



# Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

September 2024

Issue #9

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, SEPTEMBER 19th, 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 a representative from the Ravalli County Search and Rescue will talk about who they are, what they do, and how we can avoid needing them. 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**

### HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

P 2. Editor's Note: Elections, Johnson Fire/East Fork Guard Station, County Fair

P 3. August 15 draft General Meeting Minutes.

Pp. 4, 5. Draft September Board Meeting Minutes

P.5. Horse Sense

P.6. Back Country Kitchen

P.7. List of Officers and Board

Pp.8, 9 For sale/List of Advertisers

### HELP WANTED

#### Grant writers. Will train.

Dan Brandborg has stepped down from that responsibility.

Contact Jan Bullock or Dan B. for more information.

### DEADLINE FOR NAG NEWS

Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>  
SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES  
AND ADS TO:

### Tack Sale

October 12, starting at 9 a.m.

Shannon Alexander, director of Western Montana Equine Rescue, is holding a tack sale.

It will be held at Cherie Barton's arena, 451 Bass Lane, Corvallis.

If you have something to donate, please contact Shannon:

(406) 360-8473.

## Editor's Note:

Officer and Board elections are just around the corner.

Officer positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, State Director and Alternate State Director will be available. Six Board member positions will also be available.

If you are interested in running for any of these positions please contact Election Committee members Leslie Conner-Maiyo or Bonnie Morgan.

They will be pleased to provide you with information regarding roles and responsibilities of these positions.

The slate of candidates is due by the October 17th General meeting.

***Finally, A giant thank you to all who participated in the Ravalli County Fair!!!***



Fire suppression base camp at East Fork Guard Station fighting Johnson Fire. Photo courtesy Brand Browning, USFS Recreation Specialist, Sula Ranger Station, Darby Ranger District.

At the time of this publication, according to the NIFC, the fire is on active status 46% contained, 153 total personnel with 6,679 acres burned in and around the East Fork Bitterroot River and East Fork Trailhead.

The 2023 and 2024 BRBCH barbed wire removal project assured no hazardous conditions existed due to barbed wire lying unseen about the site!

**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN  
DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 15, 2024**

The August 2024 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by Co-secretary Kathy Stroppel-Holl at 6:58 pm. The meeting was held at the Three Sisters Group Site at Lake Como. Approximately 16 members and one guest, Mike Sargent, were present. There was not a Board quorum.

**PROGRAM**

**Christy Schram-Duggan, County Fair:** Kathy reported for Christy that there were 19 openings at the south gate, 11 at the north gate and 3 at the west gate. Please sign up on the club website via computer, not on a mobile device. Gene emphasized that this is our only fundraiser so please help us out.

**BUSINESS**

**Minutes:** The June & July minutes were printed in the Nag News. There were no corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** The August treasurer's report was provided by Kathy. She mentioned that the board is working on moving money into a higher interest account—discussion will continue at the next board meeting. There were no questions.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Safety Moment:** Kathy learned that lightning can come from 10 miles away and it looks for the highest point. Move away from it as fast as possible. A crouch position is your last resort. Don't lie flat. Dan M. said pay attention to the little signs when riding that could signal a problem. When in doubt, get off your horse.

**Summary of Chief Joseph Trail Ride:** Gene said the ride had 135 people and 85 horses. They started on Dwayne Renaker's ranch. They had a severe rainstorm Monday night. The next day they climbed up to 6600' and came down to the Spring Gulch area and followed the Nez Perce trail to the Ross Hole. They were invited to camp on private land Tuesday night. On Wednesday they left to travel the Nee Me Poo trail. They then made it to the Elk Creek and Trail Creek intersection. The trail going forward hadn't been cleared for a long time and there were a lot of trees down, so they loaded up their stock and trailered to the Ruby Ranch, near the Big Hole Battlefield. On Friday, Native Americans hosted a moving commemoration of that event. Dennis Hardman served as security guard for the trailers that were parked at the termination camp. He wore out a new pack of cards playing solitaire! For the first time, this group allowed non-registered Appaloosa horses on the ride.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Issues:** No report.

