



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

December 2025 Issue #12



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, DECEMBER 18th, 2025 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING
DALY- LEACH COMMUNITY ROOM
1010 Main Street, Hamilton

This is our Gala **Christmas Potluck Dinner and Raffle** and is served at 6:30 p.m. The general meeting starts at 7:00. Guest speaker is Grace Gauthier, a certified equine massage therapist. The annual membership drive is held this month with many great raffle prizes, donated by members and local businesses. For more information contact Brad Pollman: 406-546-6491. Check out our website at: www.bchmt.org/bitterroot or Facebook: **Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen**.

NOTE! If you have renewed your membership for next year, you will be able to participate in the raffle!

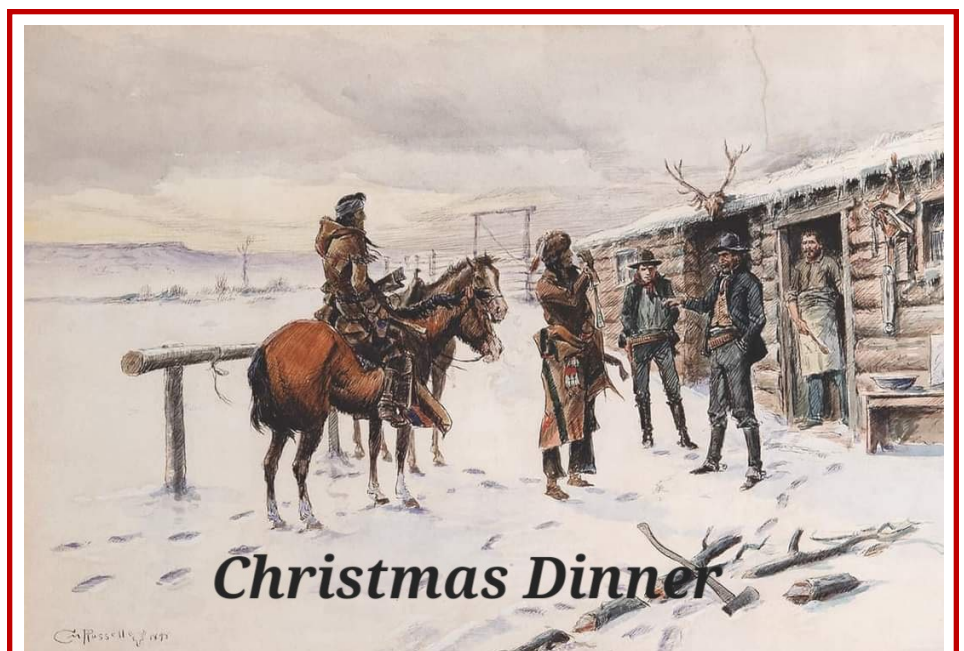
THIS ISSUE

P. 2. Presidents message,
P. 3 Elected officers and board
P. Pantry Partners event
Pp. 5,6 Draft General Meeting Minutes
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DEADLINE FOR NAG NEWS

Thursday, Jan 8th, 2026
SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES & ADS
TO:
djmaiyo@gmail.com

Merry Christmas!



A Message from the President

Happy Holidays!

This is my last president's letter. I want to wish Diane lots of luck; I believe she will make a good president for you in the coming year!

I hope all of you come to our general meeting this month. It is our annual membership drive and will be fun. Barb and her sister, Pam, have been busy rounding up door prizes and there are some good ones!

Send in your renewal dues or bring them to the meeting to be eligible for a door prize drawing. Be sure to provide the renewal form, which is available on our website at [MembershipForm-2025a.pdf](#). – Or better yet, bring a friend with you and introduce them to BR BCH --

We have received a request to write a letter of support for a grant the Bitterroot Cyclists are submitting to build several puncheons at Como. I will provide additional detail at the meeting so a decision can be made that evening. If you are interested in the trails north of Como, be sure to attend.

With Diane's blessing, I will be heading up a Long Range Planning Committee for Equine Use in the Bitterroot starting the end of January. The goal is to create a plan of what equine recreation on the Bitterroot National Forest will look like in the future. We will be seeking information from as many horsemen as we can to come up with a plan to present to the USFS. I will be passing around a sign-up sheet at the meeting for those who would like to take part. If unable to attend the meeting, contact me by email.

