



# 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, APRIL 16th, 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. No guest speaker has been scheduled. Guests are welcome. For more information contact: Diane Duffie: 707-529-8284. Check out our website at: [www.bchmt.org/bitterroot](http://www.bchmt.org/bitterroot) or Facebook: Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen.

### ***THIS ISSUE***

- P. 2. President's message, training, projects.
- P.3. Monture Rendezvous, work project overview.
- P.4. Monture Rendezvous flyer
- P.5 BRBCH 50th anniversary photos
- P. 6. Obstacle course clinic recap.
- Pp. 7 Draft General Meeting Minutes
- Pp.7,8. Draft Board Meeting Minutes.
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- P.12. Advertisers

## Monture Guard Station



## DEADLINE FOR NAG NEWS

Wednesday, May 13th, 2026  
 SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES & ADS  
 TO:  
[djmaiyo@gmail.com](mailto:djmaiyo@gmail.com)

## A message from the President

Hello all and welcome to our newest members, Troy Beaver, Grace Gautier, Dianne & Randy Meyers, Rebecca Miller, Olive Parker, Suzanne Sevalstad-Cook & John Cook, Joan Young and David and Monica Scott. Monica won our 50/50 drawing at our 50th Celebration last month on the day she joined! A very good omen. Several of you came to our 50th celebration and now have an insight into our clubs long history. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves.

Our 50th Celebration was delightful. Barb Walker and her committee did an amazing job pulling it all together. For many, it was a walk down memory lane and for those of us who are newer, a fun history lesson. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves and the delicious food and getting to know the other members as well as reconnection with old members who have moved on.

We have now completed our Defensive Horsemanship classes and first aid, and are ready for our first Project/Outing at Lake Como May 16th. We will be staining tables, camping and riding over 2 or 3 days. It is the perfect setting to get ourselves and horses ready for the project season to come and learn how to camp with horses. It is a relaxed beginning for all.

Our first big Project will be May 30th & 31st at Crazy Creek/Two Good Cabin. In between Projects is the Annual State Rendezvous at Monture Ranger Station June 18-21... where we meet up with other chapters, ride, relax and /or work a fence project on the 17th and 18th, if you want to come early and are so inclined.

On a business note, we have finally seen the USFS's Forest Service Reorganization Plan which includes moving its headquarters from Washington DC to Salt Lake City, closing the regional office in Missoula, and opening a state level office in Helena. Local organizations such as Wild Montana and our own Commissioners are raising their concerns about how our vast public lands will be managed effectively and protected under such a structure, and we here in Montana are right in the center of it all, on the front lines so to speak. BCH chapters through out the US are going to be doing what they can to make us all aware of what is at stake and maybe have some impact.

I hope to see you all at our General Meeting this Thursday the 16th at Daly Leach Community Room. Our Potluck and meeting is open to friends, family and guests..

Your President, Diane Duffie

### Training - Contact Bonnie Morgan

**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 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>
- June 6<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> Coyote Coulee.



## 2026 Monture Guard Station Rendezvous, Fun Ride and Pasture Fencing Project June 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>

**Note:** *This fencing project is completely voluntary; and not a requirement for participation in the Rendezvous.*

The Monture campground will open Wednesday the 17th. Work is to begin Thursday morning. Folks may choose to arrive on Wednesday to get set up, relax or saddle up and ride. High line trees are available throughout the site as are a few stock pens. A water supply and stock troughs are available but it is recommended that you use bio security for your stock. Weed free hay is required 2 days before and during your stay.

Wade Murphy's horsemanship clinic is scheduled for Friday June 19th 1-4pm. There is no charge for this clinic and is limited to 10 participants. Please refer to the flyer and QR code on the next page of this newsletter.

A Saturday evening dinner will be provided at 6:00 pm for \$15 per person. You may send cash or check to: BCH Missoula, PO Box 2121, Missoula, MT 59806. Meal fee must be in before June 5th. The Bitter Root BCH will provide a cook trailer on Wednesday.

**Fencing Project Objective:** Opportunity to support the Forest Service Packing Program by assisting Seeley Lake Ranger District in fencing a new proposed pasture. Please see project site map in this newsletter and on the BCHMT website.

**History:** The area was evaluated and a report done in 2020 by Rachel Fiegley, former Seeley Lake Ranger.

The project of clearing the acreage was started in 2024 by Keith Guschausky, a Forest Service Packer and former BCH member. Keith used a Skid steer with a timber grabber to start the process of making burn piles. At that time materials for the fencing project were purchased by Seeley Lake Ranger district and stockpiled

until the project could be started. Since then the Forest Service has had major layoffs with seasonal employees. The project was projected as a three year project to fence, remove slash, treat weeds and non-native grasses. Keith Guswchausky passed away April 28, 2025 of cancer.