**Grants:** Kathy SH reported that Dan B. is searching for a grant committee chair.

**Projects:** Dan M. said the Crazy Creek Campground cleanup project has been rescheduled for next year.

**State Directors:** No report.

**Education & Training:** No report.

**Membership:** Kathy SH reported that there are 80 memberships and 126 members.

**Outreach:** Karen reported that Joe Tenzer's name has been added to our Bitterroot Humane Association memorial plaque for our members who have passed away. His daughter Joey continues to clean up Joe's ranch up Rye Creek to prepare it for sale. If you want to help, please call her first. Karen thanked Ed Bullock for getting so many company's ads for the newsletter.

**Program:** Karen reported that there will be a bear and food safety presentation from the Forest Service at the September 19 general meeting. George Bettis will speak on hunting on 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**

**BRBCH Articles of Incorporation and State of MT filing status:** No report.

**Constitution Committee:** Dan M. reported that the next meeting is Sunday, Aug. 18, at the Stevensville Etna Fire Station on Willoughby.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**October 17 Meeting Location:** This meeting will take place at the Corvallis Grange, 130 Dutch Hill Road.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Tack Sale October 12:** Hosted by Western Montana Equine Rescue at Cherie Barton's arena (451 Bass Lane, Corvallis). Donations are accepted.

**Next Meeting:** Sept 19 at Corvallis Primary School Cafeteria. Coffee: Karen Philips; Hot Water: Cheyenne Grinnell

**Headstall for sale:** See Dan M. if interested.

**Johnson Peak Fire:** Firefighters used the East Fork Guard Station as a staging area. Dan will find out if they were able to use the area because we had removed miles of barbed wire.

**Dan Maiyo motioned and Leslie Maiyo seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm. The motion carried.**

Karen Philips, Co-Secretary BRBCH



**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN  
DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024**

The September 2024 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by Jan Bullock at 7:00 pm. Present were President Jan Bullock, Vice President Dan Brandborg, and Co-Secretaries Karen Philips and Kathy Stoppel-Holl; Directors Travise Grinnell, Carol Johns, Lionel Lavallee, Dan Maiyo, Brad Pollman (also State Director), Joan Scheffer, and Mark Wright; State Director Chuck Miller and Alt State Director Ed Duggan. Absent were Treasurer Barb Walker, Past-President Gene Merrell, and Directors Cherie Barton and Joe Kirkland. There was a board quorum. There were no committee chairs/members present. All led the Pledge.

**BUSINESS**

**Minutes:** The August 2024 board minutes were published in the Nag News. There were no updates. **Brad Pollman motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to accept the August minutes. Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Barb emailed the recent bank transactions and account balances. **Joan Scheffer motioned and Lionel Lavallee seconded to accept the September treasurer's reports. Motion carried.** Discussion followed on transferring money into a CD or high-interest rate savings account. Brad explained the reason for our four accounts. **Mark Wright motioned and Dan Brandborg seconded that Barb Walker and Jan Bullock place \$20,000 in a 3-month CD at our Trail West bank. Motion carried 9-1.** **Brad Pollman motioned and Lionel Lavallee seconded that the \$20,000 be divided equally between emergency reserve savings, general capital fund savings and savings in our bookkeeping accounts. Motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thank You Notes to Fair Volunteers:** Karen will soon start writing thank you notes to our fair volunteers, using note cards that have accumulated over the last few years. Christy Schram-Duggan will provide her with a photo for next year's note cards, so they can be ordered ahead of time. Let Karen know if you want to help with writing these thank you notes.

