



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

October 2024 Issue #10

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, OCTOBER 17th, 2024 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Corvallis Grange Hall

Pot Luck Dinner: 6:30 pm

Meeting: 7:00 pm

The next General Meeting will be at the Corvallis Grange Hall, 130 Dutch Hill Rd. located on the north side of Dutch Hill Road, just west of the intersection of Hwy 93 North. (West of Woodside Crossing). A potluck dinner will be served at 6:30 pm followed by our monthly meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm. Guests and new members always welcome.

This month our guest speaker is Jesse Irwin, USFS Wildlife Biologist, who will present information on the Bitterroot National Forest's proposed Food Storage Order. 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**

HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

P 2. F.S. Appreciation potluck.
Update East Fork Guard Station
Barbed Wire Removal project

P 3,4 September 19 draft General
Meeting Minutes.

Pp. 4, 5. October 3 draft Board
Meeting Minutes

P.6. Horse Sense

P.7. Back Country Kitchen

P.8. List of Officers and Board

Pp.9.10 For sale/List of Advertisers

Officers For Next Year!

Our chapter is still looking for someone willing to be secretary for 2025. Please Contact Bonnie Morgan if you are interested. It is such an important position!
(406) 381-9021

Thanksgiving Feast!

There will be sign up sheet at this meeting for those who wish to bring a dish at the November meeting Thanksgiving feast!

DEADLINE FOR NAG NEWS

Thursday, November 14th

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES
AND ADS TO:

djmaiyo@gmail.com

Welcome new members Zac & Lauren Phillips! Recently moved here from Kalispell, and concurrent members of the Flathead BCH chapter! They have mules!!

END OF SEASON APPRECIATION POTLUCK

At high noon Thursday, October 10th at the Three Sisters Group Site-Lake Como, The Bitterroot National Forest hosted an "All Recreation, Trails, & Wilderness Partners" end of season appreciation potluck!

Chili/Brats and drinks were provided and partners brought side dishes. The brats never had a chance! Yum!

Partner Potluck Groups that were present were:

- ◆ Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen
- ◆ Selway Pintler Back Country Horsemen
- ◆ Montana Conservation Corps
- ◆ Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation
- ◆ Bitterroot Backcountry Cyclists
- ◆ National Forest Foundation
- ◆ Wild Montana, Shining Mountain Chapter

After Lunch, each group talked about their accomplishments, lessons learned, and goals for next year.

A fine time was had by all! It is so good to know these fine people are out there sharing the same passion for conservation!

Thanks to F.S. Joni Lubke, Erica Strayer, Jacob Long, Mark Smith, Jonathan Dorman, David Hammer, Caleb George, Danelle Highfill and Allen Byrd for your superb coordination and efforts!!



Update: East Fork Guard Station Barbed Wire Removal Project

The following statement was provided by Erica Strayer, Developed Recreation Manager, Bitterroot National Forest:

"Fire crews/resources were staged and camped out of the cabin and surrounding areas. Equipment was brought in and staged there as well. Behind the cabin is the helispot that was used during the Johnson Fire. Your efforts in removing the barbed wire enabled fire personnel to safely utilize that area."

Editors Note: Congratulations to all who were involved in this two year project. I am proud to have worked with you! *Thank You!*

**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

The September 2024 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Jan Bullock at 7:02 pm. The meeting was held at the Corvallis Primary School cafeteria. Approximately 29 members were present. There was a Board quorum. Julie Schram led the pledge.

