



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

February 2026 Issue #2

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, FEBRUARY 19th, 2026 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING
DALY- LEACH COMMUNITY ROOM
1010 Main Street, Hamilton

Potluck Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. The general meeting starts at 7:00. Guest speaker is Chelsey Darrow, with Bitterroot Search Dogs, will provide an overview of the organization. Guests are welcome. For more information contact: Diane Duffie 707-529-8284. Check out our website at: www.bchmt.org/bitterroot or Facebook: **Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen**.

2026 BRBCH Officers and Board

THIS ISSUE

- P. 2. President's message, training
- P. 3 Cowboy Poem
- Pp. 4. Draft General Meeting Minutes
- Pp.5. Draft Board Meeting Minutes.
- P. 7. Horse Sense (sponsor)
- P. 8 Back Country Kitchen (sponsor)
- P. 9. Officers and Board
- P.10. Advertisers



DEADLINE FOR NAG NEWS

Wednesday, March 11th, 2026
SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES & ADS
TO:
djmaiyo@gmail.com

A message from the President

I hope you all have had a chance to get out and enjoy this unusual weather we have been having. I have heard that several of you have even been out riding! We have been busy meeting with the Forest Service and reestablishing our committees. This year we will be working directly with the District Rangers and their staff which will simplify communication and help us prioritize our projects. We are also working to start Fun rides again with regular weekday and weekend rides and are looking for input from all in terms of scheduling so we can include everyone.

Our new meeting space in the Daly Leach Community Room seems to have increased attendance and enthusiasm for our meetings. The space is more comfortable with adult sized seating and a kitchen with a counter for the potluck. This week we will be having Chelsey Darrow with Bitterroot Search Dogs

as our program speaker.

We had a successful First Aid Class last weekend thanks to Joan's amazing method of teaching. A fun time was had by all. Next First Aid class is February 28th and then we begin our Defensive Horsemanship and Obstacle Course Days on March 14th and April 4th at C-Max Stables.

The Committee working on our 50th anniversary celebration has been busy and will turn our March 19th meeting into our first celebration as it falls close to the club's first meeting 50 years ago in 1976. We will have a shortened agenda that night and focus on our potluck with a Anniversary cake and trivia games challenging all of our collective knowledge about the club. All old members are welcome and we are hoping Smoke will also be able to come.

Hope to see you all this Thursday!

Diane Duffie, President

Training - Contact Bonnie Morgan

8 people attended the February 7th first aid training.

Feb 28th. 9:00 am. First Aid training the Rule Fire Station in Stevensville.

Defensive Horsemanship

March 14th. C-Max Stables. 9:00 am. Coffee and doughnuts. Program at 9:30

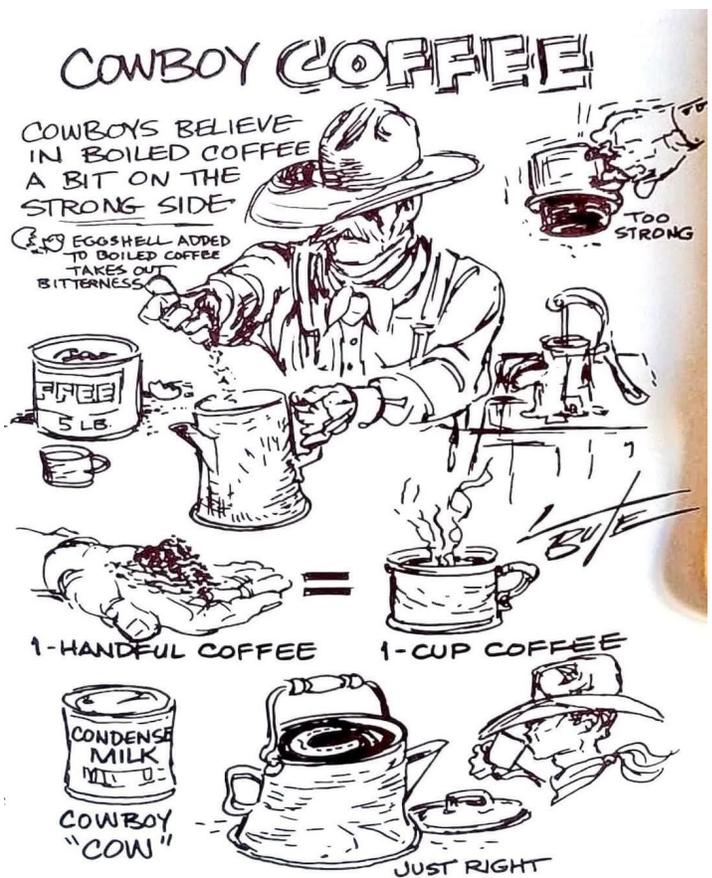
April 4th. Obstacle course, 9am-12noon.1:00pm-4pm. Weather dependent-may be inside or outside .

