



February 27, 1975
Revised March 17, 1999
Revised November 2004
Revised November 2010

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF MISSOULA

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

This Organization was formed with a three-fold purpose: service to the back country, education of horsemen, and representation in land use planning and management.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND MISSION

Section 1.--The name of this organization shall be Back Country Horsemen of Missoula, hereinafter referred to as BCHM, and shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Montana as a nonprofit educational corporation. The address of the BCHM is P.O. Box 2121, Missoula, Montana 59806, or an address deemed more appropriate by the Board of Directors.

Section 2.--The mission of the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula is:

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
2. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreation and stock use.
3. To assist the various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands.
4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustained use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen organizations.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.--Membership shall be composed of any individual interested in promoting the purpose as stated in Article I and in good standing.

Section 2.-- Sponsorships may be acquired by individuals, businesses or organizations interested in supporting the purpose as stated in Article I.

Section 3.--Individual and family dues, and sponsorship fees shall be determined by a majority vote at a regularly scheduled general meeting. Membership applications, whether an initial application or a renewal, are subject to approval by the Chapter's Board of Directors.

Section 4.--There are no prorated dues. Any membership dues received after October 1, will be applied to the following calendar year.

Section 5.--Any person 8 -18 years of age, not otherwise qualifying for membership with a family group, and interested in promoting the purpose as stated in Article I, may be accorded a junior membership for \$15.00 per year.

Section 6.-- An applicant may be denied membership, or a member may be expelled, terminated or suspended for conduct which is harmful to the Chapter or its members or which impairs the functioning of the Chapter or its activities or damages the reputation of the Chapter or for actions which are not commensurate with the mission of the Chapter.

The Chapter shall provide any applicant denied membership, or any member considered for expulsion, termination or suspension, no less than 20 days prior written notice of the reasons for the denial, expulsion, termination or suspension. The written notice shall be mailed first class and certified mail and addressed to the applicant at the address shown on the application or to a member at the member's last known address as shown on the Chapter's records.

The applicant or member shall have an opportunity to be heard by the Chapter's Board of Directors, orally or in writing, no less than 5 days before the effective date of the denial, expulsion, suspension or termination. The applicant's or member's request to be heard orally, or a written statement responding to the notice of denial, expulsion, termination or suspension, shall be delivered to the Chapter President no less than 10 days before the effective date of the denial, expulsion, suspension or termination. The written notice shall be mailed certified mail and addressed to the President at his/her last known address as shown on the Chapter's records.

ARTICLE III: VOTING

Section 1.--Each member 16 years of age or older and in good standing shall be entitled to one vote on all matters voted upon during a regular or special meeting.

Section 2.--A minimum of 12 members is required to conduct general meeting business. A simple majority rules.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1.--Monthly meetings shall be established and held at a time decided by a majority vote at a general meeting as needed.

Section 2.--Special meetings may be called by the president, or upon written request signed by any three directors, or upon written request signed by any 12 members

Section 3.--Board meetings shall be held at the convenience of a majority of the directors. The general membership is welcome at the board meetings but shall have no vote.

Section 4.--Twelve members including the president or his or her designee constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any general or special meeting of this organization. Simple majority rules.

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1.--Officers of this organization shall consist of the following: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2.--Six Directors, two State Directors, the elected officers, and the immediate past President will constitute the Board of Directors for a total of 13. In any year in which a single board member serves two or more functions, additional Directors will be elected to ensure the board consists of 13 individuals.

Section 3.--Any vacancy in any elected position shall be filled by an election by the Board of Directors for the balance of such term (except President, which will be filled by the Vice President).

Section 4.--All elected officers and directors must be members in good standing.

Section 5.--Seven members including the president or his or her designee constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any board meeting of this organization. Simple majority rules.

ARTICLE VI: DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1.--The authority of this organization shall be lodged in assembled meetings. The officers and directors shall conform to the wishes and instructions of the membership but subject to such control and direction by the organization, the Board of Directors (BOD) shall manage and execute the affairs of the organization.

Section 2.--It shall be the duty of the President to:

1. Preside over meetings of the organization.

2. Exercise general executive control over the affairs of said organization.
3. Call special meetings of the organization.
4. Perform all other duties pertaining to such office. The President shall be an ex-officio member on all committees and also may co-sign checks for disbursement of funds.

Section 3.--The Vice President shall assist the President when called upon to do so, and in the absence of the President be vested with all the powers and duties of the President. The Vice President may also co-sign checks for disbursement of funds. Arrangement of general meeting sites and programs shall be the responsibility of the Vice President.

Section 4.--The Secretary shall record and keep the minutes of all regular, special and board meetings; shall be responsible for the preparation of correspondence on behalf of the organization; shall maintain a file of correspondence sent and received for organizational records; and shall perform those duties as pertain to this office and/or special instructions from the Board.

Section 5.--The Treasurer shall keep and disburse all funds of the organization and shall keep a written account of same which shall be open for inspection by any member. The Treasurer shall furnish a written report of the state of the finances monthly, and shall be one of the three check signers of record, any two of which may validate a check. All funds shall be kept in a bank account. The Treasurer shall maintain the membership list and sponsor list and reconcile the receipts. However, the Treasurer may delegate maintenance of the membership list to the membership committee chair.

Section 6.--The Board of Directors will appoint a committee of three—two Board members and one from the general membership to audit the treasurer's books by the January meeting.

ARTICLE VII: ELECTIONS

Section 1.--All officers and directors shall be elected by a majority vote at the regularly scheduled November meeting, and their terms of office shall be the following calendar year.

Section 2.--Directors' vacancies will be filled by 2-year terms with three vacancies occurring one year and three the following year.

Section 3.--Two State BCH Directors and one alternate representing this organization shall be elected at the regular annual election in November. State Directors shall be or have been a club officer or director of this organization. State Directors will be elected for staggered two year terms and the alternate will be elected for a one year term. Terms for these positions will commence at the first State Board meeting after State Convention. Voting privileges on the Missoula Board of Directors will be accorded these two positions.

Section 4.--No officer or board member shall hold the same office for more than three consecutive terms.

Section 5.--A nominating committee of three members shall be appointed by the President one month prior to regular election of officers. The purpose of the nomination committee shall be to provide a list of suitable candidates for this organization's officers and directors to the membership.

Section 6.--Nominations for officers and directors may also be provided by the membership from the floor.

ARTICLE VIII: REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

Section 1.--Notification of action to remove an officer or director must be made at the regular meeting preceding the meeting that the action is to take place.

Section 2.--Action to remove an officer or director requires a two-thirds majority vote of voting members present at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES

Section 1.--The committees necessary for the function of this organization shall be designated by the organization's President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 2.--The committee chair (s) will be appointed by the President with approval of the organization's Board of Directors who will in turn appoint their committee members as necessary to accomplish their committee's function.

Section 3.--The committee Chairs will submit their charter to the President.

ARTICLE X: CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order unless in conflict with this Constitution.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

Section 1.--This constitution and by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting or special meeting of the organization by a majority vote. Notice of a proposed amendment shall be given to the organization at the preceding general meeting.

History of the constitution of the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula:

The original constitution was adopted February 27, 1975. A major revision: March 17, 1999. A major revision: November 2004. A major revision: November 2010.