



# EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

FOUNDED 1978 39 YEARS OF TRAIL TAILS JUNE/JULY 2017

## OFFICERS

**President:**

Fred Fitzpatrick

**Vice President:**

Bob Hermance

**Secretary:**

Helen Suta

**Treasurer:**

LeAnn Hermance

**State Directors:**

Fred Fitzpatrick

Merlyn Huso

**Alt. State Director:**

Ronald Ries

**Chapter Directors:**

1 year term

Dick Kinyon

Debbie Ries

Joe Suta

2 year term

Lisa Schmidt

Clete Gregory

Steve Hutton

**Jr. Director:**

Abbey Hutton

**Editor:** Le Ann Hermance

[hermance@3rivers.net](mailto:hermance@3rivers.net)

**Webmaster:** Fred Fitzpatrick

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**BCH of Montana:**

**Chairman:** Brad Pollman

Bitterroot Chapter

**ESBCH-Web Site:**

[www.bchmt.org/esbch/default.html](http://www.bchmt.org/esbch/default.html)

**Montana BCH Web Site**

[www.bchmt.org](http://www.bchmt.org)

Dear ESBCH Members,

Well summer has finally arrived and our first work project is officially in the books. Our first project was held at Blackleaf Trailhead which is west of Bynum, MT on the Rocky Mountain Front. We had seven members participate they were Clete and Patsy Gregory, Joe and Helen Suta, Sue McNeal, Bob Hermance and myself. Helen, Sue and Patsy did the cooking for the crew and they did an excellent job, along with finding time to pull some weeds at the trailhead. Clete, Joe, Bob and I did the trail work. The work project consisted of clearing trail 153 which runs along the Rocky Mountain Front. This trail was adopted by our chapter a few years back and it has been an ongoing project for a few years now. The actual trail runs from the Middle Fork of the Teton up Clary Coulee over to Blackleaf, South Fork of Dupuyer Creek and finally to the North Fork of Dupuyer Creek. Although we have accomplished quite a few things on this trail we still have some parts that need attention the one thing of immediate attention is to finish marking the trail from the Middle Fork of Dupuyer Creek to the North Fork of Dupuyer Creek and that was what we tried to accomplish on this last work project although we were not able to finish the last portion of the trail as we were only able to get about half way between the Middle Fork and North Fork. We found out that it takes longer than we had anticipated to get from Blackleaf over to the Middle Fork and we had to clear trail on the way. So, some things that need to be done yet are finish marking the trail to the North Fork of Dupuyer Creek and we will also need some signs installed in a few places along the trail. We also need to see if we can locate and mark the trail from Blind Horse coulee over to Clarey Coulee, so we have a ways to go yet. Our next work project will be held on July 22-23 at Swift Dam and we will be working on the Blind Creek and Tuby Creek trails if you would like to join us you can either contact myself or Helen.

When in doubt, let your horse do the thinkn'

Fred



JUNE  
Lisa Schmidt, Mary  
Jane Kinyon & Deb  
Schatz

JULY  
Ronald Ries, Sue  
McNeal, Bob Hermance, Kim Norman,  
Brenda Ries

East Slope Back Country Horsemen  
Regular Meeting  
Conrad Public Library  
May 11, 2017

President Fred Fitzpatrick called the regular meeting of the East Slope BCH to order May 11, 2017 at the Conrad Public Library. Members in attendance were: Joe and Helen Suta, Dick Kinyon, Sue McNeal, Merlyn Huso, Ron and Debbie Ries, Fred Fitzpatrick, Bob and LeAnn Hermance and Connie Manning by phone. Guest attending was Ryan Rauscher, Wildlife Management Biologist for the Forest Service.

### Minutes

The minutes were read by Secretary Helen Suta, and were approved as read.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer LeAnn Hermance gave the Treasurer's report. Fred asked if there were any bills to present. Merlyn submitted a bill for \$180 for convention registration, and Fred had a bill for \$10.85 for filing a 990 report for our 501c3. We are exempt if our organization is under \$50K. Fred asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Ron made a motion to accept, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Merlyn. Motion carried.

### Correspondence

LeAnn did not have any correspondence to present.

### Vice-President's Report

### Committee Reports

Ron gave a report on his attendance at the National BCH meeting held in Great Falls. He and Debbie attended for 1 ½ days. Some of the issues discussed was the Trails Stewardship Act. Joni Packard gave the presentation. She said they Forest Service was counting on 100% volunteer help to get work done. There is a backlog of 5 years needed to be addressed.