May 9 or 16 Lake Como camping trip + staining tables.

Mini clinic to learn to camp with horses.

Chainsaw/crosscut Certification

Chainsaw and crosscut saw certification dates TBD.



“Anthem”

as written and recited by Buck Ramsey

So mornings now I'll go out riding
Through pastures of my solemn plain,
And leather creaking in the quieting
Will sound with trot and trot again.
I'll live in time with horse hoof falling;
I'll listen well and hear the calling
The earth, my mother, bids to me,
Though I will still ride wild and free.
And as I fly out on the morning
Before the bird, before the dawn,
I'll be this poem, I'll be this song.

Happy Birthday Chuck!



**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES,
JANUARY 15th, 2025 PROGRAM**

The January 2026 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Diane Duffie at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was held at the Daly-Leach Community Room. Approximately 34 members were present. There was a board quorum. All members led the Pledge to start the meeting. Guests: 1- Carrie Andrews.

PROGRAM

Charmain "Q" DeHart and BLM's Wild Horse and Burro

Program: Pam introduced Q DeHart.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The December minutes were printed in the Nag News. There were no corrections. **Karen Phillips motioned and Travis Grinnell seconded to accept the December general meeting minutes as printed. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Elaine presented the January treasurer's report. There were no questions. **Christy Schram motioned and Mary Odell seconded to accept the treasurers report. Motion carried.**

Cost-Share Mileage Reimbursement Checks: Elaine passed out checks.

Presentation of Award Pins: Diane.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements: Thank you letter from Haven House for donations.

Chuck Miller update. He may be getting out of hospital in the next week or two. Visit him at Riverside Health and Rehab on east Broadway. Thank you to Ross and Judy for looking after his animals.

Coffee/Hot Water Signup Sheet: Cheyenne passed around the 2026 signup sheet for coffee/hot water at general meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget: Earl. Reminder: Donations are tax deductible. We no longer have a company sponsoring food and major expense for the 50th anniversary party happening this year. If anyone knows of anyone willing to sponsor food please reach out. Budget committee will meet next Tuesday.

State Directors: Ed/Julie 831 members statewide. 18-21 June rendezvous at Monture creek. Rendezvous will combine as a joint project with FS for one day.

Education & Training: Bonnie saw and first aid training sign ups were passed around. Feb 7 and 28 are training days for first aid at the Rule Fire Station in Stevensville. On March 14th we have defensive horsemanship along with chili lunch and program. The obstacle clinic will be held April 4th at the C-Max, bring your own animal. May 9 or 16 Lake Como camping trip + staining table and mini clinic to learn to camp with horses.

Membership: There are currently 75 memberships and 118 members. Diane Banks donated extra funds.

Outreach: Karen No report.

Projects: Ed meeting date TBD, speak to Ed after the meeting if you would like to be on the committee.

Program: Pam reported the program for February will be Backcountry medicine helicopter landing and area prep. Waiting for confirmation from Andy Ashford. or Wildlife photographer Moose (????)

Constitution Committee. Meeting this Sunday 1/18 at 2:30 firehall on Willoughby In Stevensville.

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

OLD BUSINESS

50th Anniversary Celebration Planning: Barb Walker Committee members: Helen Engle, Christy Schram-Duggan, Pam R. Joan Schaffer, Julie Schram. Including Club Trivia Facility TBD meeting 6pm before next meeting on February 19th.

