



# Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

August 2024

Issue #8

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, AUGUST 15th, 2024 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

### Lake Como 3 Sisters Pavilion

The next General Meeting will be at the Lake Como 3 Sisters Pavilion, directly across from the Rock Creek Horse Campground. On Hwy 93 N. drive south from Hamilton 18 miles and turn west onto Lake Como Road, continue for 4 miles and veer right at the 3 Sisters Pavilion.

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 Christy Schram-Duggan will talk about our participation in upcoming Ravalli County Fair. 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

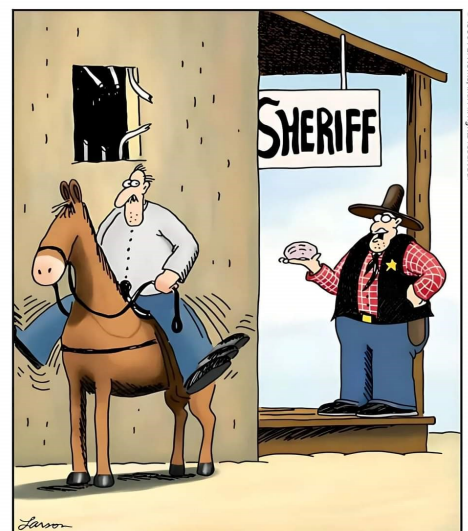
- P 2. President's Message
- P 3. Summary Fred Burr Trail reconstruction project.
- P. 4. 2024 Project list
- Pp. 5,6. Draft July General Meeting Minutes
- Pp. 6, 7. Draft August Board Meeting Minutes
- P.7. Horse Sense
- P.8. Back Country Kitchen
- P.9. List of Officers and Board
- Pp.10,11 For sale/List of Advertisers

### HELP WANTED

Grant writers. Will train.  
 Dan Brandborg is stepping down from that responsibility.  
 Contact Jan Bullock or Dan B. for more information.

### DEADLINE FOR NAG NEWS

Thursday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>  
 SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES  
 AND ADS TO:



"Ha! Figured you might try escapin', Bert—so I just took the liberty of removin' your horse's brain."

## A Message From Our President

Hello all!

I hope this finds you well after our extensive heat-wave and smoky air. Perhaps our weather is looking towards the cooler weather of the autumn season.

Despite the heat and smoke many of you have put in your time and effort on the many projects we have accomplished this summer! Thank you for that! We still have a few more pack support trips ahead if you still would like to help out. You can check on our website to see what is coming up.

Our next big project is the Ravalli County Fair and that will be happening right around the corner. For many years we have been ticket sellers and takers at the Fair and this is our main fundraiser for the year. There are still spots to be filled and a 4 hour shift gets you one free day at the fair. It is easy and fun and a great way to help out our Chapter. We will also welcome your children, grandchildren, friends and relatives if they would like to help out. Call Bonnie Duggan for available times or go to our website to sign up. All training will be provided.

Our final outdoor meeting of the summer will be held next Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at Lake Como Three Sisters pavilion across from the Rock Creek Horse Campground. As usual, a potluck starts at 6:30 pm followed by our membership meeting.

Hope to see you this coming Thursday. Be well and safe.

Jan Bullock



### Pricing

We offer meat fully processed and vacuum packed or unprocessed by the quarter, half or whole. In this manner you can tell the processor at BAR MW MEATS in Corvallis, a USDA inspected facility, just what cuts you prefer and the amount per package at your cost.

Or stop by our barn on 784 Arena Road off Skalkaho Hwy where we have individual cuts and burger boxes for your selection.



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Our locally grown beef are grass feed throughout the year. Our calves are born in May just as nature's calving season for bison, deer and elk. No feed lot is involved in the growing of our animals.