PROGRAM

Ravalli County Search and Rescue: Gene Merrell introduced our speaker, Search and Rescue member Paul Audiss. Paul said SAR operates under the sheriff's department. Water rescues are their most common call-out. They also do ice rescues, small streams rescues, and rope rescues (these are more technical) and low angle removals (down steep hills). Searches are their least common rescue calls. Most of their searches are during hunter season, and they do a lot of horse-related rescues too. Paul's advice: Always carry a communication device, like a Garmin In-Reach. Cell phones that have satellite coverage are not as reliable because they lose power. He recommends Life Flight membership coverage. SAR uses Two Bear Air Helicopter (free) because they can lift people out. Winter rescues are fewer. Snowmobiler accidents are the most common rescues in winter. SAR is paid through the sheriff's department budget. SAR has various vehicles like ATVs, UTVs, motorcycles, jet boats, etc. SAR volunteers have wilderness first training. Most of their calls are at 6 am and midnight. They use dogs from other organizations, with mixed results. His tip to be found by helicopter searchers is to lie on the ground and wave your arms and legs and anything bright that you have. Signal mirrors are good too. Gene recommends that you tell someone where you intend to go and then go there. If you change your destination, let someone know! Ed B. recommended carrying a smoke bomb or start a smoky fire to be seen.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The June, July and August minutes were printed in the Nag News. There were no corrections. **Gene motioned and Lionel seconded to accept the June, July, and August minutes as published. The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: The September treasurer's report was provided by Barb and it included the fair check. There were no questions. **Lionel motioned and Kathy SH seconded to accept the July, August, and September Treasurer's reports. The motion carried.** CD discussion by Barb and Mark followed. Mark was quoted a rate from Clearwater Credit Union at 5% for 6 months. Farmer's State Bank has a 5-month CD at 4.75%. The board will continue its research before transferring funds.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee and Hot Water Signups for Nov. and Dec.: Kathy SH noted volunteers are need to make coffee and bring the hot water for the Nov. and Dec. meetings. The signup sheet was passed around.

Hay for Sale: Karen said that she and Earl have about 1.5

tons of second cutting hay for sale, \$250/ton. Contact them if interested.

Fair Volunteer Dinner, Oct. 8: Karen passed out fliers on the dinner and noted attendees need to RSVP by Oct. 1.

Tack Sale, Oct. 12, 451 Bass Lane, Corvallis: Jan said that Western Montana Equine Rescue is hosting. Horse-related donations can go to Shannon Alexander or Cherie Barton.

Safety Moment: Lionel said that when merging into highway traffic with a horse trailer, he puts his flashers on to warn other drivers to slow down.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants: Kathy SH applied for the Rapp Family Foundation 3rd quarter grant. This application is for the 2025 Calf Creek toilet rental. If not selected, she will apply again in March 2025.

Issues: No report.

Projects: Done for the year!

State Directors: Ed D. said the next state board meeting is Sept. 28.

Education & Training: No report.

Membership: There are 80 memberships and 126 members. Joan is now a certified first aid instructor.

Outreach: Karen reported that our fair volunteers did a great job of meeting the public cheerfully and helpfully. This was an example of very positive outreach for our organization. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Program: Monica said that there will be a bear and food safety presentation from the Forest Service at a future general meeting.

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: Nothing to report yet.

Constitution Committee: Dan M. said the committee met Sept 15. Progress is being made on updating the constitution. They are through Article VII (out of 14 articles). Carol Johns provided information to consider for revising Article II, Section 6. Next meeting is Oct. 5 at 3pm.

Fair Fundraiser Results: Christy reported that total sales of \$237,000 were a 15% increase over last year. Wednesday was unusually busy. Approximate daily takes were Wednesday \$49,000, Thursday \$54,000, Friday \$61,000, Saturday \$72,000. Christy thanked everyone who helped—it was a great group!

Continued next page

(General Meeting minutes continued)

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee (Bonnie, Diane and Leslie): Jan reported that the committee will contact members to solicit volunteers, and they will report a slate of nominees at the October 17 general meeting.

Audit Committee (Joe K, Shawn K, Judy P.): Jan reported that the committee performs the audit after the end of the year.

