



Nag News

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen
50 Years of Service

October 2026 Issue #10



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, OCTOBER 15th, 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 Mark Wright, who will present a slide show of summer's Monture Guard Station fencing project and rendezvous. 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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DEADLINE FOR NAG NEWS

**Thursday, Nov.
12th, 2026**

**SUBMIT YOUR
ARTICLES & AD TO:
djmaiyo@gmail.com**



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

Happy Halloween!

A message from the President

Happy Fall to all! The leaves are changing and our weather continues to be a mystery. Feels like summer and then it doesn't. Hope all are enjoying this very pleasant respite before winter descends. One more project is still on the calendar, the Two Good Cabin Project which is now scheduled for Sunday, October 18th. Look for an email from Christy early this upcoming week for details and if you haven't signed up but want to participate, just send Christy a message.

October is also the time to begin the process of membership renewals. Early renewals are rewarded with raffle tickets for our Christmas party. October is also time to get the election roster together. All elected positions are open. The Election Committee will be contacting everyone and you are all welcome to contact them on your own if you have any special interest in any of the positions. The committee is Bonnie Morgan (406-381-9021), Judy Posey (360-713-2035), Julie Schram (406-241-1353), and Helen Engle. For those of you who are new to BR BCH, being on the Board is a good way to get to know the club, its members and start getting more involved. It takes a village to run this club!

In November we have elections and begin planning for our December meeting which is more party than business. Our November meeting Potluck is our Thanksgiving

Celebration when members cook their favorite holiday dishes for all, some of which are legendary. Then we have our popular community outreach event where we pack food boxes for Stevensville Pantry Partners. This year we will be putting the boxes together on Nov 30 at the flying D ranch in Victor. It is a really fun event for all and doesn't include heavy lifting! Then we move right on to planning for our Dec 17th meeting with more legendary holiday food and complete with prizes for those who have renewed their memberships early. Then onward to a New Year!

Thank you to all who have participated in our Projects and Club events this year. It has been challenging with unpredictable weather and so much change within the Forest Service but good times have been had and new friendships established. I hope to see you all at the meeting this week.

The program will be a slide show presentation by our member Mark Wright who organized the Monture Guard Station fencing Project. It brought together members of other BCHMT clubs for the first time to work together on a project for the Forest Service. It was incredibly successful and rewarding for all. I hear the video is special and captures the sense of comrade Projects bring.

Happy Halloween to all! Be safe and enjoy.
Diane, Your President



Ravalli County Collaborative Committee Seeks New Members

The Ravalli County Collaborative is a diverse group of volunteers appointed by Ravalli County Commissioners to promote the wise use and management of public natural resources by local, state, and federal agencies within Ravalli County. Currently, the committee has two vacant positions; they are soliciting organizations and seeking applicants to expand the diversity of the committee. At this time, the group has no members representing equine users. The Collaborative has five working committees: Sheep Creek, Coal Creek, Slate Little Boulder, Bitterroot Forest Planning and Travel Plan EIS. The Collaborative Committee meets once a month and sub-committees also meet during the month, so the commitment may include additional meetings.

The Ravalli County Collaborative operates as a consensus group on all decisions. It meets on the second Monday of each month at 6 pm, at the Ravalli County Commissioners Board Room. For more information and obtain an application, contact John Maciel at [209 222-0675](tel:2092220675). Once your application has been processed, an interview with County Commissioners will be set-up and you will be notified about the appointment.

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES,
SEPTEMBER 17th, 2026

The September 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 27 members were present. There was a board quorum. All members led the Pledge to start the meeting. Guests: Terri and Tracy Dennis, Alan Lackey, Brynn, and Elyse.

PROGRAM

Cheyenne Raisor-Grinnell, Cryotherapy: Cheyenne presented a slide show on the use of cold therapy to manage pain, swelling, and inflammation. Techniques include hoses, ice packs, and pressurized CO2. She brought a CO2 machine with 9 various nozzles that provide a targeted, quick application and response. The CO2 exits the tank at -110°F, is applied with a constant motion, and is done in 30-60 seconds. It also works on people, and a member stepped up to have it applied to a persistent swelling. She reported it was tingly and cold, but didn't bother her. The machine has a handheld XR ISO that monitors skin temp, treatment distance, and shows thermal imaging. Fees range from \$20-\$40/treatment area + travel (waived if multiple horses are treated).

BUSINESS

Minutes: The August minutes were printed in the Nag News. There were no corrections. **Kathy Stroppel-Holl motioned and Joan Scheffer seconded to accept the August general meeting minutes as printed. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Elaine presented the September treasurer's report. Added revenue included the fair check for \$5000. There were no questions. **Helen Engle motioned and Judy Posey seconded to accept the September treasurer's report. Motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements: Estate sale at Bonnie Morgan's home, 1435 Holloran Ln, on 9/18, 5:30-7:30, and 9/19, 9-noon. Tack sale at Chuck Miller's home, 1026 Orchard Rd, on 9/26, 10-2. Chuck's home has sold. Mary Odell noted the Woodside Bridge is closed 9/22-25 and 9/29-10/1 to conduct foundation studies for a new bridge.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

State Directors: Diane, Christy, and Ed are attending the State Board Meeting on 9/19/2026 in Deer Lodge.