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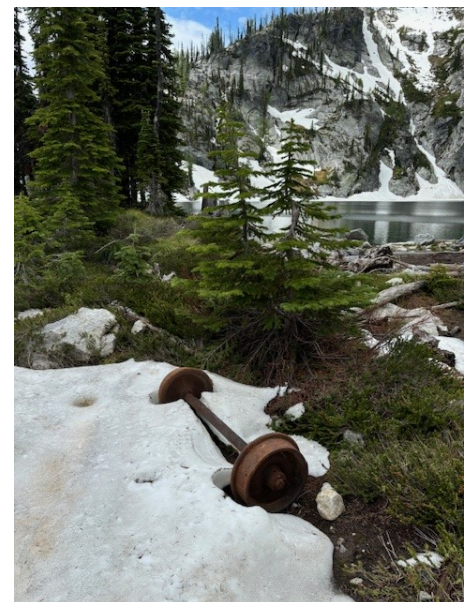


¼ Beef	Approximately 140 to 175 lbs. at \$5.85 per lb.
½ Beef	Approximately 280 to 345 lbs. at \$5.45 per lb.
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Joe Kirkland and possible historical artifact at Fred Burr trail project





**SUMMARY**  
**Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen**  
**Fred Burr Trail Reconstruction**  
**July 1st - July 9th**  
**Project Leader: Dan Brandborg**

We had a great trip up Fred Burr Canyon at the beginning of July for eight days. We had a total of 19 animals, 8 members and an MCC crew of 5. Our crew went up a day before to clear trail to the 12 mile campsite. We then came back down to the dam and were joined by more members and the MCC folks to pack all remaining gear into camp.

We found that we were early in the season in this cool Mountain canyon with a number of bogs that needed work and the creek which was flowing well. Chris Romer's daughter Julia backpacked in with us and made all the crossings with no assistance from us. The four crossings were doable and the flow reduced substantially as the week went on.

Our camp was very comfortable with all the preparation of gear and pre-prepared food. A total of 131 hours went into preparation. Any left over food was offered to Cooper, one of the MCC crew who became the camp vacuum of anything edible.

The trail needed much work, draining boggy areas and increasing the lengths of the switchbacks which have added vertical turns over the years. We got a good start on these but see much work that remains to be done. Snow cover above Fred Burr Lake made work on this section of the trail have to wait for future trips.

Kevin Fox lost his older packhorse on the way back out right above the reservoir. Kevin being an experienced horseman handled this as well as could be and the animal was euthanized. Mark Smith and Darby Ranger Steve Brown came up with explosives and dealt with the carcass the next day.

All are home safe and somewhat sore. A good trip all in all.



## Projects with FS approval 2024 Updated 5/10/24

Project or Training		Description	Project leader	Dates
Defensive Horsemanship	Complete	Demonstrations, C max	Bonnie Morgan	March 23rd 9-2:00
Defensive Horsemanship	Complete	C max Stables	Bonnie Morgan	April 6, 9 - 12:00,1-4:00
Horse Camp Out at Como Trailhead	Complete	Day Ride and Camp Refresher	Bonnie Morgan	May 11th-12th
Larry Creek	Complete	Clear all trails	Brad Pollman	June 1st
Coyote Coulee	Complete	Clear both loops of trail	Travis Grinnell	June 15th
East Fork - Guard Station	Complete	Wire fencing removal	Dan Maiyo	June 21-23
Bitterroot Connection Fred Burr	Complete	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	Canceled	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, JULY 18, 2024**

The July 2024 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 Coyote Coulee Trailhead parking area. Approximately 23 members were present and no guests. There was not a Board quorum. Jan led the Pledge to start the meeting.

**PROGRAM**

**Seth Romocki, Stevensville District Ranger:** Seth came from the Lolo NF to be the Stevi District Ranger. He looks forward to working with BRBCH. He is from Minnesota, and has a Forestry degree from UM. Seth provided background on his career, and then spoke about local fires. Smoke is coming from fires in OR and WA. He noted Stage 2 fire restrictions start July 19 for the BNF and delineated what that entails, including no campfires, no fireworks, and no operating vehicles off trail. Hoot owl restrictions are in effect on the river. A bear safety food storage order may be implemented on Labor Day – he will pass it along to the chapter. The first year of the order will be educating the public, so he wants to get the word out about food protection actions. The FS is changing its seasonal hiring practices on a national level; they are switching to permanent seasonal to avoid the rehiring process. The BNF has 27 seasonal hires with 2 packers. He touched on current projects: the upcoming Burnt Gold timber sale in the Sapphires; the West Central Project (west and north of Victor) with prescribed burning and thinning; the Eastside Habitat Improvement with burning, thinning, and USFWS consultation and implementation in Fall 2024; and the Bitterroot Front Project that is in the final NEPA stages and USFWS consultation, with a decision in Aug/Sept 2024. There was a question and short discussion on old growth. Christy noted the trail crew did an amazing job on the Mill Creek trail.