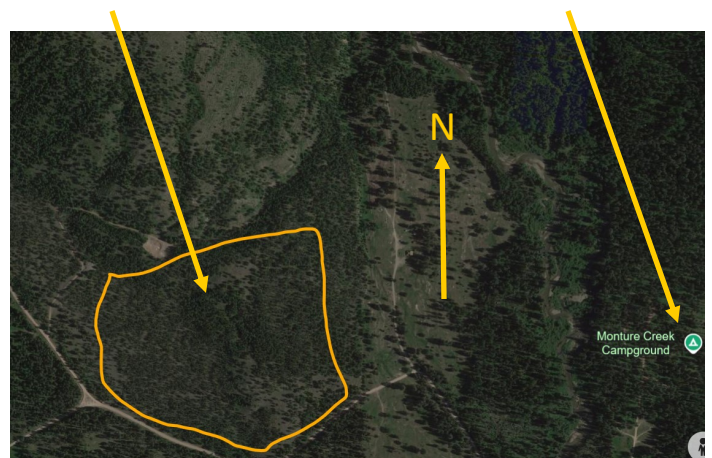
**Scope:** The Back Country Horseman proposed Volunteer work project would involve putting up barbless fence wire and "T" posts. The Forest Service is going to put in "H" braces at corners and specified distances along the fence line.

**Tools:** Tools that volunteers could bring if they have them (but not required) are; fencing pliers, "T" post pounders, tape measure, wire puller and any other tools you may have that would be helpful.

**Personal protection equipment and clothing recommended:** Boots, long sleeve shirts, and work gloves along with eye and ear protection, electrolyte, insect repellent and first aid kit.

If you need more information please contact Mark Wright (Bitter Root BCH): (406) 531-2455 (cell/text). Email: [saberhorse76@gmail.com](mailto:saberhorse76@gmail.com). Also, check out the QR Codes on the Rendezvous announcement flyer in this newsletter.

