

Montana Back Roads 4x4 Club, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2010

Montana Back Roads 4x4 Club, Inc., meeting called to order at 6:20 pm by President Willie Worthy at Jaker's Restaurant, Brooks, Missoula, MT.

Members present: Pete and Karen Elmer, Derek Emerson, Joe Lorenzo and Jenny, Erik Englebert and Kami, Curtis Evelo, Dick and Sue Riebe, Willie and Jeanne Worthy, Steve Knutsen, Jim Younkin, Dan Simons and friend, and guests Gil Floyd, William Babington, Jeremy Hitchcock and wife from J&K, James Riggs, and Will Daniel.

Old Business:

MISSOULA FOOD BANK: The club received a thank you card from the Missoula Food Bank for our help at Thanksgiving, November 23 and 24 at the Missoula County Fairgrounds. They gave away 1300 turkeys along with bags of trimmings and such, using 120 volunteers. Club volunteers were Chris Evelo and kids, Jeanne and Willie, Jim, Dick and Sue, Fred McDowell, and Marie Hillberry and her two teenagers.

At Christmas the Missoula Food Bank received a \$5000 donation from the Denny and Phyllis Washington Foundation (they've donated over \$100,000 to the Food Bank since it was formed in 1988!), as well as 800 pounds of food. The Food Bank collected 61,837 pounds of food as well as monetary donations of \$187,029 over the Christmas drive. 150 volunteers gave 300 hours of time to collecting and organizing food donations! The main sponsors this year were Albertsons, the Missoulian and Mountain Water Company. Club volunteers who picked up food and delivered it to the Food Bank are: Willie and Jeanne, Fred McDowell, Jim, and Dick and Sue.

The Missoula Food Bank's Postal Food Drive is upcoming on Saturday, May 8, and they'll need drivers to transport food from the various post offices. Willie will send an email with more information.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND EXPENDITURES:

\$10.00 to reimburse Willie to join Ravalli County Off Road User's Association
\$ 2.88 to reimburse Willie for phone bill regarding web site
\$15.00 to reimburse Willie for state filing fee for club

Joe reported we have approximately \$300 in the treasury and stated that dues of \$45 need to be paid by the first of June (which includes \$25 for M4x4A). He will send an email reminder. If you haven't paid by the end of June, you'll be dropped from the membership list.

Discussion ensued that several members were not receiving mailed information from Montana 4x4 Association, including the Divide Ride entry. Willie will check into this.

T-SHIRTS: Joe checked at the Shirt Shop for club t-shirts, forgot to bring information as he's leaving this weekend for Moab. Curtis also brought some figures from Exact Images, and we'll discuss the two proposals at the May meeting.

FOREST SERVICE "ROUND TABLE" discussion was held in Missoula on April 13, Tuesday, to begin discussion of setting similar standards for all forests (currently they're all different). Willie had signed up to attend, but Jeanne was in Everett, WA and didn't remind him he was supposed to go! The meeting was heavily attended, with both Jim and Dick representing our club. Mike Jeffords from RCORUA stated after meeting that he thought more people were supporting off roading, while Dick thought mostly people were listening, while Jim felt that the Forest Service is listening, but they'll do whatever they want anyway. Access was the foremost topic...whether it be for recreation, fire prevention, or fire wood.

LIBRARY GUEST SPEAKER: Joyce Doyle, Missoula Public Library, was our very dynamic guest speaker sharing all that the library now offers, ranging from books, of course!, to current DVDs, to books on C/D, to downloadable audio books (2000 titles!), to "Play Aways" where you check out a MP3 player with book ready to listen to, to their e-databases featuring magazines, children and adult novel lists, test sites (for SAT, post office, fire exams, etc.), genealogy, small engine repair, elder care, auto repair, and more. The library also offers computer classes, health information, 24 hour reference service, and now home delivery of items for small charge of \$3. All other services are FREE. You can obtain a library card at their web site www.missoulapubliclibrary.org or at the library. Jeanne also wrote more about library services in article on our web site.