**BUSINESS**

**Minutes:** The June minutes were printed in the July Nag News. There were no corrections. They will be voted on at the next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** The July treasurer's report was provided. There were no updates. A second quarter check was received from Sagemont. The report will be voted on at the next meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Safety Moment:** Bonnie reminded all to let go of the lead rope to avoid an accident!

**Shirt Spot:** Jan showed the vest that Dan Maiyo had embroidered with the BRBCH logo.

**Chief Joseph Trail Ride:** Gene spoke about the Nez Perce Conflict of 1877 that led to a 1300-mile escape through several states to avoid being relocated to a reservation. The Chief Joseph Trail Ride follows the route as best as possible. On Aug 4, riders start at the Renneker Ranch in north Ravalli County and end at the Ruby Ranch on Aug 10. There is a commemoration at the Big Hole National Battlefield. The ride is

now open to non-Appaloosa horses. Riders will camp on private lands. Gene noted the ride has changed over the years, with some access denied by new private landowners. The ride provides a vet, hay, meals, potties, water, camping, and live music at night, all for \$880.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Issues:** Carol noted the BR Front Project EA decision will be 8/1. If there is a finding of an impact, then it goes to an Environmental Impact Statement. She talked about what the process could be and where the project will start.

**Projects:** Kathy talked about the successful East Fork Guard Station project, with 6 older members rolling up ~2 miles of barbed wire along the creek, behind the FS storage building, and along the road. Kevin spoke about the Fred Burr project. It had lots of challenges, including 4 demanding water crossings for the horses, and difficult communications. Past the reservoir, 15 trees were removed on the ride in. There was snow on the trail to the pass, so they worked with the MCC crew on the lower switchbacks and the bog area. After riding out, 2 members rode back to get gear stashed at the reservoir and moved 350 loose rocks in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> creek crossings. The food was plentiful, and the MCC crew also enjoyed the 2 dinners prepared for them as well as leftovers. Kevin talked about his older pack horse falling in a creek crossing on the way out, having to unload it while in the water, and that it failed later on the trail and had to be put down. Kevin stayed with him and had good closure. Trail conditions between the Sept 2023 scouting and the July 2024 ride were quite different.

A group met with the FS on July 17 to discuss the project. They discussed what was learned, improvements for the future, and how the FS grades trails. Fred Burr is Class 2, a high difficulty trail. They will send their trail grading guidance to BRBCH so trails can be graded for future projects. There was excitement and positivity after the meeting. Be thinking about what projects to do in 2025.

The Crazy Creek Campground cleanup project has been postponed due to heat and smoke.

**State Directors:** Diane spoke about Rendezvous that was June 21-23 at the Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA. It was well attended with good training sessions, and there was a huge area to ride. It was a fun time.

**Education & Training:** Bonnie noted there are 5 new and 2 recertified sawyers. Bonnie and Joan are on a state committee to revise Defensive Horse Safety. Bonnie spoke about proposed updates. Most folks have horses, so they know the basic skills. A checklist is being developed for the trainer to go through quickly and easily. Scenarios are good training tools. Mark Wright said the FS has a task book for beginner and advanced training that could be applied to DHS. Joan said the FS will send safety objectives. Mark will provide risk analysis info to Bonnie and Joan.

**Membership:** There are 80 memberships and 126 members.

**Outreach:** No report.

**(Continued next page)**

### (Minutes continued)

**Program:** Christy will speak about Fair at the August meeting. There will be a bear and food safety presentation in September. George Bettis will speak on hunting and horseback in October.

