



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen
50 Years of Service

September 2026 Issue #9



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, SEPTEMBER 17th, 2026 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING
Daly-Leach Community Room, 1010 Main St. Hamilton

Potluck Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. The general meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

Guest speaker is member Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell who will describe the use of cryotherapy for equines. Guests and new members always 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.

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Secretary Needed

Individual needed to record and transcribe minutes of Board and General membership meetings, and other pertinent Bitter Root BCH functions that require a transcribed record of proceedings. The current opening is temporary until fall elections. Contact Diane Duffie if you are interested. 707-529-8284



DEADLINE FOR NAG NEWS

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

Advertising Person Needed

Individual needed to solicit local businesses to advertise their business in the Nag News. This important function helps pay for the cost of newsletter printing and mail stamps. No experience necessary. Will Train! Contact Dan Maiyo, Editor of Nag News. 208-940-2887 (cell/text)

A message from the President

We did it. The fair was a great success despite the rain per Christy Duggan, our fearless leader. Attendance was up, proceeds were up and conflicts/problems were minimal. Thanks to all who donated their time and made this such a success! Thank you especially to Christy and Ed for all the time and effort you put into this!

Fall is here (maybe) and we are winding down our projects. Just one more on October 16th to close down the Two Good Cabin for the winter. Contact Ed or Christy Duggan if you are planning to attend. It's a fun easy ride to the Cabin and back.

There is also talk about trying to organize a fun ride this month if this crazy weather permits. Keep your eyes out for an email.

With fall comes Elections for all our Positions; President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Board and

State Delegates. Bonnie Morgan (406-381-9021), Julie Schram (406-241-1353) and Judy Posey (360-713-2035) will be calling everyone to see if you are interested or you can call one of them.

We desperately need a Secretary and are hopeful some bright star will surface to do this essential job.

Along with elections comes planning for our Christmas meeting on December 17th which is a fun gala with prizes and extra special food. Mark your calendars as it is always fun, especially when Barb Walker is organizing it! This is also a good time to renew your membership for next year. You get extra raffle tickets for the Christmas Prizes by doing so.

Happy fall and hope to see you this week Thursday Sept 17th. Potluck begins at 6:30 and meeting at 7:00PM.

Your President, Diane

Tack Sale

The Estate of Chuck Miller
Saturday, Sept. 26th, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.
926 Orchard Dr. Hamilton, Mt 59840

Pack saddles, pack boxes, bridles, Halter, blankets and more. Everything priced to move, some items free,

Cash, check or Venmo accepted. Rain or shine.
For more information contact Katie Miller: 415-350-1760



East Gaters: Above, Dennis and Diane, Left, Leslie and Dan

Estate Sale

Bonnie and John Morgan
Friday, Sept. 18th, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm.
Saturday, Sept. 19th, 9:00 am – noon
1435 Holloran Lane, Corvallis, Mt.

A few horse things, lots of farm and garden tools, canning supplies etc.

Blue Jay Estate Sales

**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES,
AUGUST 20th, 2026**

The August 2026 general meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Diane Duffie at 7:03 p.m. The meeting was held at Three Sisters Campsite. Approximately 31 members were present. There was a board quorum. All members led the Pledge to start the meeting. Guests:

PROGRAM

Program: Christy Schram-Duggan presented new fair information and the new QR code system. Gate cleaning August 30th Manager Training Tuesday Sept 1st. Travise will train Sunday Fair is Sept 3-5, gate sign up was passed around.

BUSINESS

Minutes: Cheyenne. The July minutes were printed in the Nag News. There were no corrections. **Kathy Stropple-Hall motioned and Christy Schram-Duggan seconded to accept the July general meeting minutes as printed/corrected. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Elaine presented the June treasurer's report. There were no questions. **Karen Phillips motioned and Helen Engle seconded to accept the June treasurers report. Motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Announcements:
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

State Directors: Brad/Ed/Julie **Next State Board Meeting: 9/19/2026 in Deer Lodge.**

Education & Training: Due to fires we have not heard from the FS saw trainers. Travise will contact them when the fires die down to get trained up for next year.

Membership: There are currently 64 memberships and 98 members.

Outreach: Karen.

Projects: Ed/Christy next projects:

Two Good Cabin; bridge building postponed for October 17th cabin closing

Programs: Pam

September: Cheyenne with Cryotherapy for horses.

October: photographer?