I need to put out this reminder: We're still looking for a person (or persons) to do our chapter's monthly newsletter. Dan and Nancy will help you get started and make the job easy for you!

It has been a pleasure serving as your president again. Thank you for your past support, and welcome to our incoming president, Diane Duffie.

Respectfully,
Brad Pollman
President, Bitter Root BCH



Note: The chapter's 50th anniversary will be in March, 2026. Anybody who has ideas for how we can celebrate this big anniversary can let Diane know. We are looking for ideas from now until January. Please email your ideas to her. Diane said it would be good to invite past members for a local gathering and celebration.

Your 2026 Newly Elected BRBCH Officers and Board

2026 President
Diane Duffie



2026 Secretary
Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell



2026 Vice President
Barb Walker



2026-2027 State Director
Brad Pollman



2026-2027 Alternate State Director
Julie Schram



2026 Treasurer
Elaine Driskell



2026—2027 Board of Directors

Ed Duggan

Pam Ristad

Joan Scheffer

Dennis Hardman



Pantry Partners Food Pack (New Location!)

Nov. 21st. at 8:30 a.m.

Stevensville Westside Rural Fire District Station

Located behind Subway on Hwy 93

Barb, Dennis and Diane loaded a trailer at Pantry Partners and brought it to the fire station. We then assembled and packed the boxes with 19 food items and loaded the boxes into the trailer. About 250 food boxes were packed and hauled back to Pantry Partners by 11:30.

Thank you to John Dowd of the Bitterroot Star for writing an excellent article about this event!

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT PARTICIPATED!!!



**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES,
NOVEMBER 16th, 2025 PROGRAM**

The November 2025 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by Vice President Dennis Hardman at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was held at the Daly-Leach Community Room. Approximately 33 members were present. There was a board quorum. All members led the Pledge to start the meeting. Guests: Robert Wallace from Florence, Pam Ristad's co-worker.

2026 ELECTION

Bonnie Morgan conducted the election process for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, four Directors for 2026-2027, State Director for 2026-2027, and the 2026 Alternate State Director. Ballots were completed via email, mail, or in person at the meeting. Per election protocol, Bonnie asked for nominations from the floor three times for each position. The ballot results are as follows:

For President, Diane Duffie is nominated. There were no nominations from the floor. **Ed Duggan motioned and Kathy Stroppel-Holl seconded that nominations for President be closed. Motion carried.** After tallying the ballots, Diane Duffie was voted in.

For Vice President, Barb Walker is nominated. There were no nominations from the floor. **Julie Schram motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded that nominations for VP be closed. Motion carried.** After tallying the ballots, Barb Walker was voted in.

For Secretary, no nominations came from the floor to serve as secretary. There was a write-in vote for Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell and she agreed to serve as secretary.

For Treasurer, Elaine Driskell is nominated. There were no nominations from the floor. **Joan Scheffer motioned and Ed Duggan seconded that nominations for Treasurer be closed. Motion carried.** After tallying the ballots, Elaine Driskell was voted in.

For the four 2026-2027 Directors, the following candidates were nominated: Ed Duggan, Travise Grinnell, Dennis Hardman, Pam Ristad, and Joan Scheffer. **Kathy Stroppel-Holl motioned and Leslie Maiyo seconded that nominations for 2025-2026 Directors be closed. Motion carried.** After tallying the ballots, the 2025-2026 Directors are Ed Duggan, Dennis Hardman, Pam Ristad, and Joan Scheffer. It was noted there will be an open director's position that will need to be filled when Barb Walker vacates her director's position to serve as vice-president.

For 2026-2027 State Director, Brad Pollman is nominated. There were no nominations from the floor. **Cherie Barton motioned and Christy Schram-Duggan seconded that nominations for State Director be closed. Motion carried.** After tallying the ballots, Brad Pollman was voted in.

For 2026 Alternate State Director, Julie Schram is nominated. There were no nominations from the floor. **Joan Scheffer motioned and Helen Engle seconded that nominations for Alternate State Director be closed. Motion carried.** After tallying the ballots, Julie Schram was voted in.