Fencing project site    Monture Campground



Scan the QR Code to obtain detailed information



# State Back Country Horsemen Rendezvous

## Monture Ranger Station from June 18-21

**Volunteer Opportunity:**  
U.S.F.S Fence-Building  
Project

**Horsemanship  
Clinic with Wade  
Murphy on Friday!**

**Saturday Community Supper 6:00 p.m.**  
**(\$15 per meal)**

**Pulled pork, baked beans, and coleslaw provided.**

**Horses  
welcome,  
but not  
required.**

**Mail meal payment (Checks only) to:**  
**BCH of Missoula**  
**P.O. 2121, Missoula, MT, 59806**

**Questions? Contact Mark  
Wright at  
saberhorse76@gmail.com**

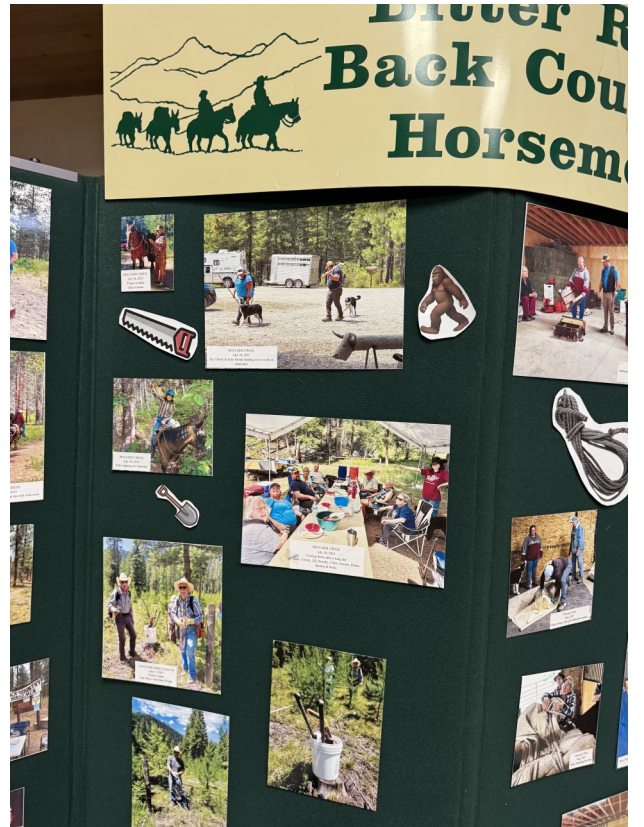
**Wade Murphy  
Clinic**



**More info on  
rendevous**

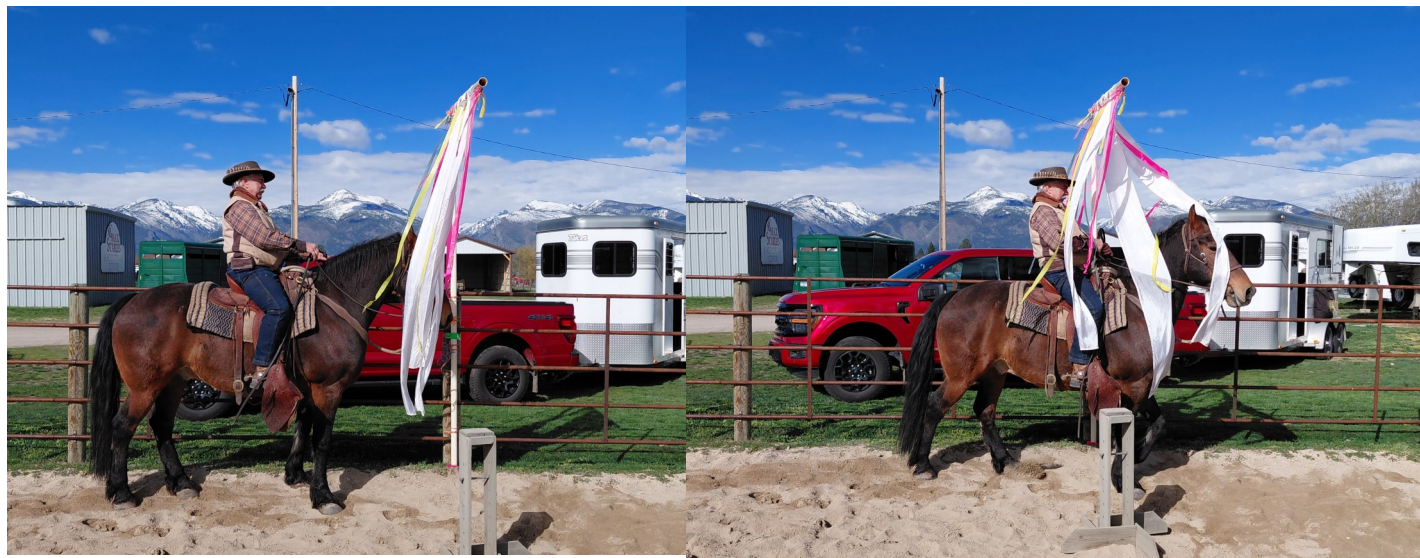


# 50th Anniversary Celebration, Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen!



## April 4th Obstacle Course

A good turnout at the C-Max Stables began at 9:00 till noon. Afternoon session from 1-4.



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

All led the Pledge

Guests: Dan Nelson, president in 1998. Scott Bramstead, and Dave & Monica.

**Bonnie Morgan moved and Travise Grinnell seconded to accept the February general meeting minutes as published in the Nag News.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Convention tickets: Elaine doesn't have all tickets back yet. Please get all tickets (sold or not) back to her.

The Lifetime Membership certificate approved by the board for Chuck Miller was presented to Chuck by Barb Walker, and he was very moved by it.

The 50-year slide show produced by Christy Schram-Duggan and her committee was shown to the attendees and it was very well received. Great job by all who helped on it!

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

Project Committee: Their next meeting is Sunday at 1pm at the fire hall on Willoughby.

Training: 2 spots are available for the morning obstacle course at C-MAX, April 4<sup>th</sup> 9am-1pm. Contact Bonnie Morgan.

The meeting was adjourned and attendees enjoyed a great meal together.

Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell, Secretary BRBCH

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**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN  
DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 2nd, 2026**

The April 2026 Board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by Diane Duffie at 7:01 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, Ed Duggan, Christy Schram-Duggan and past-president Brad Pollman. There was a Board quorum. Committee chairs/members present: Bonnie Morgan, Dan Maiyo, Karen Philips and Earl Philips. Board member absent: Travise Grinnell. All led the Pledge.

**BUSINESS**

**Minutes:** The March 2025 minutes were published in the Nag News. There were no updates. **Ed Duggan moved and Mary Odell seconded to accept the March minutes. Motion carried.**

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

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Mission Valley BCH Spring Ride Sunday May 17.
- Gallatin Valley BCH Poker Ride July 11.
- Christy Schram-Duggan has been appointed BCH of MT state secretary. Congratulations!