Fun Rides: Pam & Dennis:

Fair: Christy and Brad. Brad-Gate improvements

Public Lands: Brad: Comment period on the Roadless Rule comment by Sept 21 at the Wild Montana website site. Sheep Creek Mine is in a comment period Aug 14-Sept 13. Go to sheep.creek.comments@usda.gov

Long Range Planning: Brad and Bonnie

Nominating Committee: Bonnie, Julie, Judy, any other volunteers?

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

OLD BUSINESS

Donation of \$50 made to Hamilton Humane Association in Chuck's Memory and name added to Plaque, name also added to Bench at fair.

NEW BUSINESS

Rebecca donated a first aid kit and an emergency kit. Need to take photos when it is opened for how it all goes together.

Judy volunteered to go through the kits and take photos and inventory

Next Meeting: September 17 at Daly Leach Community Room.

Board Meeting Sept. 10th

Coffee: Karen Phillips; Water: Joan Scheffer

Travise Grinnell and Joan Scheffer seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell, Secretary BRBCH

**BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES,
SEPTEMBER 10th, 2026**

The September 2026 Board Meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Diane Duffie at the Daly Leach Chapel Community Room on September 10, 2026, at 6: 58p.m. Members present led the Pledge of Allegiance. Members absent were Ed, Chris, Brad, and Mary O'Dell.

MINUTES

Regarding the August 6th board minutes 3rd page under nominating committee change to education and training.

Travise Grinnell motioned and Joan Scheffer seconded to approve the August 6, 2026 Board Meeting minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Elaine presented the Treasurer's Report. Julie Schram motioned and Travise Grinnell seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Continued next page

Board minutes continued

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FS is putting together a committee to bring volunteers together Ravalli Administrative Committee has been reconstituted and starts in January.

Katie Miller is having a tack sale 1026 Orchard Rd, Sept 26, 10:00-2:00 all of Chucks tack is set to go everything priced to move.

Bonnie Morgan's estate sale is Sept 18-19th 1435 Hollorn Lane, Corvallis.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

State Directors – Ed/Julie

Next State meeting Sept 19, Deer Lodge 10:00am

Programs – Pam

The September program will be presented by Cheyenne Raisor Grinnell on equine cryotherapy.

Membership – Barb

Current membership stands at 64 memberships and 98 members.

Fair – Christy

Over \$313,000 ran through the gates at fair. All the gates ran smooth. Updates for next year were discussed.

Education & Training – Bonnie

Bonnie is still looking for someone to take over education and training.

Travise has coordinated with FS after fire season dies down to recertification our cross cut trainers.

Pam is interested in defensive horsemanship/ obstacle course

Joan would like to head the First aid training

Projects – Ed

The cabin closing is scheduled for October 17.

There was no correspondence regarding ad hoc projects.

We need a new project chair for next year.

Public Lands

Roadless Rule comment period ends Sept 21 and the Sheep Creek Mine comment period ends Sept 13

Constitution Committee – Dan Maiyo

Constitution review tabled to Oct 1 board meeting due to miss-

ing so many board members.

Audit Committee -Barb, Elaine, and Diane volunteered to form the committee.

Long Range Planning Committee

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Entering the Scarecrow contest in Stevensville. If you would like to help set this up contact Pam.

NEXT MEETING

General Meeting Sept 17

Board meeting Oct 1

ADJOURNMENT

Elaine Driscoll motioned and Dennis Hardman seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell

Secretary, Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

Mounted Sheriff patrol at the East Gate





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406-961- 4917 Monday-Friday 8 – 5:30 Saturday–9 – 4:00