All newly elected folks, as well as any members, were invited to attend the Dec 4th Board meeting at the Daly-Leach Chapel at 7 pm.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The October minutes were printed in the Nag News. There were no corrections. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to accept the October general meeting minutes as printed. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Elaine presented the November treasurer's report. There were no questions. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Julie Schram seconded to accept the October treasurer's report. Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

State Directors: Ed Duggan said the next state meeting is Dec. 13 in Missoula, at the Missoula Fairgrounds.

Training: No report.

Membership: There are currently 72 memberships and 112 members. Barb has renewal forms available.

Outreach: Karen reported that Jenna Wright contacted John Dowd, editor of the Bitterroot Star, and he plans to be at the Pantry Partners Food Pack. He will interview Barb Walker and other members and hopefully take photos. Thank you, Jenna, for coordinating this coverage of our service to the community; it shows that we do all kinds of packing in our chapter! Julie has an article on Marvin Bell, one of our founding members. She will get that article to our historian, Tim Meyer. Helen Engle has historic project information that she found in her mother's papers.

Fair: Christy said to refer to the November board minutes.

Projects: Ed reported that the first committee meeting will be in January. Chris Roemer, Mary Odell, Diane Duffie, Mark Wright, and Christy Schram-Duggan are on the project committee.

Program: Pam reported the program for December will be an equine massage therapist. January's speaker will be a Wild Horse BLM representative.

Public Lands: No report.

Budget: Earl said the committee includes Cherie Barton, Barb Walker, Gene Merrell and Julie Schram. Earl will contact committee chairs for input.

Sunshine: If a member needs a get well, congratulations, or condolence card, let Jenna Wright know. No new report on Chuck but he is improving and he likes visitors. He is at Riverside Health in Missoula.

Continued next page

Nov. 16th Draft General Meeting Minutes continued

OLD BUSINESS

Pantry Partners Food Box Pack: Barb noted the box pack is tomorrow, Friday, Nov 21, starting at 8:30 am at the Stevensville Fire Station (off Hwy 93). She anticipates we will finish by 11:30. We will start by taping boxes, and food will be stacked on tables in the fire house's meeting room. She said the boxes also will include crocheted ornaments. We will assemble 228 food boxes. Gene Merrell thanked Barb and Pam for their hard work organizing this special event.

Election Ballot Results: See 2026 election results above.

NEW BUSINESS

50th Anniversary Committee: Dennis noted that the chapter's 50th anniversary will be in March, 2026. Anybody who has ideas for how we can celebrate this big anniversary can let Diane know. We are looking for ideas from now until January. Please email your ideas to her. Diane said it would be good to invite past members for a local gathering and celebration.

OTHER BUSINESS

Aspen Trails Therapeutic Riding, Victor: Dennis reported that the Aspen Trails organization would like to borrow our tent and cook trailer, for an event on Dec. 6, 2-4 pm. We would need to assemble it on Dec. 5 and take it down on Dec. 6 or 7.

Nominating and Budget Committee Chairs: Gene thanked Bonnie for her many years heading up the nominating committee and noted that she wants to see another person volunteer to head the committee. Gene encouraged others to step up, and members thanked Gene for his many years working on the budget.

Historian: Dennis encouraged members to submit articles and photos to Tim.

Next Meeting: December 18, at the Daly-Leach Community Room, potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm. Kathy Stroppel-Holl has coffee and Diane Duffie has hot water.

Gene Merrell motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Karen Philips, Co-Secretary BRBCH