2025 Budget Items: Gene asked members to submit to him requests for budget items or program expenses ASAP so the budget committee can include them in the 2025 budget. If possible, the committee will present a draft 2025 budget at the January board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting: Oct 17 at Corvallis Grange (130 Dutch Hill Road). Coffee: Diane Duffie; Hot Water: Monica Stanton

Lionel motioned and Tim seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm. The motion carried.

Karen Philips, Co-Secretary BRBCH

**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, OCTOBER 3, 2024**

The October 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, Treasurer Barb Walker, and Co-Secretaries Karen Philips and Kathy Stroppel-Holl; Directors Cherie Barton, Carol Johns, Joe Kirkland, Lionel Lavallee, Dan Maiyo, Joan Scheffer, and Mark Wright; Past President Gene Merrell; and State Director Chuck Miller. Absent were Directors Travise Grinnell and Brad Pollman (also State Director), and Alt State Director Ed Duggan. There was a board quorum. Committee chairs/members present: Bonnie Morgan and Brandi Ashford. All led the Pledge.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The September 2024 minutes were published in the Nag News. There were no updates. **Lionel Lavallee motioned and Gene Merrell seconded to accept the September minutes. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Barb provided account balances. There were no updates. **Kathy Stroppel-Holl motioned and Joan Scheffer seconded to accept the September treasurer's reports. Motion carried.** September check transactions and the 3rd quarter income/expense report were provided.

Jan Bullock and Mark Wright provided a quote from Clearwater Credit Union of 4.89% for six months. Discussion followed, including the proposed amount will come from the 3 TrailWest savings accounts that have a low earning rate and a small portion comes from the checking account. **Gene Merrell motioned and Joe Kirkland seconded that we**

put \$20,000 in two separate CDs (\$10,000 in each) for 6 months at Clearwater Federal Credit Union and amend last month's vote, which was to put the money in a Trail-West CD. Motion carried. Carol asked that the Board start considering how to best use BRBCH moneys to fund scholarships, projects, and contract trail crews. Jan noted the 2025 Board will consider these needs.

Barb will deactivate the Garmin InReach account for the winter season.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants: Brandi Ashford volunteered to serve on the committee. Dan B discussed the grants we applied for last year that could be applied for again. A suggestion to our committee from the grant providers was to collaborate with another group. Dan B. will meet with Brandi to share grant information.

Projects: Dan B. and Lionel teamed up to organize and finalize state and Forest Service project reports. They compiled and submitted them to BCHMT and the Forest Service. Lionel suggested that we spend time training our project leaders on how to fill out the report forms. Mark said that BCHMT has a document that explains how to fill out the reports. Carol noted that report forms are uploaded onto our Google drive under general submissions. Lionel said those forms will be moved to our Google project file in time. Lionel and Tim are continuing to organize the Google drive.

Issues/Public Lands: Carol reported on a lawsuit filed by the Missoula and Selway-Pinter Wilderness BCH chapters against the Beaverhead-Deer Lodge NF for the repeater station erected in the wilderness study area. The Bitterroot NF is amending the 1979 Forest Plan regarding the Road Plan; a lawsuit is anticipated. The Gold Butterfly project is subject to litigation due to clear cutting. Sheep Creek Mine activity is surface work only at this time. USGS and Montana Tech are also surveying the area. Ken Brown of Missoula BCH thinks that fighting the Sheep Creek Mine fits our BCHA mission. At the Region One meeting of BCHA chapters, Carol discussed the pressure coming from the biking industry to ride mountain bikes in wilderness areas.

State Directors: Chuck reported on the 9/28/24 BCHMT meeting in Deer Lodge. At that meeting Brad discussed the BCHA budget. BCHMT has 859 members, a drop from 1,000 in 2023. Progress continues on the Defensive Horsemanship training manual at the state level. Brad reported that Light on the Land is now a registered trademark. We need to change the Leave No Trace wording on our trailer. The Forest Service budget is now frozen because Congress has not passed a budget and that is causing a strongly negative impact on seasonal hiring. The next BCHMT meeting is 12/14/24 at the Missoula Fairgrounds. The 2025 state BCH convention will be in Helena.

