



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen
50 Years of Service

March 2026 Issue #3

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

The Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen will be celebrating our 50th anniversary! Join us for an evening as we look back on our journey from the beginning in March 1976 to the present day!

There may be a short business meeting at 5:30 p.m. to address any crucial business matters before we kick off the anniversary celebration. Following the pre-event meeting, we will commence the anniversary celebration with a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. We will be providing the main course and a celebratory cake for dessert. **If you plan to attend please RSVP by March 16th by calling 928-606-0855.**

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.

THIS ISSUE

- P. 2. President's message, training, projects.
- P. 3. Defensive Horsemanship clinic
- Pp. 4. Draft General Meeting Minutes
- Pp.5. Draft Board Meeting Minutes.
- P. 6. Horse Sense (sponsor)
- P. 7. Back Country Kitchen (sponsor)

***Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!***



DEADLINE FOR NAG NEWS

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

A message from the President

Happy Spring! Welcome to all our new members; the Dietz and Miller families, Julia Roemer, Jane Young and Olive Parker. Hope to see you all at our 50 year anniversary party this coming Thursday with the rest of us and previous members. We will be having a short meeting first at 5:30 and then commence to celebrations with a Potluck starting at 6:00 and games using Historical Data from the clubs 50 years after.

We have had a busy month, meeting with the Forest Service Rangers and lining up our projects and programs for the year. We've had two successful First Aid Classes and our annual Defensive Horsemanship class just this past weekend.

Nine of us will be heading to Bozeman for the Yearly Back Country Horsemen of Montana Convention in Bozeman to represent our club on March 27th-29th.

All are welcome to attend and partake of the workshops and presentations with us. There is usually a great vendor selection with plenty of horse themed items. It is being held at the Best Western in Bozeman. You can look on the BCHMT website for further details.

Soon we will all have shoes back on our horses and be back on the trails again....Bonnie Morgan is working on a fun riding weekend at Lake Como where we will do some picnic table painting for the Park Service as well as riding in early May weather permitting.

We are tentatively looking at the weekend of May 9th so put this on your calendars. This is a good opportunity to ease back into horse camping and get ready for our first formal project at Crazy Creek & opening up Two Good Cabin at the end of May.

See you all Thursday!
Diane Duffie, President

Training - Contact Bonnie Morgan

Defensive Horsemanship

April 4th. Obstacle course, 9am-12noon.1:00pm-4pm. Weather dependent-may be inside or outside. 4 spots left in morning session. Afternoon is full.

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.

Projects - Contact Ed Duggan

- Two Good Cabin: we open it May 30th.
- June 6th Larry Creek.
- June 18-21 Monture Creek Rendezvous: It is a work project combined with fun rides, and we can start showing up on Wednesday. Julie will bring the cook trailer to Monture on Wednesday.
- June 27th Coyote Coulee.





Bonnie talks about group riding safety

March 14th Defensive Horsemanship
A good turnout on a blustery day at the C-Max Stables began at 9:00 am with coffee and doughnuts. The program began at 9:30 with Bonnie Morgan discussing safe riding in groups. Next was Grace Gauthier, a certified Equine Bodywork specialist, demonstrated how it is done and explained how equines can benefit. Leslie Conner-Maiyo discussed how to improve your rein handling with hands on practice. A noon break for a delicious potluck lunch consisted of several recipes of chili, salads and desserts. After lunch, Mark Wright talked about safety working around pack strings and demonstrated the function of pack equipment. Joan Scheffer and Bonnie Morgan concluded the afternoon talking about First Aid for you and your horses. Thank you Bonnie and all of you who volunteered to bring the yummy food and tables!



Grace demonstrates equine bodywork



Leslie discusses rein handling



Mark talks about pack equipment

**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES,
FEBRUARY 19th, 2026 PROGRAM**

The February 2026 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Diane Duffie at 7:01 p.m. The meeting was held at the Daly-Leach Community Room. Approximately 37 members and 10 guests were present. There was a board quorum. All members led the Pledge to start the meeting. Guests: Olive Parker, Leon Miller & family, Keith Dietz, Neal Hurst

PROGRAM

Pam Ristad introduced Chelsey Darrow with Bitterroot Search Dogs whose organization provides independent search and rescue to agencies around Montana. Chelsey and her partner Allie discussed the different job categories of the dogs, costs to get them certified, and services they provide. A demonstration was held in the parking lot. Find out more or donate at bitterrootsearchdogs.org.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The January general meeting minutes were printed in the Nag News. Corrections were made to the minutes by secretary Cheyenne. **Travise Grinnell motioned and Joan Scheffer seconded to approve the general meeting minutes with edits. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Elaine presented the January treasurer's report. There were no questions. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Mary O'Dell seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.** Thank you to Travise for replacing the RAM in the treasurer's computer.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements: Coffee/Hot Water Sign-up Sheet: Need Nov. and Dec. volunteers for both.

