

Montana Back Roads 4x4 Club, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
March 31, 2008

Montana Back Roads 4x4 Club, Inc., meeting called to order at Montana Club, North Reserve Street, Missoula, MT at 6:35 pm by President Willie Worthy.

Members present: Steve, Ellen, Zak and Derek Emerson, Willie and Jeanne Worthy, Shawn Martinich and children, Rachel Maxwell, Mark Pickles, Ron Burris, Mike and Marcella Lenz, Bruce Erickson, Craig Happ, Jeff MacGill, Joe Lorenzo, Larry Garrison, Jason Vaughn and daughter, and guests Bill and Charlene Boldt, Jordan McIntire, Steve Schardt, Curtis Evelo, Charlie Correll, Fred McDowell, Rob Parker, and Jim Younkin. All stood and introduced themselves and shared a bit of information (where they work, what they drive, etc.)

Club has \$465.16. \$300.16 was carry over from 2007, paid \$15 for yearly State of Montana corporation filing fee, income of \$180.00 from dues.

Club needs a new board member since Jeff Wankier did not rejoin. Mike Lenz volunteered.

Arrasta Creek info: club received email from Dan Ritter, District Ranger, Stevensville Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest, stating that early last summer a few District employees did drainage work with hand tools. There was good vegetative growth and he feels it won't be necessary to do anything further other than making sure the runoff stays in the creek channel. He did say he appreciated our offer to help and will pass on the information to Deb Gale, the Bitterroot NF trails coordinator.

Beaverhead Deer Lodge forest plan, at first it didn't seem as if we lost too much, but 45 percent will be closed to vehicle travel, with 39 percent closed to snowmobiles and winter travel. Wilderness will almost double at 329,000 square miles. Right now there are 676,000 SQUARE miles open to logging, which will be cut to 299,000. The comment period ended today, but will probably be extended. If so, Willie will send a sample letter that members can add to or change.

Willie presented some information regarding the Forest Service and dealing with them, mostly about remembering to be friendly and that they're just doing their job. Full information is posted on web site.

Jeff reported that Forest Service is concerned about liability with people working on trails. Liability insurance would cost in the \$700 range. We'd need a letter from FS stating what they need coverage wise for a complete quote. Bruce commented that on the Blacktail/Wild Bill Trail in Polson area that trail work is done as a partnership with FS rather than as volunteers. Bruce will continue to check into this, as will Jeff. It's a possibility that if club were member of United

Four Wheel Drive Association, or even rejoined Montana 4x4 Association, that we could be covered under their insurance. Some of the problem is that FS doesn't want to pay employees to work on weekends when most volunteers are available.

Club decals are available from Jeff at what it cost Jeff to make them. Get your!

Dorey Rowland and Nick Roberts from the Missoula Food Bank spoke on what the food bank does, who it serves, and how the club can help them. In 2007 they served almost 14,000 clients (40 percent children). If you feel you need food bank help, it is available to anyone once a month. They're located on Third Street across from Berneice's Bakery (near Higgins Avenue) and will do tours. We volunteered to help with the Letter Carrier's Food Drive on Saturday, May 10. She also said we could possibly do a "personal necessities" drive at one of our meetings, and donate such things as shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc.

Trips: any member can lead one, just send an email with the details. Lets get active and lead some trips.

Mark suggested we come up with a calendar of upcoming trips so that members can schedule their time.

Willie and Ron MacDonald plan to return to Melrose area again (near Dillon). Would like to do Magruder Corridor (Darby to Elk City, ID), a long day trip or possible overnight, and then on to Buffalo Hump area from Elk City (will probably be at least mid July due to snow depth). Probably Thompson Lake as well during the summer.

Jason has a powerpoint projector, so he and Willie will work on gathering photos of trips from members.

We'll have a speaker from the Sheriff's Search and Rescue team for meeting in June. Mike said we could meet at his shop and volunteered the lift at his business once it gets warmer for members to check underneath their vehicles. NOT to work on things, but to see what may need work.

All agreed that we should make the Montana club our meeting place from now on.

Ron B. mentioned that Divide Ride starts July 10 in Whitehall area again, all week long with two new trails. Register and info at www.montanadivideride.com

Club decision was to not rejoin Montana 4x4 Association, but what do we want to do as a club. No consensus at this time, so Willie will send an email on what we want to do.

Drawing for fleece blanket.

Bruce was very surprised to be honored with TWO birthday cakes sent by his wife Lori to share with the club on his 50th birthday.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Jeanne Worthy