

Montana Back Roads 4x4 club Minutes  
February 12, 2016

Meeting called to order by President Willie Worthy at 7 pm at Perkins Restaurant, Missoula, MT.

Members present: Jeremy Hitchcock and son, Dick Riebe, Steve Slagle, Jim and Lorna Younkin, Willie and Jeanne Worthy, Derek Emerson, Jay Schweitzer, Maurice Austin, Bruce Erickson, and Ed Jones. Guests: Kevin Winchester, Jessica Stiner and Dakota, Gene Pierce, and Gary and Tammy Linton.

Jessie Rogers, Development Director at Historical Fort Missoula, 728-3476, ext 5, [developmentdirector@montana.com](mailto:developmentdirector@montana.com), presented our program. She was formerly with Animeals, and is a very engaging and humorous speaker.

This is the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration at the fort. History isn't static, it's all around us, it's the written version of past events, and forms our future and our culture's future. The past actually happened, history is what got wrote down. Their main purpose is education, and the displays are for and from all of Missoula County. It is the hub for history of western Montana.

What's at the fort: The Forest Wood Products Industry display with sawmill and steam engine, schoolhouse with lil ole Angie the mean school marm, a homestead, and the original Drummond depot. A devotee just spent two years recreating the Drummond area with hills, trestles, and such for the model train.

The original barracks from 1941-45 just re-opened this year. Fort Missoula had 2300 men interred during WW II, and has the only loyalty hearing courtroom remaining in the US. The Fort bought building T-1 from the USFS in 2001 and while remodeling it, found the court room. It has no jury box, a big desk for 12 judges or so, and was used for court martials and the loyalty hearings. Of all things, Koreans were the translators for the Japanese Americans, and somehow all these transcripts have disappeared. This was a Department of Justice camp, different than a relocation camp, and held only men who were considered "threats" to the country. Fort Missoula has more original internment buildings that any other camp. Carol Van Valkenburg has written a book "An Alien Place" (<http://www.amazon.com/An-Alien-Place-Missoula-Detention/dp/0929521994>) about the fort, and the fort has produced a video by the same name, which will show on Montana PBS on March 31.

<http://trail1033.com/debut-of-an-alien-place-a-documentary-at-the-roxy-theatre-tonight/>

The original student housing for the University of Montana was buildings from the fort, as well as some of the buildings at the fairgrounds.

She went into a ton more detail about the detention camp, the various exhibits, the lay out of the fort, and upcoming events. She will do private tours for groups or families, can even do behind the scenes type stuff. She had also brought a bunch of “hands on” exhibits of older items.

Ed got voluntold that he would be the coordinator for an overnight trip this summer, he will check into various options, including camping at Georgetown Lake. Steve mentioned that we could most likely stay at the parking lot at gas station at Philipsburg and Highway 1 for no charge.

We also need a coordinator to organize teams for monthly trips. No one stepped up to do this yet, but Ed did volunteer to organize a trip in the Mission Mountains area end of this month or first of next. You will need a tribal recreation permit, which is available at Sportsman Warehouse for one. These are mostly scenic fire roads, with fire lookouts.

There has been great response and participation in the new face book group page.

Treasurer Jason Summerfield not here tonight, but Jeremy will collect dues.

Club consensus was to have a monthly meeting, on first Wednesday of each month.

Dave McCord had sent email to Jeanne asking about meeting somewhere other than Perkins, had said he'd check into it, but haven't heard back from him yet. Any other comments on different places to meet?

Upcoming meetings could again be at Speed's Towing over the summer, including a radio tuning session. Maurice has the equipment and a friend who can help us tune antennas. He is a ham radio operator, and says that is the way to go, rather than just a CB.

Willie asked for a favor: someone to write a review of his book “4x4 Routes of Western Montana” to post on the club's web site and on the book's web site.

Jeremy then spoke about the Southgate Mall motor sports show. Jeanne had seen advertisement for it in last Sunday's Missoulian, checked with the contact person, found out that it cost \$500 for display, and then put the info on the club's face book page. Jeremy jumped right on it, got a booth, contacted AEV and will have two of their vehicles there (the bright yellow SEMA Jeep and orange Ram with sled deck and sled). It also cost him an additional \$500 for insurance! AEV is kicking in \$250. Bruce made motion that the club donate \$150 to cover part of Jeremy's cost, Dick second, all ayes, motion carried.

Discussion over volunteers to help the three days of the show. Tomorrow night is set up, beginning at 9 pm. Paul Schaller has CJ-8, bright orange, with injected Chevy, super clean, would be a great display. Willie will contact him. If he can't do it, Willie will bring his orange Rubicon (after Maurice volunteered to come change tires for him). Derek, Willie and Maurice will help Thursday night. Jessica volunteered for one day, Steve will help Sunday afternoon and evening. Ed, Bruce, and Maurice will also help, and Jay said he could help possibly Friday evening. It will be posted on the club's face book page as well.

Jeremy also said there will be a car club expo at the mall on April 9-10, sponsored by Montana Tech. It's \$50 per vehicle, or club can enter three vehicles for \$75. You cannot move vehicle in and out, it has to stay both days. Could possibly use Willie's 2A or Steve's Jeep. Jim Younkin made motion to participate in the expo, second by Derek, all ayes, motion carried.

Jessica will print up some flyers for "Java and Jeeps", meeting at Black Coffee Roasting on Spruce, February 27, 9:30 to 11:30, just a meet and greet. She'll have them available at the motor sports show at the mall. She'll try to schedule this once a month.

J & K is hiring, needs someone to spray bed liners, paying \$10-15 an hour depending on experience. Share this with anyone who might be interested.

Jeremy is planning a trip to the Sun Valley area of Idaho, possibly this summer, for five days, exploring, not sure what they'll find.