

Montana Back Roads 4x4 Club, Inc.
Minutes
October 21, 2010

Montana Back Roads 4x4 Club, Inc., meeting called to order at 6:25 pm by President Willie Worthy at Joker's Wild Restaurant, North Reserve Street, Missoula.

Members present: Evelo family, Willie and Jeanne Worthy, Larry Garrison, Paul Schaller, Steve Gehring, Eric Englebert, Dick Riebe, Pete Elmer, Bruce Erickson, Steve Knutson and Brittany, Gil Floyd, Dan Simon, and guests Will Daniels, Lonnie Labbe, and Jay Schweitzer.

After this meeting please email me as to your opinion on this meeting place.

Election: We need to have election for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and five board of directors by the first of January, 2011. Board members are required under our 501c incorporation, but don't really have to do much of anything. In the past they have just kind of been volunteered. I have been President from the start and am kind of getting burnt out. Hopefully some one else will step up and get the club more involved in community relationships, organize more club trips, increase our membership and get more enthusiasm going within the club.

Ideas for Club Projects/Money Curtis commented that back at the club meeting of May 10, Treasurer Joe Lorenzo mentioned spending club money as donation to Tellico or some such project, rather than just having it in account. There is approximately \$500 or so in the account (and club already does contribute to both Blue Ribbon Coalition and United 4Wheel Drive Association through Montana 4x4 Association dues). Curtis asked each member and/or guest to bring an idea to next meeting, then members could divide into groups of four or five to discuss and research, and then bring information to the board of directors for options. Curtis' ideas include jack leg fencing to keep vehicles on trails in Thompson Lake area, and signage for Telegraph Butte/Blue Mountain area. There has been some input by individuals on these projects, but a group of four to five would have more impact. Curtis will send out email. Joe had said he'd contact prospective sponsors. Club definitely needs ideas/brainstorming, as members have a wealth of information and contacts that are not being utilized. Willie asked Dick about possibility of working with his Forest Service District Ranger brother in Big Hole area, Dick will check. Pete mentioned that each forest has a Resource Advisory Committee and club should have a member who is involved with each (he is on the Bitterroot NF one).

Tire Covers: Eric's flew off and was lost on I-90 on way to Carruthers Lake, while Bruce's came off during "turbo dry" at car wash (luckily, he found it!)—so be aware!

Past Trips: Dick, Bill Boldt, Joe, Jeanne and I went up to Blacktail/Wild Bill trail out of Polson. Quite hard to figure out just where the trails actually are. Needs some good mapping, and I will contact Rob St. Clair regarding such. Some places narrow and tight, some boring, some difficult, some challenging. Joe broke his mirror, Bill broke his ego having to pull winch cable, and Jeanne drove the whole trip taking lots of by passes.

Magruder road corridor. Bruce, John and Donna Ayres, and Jeanne and I (Jeanne drove it all). Interesting and scenic trip, hotel room was worth the stay, one fairly challenging 4x4 trail to Burnt Knob Look Out, 131 miles of dirt in one day, something like 30 the day before getting to Elk City.

Club party: was a success. For those who didn't go it was held at Boldt's. Big Sky Motor Sports was nice enough to loan us a new \$12,000 side by side (crazy people!). Dave and Karen Knapp beat out Bill Boldt by one second for fast time on the course. Rachel Maxwell and Willie had a really bad time due to some outside of our control "influences".

New Trips: I don't plan on going out at all this winter, as still bothers me to drive, or even to ride. Plan on spending the winter and first part of next summer slowly working on new Jeep, getting my shoulder healed, and finishing up on my book. Hopefully some others will get busy and plan some club trips. Curtis will lead a snow trip.

Projects: I am back to work on flat fender and spending lots of money. Bill has new seats in his flat fender, borrowed my 37 inch tires and after several weeks of thought decided they would not fit. Larry is building an off road camping trailer, and getting ready to redo the suspension on his TJ. If you want to take a look at Paul's Jeep under construction, the paint is so bright that you will, I have been told, need to wear the darkest sunglasses you can locate. Steve G. and Bill both now have trailers to haul their rigs. Steve K. has a new motor in his truck, as well as tow points, new bumper and winch. Eric has had ongoing fuel injection problems. Curtis and Chris sold their house and are moving to acreage in St. Ignatius area, his Bronco is running and has roll cage built and installed. Dan put roll cage in his Jimmy, and is looking for 205 transfer case as current one has linkage problems.

Speaker: Corby Dickerson from the National Weather Service (wife, Shannon, owns a 2004 Jeep Unlimited, and has inherited a 1948 flat fender that was her Grandpa's).

Quite informative and humorous speaker, had PowerPoint presentation on what type of clouds indicate upcoming weather. His main point was to remember to notify NWS on any severe weather that the club may encounter in the back country, even if it's an hour or two later, as radar only scans 8000 feet and above

(located on Point Six Mountain north of Missoula). Call SPOTTER ONLY 800-676-6975, or office phone (staffed 24/7) 329-4840, and be sure to have specifics (not just it was raining or snowing).

He encouraged members to become weather spotters (email Jeanne and Willie for more info) and to visit the NWS office.

He also mentioned that La Nina prediction for this winter is the strongest since 1954-56, so Montana should be cooler and receive more moisture than usual. There is link to NWS web site on club site, or <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mso/>. Be sure to look at the weather activity planner.

If anyone is interested in predicting weather, he suggested "The Weather Wizard's Cloud Book" by Louis D. Rubin, Sr., and Jim Duncan, as a great reference.

M4x4A: Dick reported on quarterly meeting that was held October 2, in Billings. Next meeting will be first part of February in Helena. Dick handed out membership cards.

Mark Bloom, of Great Falls, may become new editor of 4XForum.

Question brought up as to whether M4x4A should stay affiliated with Blue Ribbon Coalition (they're very active in ID, though not in MT).

M4x4A is one of the biggest contributors to United Four Wheel Association, as we pay per member (some associations pay just \$100 a year). Harold Brown from Montana was one of founders of United. United now has full time lobbyist.

Larry Ellison/Bozeman club mentioned several land owners in Gallatin County who had let their club use unimproved road that connects two other county roads. Several local land owners use the road and want to keep it open. The County wants to abandon this section. M4x4A will fund signs at each end stating who helped support this. Association minutes do not state the road location. Dick asked if our club wanted to be included. Of course we do.

Dick also mentioned poor signage on Blacktail/Wild Bill Trail, as well as destruction of signs. Nancy Hines mentioned that Polson ATV clubs resent having to stay on the trails and feel they should have sole usage of the trails.

Divide Ride 2011 may be in Polson area, with some trails on reservation. Each individual will then have to purchase tribal recreation permit for such trails.

M4x4A annual convention will be in April, have to submit proposal at February meeting. Any club can host, so Willie asked Dick to submit proposal to club, and Dick will send email to members asking if there is interest to do so. Curtis asked

what type of funding is available: club would be reimbursed for all costs. Dick and Sue will check into further as far as site, lodging, meeting room, catered dinner, and such.

M4x4A bylaw changes need to be submitted by February meeting, to be voted on at convention, and the current bylaws (2002) are on association web site on left side.

Election nominees also need to be submitted in February, can decline in April.

Association awards for Four Wheeler of Year, Junior Four Wheeler of Year (under 18), and Environmental Four Wheeler are presented at convention. Write up proposal on why member of our club should be chosen, send it to Dick, and he'll submit it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.