(Continued next page)

(Board minutes continued)

Membership: There are 82 memberships and 130 members. Dan M. submitted a membership application for two new members. **Kathy Stroppel-Holl motioned and Lionel Lavallee seconded to approve the two new members. Motion carried.**

Outreach & Program: Karen reported that we still don't have the name of the Forest Service presenter for our October 17 general meeting, but she will call Mark Smith. Light on the Land was suggested as a future program topic. There was no Outreach report.

Education & Training: Bonnie sent our Defensive Horsemanship update to BCHMT for consideration. From there it goes to the Forest Service.

Constitution Committee: Dan M. reported that the next meeting is on 10/5/24 at Etna Fire Station. Work continues with updating the constitution articles

OLD BUSINESS

Montana Equine Rescue Tack Sale Oct. 12-BRBCH Table: Jan said Ed Bullock will speak at this event and host a BRBCH table. Cherie said they have received lots of tack donations, and they will have food and baked items for sale. Demonstrations start at 11 and presentations will follow. Free pony rides take place in the afternoon. Hours are from 9-3.

Trail Rides: Cherie suggested adding more trail rides next year as a way to encourage more new members. Jan suggested having two trail ride leaders on each ride, one for more experienced riders and one for beginners and/or slower horses. Mark said we should listen to new ideas from members and do that safely.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee (Bonnie Morgan, Diane Duffie, and Leslie Conner-Maiyo): Bonnie said almost every member has been contacted. The idea of co-secretaries was brought up. Allowing two people to work together might inspire others to step up to the secretary position. The board is okay with the co-secretary concept and the constitution does not prohibit that. All positions have people running for them, with eight running for six board positions. The committee will contact those they haven't reached yet and present the slate of nominees at the October 17 general meeting. Voting takes place at the November 21 general meeting or by electronic or mail in ballot for those unable to attend (location: Corvallis Primary School).

Audit Committee (Joe Kirkland, Shawn Kern): Joe Kirkland said he and Shawn can handle this task, along with the treasurer (Barbara could provide support to the new treasurer).

2025 Budget Items and Committee: Gene asked for expenditures to be submitted, preferably by November. A budget committee needs to be formed by the board. Committee members for the 2025 budget are Barb Walker and Earl Philips, with Gene providing guidance.

OTHER BUSINESS

President Jan is out of town 10/8-22, and VP Dan B. will also be gone for the October general meeting. Past President Gene Merrell will lead the October 17 meeting. Barb will get the key for the Corvallis Grange at Wimps. The grange rental cost is \$90.

Fair Volunteer Dinner Potluck, Oct. 8: RSVP to Melissa Saville (406-363-3411).