Birthday cards for Chuck Miller were passed around by Mark Wright for members to sign

COMMITTEE REPORTS

State Directors: Brad/Ed/Julie - no report.

Training: Bonnie circulated sign-up sheets for First Aid class, Feb 28th at 9 am and Defensive Horsemanship (DH) clinic, March 14th starting at 9:30 am. The clinic will include a body-work presentation and packing safety. Following a chili lunch will be a presentation on first aid for equines and humans. Bring a chair and blankets/coats if it's cold. The DH obstacle course is April 4th from 9:00am-12 & 1:00pm-4:00.

Membership: Barb reported we have 77 memberships 120 members.

Outreach: Karen hopes to get a story on our 50th Anniversary Celebration before the March 19th meeting. Jenna Wright has a contact with John Dowd at the Bitterroot Star and volunteered to contact him.

Projects: Ed reported on 3 tentative projects: Coyote Coulee- date TBD; Larry Creek- June 6th; Monture Guard Station, June 18-21, combines a FS fence building project with the BCH Rendezvous; Two-Good Cabin- both open and close for the season, dates TBD.

Programs: Pam said the March focus is on the March- 50th Anniversary Celebration. April 16 speaker is tentatively a representative from Wilderness Medicine.

Long Term Planning: Bonnie said the committee's vision is to develop future needs for equine trail use in the valley. If you are interested in involvement or joining the committee speak with Bonnie Morgan, Christy, Ed, Julie or Helen Engle. A public meeting is planned, date TBD.

Budget: Earl Philips thanked all who helped create the budget. He reviewed the budget and the rationale for various line items. **Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to approve the budget. Motion carried.**

Public Lands: Wild Montana has planned two local meetings to provide an opportunity for public comment on the Road-less Rule Act: March 9 at the Missoula Public Library and March 10 in Hamilton at the Rocky Mountain Grange (both meetings from 6-7:30 pm).

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

Other Committees: Constitution /Grants/Fun Rides: Bylaws are 75% done. Fun Ride Committee is in the works.

OLD BUSINESS

Convention: Chapter display /Auction Item/ Collect Raffle tickets/Resolutions: Work is progressing on a "Through the Decades" display for convention; a fire ring is being designed and built by Sentinel High School students for our auction item; Elaine has raffle tickets to sell; there are no resolutions this year.

50th Anniversary Planning: Food, fun, and games are planned for March 19, the general meeting starts at 5:30 pm, festivities start at 6:00 pm, club will provide protein and members are asked to bring a side dish. Please RSVP. Fun ride planned at Lost Horse lodge for June.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting: March 19

Coffee: Bonnie Morgan

Hot Water: Dan Maiyo

March 5th board meeting will be moved to 6:00 pm due to FS representatives attending.

Karen Philips moved and Travise Grinnell seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

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

The March 2026 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by Diane Duffie at 6:00 pm at the Daly-Leach Community Room. Present were President Diane Duffie, Vice-President Barb Walker, and Secretary Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell; Directors Chris Carrera, Dennis Hardman, Mary Odell, Pam Ristad, Joan Scheffer, Julie Schram, Travise Grinnell, Ed Duggan, Christy Schram-Duggan. Absent were Treasurer Elaine Driskell and state director Brad Pollman. There was a Board quorum. Committee chairs/ members present: Bonnie Morgan, Dan Maiyo and Karen Philips. All led the Pledge.

Introduction of USDA Forest Service District Rangers and Recreation Managers, changes & discussion. They discussed which trails will receive FS support this year and what they are adding to the list of projects for 2027 and beyond. They discussed the "Imagination Land" map for what users would like to see in the forests. We discussed a potential rendezvous spot in the Bitterroot that has room for a large number of horse trailers. There is an Interactive Trail Status map on the FS website that shows the latest trail conditions; please check it out. The Long-Range Planning Committee discussed holding a public meeting with all horse-related groups to add information to the "Imagination Land" map, with District Rangers in attendance. Communication with our District Rangers is best done via email.