Nominating: Bonnie, Julie, and Judy will be contacting members to develop a list of candidates to be presented at the October meeting. Positions include: President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary, 5 directors, and 1 state director.

Membership: There are currently 64 memberships and 98 members.

Outreach: Karen will be preparing thank you cards the week of 9/28 for the fair volunteers. Kathy and Joan will

help.

Projects: The next project is closing Two Good Cabin on 10/17 or 18, led by Christy and Ed. New project chairs are needed for 2027 as Christy and Ed have other commitments.

Programs: Pam noted the October program will be a slide show by Mark Wright on the Monture Rendezvous and fencing project.

Fair: Barb delivered Christy's report. Big thanks to all the gate volunteers and our amazing IT folks. Numbers: 38,956 gate scans, \$302,173 net ticket sales, \$313,960 gross sales, \$52,615 in tickets bought online before fair, and \$48,100 in tickets bought at the fair office before fair. Gate traffic was 11.9% higher than 2025.

Public Lands: Comment period on the Roadless Rule ends Sept 21.

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

Constitution/Bylaws: Dan M presented drafts of the revised Constitution and new Bylaws at the 9/11 Board meeting. The Board tabled discussions to the 10/1 meeting. Kathy encouraged the directors and officers to review these documents that were prepared over a 3-year period.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Pantry Partners Box Pack: Scheduled for Monday, 11/30th. Barb will check if it can be changed to Fri, and will see if the church community room is available.

Stevi Scarecrow Contest: Pam talked about putting in an entry in the non-profit category. There are lots of good ideas. Entries due 9/28, setup is 10/1 from 12-7 and 10/2 from 9-4. Prizes range from \$50-\$100.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dave Schilz is looking to meet people and ride!

Next Meeting: October 15 at Daly Leach Community Room

Coffee: V DeLeo; Water: Christy Schram-Duggan
Karen Philips motioned and Julie Schram seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Kathy Stroppel-Holl, Temporary Secretary BRBCH

BITTER ROOT BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES,
OCTOBER 1st, 2026

The October 2026 board meeting of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) was called to order by President Diane Duffie at the Daly-Leach Community Room on October 1, 2026 at 7:02. Present were President Diane Duffie, Vice-President Barb Walker, Acting Secretary Karen Philips and Treasurer Elaine Driskell; Directors Chris Carrera, Ed Duggan, Travise Grinnell, Dennis Hardman, Pam Ristad, Joan Scheffer, Julie Schram, and Christy Schram-Duggan. Absent were Director Mary Odell and State Director Brad Pollman. There was a Board quorum. Committee chairs/members present: Bonnie Morgan and Dave Schilz. All led the Pledge.

MINUTES: The September 10th board meeting minutes were published in the September issue of the Nag News. **Joan Scheffer motioned and Julie Schram seconded to approve the September 10, 2026 minutes as published. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Elaine presented the October account balances. There were no updates. She also included an expense/income report. **Dennis Hardman motioned and Joan Scheffer seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Donations from Katie Miller include three Decker pack saddles, one Sawbuck saddle, three cross-cut saws and four panniers for salt blocks. Thank you, Katie!

COMMITTEE REPORTS: State Directors – Ed/Julie reported on the state meeting on 9/19 at Deer Lodge. A “Light on the Land” brochure is being drafted by Kathy Hundley and she is looking for feedback. Ed said the state BCH is no longer ordering belt buckles because of the expense involved. Once the FS approves it, each chapter will get \$625 for personal protective equipment; chapters must purchase PPE, and then show it being used in order to get the funds. Ed and Travise will check our PPE inventory. Dec.12, 10 am, is the next state meeting at the new National. Museum of Forest History in Missoula. Defensive Horsemanship cards will no longer be provided by the state. We need to start thinking about digital payment systems.

Membership – Barb reported that we have 64 memberships and 98 members.

Nominating – Bonnie reported that due to two committee members moving, the group is just now getting started calling members. Judy Posey and Julie Schram are on the committee with Bonnie.

Outreach – Karen reported that she, Joan Scheffer and Kathy Stoppel-Holl wrote and mailed thank you notes to all fair volunteers on Monday, 9/28. She thanked Nancy Pollman for creating a summary of our efforts that she printed and we included with each card, Christy Schram-Duggan and Earl Philips for providing and editing the database of names, and Joan and Kathy for writing the notes. Great team!

Projects – Ed/Christy reported that the Two Good cabin closing

is scheduled for October 17 or 18. There was no correspondence regarding ad hoc projects. We need a new project chair for next year. Elaine will end Garmin service for the year.

Public Lands – Julie/Diane reported on the Roadless Rule which the Dept. of Agriculture is pushing to rescind; the comment period ends Oct. 6. “A River Runs Through It” legislation has been introduced but needs more support from Montana legislators. Clean Water Act is moving through legislation with changes being made to remove some waterways from protection.