There are BCH clubs actively working with trail bicycle clubs. In Missouri, they are working toward multiple use. Ron said he felt there should be a board to determine where they are used, as bicycles are not appropriate for use in certain areas. There are areas where horses meeting bicycles going fast could cause a serious accident.

Ron said the California BCH was in the Rose Bowl Parade. They were encouraging other State BCH chapters to attend the parade. There is a lot of work to do before you can be in the parade.

### Unfinished Business

There was a sign-up sheet for the North Fork Dupuyer work project. It was decided that Bob Hermance would be the trail boss, and Helen, Patsy and Sue would do the cooking. We will camp at the Blackleaf area.

Ryan Rauscher, Biologist for the Wildlife Management Area, was in attendance and gave an update on the status of the trail in that area.

### New Business

The Whoop-up Days parade is coming up. There was a discussion on who could be in the parade to represent the club. Bob and Joe said they might.

The next meeting will be June 8 at the Conrad Public Library.

### Other Business

Bob talked about trying to get other people involved with the club. He and Lisa have been working on getting a pack trip put to-

for non-members. There are people interested, but some don't have their own stock. Bob said people would have to bring their own stock because of liability issues. Due to shortage of time, we had to close the meeting before having a work safety discussion.

Ron made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe. Meeting adjourned.

DRAFT COPY

Respectfully Submitted,  
Helen Suta, Secretary

East Slope Back Country Horsemen  
Regular Meeting  
Conrad Public Library  
June 8, 2017

The regular meeting of the East Slope Back Country Horsemen was held at the Conrad Public Library on June 8, 2017. President Fred Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 7 P.M. Members present were: Joe and Helen Suta, Fred Fitzpatrick, Ron and Debbie Ries, Sue McNeal, Bob and LeAnn Hermance, Lisa Schmidt, Chad Scarborough, Clete and Patsy Gregory. Merlyn Huso and Connie Manning attended by phone.

#### **Minutes**

Secretary Helen Suta read the minutes of the last meeting. They were approved as read.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer LeAnn Hermance reported the current balances and the bills paid since the last meeting. Helen presented a bill for \$201.40 for groceries and Debbie presented a bill for \$78.46 for restocking cooking supplies. Ron made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa. Motion passed. kend.

#### **Vice-President's Report**

Bob reported that he spoke to Travis of BLM concerning the Blind Horse Trail. Travis reported that he is working on it and will keep pursuing it.

#### **Correspondence**

LeAnn reported that she received a copy of BCH Hoofbeats and a single registration from Connie Manning. Fred said he received an e-mail concerning a Youth overnight horse camp to be held June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. This is something we would be interested in working with in the future.

#### **Committee Reports**

Fred received a report from Chuck Miller concerning the US Forest Service budget for next year. The budget will be 88 million less than last year. Merlyn said we need to contact our Senators about this.

Merlyn reported that he would be working on a State project at Webb Lake rebuilding fences and trail this weekend. This will be headed by Mark Himmel with about 14 or 15 people coming.

#### **Unfinished Business**

This weekend's trail project on North Fork Dupuyer Creek was discussed. All of the food is taken care of and tools picked up. The rock cairns will be checked and reworked and trail cleared. It was decided not to take wire to put around cairns as the cattle rub on them and knock them over. Fred is going along as he has chain-saw certification.

The chapter banner was discussed. LeAnn and Lisa said they haven't looked into it lately. LeAnn will check with Barbie Alvestad as she makes banners. Bob said he thought we should have a banner of some kind for parades as well.

#### **New Business**

The July 22 and 23 work project on North and South Fork Birch Creek, Blind and Tubby Creek trails. Lisa said she rides the trail, and it needs some brushing out in places and is steep in others. We will camp at Swift Dam and ride from

We will also try to check the trail around Swift Dam in preparation for the Poker Ride. Fred sent everyone a copy of the Poker Ride poster to look at. LeAnn said we should put kids games on it too. There was a discussion on selling drinks and hamburgers. It was decided to keep the burgers at \$5 each again. We will have bottled water and pop to sell too. There was discussion on how to draw cards without a bag. We may try cutting the deck or fan cards to be drawn.

The next meeting will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July at the Conrad Public Library. A director's meeting will be held at the Courthouse at 6 P.M. prior to the regular July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to decide Connie Manning's membership.