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, DEC. 4th, 2025

The December 2025 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by Brad Pollman at 7:04 pm at the Daly-Leach Community Room. Present were President Brad Pollman, Vice-President Dennis Hardman, Treasurer Elaine Driskell, and Co-Secretary Karen Philips; Directors Diane Duffie, Mary Odell, Joan Scheffer, Julie Schram, Barb Walker, and Mark Wright. Absent were co-secretary Kathy Stroppel-Holl, directors Chris Carrera, Lionel Lavallee, and Christy-Schram-Duggan, Director Ed Dug-

gan and Alt. State Director Chuck Miller. There was a Board quorum. Committee chairs and 2026 elected Board members present: Pam Ristad and Bonnie Morgan. All led the Pledge.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The November 2025 Board minutes were published in the Nag News. There were no changes. **Mark Wright motioned and Dennis Hardman seconded to accept the November minutes as published. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Elaine Driskell provided account balances for CDs, checking, and savings. Dues for state and national are due to the State BCH by Dec. 13. **Mary Odell motioned and Julie Schram seconded to accept the December treasurer's report. Motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aspen Therapeutic Tent Assistance: Ross and Judy Posey, Dennis, Mark, Nancy Pollman, Diane and Brad volunteered to set up and take down the club tent for this event on Saturday.

Bitterroot Star article: Karen circulated a copy of the article and reported that she sent a thank you email to John Dowd for writing the article.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Barb provided a list of new and renewing members, which will be an attachment to the minutes. The members on the list were discussed. **Julie Schram motioned and Mary Odell seconded to accept the new and renewal members. Motion carried.** We have 72 memberships and 112 members. The December 18 meeting membership drive/door prizes include many great items from a variety of supporting businesses. Several members are recovering from surgeries and illness.

State Directors: Brad reported the next state meeting is on Dec. 13, 10 am to about 3 pm at the Missoula County Fairgrounds. The Christmas party, hosted by Missoula BCH, is at 6:30. Topics at the meeting will include discussion of public lands and cutting costs of attending the national meeting. Mark requested that our 50th anniversary be included in the schedule at the state convention. Brad said our chapter was instrumental in forming the national organization. Julie and Helen Engle are starting to view old photographs to add to our celebration.

Training: Bonnie said we will have two trainings at C-Max with one demonstration day and one obstacle course day with two sessions, likely in April. The third training could be at Rock Creek Horse Camp, possibly combined with a project there and a trail ride. Submit ideas to Bonnie, especially ways to get more people involved with hands-on practice. First aid classes are Feb. 1 and Feb. 28. Adam Washback, regional saw coordinator, will be contacted to help with certifying our saw trainers. This is a potential problem if there are no longer any FS regions. Light on the Land could be a presentation at Larry Creek, open to the public. It was suggested that we place ads in the Bitterroot Star to promote events like this. **(Continued next page)**

Board Minutes Continued

Projects: No report.

Grants: Brad spoke about grants from the Montana Trails Coalition, FWP's RTP grants and other grant possibilities. But we need to get our ideas organized in order to apply for these grants. Brandi can write the grants but she needs project ideas. Crazy Creek Horse Camp (including forest thinning around it) and East Fork Trailhead are two examples of sites that need help. Brad will take over Long Term Planning in 2026 and that committee's work can coordinate with the Grants Committee. One of his goals is to get ideas from all trail riders in the valley.

Public Lands: Brad reported on a new bill being introduced in Congress: the Roadless Area Conservation Act (RACA). Sen. Daines responded to Brad's inquiry regarding this bill and said he would keep Brad informed. Brad said that attacks on public lands are coming from all directions. An upcoming issue in eastern states is that mountain bikes are overrunning all other users.

Budget: Karen reported for Earl and said his committee will get going once he recovers from his pacemaker implant surgery. He will call committee chairs asking for their budget needs.

Audit: Barb/Kathy/Nancy are on the committee and will meet in January.

Constitution: Next meeting is Sunday, Dec. 14, 2:30, Stevensville Fire Hall (on Willoughby Lane) on bylaws.

Program: Dec. speaker is Grace Gauthier, Certified equine massage therapist, who will discuss equine massage. Jan. speaker: Q DeHart on BLM's Wild Horse & Burro adoption program.

OLD BUSINESS

Election: As Barb was elected to be VP, her unexpired Director's position needs a replacement. Brad will contact two possible replacements and will send out a ballot to the board.

Pantry Partners Food Box Pack Overview: Barb reported that the food box pack on Nov. 21 was a success. Eighteen members participated.

50th Anniversary Celebration: Diane suggested April or May for possible dates for a get-together and possible locations, ranging from restaurants to pot-luck sites. Brad suggested locations that are easily accessible. Joan volunteered to help on this committee.