NEW BUSINESS

BCH of Montana 2026 State Convention. March 27-29, in Bozeman. Delegates are Diane Duffie, Barb Walker, Brad Pollman, Julie Schram, Ed Duggan, Dennis Hardman, Pam Ristad, Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell and alternate delegate Christy Schram-Duggan.

Tim was contacted about helping with photos for the display. Through the Decades snapshots 50th anniversary display. If anyone has time to go to the shed for photos contact Christy Schram Duggan. Needed by March 1st.

Convention Display, Photo Contest & Auction item: Diane. Barb has been asking around about having a fire ring made and fire whiskey.

Handout/Collect Delegate Forms & Raffle Tickets: Elaine. Raffle tickets were handed out. Please get them back by next meeting February 19th. Drawing is March 28th.

Writing with mules: Dan Maiyo discussed a workshop with Eva Maria Maggie and Smoke Elser. "Writing with mules" to enhance writing skills using mules.

Dan will remain the newsletter chair.

Thank you Joan for the poem in the newsletter.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting: February 19 at the Daly-Leach Community Room, potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm. Diane Duffie has coffee and Judy Posey has hot water.

Kathy Stroppel-Hall motioned and Ed Duggan seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell, Secretary BRBCH

Need copy of treasurer's report, membership approval,

**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 5th, 2026**

The February 2026 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by Diane Duffie at 7:03 pm at the Daly-Leach Community Room. Present were President Diane Duffie, Vice-President Barb Walker, Treasurer Elaine Driskoll, and Secretary Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell; Directors Chris Carrera, Dennis Hardman, Mary Odell, Pam Ristad, Joan Scheffer, Julie Schram, Travis Grinnell, Ed Duggan, Christy Schram-Duggan and past-president Brad Pollman. There was a Board quorum. Committee chairs/members present: Bonnie Morgan, Dan Maiyo, and Earl Philips. All led the Pledge.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The January 2026 minutes were published in the Nag News. There were no updates. **Christy Schram-Duggan moved and Joan Scheffer seconded to accept the January minutes. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Elaine provided account balances. There were no updates. **Christy Schram-Duggan moved and Julie Schram seconded to accept the February treasurer's reports. Motion carried.**

Audit- Barb: all was perfect.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diane & Karen. No correspondence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: New and renewal memberships were presented by Barb. We did a paper ballot vote. After approval, there are 77 memberships and 120 members for 2026. The list of approved members will be attached to the printed copy of the minutes. 9 additional people were approved by majority vote

State Directors: Brad/ Julie/ Ed. Questions contact Ed, Julie, or Brad.

BCHMT Convention. Registration Status-Elaine.

Auction Item Progress Pam/Barb. Breast collar donation by Brad. Need a vector image of logo. Cheyenne volunteered to create the vector image.

Ticket Sales status- Elaine. Potential to set up a table outside of Super 1

Training-Bonnie: Def. Horsemanship @ CMAX March 14th. Obstacle Course @ CMAX April 4th. Campout at Como planned for May.

Projects-Ed: Project committee meeting 15th at 1pm Willoughby Fire Station. **Diane:** Meeting with FS changes new contact list. Contact will be direct to rangers. FS has no

trail crew this year. Discussion followed.

Programs: Pam. Chelsey Darro Bitterroot Search Dogs. March celebration/meeting fun meeting with trivia and games. Smoke and Eva may attend and tell stories.

Public Lands: Brad- Roadless Rule Rally at Ft Missoula. Over 4,000 signatures, press and representatives to keep the act. Mac Long invited to DC with other club representatives (i.e. Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and Native American groups etc.) regarding the Roadless Rule Act.

Budget: Earl- budget was explained and possible purchase of computer for treasurer brought up. Reminder that donations to BCH are tax deductible. Barb and Elaine to speak with insurance writers over budget expense for insurance. **Brad moved to accept budget, Ed Duggan seconded. Motion carried.**

Constitution Committee - Dan: Meeting 15th at 2:30pm Willoughby Fire Station. Working on by laws.

Long Range Planning Committee for Equine Use in the Bitterroot: Bonnie- Need a vision statement. FS wants user groups to come up with a wish list for what they want to see on trails and trailheads.