BUSINESS

Minutes: The February 2025 board minutes were published in the Nag News. There were no updates. **Ed Duggan moved and Travise Grinnell seconded to accept the February minutes. Motion carried.**

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lifetime Membership for Chuck Miller: Barb shared photos of Chuck and past members and proposed that we award a lifetime membership to Chuck. **Ed Duggan moved to create a lifetime membership for Chuck Miller and Joan Scheffer seconded. Motion carried.**

Ravalli County Weed District providing a class for anyone interested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: New and renewal memberships were presented by Barb. We did a paper ballot vote. After approval, there are 55 memberships and 86 members for 2026. The list of approved members will be attached to the printed copy of the

minutes. Three new memberships were approved.

State Directors: Brad/ Julie/ Ed. For questions and/or information, contact Ed, Julie, or Brad.

Training: Bonnie reported on the Defensive Horsemanship Clinic on March 14th (9am-2pm) at C-Max Stables. Bring a chair and dress warmly. Obstacle course is April 4th at C-Max with four spots left in the morning session; afternoon session is full. A chili lunch is provided.

Projects: Ed. March 22 project committee meeting is at the fire hall on Willoughby Lane, at 1:00pm.

- Two Good Cabin: we open it May 30th and close Oct 17th
- June 6th Larry Creek
- June 18-21 Monture Creek Rendezvous: It is a work project combined with fun rides, and we can start showing up on Wednesday. Julie will bring the cook trailer to Monture on Wednesday.
- June 27th Coyote Coulee

Programs: Pam said the March 50th Anniversary Celebration is what is planned for March. She hopes to have a fire emergency preparedness program for June at Larry Creek.

Finance: Karen went over the finance committee's plans in Earl Philips' absence and we discussed credit card use/loss.

Fair: Diane/contract. Office supplies were ordered; commissioners approved our \$5000 ask for gate management and paying for office supplies.

Constitution: Dan said the committee met Feb. 15 at 2:30; Elaine, Christy and Diane were there. Next meeting is March 15th at the Stevensville Fire Hall on Willoughby Lane.

Long Range Planning Committee for Equine Use in the Bitterroot: Bonnie reported on their progress so far. Next meeting will be planned when Brad gets back.

Outreach: Karen said a feature article on our 50-Year Anniversary in the Bitterroot Star is tenuous but Jenna Wright is working on it. A shorter article should be published in the March 18 edition of the Star. We are using \$250 from our Rapp Family Foundation's \$1,000 grant for the Calf Creek portable toilet (May 15-November 30) and we will split the remaining balance with Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Association and Bitterroot Backcountry Cyclists.

50th Anniversary Celebration Planning: Barb found someone to make the cake and the baker charges about \$2 per person. Barb is working on getting meat for the main dish.

OTHER BUSINESS

Convention Raffle Donation: Our group has sold \$540 worth of tickets.

Fire Ring: Barb said metal is ordered and the fire ring should be done by March 19. **Ed Duggan moved and Mary Odell seconded to use \$250 of club funds to pay for the fire ring. Motion carried.**

Joan Scheffer moved and Mary O'Dell seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:54 pm.
Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell, Secretary BRBCH

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Equine Herpesvirus

Please consult your veterinarian for more specific information.
Information provided by USDA July 30, 2025 and Dr. Kyle Kelly, Tammany Veterinary Clinic

