenses are required for recreation use on state lands like Calf Creek WMA. Cost is \$8 for residents, \$4 for ages 12-17, \$4 for seniors 62 and older, \$10 for non-residents, available online and at Bob Wards.

State Directors: The next BCH MT Board meeting is Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. at Deer Lodge.

Education & Training: Bonnie said the May 11-12 Rock Creek Horse Camp Campout was a big success. A shout out to our cooks, to those who cleaned up campground debris, and to Bonnie for organizing this happy event. She reported that senior passes get you free day use and half price on overnight stays. Check with project leaders to get recertified on cross-cut saw at a project. Chain saw certification is scheduled for June 7-8.

Membership: There are 74 memberships and 118 members.

Outreach: Karen reported on the Calf Creek WMA portable toilet and its funding. Post meeting update: Toilet was delivered Friday.

Program: Dr. Eric Gren will talk on living with rattlesnakes in the Bitterroot Valley at the June 20 meeting. The July meeting will feature Seth Romocki, the new Stevensville District Ranger as speaker, and the Aug. meeting will focus on the county fair.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Fairgrounds Trail Event: Dan M. reported on the upcoming play day, Sunday, May 19, 2-4 pm for members and their horses. The fairgrounds user fee is \$15 for the day. All season pass is \$100 for open riding.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

(Continued Pg. 6)

OTHER BUSINESS

Ravalli County Animal Response: Jan is on this team and offered brochures describing the emergency service.

Prescribed Burn in the Coyote Coulee area: Be aware that this burn got out of hand and areas from Lost Horse to Lake Como burned.

Chapter Spot Device: It will be raffled at the December membership drive. The Garmin Mini In-Reach & FS radio will be used on projects.

Next Meeting: June 20 at the Larry Creek horse parking area, potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 p.m. Bring your own beverages and chairs. The coffee and water pots are stored for the summer months with Karen (coffee) and Monica (water).

Ed Bullock motioned and Barb Walker seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm. Motion carried.

Karen Philips, Co-Secretary BRBCH

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 6, 2024

The June 2024 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by Jan Bullock at 7:05 pm. Present were President Jan Bullock, Vice President Dan Brandborg, Co-Secretaries Karen Philips and Kathy Stroppel-Holl, and Treasurer Barb Walker; Directors Cherie Barton, Travise Grinnell, Joe Kirkland, Carol Johns, Dan Maiyo, Brad Pollman (also State Director), Joan Scheffer, and Mark Wright; Past President Gene Merrell; and State Director Chuck Miller. Absent were director Lionel Lavalée and Alternate State Director Ed Duggan. There was a board quorum. Committee chairs/members present: Bonnie Morgan. All led the Pledge.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The May 2, 2024 minutes were published in the Nag News. Carol Johns had one correction: Chuck Miller stated that it is up to the chapter members to decide whether the chapter makes a statement concerning the Sheep Creek Mine. **Joan Scheffer motioned and Gene Merrell seconded to accept the May minutes as amended. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barb provided recent bank transactions in an email and reported account balances. There were no questions. **Gene Merrell motioned and Joe Kirkland seconded to accept the June treasurer's reports. Motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cherie Barton reported that the Ravalli County Collaborative is providing a wildfire preparedness day in Darby at the Community Center, 3-5 pm, Saturday, June 8.

Eric Hoover, Ravalli County Emergency Preparedness Director, will restart the Animal Response Team soon (Jan is a member).

Jacob Potter, a UM student doing a thesis on how the FS and

Community interact, interviewed Jan for her opinion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants: No report.

Projects: Brad reviewed the Larry Creek project results, with 22 participants providing 90 volunteer hours. There was one mishap on the project, and Brad reminded us that all injuries need to be reported to the FS dispatch and Mark Smith right away. Travise reported on the upcoming July 15th Coyote Coulee project and said that there is a lot of tread work to be done, and some of that deficient tread is causing water bars to fill up within a week or so after being cleaned. Kathy SH is handling pre-work snacks, Christy and Cheyenne are handling lunch, and riders are needed to get to the upper loop. Reports from riders are that there are a lot of trees down. Dan B reported on the Fred Burr project and requested up to \$1500 for the food for volunteers and 2 dinners for the MCC crew. **Gene Merrell motioned and Brad Pollman seconded to fund the Fred Burr project meals for volunteers and MCC crew up to \$1500. Motion carried.** Dan B requested that we purchase one Roll Up table at \$80. **Brad Pollman motioned and Gene Merrell seconded to purchase one Roll Up table at \$80 to be funded out of Capital Outlay. Motion carried.** Dan B will pack packer pellets provided by Gene and/or hay provided by Chuck for stock feed. The East Fork trail work project is cancelled and the East Fork wire removal project is still a go with project leader Dan Maiyo. Dan B reported that the Project Leader (PL) notebook has been updated and will be stored in the BRBCH shed. Travise is taking the PL notebook for his Coyote Coulee project. Ed D and Travise will complete the BRBCH shed equipment inventory. The FS has donated to us a New Zealand cross-cut saw, a chain saw and safety gear.