50th Anniversary Celebration Planning- Barb: March 19th event. General meeting will be for fun only. Potluck, trivia, and stories. A June fun-day at Lost Horse was also discussed.

OTHER BUSINESS

2026 Board Photo:

Travise Grinnell moved and Julie Schram seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:54 pm.

Email Tim with any pictures. Travise and Christy will be added as an admin for the Google Drive.

Email to be sent from secretary email to all board members so we all have the email.

FS needs volunteers to clear trails, volunteers will need training, we will likely charge for training those new volunteers not in our membership. Find out how much FS charges for these trainings as a starting point. Put as an agenda item next meeting.

Need a vision statement FS wants user groups to come up with a wish list for what they want to see on trails and trailheads.

Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell, Secretary BRBCH



Izzy

Chuck Miller & friends



Francis

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What triggers horses to shed winter hair? Spring is just around the corner, and so is the great hair dump.

Horses shed their hair as a natural response to changes in daylight, not necessarily temperature. As the days begin to lengthen in late winter and early spring, a horse's body senses the shift in light and triggers the process of shedding its thick winter coat.

This process is controlled by the pineal gland, which produces melatonin, a hormone that regulates the shedding cycle. When daylight increases, the horse's body signals to shed its winter coat, preparing for warmer weather.

Shedding is a complex physiological process that tells you a lot about your horse's health. A horse with pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (PPID) may not shed his coat as quickly as he used to.

Shedding is not triggered by temperature; it's linked to photoperiods. As the hours of daylight increase, a horse's winter coat begins to loosen and shed. This process started way back in December, but you usually won't see the obvious, hairy results until now.

How to Help Your Horse During Shedding Season.

While shedding is normal, your horse may need a little help getting rid of all that loose hair. Here are a few ways to assist the process:

Daily Grooming: Use tools like shedding blades, grooming mitts, or rubber curry combs to remove loose hair and stimulate the skin.

Bathing (When Weather Permits): A warm bath with a gentle shampoo can help loosen and remove dead hair, especially when followed by a good grooming session.

Nutrition Support: Make sure your horse is receiving a well-balanced diet that includes key nutrients like omega

-3 fatty acids, biotin, and zinc to support coat health.

Stay Patient: Shedding can be a messy and itchy time for horses. Be gentle and consistent with your grooming routine to keep them comfortable.

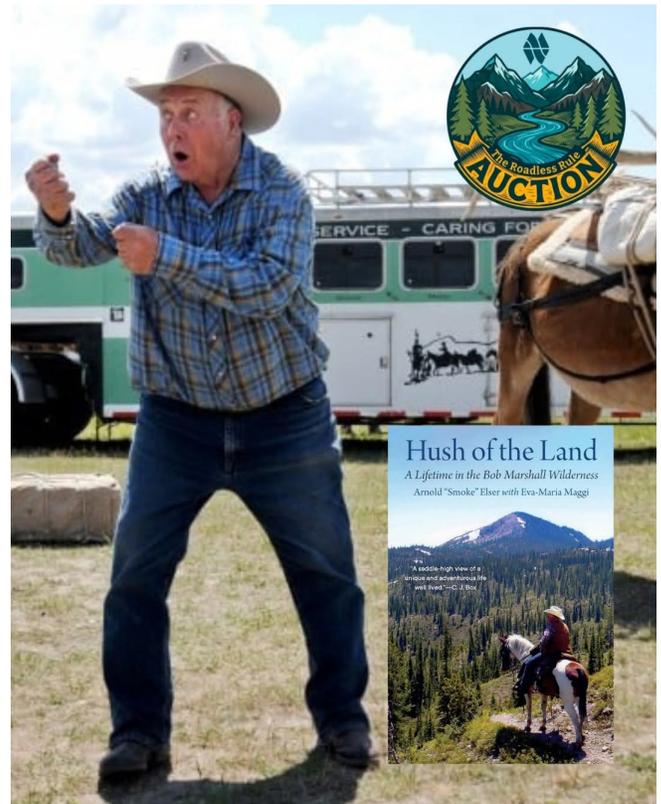
When Shedding Isn't Normal:

While shedding is a natural process, keep an eye out for signs that something might be off:

Patchy or uneven shedding could indicate a skin issue or hormonal imbalance.