TRIPS: If you want to have trips, someone needs to lead them, and Willie will offer suggestions. He plans only a few local trips this summer, to finish double checking some mileages for 4x4 Trails of Montana book. He will be in the Melrose area (near Dillon) for about four days, and to the Moose Lake area which is to the southwest of Anaconda for an overnight two day trip.

DIVIDE RIDE: M4x4A has some great trails in the Boulder area this year. Check out their web site at www.montandivideride.com. Larry, Willie and Jeanne plan to be there for the full week.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT: Curtis, who is our regional Vice President for M4x4Association, would like to resign as he has too many family obligations at this time. The duties of VP are to attend quarterly state meetings (usually held in Helena, with one at the annual Divide Ride), answer questions about the association, and send reports to 4XForum newsletter. Curtis brought up that we need every member to consider writing something for the newsletter, perhaps could rotate it each quarter to give everyone a turn? Dick mentioned that he is Past President of M4x4A and if new President is elected, he will no longer be Past President, so would be interested in the regional VP position.

MOUNTAIN JACKS: Dick attended Mountain Jacks club meeting recently and spoke on joining M4x4A. They're re-aligning club, and general consensus is they need to be more involved with multiple use, land use, and recreational use, rather than just racing.

TIRE COVERS: The seven tire covers that members ordered back in December finally arrived and look fantastic. They will put our club's logo into view on the trails, city streets and highways and hopefully let more people be aware that there is a club in the Missoula area

RAMP: Willie plans to work on it this weekend, hopefully finish it up, and would appreciate any club help on it. Perhaps it will be at the Vehicle Show.

NEW MEETING PLACE AND ENCOURAGING NEW MEMBERS: Joe asked Will and James to come to tonight's meeting after seeing them at car wash with their almost twin FJs. We need to promote club in more ways...any suggestions? If we do have more members, we'll need a larger meeting place. Any thoughts? Guy's Steak House in Lolo was mentioned as possibility; as was Joker's Wild since bars are now "no smoking", and they also have conference room in the basement. Joe will check out Sean Kelly's basement rental area. Katie's Bar at Brooks/Stephens area is also a possibility.

MOUNTAIN JACKS OFF ROAD CLUB 1ST ANNUAL 4X4 AND OFFROAD SHOW, MAY 15, 9 TO 4, KARL TYLER CHEVROLET: Jeremy Hitchcock brought posters and entry forms. He encouraged us to participate as a club, put up banners, and put one of member's vehicles on our ramp. Insurance liability precludes use of it by everyone. \$10 pre-registration by May 1 for larger vehicles (trucks, Jeeps and such, buggies, sand dragsters, etc.) and \$5 for smaller vehicles (ATVs, bikes, snowmobiles, etc.) He stressed that it is for "user vehicles" not just "show" trucks. Send entry to Mountain Jacks Offroad Club, 2215 27th Avenue, Missoula, MT 59804 or call J&K Customs at 541-2119 or Larry at 274-2301. They'll have some vendors there also: Blue Ribbon Customs, AEV, Sierra Club, and RCORUA so far. Willie will send out email with all information.

Jeremy owns J&K Custom on Murphy Street off of Broadway, has bender, does fabrication, and has started carrying some off road products in stock.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Fred McDowell suggested that we have Beverly Dupree, of the Great Burn Study Group, come speak at one of our meetings; this group is pushing for setting aside approximately 300,000 acres in the Lolo National Forest as wilderness.

May 20, Jaker's Restaurant on Brooks, 6 pm, Marilyn Marler weed specialist for Missoula County, being "weed aware" in the back country.

June 24, Jaker's Restaurant on Brooks, 6 pm, Pete Lawrenson with Montana Rail Link, will speak on RR safety as well as law enforcement problems associated with the RR, and share some of his humorous encounters.

Tentative July 22, Jaker's Restaurant on Brooks, 6 pm, Sharon Sweeney, Superior District Ranger, Forest Service, interpreting all the FS acronyms and terms.

Tentative August club party

Tentative September History of Montana Rail Link and early railroads in Montana.

Tentative October Lee Scharff, who is consultant with law enforcement agencies, on safety and survival.