Issues/Public Lands: Travise is waiting for draft FS regulations on food storage in bear country.

State Directors: Chuck reported that a "Favorite Trails" list is being compiled by individual chapters. Bonnie is involved in rewriting Defensive Horse Safety. A Light on the Land demonstration by Mack Long is Aug. 2-4, at the North Fork of the Blackfoot. Youth Montana Matters events attendance has been huge (700 in Helena and 1200 in Ravalli County). BCHA has grant money for youth activities. BCHMT is endorsing youth activities; youth must have DHS certification, and parents must sign a 301A form for youth to work on projects. The BCHMT rendezvous is June 21-23 at the Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA. FWP and DNRC permits are required. Cost share agreement mileage reimbursement is for FS approved projects and required certified training (e.g., saw training, DHS) only. Beginning and ending odometer readings are now required. Upper Clark Fork chapter is dissolving in Dec. 2024, and members will join the Mile High chapter. The 2025 BCHMT state convention is in Helena, March 14-16, and the 2026 convention is in Bozeman, March 27-29. BCHA made a plea for old cross-cut saws that will be refurbished and given to young sawyers.

(Continued page 7)

Membership: Joan provided names of two new and renewal members to approve. **Kathy Stoppel-Holl motioned and Joe Kirkland seconded to accept the new and renewal memberships. Motion carried.** There are 78 memberships and 123 members.

Outreach & Program: Karen reported that the Calf Creek toilet was delivered May 17, and the sign listing organizations providing the service was placed inside the toilet June 5. She learned from Chad DeVall of Red Barn Bicycles that the bicycle group cleared a huge group of trees on the south trail at Calf Creek. That group also cleared all trails around Twogood Cabin, including Overwich Falls Trail to the snow line. Program speaker for June is Eric Wren, a snake expert, and July's speaker is Seth Romocki, the new Stevensville District Ranger. In September our speaker will be a FS representative to discuss food storage and bear safety.

Education & Training: Bonnie reported that chain saw training is June 7-8, taught by Brad Pollman and Travis Grinnell. Cross-cut saw training is June 14-15, taught by Ed Duggan and Travis. Cross-cut recertification will take place at the Coyote Coulee project with Travis.

Constitution Committee: Dan M reported that the next meeting is June 9 at 4:30.

OLD BUSINESS

Trail Participation Survey: Dan M said he got few follow up responses. The general consensus was though the number of survey respondents was small, the survey intent was to get feedback on how to restructure projects to meet member needs and improve project participation. Cherie Barton suggested we emphasize to members the time involved. Shorter projects are more appealing for a lot of people, especially newer members. Having fun is an important element too.

Updated Trifold & Printing: Karen reported that the chapter's brochure was updated by Joan and Kathy SH, and edited and printed by Allegra. Allegra didn't bill us for the \$25 charge for editing because they printed the brochures for us.

FS Point of Contact: Dan B said that Mark Smith wanted the POC to be the chapter president, so Jan is POC for the Bitterroot National Forest. The FS Region 1 contact is Carol Hennessey and her emphasis is getting report information and 301B signups, etc. Jan will contact her, too. Christy and Nancy were going to work together to compile reports but Christy has declined to take that on. Dan B and the project committee will gather project statistics in the fall. Dan B will contact Mark Smith every two weeks with project updates. The 301B signups are sent to Carol Hennessey ASAP by Dan B.

Disciplinary Action/ Revocation of Membership: After much discussion it was agreed to call a special board meeting to handle this issue. Dan M reviewed Article II, section 6 of the BRBCH constitution. **Dan Brandborg motioned and Travis Grinnell seconded to schedule a special meeting to discuss this issue. Motion carried.** Jan set a tentative date, time and location of June 13, 7:00 p.m., at Daly-Leach, for this special board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Fair Fundraiser: Travis reported that email has gone out with the fair ticket taking and selling schedule and people are already signing up.