### Program

Instead of a work safety program, Clete said we would do a safety talk before the upcoming work project.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ron to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Clete. Meeting adjourned.

DRAFT COPY

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen Suta, Secretary



# Montana earthquake: 5.8 magnitude quake strongest in 20 years

A magnitude 5.8 earthquake that rocked western Montana early Thursday morning was the largest quake to hit the area in the past 20 year, the U.S. Geological Survey said. USGS geophysicist Robert Sanders told the [Los Angeles Times](#) that the quake of this magnitude was a "very rare event" but not "impossible."

The earthquake struck around 12:30 a.m. local time with the epicenter located in Lincoln, which is outside Missoula. Some Twitter users posted feeling tremors as far as Spokane, Wash., Boise, Idaho and Calgary, Canada. The quake was followed by aftershocks in the magnitude 3 and 4 range over the next hour, Sanders said. Residents in Lincoln briefly lost power and there was a gas leak in Helena, the National Weather Service in Great Falls said on Twitter.

There have been no immediate reports of damage or injuries, but residents will get a better sense as day breaks.

The [Independent Record](#) reported the tremor was strong enough to knock items off shelves and walls in homes in Helena, which is about 34 miles away from the epicenter.

## Related Image





## Shake-up with BCHA Management Team

Back Country Horsemen of America's Executive Committee has moved from Association Resources to Mainspring Association Management LLC. Erica who was with Association Resources has started her own company. The executive committee voted to stay with Erica. We will see no real changes although John Alberti decided to stay with AR instead of moving with Erica.

Erica is the owner of the business; Mainspring Association Management LLC  
The new address is BCHA, 59 Rainbow Road, East Granby, CT 06029.

Erica will have two part time employees to help with the day to day management of BCHA. There are no additional cost in the transfer, the same contract was transferred over to the new business

Erica's responsibilities are the same

Erica or the part time people will be answering the phone.

The Chairman will be sending out a letter shortly explaining in detail.

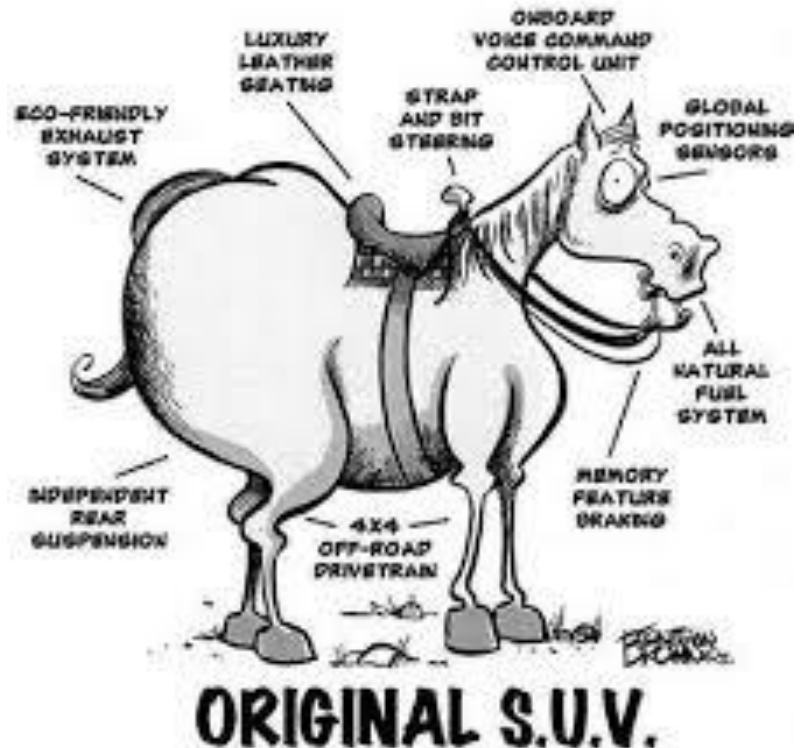
Erica can be contacted on her cell phone # 413-335-5288 , the new phone for BCHA should be up and running shortly.

## ATTENTION ALL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS of ESBCH

We will be having a membership meeting at the Pondera County Courthouse prior to the Regular meeting on July 13, 2017 at 6:00 PM. It is important that all officers and directors attend.

PLEASE use the west door of the Courthouse (The handicap entrance)

The Regular Meeting of the East Slope Back country Horsemen will be held at the Conrad Public Library on the same day July 13th at 7:00 PM



Pictures from our last work project at Blackleaf