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** New and renewal memberships were presented by Barb. We did a paper ballot vote. After approval, there are 60 memberships and 93 members for 2026. The list of approved members will be attached to the printed copy of the minutes. 5 additional people were approved by majority vote. **State Directors:** Brad/ Julie/ Ed. State Convention went well this year.

**State Directors:**

President: Sandy Himmel  
Vice president: Mark Himmel  
Treasurer: Kathy Hundley  
Secretary Christy Schram-Duggan

- 2 resolutions were presented: one was tabled, the other was a unanimous vote to not pass.
- Brad and Travise took second in the cross-cut competition.
- BCHA has a new "Play Nice Policy" (harassment policy) which BCHA encourages chapters to adopt.
- Challenges of retaining memberships were discussed.
- Next Convention to be hosted by Beartooth Chapter in Billings April 2-4, 2027. Billings Hotel and Convention Center. Theme: "On the Trail of Tradition"

**Training:** Bonnie reported on the Saturday Obstacle Class. 1 spot is available in am and one in pm; speak to Bonnie if interested. We may be outside as weather is supposed to be sunny and 60 degrees. First session starts at 9 am, second at 1 pm.

- Saw training schedule TBD.
- May 15/16/17<sup>th</sup> Lake Como camp out.

All national FS saw trainers are now being certified for First Aid/CPR training as well, to help navigate the issues we have with procuring First Aid/CPR certifications.

**Continued next page**

## Board minutes continued

**Projects:** *Rendezvous work project/Fun Ride* at Monture Creek Ranger Station, June 18-21; most volunteers for the fence work are showing up on Wednesday. For Saturday dinner send cash or check, \$15 per person, to: BCH Missoula, PO Box 2121, Missoula, MT 59806. Meal fee must be in before June 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Our Legacy Projects:

- *Two Good Cabin:* May 30-31 clean cabin & bridge measurements. Mid-July (TBD) build bridges. October 17-18<sup>th</sup> close cabin.
- *Larry Creek:* June 6<sup>th</sup> Mary Odell project leader.
- *Coyote Coulee:* June 27<sup>th</sup> Julie Schram project leader.

### Ad Hoc projects:

#### *Project eligibility guidelines:*

1. Minimum of 2 BRBCH members to do a project (this applies to Ad-Hoc Projects).
2. No one rides or hikes alone.
3. 4 people or less, must all come back to the trailhead if one or 2 folks need to leave for the day.
4. To be eligible for the Mileage Reimbursement, the project must be on the listed FS list and the Project Committee (PC) must approve the project.
5. 1 member must be Certified sawyer (Chainsaw or Cross-cut, depending on what is needed), 2 members must be First Aid Certified, anyone being within 15 feet of stock must have Defensive Horsemen class.
6. BRBCH members must email the Project Committee with the date, start time, and location of project so the PC can notify the appropriate District Rangers.
7. SAW First Aid Kit must go on the project if chainsaws are being used.
8. A communication device such as Garmin, Spot, etc. must be taken and used. Must have an outside Point of Contact.
9. Safety Talk must take place before the project starts.
10. Complete the Project Report once project is completed, need to email it to [synbarranch@msn.com](mailto:synbarranch@msn.com). Please text pictures to 406-360-5947.
11. When taking pictures, please keep in mind the proper PPE must be worn. Do not post any pictures on social media.

**Brad motioned and Joan Scheffer seconded that we accept Christy Schram-Duggan as our contact for projects to send reports to the Forest Service. Motion carried.**

Next meeting April 26 Etna Fire Hall @ 1:00 pm.

**Programs:** Pam reported that she hopes to schedule Ashley Phillips with Backcountry Medical Supplies for the April 16 general meeting.

**Public Lands:** Brad presented information on the FS Reorganization. Press release link: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/reorganization>.

**Finance:** Earl discussed our 2 CDs with Clearwater Credit Union and the committee recommended several changes to streamline operations for the treasurer and our chapter.

**Mary Odell motioned and Ed Duggan seconded for the president and vice president to be added to our CD account at Clearwater Credit Union. Motion carried.**

**Brad Pollman motioned and Christy Schram-Duggan seconded that the interest funds from the CDs be moved to our Trails West account to support the BRBCH budget. Motion carried.**

**Christy Schram-Duggan motioned and Mary Odell seconded that both CDs be renewed at Clearwater Credit Union. Motion carried**

**Julie Schram motioned and Dennis Hardman seconded to close the Reserve and Capital Investment savings accounts and deposit funds into one of the operating accounts at Trails West Bank. Motion carried.**

**Joan Scheffer motioned and Julie Schram seconded to commit the \$10,000 CD (1061) as discretionary savings dedicated to Capital Investment Savings and Reserve Savings. Motion carried.**

Discussion followed on club use of credit card (with a limit) vs debit card. Brad brought up using gift cards. This topic was tabled until the next board meeting.

