

Montana Back Roads 4x4 club called to order at 3 pm, Saturday, June 23, 2012, at the Dairy Queen on N. Reserve, Missoula, MT.

Members present: Bill and Char Boldt, Willie and Jeanne Worthy, Larry Garrison, Steve and Laura Gehring, Bruce Erickson, Dave and Karen Knapp, Joe and Jenny Lorenzo, Jay Schweitzer, and Jason and Jolene Summerfield, and guests Steve and Deirdre Slagle, Roger and Debra McDonald, Chad and Mary Tomlinson, and Josh and Brett Pedersen.

A hearty thank you to Jason Summerfield for setting up and leading the Watson Children's Center trip this past Saturday. The kids once again had a fantastic time. Take a look at the video on the club web site, and the photos on club face book page. Luckily, we had nine older kids for the trip this time, from 8 to 15 years old. Again, Watson's wasn't the easiest to finalize plans with.

Discussion of contacting Mak-A-Dream cancer camp for possibility of taking some of their camper children to Gold Creek Lake. Willie will make the initial contact. Gold Creek Lake trail wouldn't be as muddy (a definite deterrent for some members on the Blue Mountain trail), is close to Camp Make-A-Dream, and could be done in the fall as well as the early summer.

Discussion of who wants to take charge of being the Forest Service liaison person for posting signs on the Blue Mountain trail. No one present volunteered at this point. It would take someone to first take charge of contacting the FS (you can get the contact info through Bruce Erickson at berickson80@gmail.com) to set up program and then that person or several people to make a weekly trip or so over the summer to the end of Blue Mountain to be sure the signs remain posted.

Jason has also made an iron-on type decal for club shirts. Contact him at sirsumm@hotmail.com if you'd like him to print you one.

Willie again reiterated that he would not be leading any local trails, as he and Jeanne are concentrating their summer trail on the Dillon/Melrose area for second book research. They will be camping at the Salmon Fly fishing access at Melrose. For their first trip they'll be leaving on July 6 Friday, and staying through July 15 (so that covers two weekends, if someone would like to come down and run some trails with them).

here is some more information on the melrose trips

Our base camp will be at the Salmon fly fishing access/camp ground. There is a minimal fee but can't remember what it is. You camp right next to the river on a grassy area and there is a pit toilet and if I remember right, water. You turn off at the Melrose exit, head west over the RR tracks, then cross the river and the camp ground is off to your left in a short distance. There is a nice motel at the north end of town, that also has cabins, and a RV park. I think that one can take a shower there for a fee but never did check for sure. Yes there is gas in town, most likely at least 10 cents a gallon higher than any other place.

We originally planned to make our first trip in late June, but for a couple of reasons we are waiting until July. One, I may be leading a group of people out of California on a local route the weekend of June 23, and secondly this is pretty high country in the 6 to 9000 ft range and even if the snow is gone, the east side of the highway will have lots of mud on the roads. I hate mud! The east side is a lot drier and more desert like than the west side so that is where we will be going first.

We picked being there over week ends so that any one that wants to join us can, or could even stay during the week. You will have to bear with us as we will be making lots of stops to check mileage, GPS readings and make notes of the area as we visit various sites. No dogs please. For one there are lots of mining remains where a dog could really get in trouble, nails, cactus and such.

So let me know if you're interested in joining us, most likely your vehicle or even you may be pictured in the new book.

The most likely dates we will be there are as follows: (that is if Jeanne and I don't kill each other from living in our camper that long)

July 6 - 15

July 23-29

Aug 10-19

Sept. 3-12

club or non club members are invited to join us