



EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

FOUNDED 1978 38 YEARS OF TRAIL TAILS MAY/JUNE 2016

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Fred Fitzpatrick

Vice President:

Lisa Schmidt

Secretary:

Helen Suta

Treasurer:

LeAnn Hermance

State Directors:

Ron Ries

Fred Fitzpatrick

Alt. State Director:

Merlyn Huso

Chapter Directors:

2 year term

Dick Kinyon

Debbie Ries

Joe Suta

1 year term

Bill Poser

Clete Gregory

Steve Hutton

Jr. Director:

Abbey Hutton

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BCH of Montana:

Chairman: Connie Long

Missoula Chapter

ESBCH-Web Site:

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

Montana BCH Web Site

www.bchmt.org

Dear ESBCH Members,

We have been receiving some much needed precipitation in the form of rain and snow this spring and things are really starting to get green and looking real nice, let's just hope that it continues so that all the farmers and ranchers may have a good summer. We also need the precipitation in the mountains to provide for rejuvenation of the fire areas from last fall and we surely don't need another damaging fire season later this summer.

It looks like it is time for us to get in the swing of things and start our summer work. We are having a small work project at Swift Dam on May 27-29th. We will be checking the fire damage from last fall and see what it will take to get the trail around Swift Reservoir in operational order. We have some interesting projects coming up and one I would like to talk about it is joint venture with the Flathead Chapter doing some much needed rejuvenation of the Summit Trail-head. We are talking about putting in new hitching posts and feed bunks. We are looking for some pipe to build the hitching rails, so if anybody knows where there might be some pipe it has to be at least 2 7/8" outside diameter please let me know.

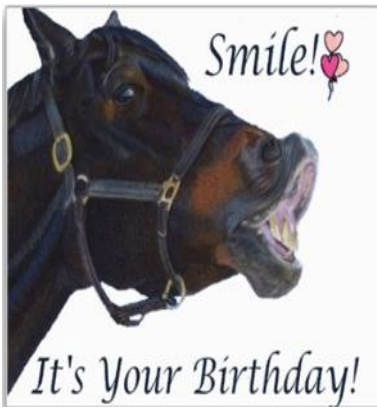
We also have Whoop-up coming up on June 4th and 5th. Clete Gregory has asked that anybody that would like to ride in the Whoop-up parade on the 4th in Conrad to please get a hold of him. You can reach Clete at 271-3138 or e-mail at <mailto:cgregory@3rivers.net> it would be nice if we could make a nice showing at the parade, so if you can make it that would be great.

Also Keith Alltucker is having some medical tests and he is needing someone to take over a packing project for the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation on June 23rd if you can take this project on for Keith it would be greatly appreciated. You will need four head of pack stock if you need to reach Keith you can e-mail him at <mailto:keith@inspectormt.com> let's all wish Keith the best with his tests. Or you can contact; Rebecca Powell, Program Director at the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation at (406) 387-3808.

And one last thing let's all have a safe and memorable summer. Get out and enjoy yourselves.

When in doubt, let your horse do the thinkn'

Fred



JUNE
Lisa Schmidt
Deb Schatz

JULY
Bob Hermance
Kim Norman
Ron Ries
Susan McNeal

East Slope Back Country Horsemen
Regular Meeting DRAFT Minutes
Conrad Public Library
May 12, 2016

President Fred Fitzpatrick called the regular meeting of the ESBCCH to order at 7:10 P.M. at the Conrad Public Library on May 12, 2016. There were 12 members in attendance: Joe and Helen Suta, Ron and Debbie Ries, Fred Fitzpatrick, Sue McNeal, Keith Alltucker, Clete and Patsy Gregory, Zane and Gabby Drishinski, and Connie Manning by phone.

MINUTES

Since the minutes were not published since the last meeting, Fred asked Secretary Helen to read them. There was a motion by Ron to approve the minutes as read, 2nd by Fred. Minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Since the last report, there were checks issued to pay Debbie \$19,516.06 to reimburse her for the payment to the Holiday Inn for the convention expenses, and also for the metal signs. Helen received a check for \$51 for photo contest expenses. A bill from the credit card company for fees in the amount of \$81.99 was paid also. A check to the Montana BCH in the amount of \$3,656.09 for the auction proceeds will be delivered by Ron and Debbie at the next State board meeting. Fred presented bills for photo contest ribbons \$82.75, file folders for the convention programs \$84.98, miscellaneous office supplies from Staples for \$18.49, and tickets from Walmart for \$18.77 for a total of

\$204.99. A motion from Ron, 2nd by Keith to pay the bills presented was made. Motion approved.

CORRESPONDENCE - None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ron and Debbie will attend the State board meeting on May 21st. Fred will not be able to attend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Swift Dam work project sign-up sheet for May 27th and 28th was presented. We will ride around the dam and check damage from the fire last summer. Fred reported that he was up there recently, and the gate on the reservation side is unlocked. He talked to Tom Crawford, and Tom told him to talk to a Blackfoot Warden to see if there would be a problem with access. The only other work is to fix a chain on the highline. Cliff Gustafson will be up there this next weekend and will mow the campground area.