**Constitution:** The committee met March 15<sup>th</sup> and discussed bylaws and debit card language as well as elections and other things. Draft should be ready by July. Next meeting at Willoughby Firehall, April 12 at 2:30 pm.

**Long Range Planning Committee:** The next meeting will be at the end of the month for a Vision Statement; committee is planning to develop a questionnaire for the public.

**Outreach:** Bitterroot Star editor has changed and Karen will meet with the new editor.

**50<sup>th</sup> anniversary:** Lost Horse fun ride planned for June TBD.

## OTHER BUSINESS

**Christy Schram-Duggan motion and Mary O'Dell seconded to donate \$200 to Daly Leach for our use of the building. Motion carried.**

### Summer Meeting Locations

- June 18 Larry Creek (**Conflict with Monture project**)
  - July 16 Coyote Coulee
  - Aug 16 Como (Three Sisters Group Site) (**is a Sunday**)
- Ed Duggan moved and Joan Scheffer seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.** The meeting ended at 8:50 pm.  
Cheyenne Raiser-Grinnell, Secretary BRBCH

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### Equine Herpesvirus Update

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

The following is an update to the article published in the March 2026 Nag News.

Information curtesy Western Horseman Magazine April 2026.

#### By the Numbers

##### 2025-2026 Equine Herpesvirus (EVH –1)

- More than 40 states confirmed EVH-1 cases or exposure during peak outbreak periods.
- 1 to 3 days for fever to appear after exposure
- 28 days commonly recommended quarantine period for exposed horses.
- 103 to 105 degrees F. Typical fever range in affected horses.
- 2 to 10 days virus can be shed after infection.
- 6 feet is the recommended minimum distance to limit nose to nose transmission.
- As of early February 2026, new cases of EVH-1 have been reported in the U.S., including neurologic and respiratory infections in **Montana**, Wisconsin, Maryland and Arizona.

**BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN**  
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**Adobo Black Bean Chili**

This easy and zesty beef and bean chili is chock full of fiber and delivers 28 grams of protein/serving

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 12 ounces 95%-lean ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped (1/2cup)
- 1 medium green bell pepper, chopped (3/4 cup)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 15-ounce can no-salt added black beans, rinsed and drained or 1 3/4 cups cooked black beans.
- 1 14.5-ounce can no-salt added diced tomatoes, undrained.
- 1 cup frozen whole-kernel corn
- 1 8-ounce can no –salt added tomato sauce
- 1 Tbls chipotle chile peppers in adobo sauce, finely chopped
- 2 tsp chili powder
- 1 tsp dried oregano, crushed
- 1 tsp ground cumin

- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- Light sour cream, chopped avocado, shredded reduced fat cheddar cheese and/or lightly crushed baked tortilla chips (optional)

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. In a 4-quart Dutch oven, cook ground beef, onion, bell pepper and garlic until meat is brown and onion is tender; drain fat.
2. Stir in beans, undrained tomatoes, corn, tomato sauce, chipotle, chili powder, oregano, cumin and black pepper, Bring to boil, reduce heat. Simmer, covered for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. If desired, serve with sour cream, avocado, shredded cheese and/or tortilla chips.

Makes 4 servings

**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**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Contact</b>
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


<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>State Directors</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>BCHMT State Chairman</b>
Dennis Hardman	2026-27	Brad Pollamn	2026-27	Mack Long
Joan Scheffer	2026-27	Ed Duggan	2025-26	
Pam Ristad	2026-27	<b>Alt. State Director</b>		<b>BCHMT Vice State Chairman</b>
Ed Duggan	2026-27	Julie Schram	2026	Sandy Himmel
Chris Carrera	2025-26			
Mary Odell	2025-26	<b>BCHMT National Directors</b>		<b>Alt. National Director</b>
Julie Schram	2025-26	Brad Pollman		John Chepulis
Christy Schram –Duggan	2025-26	Connie Long		
Travise Grinnell	2025-26			
		<b>BRBCH Past President</b>		
		Brad Pollman		


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



**NEXT BRBCH MEETING**

**Thursday, April 16th, 2026**

**Daly-Leach Community Room**

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

**Visit our Website:**

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

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