Secretary's Laptop: We need to purchase a computer, with Word software included, for the incoming secretary position. Costco has a possibility for \$550. Julie will ask Christy to get a bid via her company. The board discussed the idea and are supportive of purchasing this, because current and past secretaries have had to use their personal computers.

NEW BUSINESS

January Board Meeting Date Reminder: Brad noted the meeting date is Friday, Jan. 2nd due to the holiday on Jan. 1

General Meeting Numbers Trend/Phone Numbers in Newsletter: This issue will be added to the Jan. 2 board meeting under Old Business. FYI: Dan M had requested numbers on the trend of attendance at the general meetings.

Kathy noted that for 2025, attendance has varied from a low of 19 to a high of 35, with an average attendance of 27. For 2024: low of 15, high of 46, average 29. For 2023: low of 26, high of 55, average 40. August is the low attendance month for the past 3 years. Dan said newsletter mailing ended in late 2023, which may or may not correlate with lower member attendance. Brad said statistics show that our attendance as a percentage of our membership is about the same as other volunteer groups.

Spam: The officers' phone numbers are listed in the newsletter, and some have received spam texts, allegedly from Brad. Call the board member who the text is allegedly from first, and don't open anything suspicious. Beware!

OTHER BUSINESS

Julie Schram motioned and Joan Scheffer seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:39 pm.

Karen Philips, Co-Secretary BRBCH



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What is a Hoof (Shoe) Boil?

By Dan Maiyo—Editor

Early this spring, I noticed a condition on Spot that was getting progressively worse as time wore on. My vet explained that a hoof or shoe boil was developing on his right elbow. I immediately took steps to successfully arrest the condition. A thick bed of shavings in his pen provided him with a soft comfy bed lay down in, and helped alleviate the situation.

Causes. When a horse lays down, the area around the heel or bulb of the hoof may frequently contact and irritate the elbow joint area.

Shoe boils, also known as olecranon bursitis, capped elbows or elbow sores, are a common condition seen in horses. They occur when the horse repeatedly puts pressure on its elbow joint, often when lying down for extended periods on shallow bedding or with long-heeled horse shoes. This prolonged pressure causes inflammation and swelling, leading to the formation of a **fluid-filled sac** beneath the skin, typically located on or near the point of the elbow.



While most cases of shoe boil develop gradually and are relatively painless, sudden injury to the elbow or infection can cause acute shoe boil, which may result in pain, heat in the area, and even lameness. Many cases resolve on their own once the underlying cause is identified and addressed. Recurrence of shoe boils is common, so the condition often requires ongoing management.

The term “shoe boil” originated from the idea that these swellings were caused by pressure from the horse’s

hoof when lying down on hard surfaces, such as stall floors or uneven ground. However, they can occur even in horses that are not shod.

Diagnosis involves physical examination and imaging to assess swelling and rule out deeper injury. Treatment includes rest, cold therapy, aspiration, corticosteroids or surgical removal in severe cases. Prevention focuses on deep bedding, proper hoof trimming and padded elbow boots to reduce pressure.

Preventing Further Trauma. The first and most important step in shoe boil treatment is preventing additional irritation to the elbow area.

Increase Bedding. Adding deep, soft bedding helps cushion your horse’s joints while lying down.

Use a Shoe Boil Boot: Shoe boil boots (also known as donut boots) wrap around the pastern to keep the hoof from contacting the elbow. They’re one of the most effective tools in your tool kit. Consult your farrier to adjust or shorten long heels, which can aggravate the elbow when the horse rests.

Note that Spot’s right leg is tucked underneath itself. It is in this position that the heel of the hoof will come in contact with the elbow.



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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!