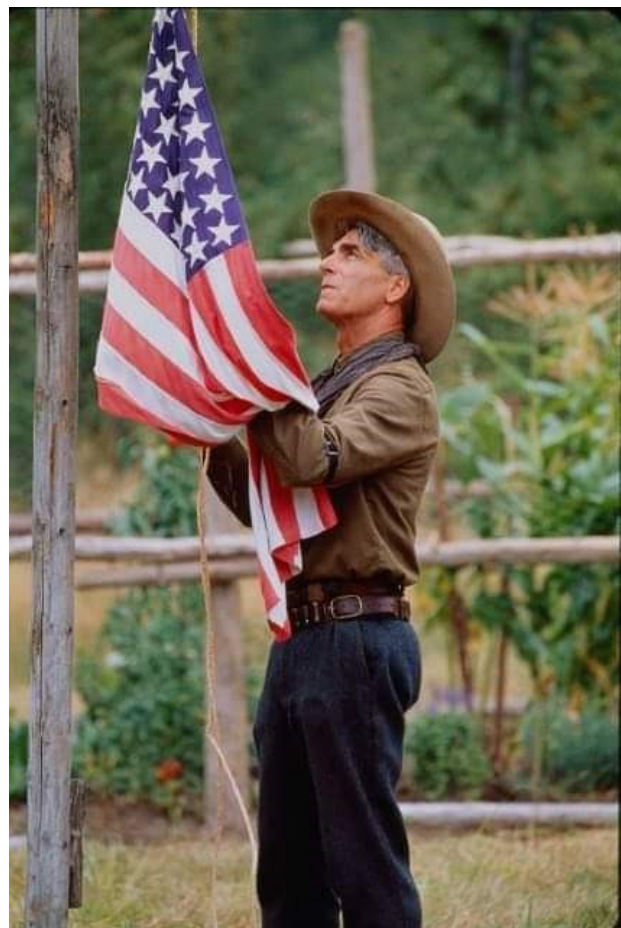
Forest Service Partners Lunch Potluck, Oct 10: RSVP to joni.lubke@usda.gov or 406-802-0847. Bring a side dish or dessert. Each group has 10 minutes for a presentation, and Dan B will be our presenter.

October 17 general meeting location: Corvallis Grange, 130 Dutch Hill Rd.

Pantry Partners: Gene will coach Barb Walker and her sister Pam Ristad who will be taking it over the event this year.

Lionel Lavallee moved and Kathy Stroppel-Holl seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:30 pm.

Karen Philips, Co-Secretary BRBCH



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Taking Your Horse's Temperature

This article originally appeared in Eclectic Horseman Issue No.4

If you think your horse is sick, your decision to call the vet, and your vet's response, will be determined in part by the horse's temperature. Prepare now. It's helpful to know your horse's baseline temperature at different times of the day and in both hot and cold weather.

Get a thermometer if you don't already have a thermometer in your first-aid kit. Your local farm supply store may carry them; you can order them from catalogs; or your vet may supply them. A traditional glass-and-mercury large animal thermometer with a plastic case should cost around seven to ten dollars. It is cheaper than the fancy battery-run digital readouts and there are no batteries to go dead just when you need them. Store it in a moderate temperature location.

Prepare the thermometer by tying a string to the eye. Make a hole (using a heated nail) in the end of the lower part of the case for the string to go through—this gives you an easier way to keep track of the lower end of the case and lets you use a more substantial string than would fit inside the case. Thread the string through the case. Tie a clothespin or clip to the other end of the string. This string and clip will save you countless hours of trauma spent looking for a lost thermometer, the danger of the thermometer getting broken or stepped on, and gives you an additional handhold when shaking down the mercury. Prepare your horse by inserting a latex-gloved lubricated finger in his anus. Lubricate with KY jelly, Vaseline (it's messier) or saliva (if you can spit accurately!). Be safe and stand beside his hip. He's likely to clamp his tail as an initial reaction and you want to train through this rather than have him learn the first time that the end of the thermometer may poke him in the underside of the tail.

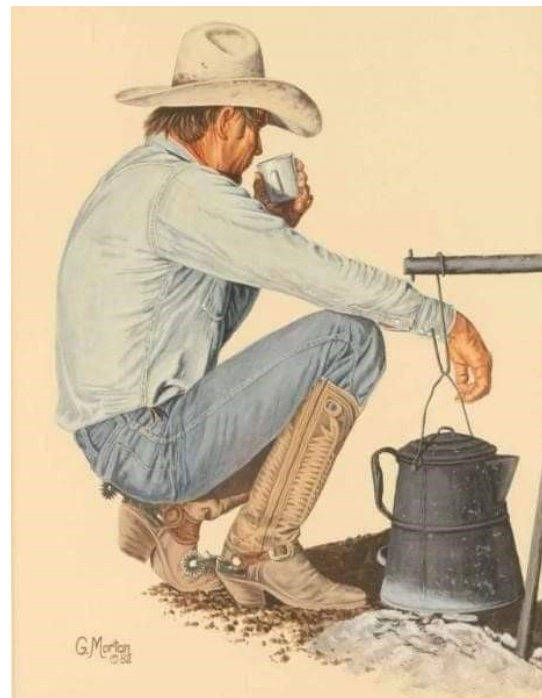
Shake down the thermometer to well below 100 degrees by grasping the thermometer by the eye end and snapping your wrist repeatedly. This technique may take some time to perfect; hold the string, too, so you won't drop the thermometer, and persevere until the mercury moves down into the bowl.