BRBCH Articles of Incorporation and State of MT Filing Status: Gene stated that our State of Montana filing status doesn't match our federal filing status. **Joan Scheffer motioned and Mark Wright seconded that we authorize Gene Merrell to spend the necessary fees with the Montana Secretary of State to remedy this problem. Motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS

Joe Kirkland motioned and Mark Wright seconded we adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 9:20 pm.

Karen Philips, Co-Secretary BRBCH



At Larry Creek, Chris Carrera uses a rock hammer to pound in a rebar, Dan Maiyo uses his Pulaski to clear a drainage ditch above a water bar.



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DO YOU OFFEND YOUR HORSE? By Martin Black, a horse clinician and a 5th generation Idaho rancher with a strong influence of the California-Spanish style of horsemanship.

Quite often questions come up related to the problems people have catching, haltering, bridling, saddling, mounting their horse and so on. When the person is asked to demonstrate the way that they go about getting the job done, what I see is the horse is being offended by their method.

Quite often the person is focused too much on the task at hand. For example, they are so focused on getting the bit in the horse's mouth that they don't notice that the headstall is gouging his eye, or pulling the whiskers on his muzzle or pinching his ear as it gets folded up. A horse will be taking in all of our movement and the way we are affecting him. The problem is that we get tunnel vision and may only see part of what is happening. What we do with a horse may not always be a good experience for him or he may not like it, but we can at least minimize the discomfort and do it in a less offensive way.

A horse goes through different stages which is very productive processing or evaluating things we present him with. When he is soaking he is taking a lot in and evaluating in a non-threatened way. During this state his attention span can vary depending on age and previous experiences. This is a very good place to operate from and we should maximize these productive opportunities. In order to maintain his curiosity, there would be nothing we are doing that would be offensive to him.

Another state is taking flight. This can be anything from jumping away from us and running away or just raising his head trying to avoid us. This is a state that it's very important to calculate the effect we are having on a horse. We will likely end up here at some point, and it may not be avoided, but the important thing is, what the horse comes away from this state with. This is where the slightest pressure or offensiveness needs to be noticed and calculated. By releasing the discomfort and helping him find relief we can create the optimum learning experience and be the most productive.

Another state is when a horse tolerates what is happening to him. He is not liking it but he is not trying to escape. He can be accepting something without any confinement or restriction, or he can acknowledge some restriction and resent what is taking place without fighting or taking flight.

And finally there's a comatose state where the horse releases the natural painkilling drug into his system and

gets that glazed over look in his eye. At this point, he is to some extent incoherent. You may get some accomplishments here but it's a very unproductive learning state of mind for a horse.

Horses like being comfortable; they don't like being threatened. This is basically the pressure relief system that horses learn from. If a horse can experience discomfort or pressure, then we can show him relief, or comfort. Then he is motivated to look for the comfort when he is faced with that pressure next time.

The more we can see things from the horse's perspective, the better we can understand what he's feeling and then we may be able to adjust things accordingly to fit him better. So look at your horse and see if he seems offended by your approach. He will tell you if you should be making some adjustments.



BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN
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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!

DAN'S BITCHIN' CHICKEN

Ingredients:

- 6-8 boneless/skinned chicken breasts
- 1 1/2 cups white cooking wine or chicken stock
- 1/2 cup pesto
- 4 oz. dried spinach fettucine
- 4 oz. dried fettucine
- 1/2 cup oil-pack dried tomatoes
- 1/2 cup pine nuts
- Salt/pepper/Italian Seasoning

Season chicken breasts and arrange in 12 inch Dutch Oven (DO). Pour in the cooking liquid. Set the DO on firepan with 10-14 briquettes underneath and 18 briquettes on the lid. Simmer for 30-45 minutes or until chicken breasts are cooked.

Prepare fettucine, drain and dress with pesto then spoon over chicken breasts in the DO.

Sprinkle the top with dried tomatoes and pine nuts, let simmer over charcoal for 15 minutes.

Serves 6

Tip: Grill breasts at home and freeze if you going on a pack trip.



Bill Bell & Crew, c. 1920
Elk Summit Ranger Station

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




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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING
Thursday, June 20th, 2024

Larry Creek Parking Area

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