Constitution/Bylaws – Dan Maiyo was absent so this discussion will be postponed until the next board meeting. A few suggestions were made and they will be forwarded to the committee to consider.

Programs – Pam reported that Mark Wright will provide a Power point presentation on this summer’s Monture Guard Station Rendezvous and fencing project. Pam suggested that we have a chapter fun get-together there next year.

Sunshine – Send congratulations and condolences to Jenna Wright. Karen suggested we send a sympathy card to Duane Krown’s family. He and Maxine were members through 2025. He passed away on Sept. 15 and his celebration of life will be held next summer. Duane’s name will be added to the Bitterroot Humane Association plaque and the fair’s memorial bench plaque.

OLD BUSINESS: Insurance – Diane reported that a committee was established to make recommendations for the board to consider and it includes Judy Posey, Barb Walker and Pam Ristad (chair).

Bitter Root 2026 Challenge Cost Share Mileage Reimbursement – Christy emailed figures to board members. We donated about \$18,000 in labor and 2,853 miles in travel. When the state BCH gets all the information, they will forward it to the appropriate FS agency. She doesn’t expect reimbursement until December at the earliest. Christy will forward all this to Joni Lubke at the FS.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OTHER BUSINESS: Pantry Partners – Barb reported that it will take place at the Flying D Ranch on Monday, Nov. 30. The Flying D Ranch is located on Mittower Road in Victor.

Scarecrow Contest – Our participation was canceled this year because of the short notice but will be considered for next year.

Getting New Members: Pam asked us start thinking of ideas. Eva-Marie Maggi’s packing clinic for Target Range seventh and eighth graders was mentioned. The Fourth Grade Farm Fair was also mentioned as an event to consider for our participation.

NEXT MEETING: October 15 at Daly-Leach Community Room.

Coffee: Virginia DeLeo, hot water: Diane Duffie.

ADJOURNMENT: Joan Scheffer motioned and Julie Schram seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Karen Philips, Acting Secretary, Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



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

Mushroom Toxicity in Horses It's been an unusual season for mushroom growth in pastures. Know the facts!

Identification is difficult and prevention is key.

Which Mushrooms Are Dangerous

Many wild species contain potent toxins that can damage the liver, kidneys, or nervous system. The most notorious for horses is ***Amanita phalloides*** (death cap), which contains amatoxins that cause irreversible liver and kidney damage. Other toxic genera include *Cortinarius* and *Amanita* species, and some *Agaricus* varieties. Even small amounts can be fatal, and there is **no proven tolerance** after repeated exposure.

Toxin types in poisonous mushrooms

Hepatotoxins (e.g., amatoxins) – destroy liver cells.

Nephrotoxins (e.g., orellanine) – damage kidneys, sometimes with delayed onset.

Neurotoxins (e.g., muscarine, ibotenic acid) – disrupt nerve function.

Symptoms of Mushroom Poisoning

Signs can range from mild to life threatening and may be delayed:

Early: colic, diarrhea, loss of appetite.

Progressive: weakness, lack of coordination, seizures.

Severe: liver/kidney failure, respiratory distress, death.

Some toxins (like orellanine) can cause kidney damage days to weeks later, even if the horse appears fine initially.

Safe vs. Unsafe

Unsafe: Most wild mushrooms, especially *Amanita* and *Cortinarius* species.

Potentially safe: Some cultivated mushrooms (e.g., white button, portobello) are safe in moderation, but wild species cannot be reliably distinguished without expert ID

Caution: Even “safe” species may cause digestive upset in some horses.

Prevention

Do not feed wild mushrooms without expert confirmation.

Manage pasture: fence off mushroom rich areas, remove toxic species where possible.

Educate: Learn local mushroom species and their risks; consult a mycologist or veterinarian.

Avoid myths: Horses do not develop immunity to toxic mushrooms.

What to Do if Ingestion Occurs

Stay calm and monitor the horse's condition.

Collect a sample of the mushroom for identification.

Contact a veterinarian immediately — do not wait for symptoms.

Supportive care may include IV fluids, anti emetics, and organ support; there is no universal antidote.

Bottom line

Wild mushrooms are a significant risk to horses. Prevention through pasture management and education is the best protection. Contact your local Ag extension for more information.

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!**

Stuffed Green Peppers (12 or 14 inch Dutch Oven)

Ingredients

6-8 green peppers, par boiled
1 lb. lean hamburger
1 chopped onion
1/2 cup white rice
Salt and pepper to taste
1 can (10 1/2 oz.) tomato sauce

1 tsp. A-1 Steak Sauce

3/4 cup water

Directions

1. Mix together meat, onion, rice, salt, pepper, steak sauce and 1/4 cup tomato sauce and stuff the peppers!
2. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes to 1 hour.
3. For Dutch oven, 10 coals on bottom, 12 to 14 on top.



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
 Open
 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

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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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)



Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

50 Years of Service



NEXT BRBCH MEETING

Thursday, October 15th, 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