Chicken and Dumplings

This world famous recipe has been handed down through generations of my family. I give specific credit to my mother, Lucy Maiyo for inspiration to carry on the tradition.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 large whole chicken (or canned chicken if you are in the backcountry)
- 3 or 4 carrots, peeled and chopped into not less than 1 inch long bits
- 1 onion, peeled and coarsely chopped
- 3 or 4 stalks celery, coarsely chopped into not less than 1 inch long bits
- 2-3 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
- 1 Tbs. salt to taste
- Pepper to taste
- 1 Tbs. dried basil, crumbled (optional)
- 1 or 2 large Tbs. powdered chicken bouillon or to taste
- 4, 5, or 6 fresh eggs, depending on how many dumplings you want to cram into the pot
- 1 Tbs. baking powder
- 1-2 cups of white flour

DIRECTIONS:

- In a 5 qt. or larger pot, (or dutch oven) boil the bird until the meat is ready to fall off, remove from the pot and then de-bone the dude into bite size pieces. Discard the

skin. Set the pot of broth aside.

- Crack the eggs into a large bowl and beat with a fork, mix in the baking powder and add a few pinches of salt to taste. (You can add the basil at this time if you wish)
- Gradually begin adding flour to the mixture and folding with the fork, very similar to making homemade noodles. You want the batter to be somewhat firm, but not wimpy either.
- Bring the pot of broth to a low boil and add the chicken bouillon, vegies and chicken. (**Note:** You may need to add more water to accommodate the sheer volume of ingredients.)
- With a large spoon, begin adding the dumpling batter into the pot, about 1/3 spoonful of batter, hold the spoon in the pot until the dumpling falls off. Repeat until all dumpling batter is finished. (**Note:** the larger the spoonful of batter, the larger the dumpling)
- Cover the pot and turn heat down to low, let simmer for about 15 minutes. The dumplings will rise a bit.
- Ladle into bowls and serve.

Exclusively at the Shirt Spot! Embroidered Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen logo on in-stock vests and jackets or a vest/jacket of your own choice. Personnel Wyoming Traders vest shown. Custom thread color available. Inquire for pricing. Caps offered in a variety of styles and colors! \$25/cap or \$20/each/10 caps. **Tell the Shirt Spot that you saw this notice in this newsletter! Show your support for our BCH Chapter!**



2025 Committees

Audit
 Audio-Visual Equipment
 Budget
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 Equipment & Inventory
 Fair
 Grants
 Historian
 Issues
 Long-Term Planning
 Membership
 Advertising
 Newsletter
 Outreach
 Parliamentarian
 Pleasure Rides
 Programs
 Projects
 Social
 Sunshine
 Training
 Website

2025 Chairs & Members

(Changes Annually) 2025: Barb Walker, Joe Kirkland, Elaine Driskell
 Dennis Hardman, Travise Grinnell
 (Changes Annually) 2025: Gene Merrell, Earl Phillips
 (Changes Annually)
 Ed Duggan, Chuck Miller
 Christy Schram-Duggan
 Brandi Ashford
 Tim Meyer
 Carol Johns, Kathy Stroppel-Holl
 (Volunteer Needed)
 Barb Walker
 Virginia DeLeo
 Dan Maiyo
 Travise Grinnell
 Joan Scheffer
 Pam Ristad, Candice Erickson
 Pam Ristad
 Ed Duggan
 (Volunteer Needed)
 Jenna Wright
 Bonnie Morgan
 Nancy Pollman

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen Officers and Board**Chapter officers**

Position	Name	Term	Contact
President	Brad Pollman	2025	406-546-6491
Vice President	Dennis Hardman	2025	307-699-1679
Secretary	Kathy Stroppol-Holl/Karen Phillips	2025	Kathy 720-244-2943, Karen 406-369-0725
Treasurer	Elaine Driskell	2025	916-698-8544

Board Members

Board Members	Term
Diane Duffie	2024-25
Mark Wright	2024-25
Lionel Lavallee	2024-25
Joan Scheffer	2024-25
Chris Carrera	2025-26
Mary Odell	2025-26
Julie Schram	2025-26
Christy Schram –Duggan	2025-26
Barb Walker	2025-26

State Directors

State Directors	Term
Ed Duggan	2025-26
Brad Pollman	2024-25
Alt. State Director	
Chuck Miller	2025

BCHMT National Directors

Brad Pollman
Connie Long

BRBCH Past President

Jan Bullock

BCHMT State Chairman

Mack Long

BCHMT Vice State Chairman

Sandy Himmel

Alt. National Director

John Chepulis

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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, December 18th, 2025

Daly Leech Community Room

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