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

### OLD BUSINESS

**2024 Fair Gate Volunteers:** Christy passed around the signup sheet for gate volunteers and spoke about the benefit of working a shift, which gives the volunteer 1 ½ days of fair entry. More shifts = more entries. As the first folks to interact with fairgoers, volunteers should greet visitors and be respectful. There are new iPads at the South gate with

Bluetooth chip readers. Christy discussed training, no alcohol at the fair (family friendly), security escort provided if needed from the South gate, anyone can volunteer, and that Bonnie Duggan will be calling members to fill the slots. The lunch promo will be handled by others at the South and North gates.

### NEW BUSINESS

None.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Long-time member Joe Tenzer recently passed away.

**Next Meeting:** August 15 at the Three Sisters Group Site, Lake Como, potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm. Bring your own chair and beverage.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.**

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### BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

#### **DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 8, 2024**

The August 2024 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by Jan Bullock at 7:03 pm. Present were President Jan Bullock, Vice President Dan Brandborg, Co-Secretary Karen Philips, and Treasurer Barb Walker; Directors Cherie Barton, Travis Grinnell, Lionel Lavalley, Dan Maiyo, Brad Pollman (also State Director), and Mark Wright. Absent were Co-Secretary Kathy Stroppel-Holl, Directors Carol Johns, Joe Kirkland, and Joan Scheffer, Past President Gene Merrell, State Director Chuck Miller and Alt. State Director Ed Duggan. There was a board quorum. All led the Pledge.

### BUSINESS

**Minutes:** The June 2024 minutes were published in the Nag News (there was no July meeting). **Barb motioned and Lionel seconded to accept the June minutes. Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Barb provided recent bank transactions, account balances, and itemized financial transactions Jan-Jun 2024. Discussion followed on transferring money to a higher interest account. **Dan Brandborg moved and Brad Pollman seconded that Barb research and select the best option for transferring \$8000 to a higher interest CD or savings account at a local bank and transfer the money to that account. Motion carried. Lionel Lavalley motioned and Mark Wright seconded to accept the July treasurer's reports. Motion carried.**

### CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Joey Tenzer update:** Karen reported that Joey could still use help with cleanup on Joe's ranch (located five miles up Rye Creek Road), but it's best to call her beforehand. Her number is (406) 210-1743. Steve Greer, Mark DeGrazier and Karen helped her on July 30 and she was very grateful for the support.

**Grants:** Dan B. said that it was a lot of work last year filling out the grant proposal and he and Diane Duffie put a lot of

time into it. He is seeking a volunteer to work on this committee. Dan B. said there is a lot of money out there and it helps to collaborate with other volunteer groups.

**Projects:** Dan B. reported that the Fred Burr project was successful but had issues: bogs they didn't know about, very high water crossings, snow on the upper trail, a MCC crew not prepared for the necessary tasks, and no authority for our group to direct the MCC crew. It was a learning experience and they will provide feedback to the Forest Service. There were 19 equines on the project and one of them had to be put down. Steve Brown happened to be on the trail and assisted the crew in dealing with the loss of the horse. Other projects: Dan B. and crew cleared 6 miles up Bear Creek. Travis reported that the Big Creek project with SBFC Foundation went well; the SBFC crew cut out a lot of trees, that crew made it to within a half mile of Packbox Pass, and everyone made it in and out safely (23 miles round trip!). The last projects this season are the pack in for St. Mary's and Bear Creek (Aug. 15-21).

**Issues/Public Lands:** No report.

**State Directors:** Brad reported the next meeting is in September. National Historic Trails are on the radar for discussion regarding volunteer hours. Chairman Mack Long asked for mileage information from each chapter, so he will know where funding is at, so far, for allocated dollar amounts.

**Membership:** No report.

**Outreach & Program:** Karen distributed address labels to board members who needed them. Joe Tenzer's name has been added to our Bitterroot Humane Association plaque (our third one) and Barb will send a \$50 donation in Joe's honor. No speaker for August meeting because of fair preparation. Travis is working with the Forest Service and Monica Stanton for a September meeting program on food storage regulations in the Bitterroot National Forest.