**Climate Change meeting 9/6 at Hamilton Performing Arts Center, 7 pm.:** Jan showed a flyer on this meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Grants:** Rapp Family Foundation grant. Kathy SH will research using the data from our previous Power of Change application for this grant. If it works, she will submit a Rapp Family Foundation grant by the deadline of Sept. 13.

**Projects:** Dan B. said the projects have wrapped up for the year, and just a few forms still need to be submitted. Ed D. said the last resupply to St. Mary's Lookout was cancelled due to the fires there.

**Issues/Public Lands:** Carol asked about Bonnie Morgan and Julie Schram's health status. Both are improving and mobile, although restricted somewhat in what they can do. Carol listed the trails that are closed due to multiple fires. Bitterroot Front Project deadlines will most likely be de-

layed. Bear Creek and Tin Cup will be the first areas affected by this project. The EXPLORE Act (HR6492) is requesting a survey of recreational opportunities, and the act promotes long-distance trails and working with volunteer groups. The issue of bikes in the Wilderness is coming up again in a bill in the Senate, sponsored by a Utah senator (SB4561). BCHA is watching this bill that proposes allowing bikes and other modes of transportation into Wilderness areas.

**State Directors:** Brad reported that standard job descriptions for officers, board members and committee chairs will be circulated to all state chapters. Chuck reported on the number of wilderness areas and total acreages in the United States and Puerto Rico. We need to honor and appreciate the people who made the Wilderness Act happen. It was a long and difficult process.

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

**Outreach & Program:** Karen reported that outreach to community was conducted by every volunteer who helped sell or take tickets at the fair. Fair attendees were overwhelmingly courteous and happy. The September program will be on the Forest Service's proposed rules on food storage in bear country if a speaker can be identified. **Post meeting update:** Due to Forest Service employees involved in fighting wildfires, we postponed this program and will substitute another topic and speaker for September.

**Education & Training:** A draft of the revised Defensive Horsemanship curriculum will be submitted to BCH of MT.

**Constitution Committee:** Dan M. said the committee met on Aug. 18 and reviewed the red-lined file done to date. The next meeting is Sept. 15, 3:00.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Fair Summary:** Ed D. reported that we were off by only \$208 (over, not under), no major issues occurred and there were some repeats of normal annual problems. Christy will have an exit interview with fair staff to review how everything went. \$237,578 was the total take, a 15% increase in revenue over last year.

**Montana Equine Rescue Tack Sale Oct. 12 - BRBCH Table:** Jan was asked if we want a promotional table there and Ed B. agreed to handle that. Donations can be given to Jan or Cherie Barton. The sale is at Cherie's arena (451 Bass Lane, Corvallis).

**NEW BUSINESS**

**LNT Trailer & Inventory:** Dan B. tried using the LNT trailer on a project and it didn't work for that, but he provided an inventory of what is in it and it has some very nice gear, including a wall tent. The trailer's LNT logo needs to be changed to Light on the Land. The trailer could be used at the fair, for example.

**Sheep Ck. Mine Speaker, Dr. Phil Ramsey:** Dan B. said Dr. Ramsey works at the MPG Ranch and is very informative. Karen will let Monica know about him.

**Continued next page**

**(Board minutes continued)**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Nominating Committee:** Jan asked board members to think about people for positions and let our nominating committee members Bonnie Morgan and Leslie Conner-Maiyo know those names. Gene was also on the 2023 committee. A slate of candidates is due by the October 17 general meeting.

**September meeting location:** Corvallis Primary School.

**October meeting location:** Corvallis Grange (130 Dutch Hill Rd).

**Joan Scheffer moved and Carol Johns seconded we adjourn. Motion carried.** The meeting ended at 8:25 pm.

Karen Philips, Co-Secretary BRBCH

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### ***Cold Weather and Laminitis***

Cold weather often seems to trigger laminitis – there is an increase in laminitis cases as soon as the weather turns cold (snow/ice/frost) each winter.

Frosty weather may be beautiful but sunny days with cold frosty nights cause sugars to accumulate in the grass.