Bridling Your Horse

July 20, 2003 by **Buck Brannaman**, Eclectic Horseman Issue No.90

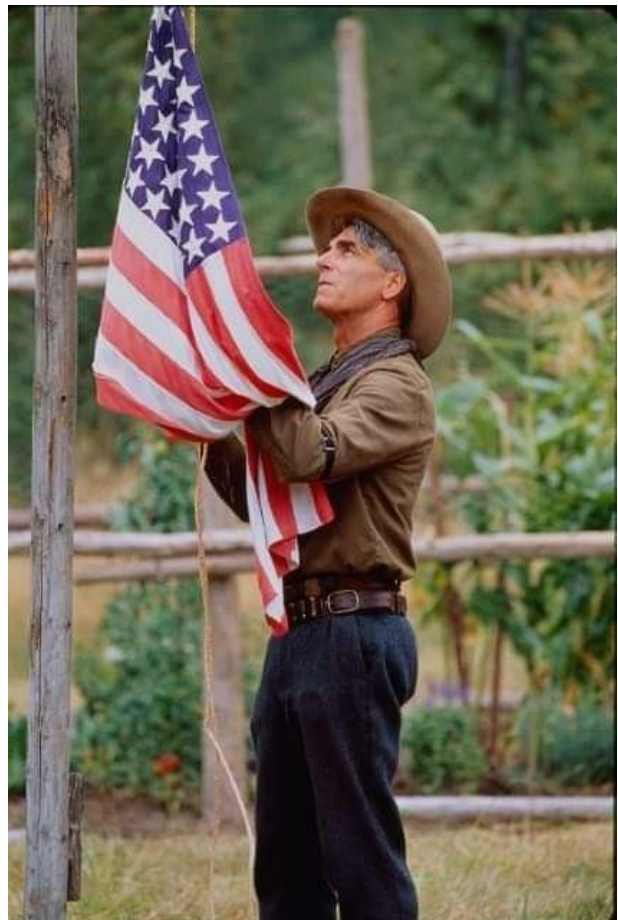
It seems simple enough: bridling your horse. But for any of us who have inherited a bridling problem with a new horse, or created a bridling problem with our own horse, we know that there are numerous ways to fail our horses when it comes time to put the bridle on.

At his clinic in Eagle, Colorado, last summer Buck Brannaman spent time talking with the horsemanship class about getting your horse ready to bridle and how to bridle your horse smoothly. “Now, I want to just talk to you about putting your snaffles on. When you first put your snaffle on a colt, or on a horse that is not good to bridle, the first thing you need to be able to do is mimic the bridling with your halter on. “You need to teach your horse how to put his head down; this causes the seam of his mouth to be perpendicular to the ground. This allows us to slide the bit into his mouth without hitting him on the teeth. When his head is up, you would have to drag that bit over his teeth, which will make him very touchy about being bridled. “You want several approaches to getting his head down. The most simple is to stand on his left side, with your left hand on the nosepiece of the halter, and your right hand just behind his poll. Move your right hand side to side, with a little downward pressure. Any slight try your horse makes in putting his head down, you would release. Pet him, then start again. Pretty soon, he will move his head down lightly off a suggestion. Your left hand helps to keep him in position.”

Another place we can fail our horses is when we go to put their ears under the headstall. “A classic mistake you will see Olympic-class riders make is to pull the headstall back over the horse’s poll, then grab

that ear and snap it forward. That hurts them. The ear is not meant to fold in half and then snap forward. You need to hold the headstall up and push the ear forward, the way it is intended to move.”

In the first few times of bridling a young horse, or if you are working at getting your horse more confident about being bridled, you would want to leave the halter on. You won’t leave it on when you ride, but just when you are putting the bridle on to help keep him in position.



BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN

SPONSORED BY:



The Shirt Spot

1704 N 1st St Unit C
Hamilton MT 59840
406-389-4096

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!

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!**

Chile & Tortilla Hot Dog Casserole

Bring it to the next General Meeting and watch it disappear!

Ingredients

- 8 all beef hot dogs
- 8 flour tortillas
- 2 cans of Chile and beans
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

Directions

1. Wrap each hot dog in a flour tortilla and arrange tightly in a baking casserole dish or 12 inch Dutch oven.
 2. Pour 2 cans of Chile with beans all over the top.
 3. Cover everything with 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese.
- Bake in an oven at 375 degrees F. for 25 minutes.



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
 Open
 Dan Maiyo
 Karen Philips
 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	Open	2026	
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 Pollman	2026-27
Ed Duggan	2025-26

Alt. State Director

Julie Schram	2026
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BCHMT National Directors

Mark Himmel
Connie Long

BRBCH Past President

Brad Pollman

BCHMT State Chairman

Sandy Himmel

BCHMT Vice State Chairman

Chris Nygren

Alt. National Director

John Chepulis

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Left and above: Leslie and Hanna watch the rainbow at the East Gate!



Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

50 Years of Service



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, September 17th, 2026

Daly-Leach Community Room

Dinner at 6:30pm Meeting at 7:00pm

Visit our Website:

bchmt.org/bitterroot

End of long week at the Fair



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