A horse that doesn't shed at all, especially a senior horse, may be showing early signs of Cushing's Disease (PPID), which can interfere with normal coat cycles.

Excessive itching or hair loss beyond the typical shed could point to parasites or dermatological concerns.



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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!

Blood Orange Biscotti

Leslie made these last week. They are great when dipped into your morning coffee.. Enjoy!

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 blood oranges, peeled and sliced into 1/8 inch pieces
- 3 T honey
- 6 T unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 T blood orange zest
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2-1/4 cups all purpose flour
- 1-1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 3/4 cup toasted hazelnuts, chopped
- 8 oz. Dark chocolate, chopped

DIRECTIONS:

- Heat oven to 400°F.
- Toss orange slices with honey and roast 20-25 min. Cool and chop into pieces.
- Lower oven to 325°.
- Beat butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time. Beat in zest and vanilla.
- In a bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. Gradually add flour to butter mix. Add roasted oranges and hazelnuts. Divide in half and shape into 12x4 inch logs.
- Bake about 28 minutes. Let cool for 15 min. Using a serrated knife, cut logs into 1/2 inch-thick slices. Place cut-side down on baking sheet.
- Bake for 9 minutes, Turn biscotti over and bake for 12 more min. Let cool.
- Melt chocolate. Dip one end of each biscotti into the chocolate.

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!**



2026 Committees

Audit
 Audio-Visual Equipment
 Constitution
 Budget
 Election & Nominations
 Fair
 Grants
 Historian
 Public Lands
 Long-Term Planning
 Membership
 Advertising
 Newsletter
 Outreach
 Parliamentary
 Pleasure Rides
 Programs
 Projects
 Social
 Sunshine
 Training
 Website

2026 Chairs & Members

2026: Barb Walker, Elaine Driskell, Nancy Pollman
 Travise Grinnell
 Dan Maiyo
 Earl Phillips, Elaine Driskell
 (Changes Annually)
 Christy Schram-Duggan
 Brandi Ashford
 Tim Meyer
 Brad Pollman
 Bonnie Morgan
 Barb Walker
 Virginia DeLeo
 Dan Maiyo
 Travise Grinnell
 Joan Scheffer
 Pam Ristad, Candice Erickson
 Pam Ristad
 Ed Duggan
 Jenna Wright
 Bonnie Morgan
 Nancy Pollman

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

Position	Name	Term	Contact
President	Diane Duffie	2026	707-529-8284
Vice President	Barb Walker	2026	928-606-0855
Secretary	Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell	2026	406-214-1108
Treasurer	Elaine Driskell	2026	916-698-8544

Board Members

Board Members	Term
Dennis Hardman	2026-27
Joan Scheffer	2026-27
Pam Ristad	2026-27
Ed Duggan	2026-27
Chris Carrera	2025-26
Mary Odell	2025-26
Julie Schram	2025-26
Christy Schram –Duggan	2025-26
Travise Grinnell	2025-26

State Directors

State Directors	Term
Brad Pollamn	2026-27
Ed Duggan	2025-26
Alt. State Director	
Julie Schram	2026

BCHMT State Chairman

Mack Long

BCHMT Vice State Chairman

Sandy Himmel

BCHMT National Directors

Brad Pollman
 Connie Long

Alt. National Director

John Chepulis

BRBCH Past President

Brad Pollman

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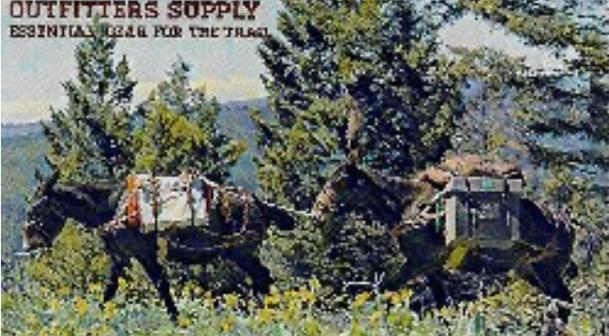
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Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, February 19th, 2026

Daly-Leach 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