People often think that laminitic horses shouldn't graze frosty grass until the sun has melted the frost, but that's not exactly correct - they shouldn't graze the grass until there has been a return to night time temperatures above 42°F and/or overcast weather.

During sunny weather grass makes and stores sugars (photosynthesis), at night when grass is able to grow these sugars are used up (respiration), but when environmental conditions such as low temperatures (below around 42 degrees F, lack of rainfall or poor fertility prevent growth, sugar (ESC) levels can continue to accumulate in the grass, making it unsuitable for horses and ponies with insulin dysregulation and increasing the risk of laminitis.

Ideal conditions for high NSC concentrations are clear skies to maximize photosynthesis, and low night temperatures to prevent loss of carbohydrates through respiration.

Other reasons for horses to show signs of laminitis/foot discomfort in cold weather may include:

- circulation damage, or ongoing damage in the feet from rotation that hasn't been corrected making feet more sensitive to hard frozen ground,

- horses with PPID lose their ability to thermoregulate, therefore get more stressed by extreme temperatures,

which could increase cortisol.

- horses tend to get less exercise/turnout in cold/frosty/snowy weather.

What you can do:

- Prevent or limit access to grass during and after sunny frosty weather until the weather changes to milder nights and overcast days, and feed analyzed hay with sugar and starch levels below 10% instead. It is not the frost itself that is the risk, it is the weather conditions that cause the frost, so do not allow horses to graze once the frost has melted with the sun - wait until night time is above 42°F so the grass has been able to respire and use up some of its sugar.

- Keep feet warm and protected, use leg wraps/bandages, pads and boots on feet, warm deep bedding. Thick wool hiking socks can be great for keeping pony feet and legs warm. There is no good time to turn out laminitis-prone horses during weather that is sunny but mostly below 42°F overnight. Keep horses off grass, or restrict their access to grass, and feed hay.

- Wait until the weather becomes cloudy/rainy during the day and/or temperatures stay mostly above 42°F overnight, before turning out, if possible. Whether grass has frost on it or not is irrelevant to the sugar levels - it is just a good warning to owners that the weather is causing sugar levels to become and remain high. If you have to turn out during a period of sunny days and cold nights, then it's likely sugars will continue to increase during the day with late afternoon having the highest sugars, so turn out overnight or early morning may be better in terms of slightly lower sugar - but sugar levels are likely to be high at any time.

**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!

**SOURDOUGH STARTER**

**Ingredients:**

- 1 (1 1/4 ounce package active dry yeast
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 4 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1 potato, peeled and cut into quarters

In a one gallon crock or large pottery bowl, dissolve the yeast in 4 cups of warm water. Allow to stand 2 to 3 minutes, then stir in the sugar. Gradually sift in the flour and stir until well combined. Add the potato and cover

with clean kitchen towel. Let stand 12 hours in a warm, draft-free spot, stirring occasionally. After 12 hours it is ready to use in a recipe.

**Makes 6 cups.**

**Note:** After using 2 cups of the starter, you will need to feed the remaining starter. Add 1 cup water, 1 cup flour, and 1 tablespoon sugar and mix well. Refrigerate until using again.

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Show your support for our BCH Chapter!



<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</b>		Sandy Himmel
Cherie Barton	2023-24	<b>Director</b>		
Lionel Lavallee	2024-25	Ed Duggan	2024	
Joan Scheffer	2024-25			<b>BCHMT National Directors</b>
Dan Maiyo	2024			Brad Pollman
Mark Wright	2024-25	<b>BRBCH Past</b>		John Chepulis
		<b>President</b>		<b>Alt. National Director</b>
		Gene Merrell		Chuck Miller



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# Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



## NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, September 19th, 2024

Corvallis Elementary School Cafeteria

Dinner at 6:30pm Meeting at 7:00pm

Visit our Website:

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

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen  
P.O. Box 1083  
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