Read the thermometer for temperature. The easiest way to find the mercury line is to rest the lower end of the thermometer on the first finger of your other hand (don't hold the tip or you'll influence the reading) and roll the ther-

mometer slowly toward or away from you until you can see the silver mercury column.

Insert the lubricated thermometer at least a few inches, and as much as all the way, into the anus. It will slide in more easily if you point it in a slightly upwards direction. Clip the string to the tail hairs. With the string attached, you don't have to worry about the thermometer going in too far to find. (It would come out in the next bowel movement—and you'd need to be there to find it before it got stepped on.) If the horse pushes it out, you'll find it hanging from his tail.

Take the reading after at least three minutes. Since you have the string, you don't have to hold or watch the thermometer; go about your routine. If the thermometer is dirty and a suitable wipe is not available, wrap the thermometer in some tail hairs and pull it through to remove any manure. After you read it, you can disinfect it with alcohol if you want. Normal is 100.5 plus or minus one degree (99.5 through 101.5). A temperature of 102 requires intervention and 104 degrees or higher is serious. Check with your vet for instructions.



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!

SPINACH LASAGNA

Ingredients:

Sauce

Saute' in a large pot:

1. 1/4 cup olive oil
2. 1 cup chopped onion, and a handful of sliced mushrooms
3. 2 or 3 or 4 garlic cloves (chopped)
4. 1/4 cup basil, 1/4 cup oregano
5. 1 or 2 bay leaves
6. Add 2 -13 oz cans tomato sauce
7. Add 1-6 oz can tomato paste
8. Pinch of salt, pinch of black pepper
9. 1/2 cup of red wine for sauce, 1 cup for you.

Filling

- 12 lasagna noodles, 1/2 cooked, drained, rinsed
- 1 lb shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- Combine 2 cups ricotta or cottage cheese plus 2 beaten eggs with a bag or bunch of raw spinach, chopped.

Proceedings

1. Spread a little sauce over bottom of a 9 x 13" casserole dish
2. Cover with a layer of 4 noodles
3. Plop 1/2 the filling here and there;
4. Spread 1/3 the remaining sauce; then
5. 1/2 the mozzarella hither and thither, followed by
6. Another layer of 4 noodles
7. Remaining filling, followed by
8. Another 1/3 sauce, which gets covered by
9. Remaining mozzarella; then
10. Layer every last noodle; finally
11. Spread ultimate dosage of sauce followed by parmesan cheese.
12. Bake 45 minutes, (cover with aluminum foil for first 30 minutes). Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

NOTE: Try this recipe in a dutch oven, it's great!

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Show your support for our BCH Chapter!



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	
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	Mack Long
Carol Johns	2023-24	Brad Pollman	2024-25	
Joe Kirkland	2023-24			BCHMT Vice State Chairman
Brad Pollman	2023-24	Alt. State Director		Sandy Himmel
Cherie Barton	2023-24	Ed Duggan	2024	
Lionel Lavallee	2024-25			BCHMT National Directors
Joan Scheffer	2024-25			Brad Pollman
Dan Maiyo	2024			John Chepulis
Mark Wright	2024-25	BRBCH Past President		Alt. National Director
		Gene Merrell		Chuck Miller



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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, October 17th, 2024

Corvallis Grange Hall

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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