**Continued next page**

**(Board minutes continued)**

**Education & Training:** No report.

**Constitution Committee:** Dan M. said the group met on July 14 and they said we are following Roberts Rules of Order at our meetings. They will continue to update and review the current articles. Next meeting is Sunday, August 18, at the Stevensville Fire Hall.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**BRBCH Articles of Incorporation and State of MT Filing**

**Status:** Brad said the paperwork has been sent in and he and Gene are waiting for an answer.

**Fair Fundraiser:** Travise reported things are going well and they have all their day managers. Bonnie Duggan is still pushing for signups. Call her or go on the website to schedule a shift.

**Sunshine:** Travise reported that Julie is still recovering from her horse accident at Coyote Coulee and is limited in what she can do. Helen Engle's daughter Crystal is having heart issues and Julie will keep us updated on that. Jan had some mini-strokes two weeks ago, but is doing well now and feeling better.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**BRBCH Logo:** Barb reported that they chose the color "pink flamingo" for our logo flower, and reminded us that our name is Bitter Root (two words). Orders go to Shirt Stop in Hamilton.

**Officers' Signatures for Checking Account:** Barb said only she and Jan are signatures on the bank account; we should

have the VP and Secretary as well, but will hold off on that until January, 2025.

**Corvallis Schools Facility Use:** Jan/Brad: The form came in the mail with available dates, and it needs to be signed and submitted. Brad signed form and gave it to Barb; she will add our insurance information and mail the form to the school district. Our October meeting will be at the Corvallis Grange because the school district is closed for statewide teacher in-service that day. Jan will contact the grange to schedule that venue.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Tack Sale:** Shannon Alexander, director of Western Montana Equine Rescue, is holding a tack sale and is accepting donations. It will be held at Cherie Barton's arena (451 Bass Lane, Corvallis), October 10, starting at 9 a.m.

**Facebook:** Travise Grinnell agreed to have Dan Maiyo handle Facebook duties while he finishes up his schooling. Karen asked to be removed as an administrator and Brad will take care of that.

**Nee Mee Poo commemorative event:** A Big Hole Battlefield remembrance is Friday, 8/9, 10-noon. Chief Joseph trail riders will arrive about noon. Dan and Leslie Maiyo are attending the event.

**August 15 meeting:** Three Sisters Group Camp, Como

**Travise Grinnell moved and Barb Walker seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.** The meeting ended at 8:25 pm. Karen Philips, Co-Secretary BRBCH

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**Editor's Note:**  
**Mucho apologies. Horse Sense will return next month.**



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  - 2 tablespoons kosher salt
  - 2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper
1. Remove 2 cowboy steaks from the refrigerator and let sit at room temperature for 1 hour before you plan to grill.
  2. Prepare an outdoor grill for two-zone, medium-high heat.
  3. Pat the steaks dry with paper towels. Season all over

with 2 tablespoons kosher salt and 2 teaspoons black pepper. Press to adhere. Roll the steaks in any salt and pepper that has fallen off so that they adhere.

4. Place the steaks over direct heat. Cover and grill for 5 minutes. Flip, cover, and grill for 5 minutes.
5. Move the steaks over indirect heat. Cover and continue grilling, flipping halfway through, until desired doneness, 8 to 14 minutes total. The center of a medium-rare steak will register 125 to 130°F on an instant-read thermometer. Transfer to a clean cutting board and let rest 10 minutes before slicing and serving.

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<b>2024 Committees</b>	<b>2024 Chairs &amp; Members</b>
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	
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**

<b>Chapter officers</b>				
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Contact</b>	
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		
<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>State Director</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>BCHMT State Chairman</b>
Travise Grinnell	2023-24	Chuck Miller	2023-24	Mack Long
Carol Johns	2023-24	Brad Pollman	2024-25	
Joe Kirkland	2023-24			<b>BCHMT Vice State Chairman</b>
Brad Pollman	2023-24	<b>Alt. State Director</b>		Sandy Himmel
Cherie Barton	2023-24	Ed Duggan	2024	
Lionel Lavallee	2024-25			<b>BCHMT National Directors</b>
Joan Scheffer	2024-25			Brad Pollman
Dan Maiyo	2024-25			John Chepulis
Mark Wright	2024-25	<b>BRBCH Past President</b>		<b>Alt. National Director</b>
		Gene Merrell		Chuck Miller



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# Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



## NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, August 15th, 2024

Lake Como 3 Sisters Pavilion

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