- 1. What is Equine Herpesvirus (EVH)?** Equine herpesviruses are viruses that are found in most horses all over the world. Almost all horses have been infected with the virus and have no serious side effects. It is currently unknown what causes some infected horses to develop the serious neurological forms that may be fatal.
Note: The primary difference between EHV or simply referred to as “rhino” or rhinopneumonitis and Equine Rhinitis Virus (ERV) - formerly classified as equine rhinovirus, lies in their virus family, severity of disease and potential for fatal complications, While both cause respiratory issues in horses, EHV is capable of causing severe neurological damage, abortions, and lifelong latency, ERV is a picornavirus generally associated with milder to moderate respiratory infections.
2. This family of viruses are named by numbers such as EHV-1, -3, -4. There are more viruses in this family, but EHV -1, -3, and -4 pose the most serious health risks for domestic horses.
 - EHV-1: Can cause four manifestations of disease in horses, including neurological form, respiratory disease, abortion and neonatal death.
 - EHV-3: Causes a venereal disease called coital exanthema that affects the external genitalia but has not been shown to affect fertility.
 - EHV-4: Causes a nonfatal upper respiratory tract disease in foals and is uncommonly associated with abortion and rarely with neurological disease.**3. Clinical Signs:** Clinical signs of EHV may not be specific, and some horses may not show any signs of illness. In clinically affected horses, look for:
 - Fever (body temperature >101.5 F/38.6 C).
 - Difficulty urinating
 - Nasal discharge and cough
 - Depression
 - Head tilt
 - Loss of tail tone
 - Stumbling or weakness in the hind limbs that progresses to all limbs and lower limb swelling.
 - Down and unable to rise
 - Abortion in pregnant mares
 - Variable enlargement of the submandibular and/or retropharyngeal lymph nodes.
 - Conjunctivitis, ocular disease including uveitis and keratitis**4.** Respiratory disease caused by EHV is most common in weaned foals and yearlings, often in autumn and winter. Adult horses are more likely than younger ones to transmit the virus without showing signs of infection.
5. How is EVH spread? EHV-1 is contagious and spread by direct horse-to-horse contact via the respiratory tract through nasal secretions. It is important to know that this virus can also be spread indirectly through contact with physical objects that are contaminated with the virus:
 - Human contaminated hands or clothing.
 - Contaminated equipment and tack.
 - Contaminated trailers used for transporting horses.
 - Contaminated wipe rags or other grooming equipment.
 - Contaminated feed and water buckets.**6.** The air around the horse that is shedding the virus can also be contaminated with infectious virus. Although it is known that the virus can be airborne, it is difficult to establish the distance the virus can spread.
7. The virus can survive up to 7 days, but can remain alive for a maximum of one month under perfect environmental conditions. After infection, the incubation period may be as short as 24 hours, but is typically 4–6 days, and can be longer.
8. Vaccinations are available for protection against respiratory disease caused by EHV. There is no widely available or highly effective commercial vaccines for ERV.

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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!

Blueberry Muffins

Leslie made these a couple days ago. Wow!

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar-divided
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 cup Greek-style yogurt
- 2 large eggs beaten
- 1 stick unsalted butter, softened
- 1 T orange zest
- 3/4 cup fresh blueberries
- 1/2 cup cranberries frozen

DIRECTIONS:

- Heat oven to 425°F.
- In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, 1/2 cup sugar, baking powder and salt.

- In a smaller bowl, beat the eggs as well. Stir in the yogurt and cooled butter.
- In another bowl combine the remaining sugar (1/4 cup) with the cranberries and orange zest.
- Fold in the egg mixture into the flour mixture and stir until well combined. Do not overmix. Fold in the cranberry mixture.
- Generously butter the sides and top of 12-cup muffin pan.
- With an ice cream scoop, spoon the batter into prepared muffin tins.
- Bake for 20 minutes or until a cake tester inserted in the muffins comes out clean
- Cool muffins on a wire rack for 5 minutes. Gently loosen with knife or off-set spatula.

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!**



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 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

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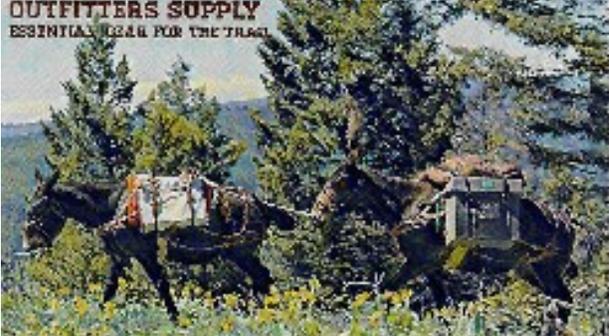
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**Bitter Root
Back Country Horsemen
50 Years of Service**



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, March 19th, 2026

Daly-Leach Community Room

Dinner at 6:00pm Meeting at 5:30pm

Visit our Website:

bchmt.org/bitterroot

**Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen
P.O. Box 1083
Hamilton, MT 59840**