The Elk Creek project was discussed, but it is too early to know who will be going. The project will be revisited at the June meeting to see who can go.

The Whoop-up in Conrad will be the first weekend in June, with the parade on the 4th. Clete said he planned to ride in the parade for the club, but no one else was able to say if they would be available yet.

NEW BUSINESS

Fred said that Lewis and Clark County wants to replace three bridges in the Elk Creek area, EK5, 6 and 7, as they are in poor condition. They want to apply for a grant, but they need letters of support. Fred has written a letter on behalf of the ESBCCH requesting a grant, and wanted to know if the club would approve of the letter. Helen made a motion to approve, 2nd by Clete. Motion approved.

The State BCH needs an article for their newsletter from us reporting on the State convention in April. Fred asked for volunteers. Helen said she would be willing to collaborate with Fred on the article.

A couple of months ago, Bob Hermance talked about having a fun ride into the Beartooth. Ron reported he and Bob had also talked about it. We would ride to the Whitetail cabin to stay and trail ride from there. Clete asked how far the trail into the cabin was, and Ron said he thought it was 8 to 10 miles on a 2-track trail. No date was decided on.

Fred said he received an e-mail from Ian McJeskie wanting to know how and if he could make a donation to the ESBCH in honor of his grandfather. His grandfather had been a charter member of the club. All presented voice their approval of receiving the donation.

Fred reported that he made a new club web site, and wanted to know if members had time to look at it. Most of the members had looked at it, approved and thanked Fred for his work. He said he also put a donate button on the page.

Those who want to donate can do so by PayPal. PayPal takes a 2% cut from the donation, and we can have the money deposited directly to the club's checking account. A motion was made by Helen, 2nd by Clete to approve setting up the donate button with proceeds from PayPal to the checking. Motion approved.

The next meeting will be June 9th at 7 P.M. at the Conrad Public Library. The sign-up sheet for both the June and July work projects will be at that meeting. A motion was made by Helen, 2nd by Clete to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Helen Suta, Secretary

East Slope Back Country Horsemen
Regular Meeting
Conrad Public Library
April 28, 2016

President Fred Fitzpatrick called the regular meeting of the ESBCH to order at 7:10 P.M. at the Conrad Public Library. There were 15 members in attendance: Helen and Joe Suta, Fred Fitzpatrick, Bob and LeAnn Hermance, Ron and Debbie Ries, Dick Kinyon, Bill Poser, Kurt Dyer, Zane Drishinski, Clete and Patsy

Gregory, Steve Hutton, and Connie Manning (by phone).

NO MINUTES

TREASURER'S REPORT

LeAnn gave a report on the proceeds from the convention. The proceeds to date are \$30,463.26, but that does not include the credit card receipts or a \$100 check she has not deposited. There were 99 unsold raffle ticket books, so it would not have been necessary for the second order of books. She thanked Zane for the idea to charge \$5 per ticket or 6 for @ \$20, as that really helped increase proceeds from the raffle tickets. She also wanted to thank Brenda Ries for all work she did at the convention. LeAnn said the spread sheets Brenda put together were wonderful and made her job very easy.

We don't have a total of the expenses yet or a net total as not all of the bills have been presented and paid. \$5,397.77 in expenses have been paid to date. Fred presented the bill from the Holiday Inn in the amount of \$16,256.06. Debbie had paid \$12,000 with her credit card to the Holiday Inn at the end of the convention. They then charged her card for the balance of the bill. Debbie also presented a bill for the metal signs for approximately \$3,250. Helen presented a bill of \$51 for the photo contest materials. Steve made a motion to pay the bills presented, 2nd by Zane. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Clete presented letters he wrote to the commander of Malmstrom and the leader of the color guard thanking and praising the color guard for their performance of the flag presentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ron and Fred gave a report on the last state director's meeting. There is a bill in Congress to allow bikes in the wilderness. There was a motion at the meeting to not allow bikes in the wilderness, but Flathead and CMR BCH said they didn't want to support it at this time. They said they have been working with bike groups and had established a good relationship with them. It was discussed that this issue probably

the issue, and the issue was tabled to the next meeting.

The rewriting of the state constitution was brought up. It was decided not to rush into it, but to study it through the year. Fred said there was still some confusion over who were legitimate directors at the state meeting, as the term goes from January of one year to the other. One of the issues was how to deal with primary and secondary memberships and their participation in the secondary club. Fred said he thought individual chapters should be allowed to deal with their own memberships.

There was discussion on the National Saw Policy. It needs to be consistent through all of the states and government agencies.

The allocation of funding for trail maintenance was discussed. Ron said there was a government official that decided to change the allocation model to determine where funding should go. He was basing it on population instead of miles of trails as it was done before. This was causing a major shortfall in trail funding in Montana. It is being reviewed by Congress.

The Aviation foundation has proposed reopening some more wilderness airstrips. The Montana Pilot's Association opposes this as it would be difficult to maintain them. MTBCH will write a letter to oppose reopening them.

The BCH state officer's complimented our club for the convention. They also reported the auction was the best it had ever been as they doubled the amount the State BCH made. Zane was thanked for his excellent work as auctioneer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LeAnn reported that the auction totals, live and silent, were \$7,729. The silent auction made \$3,094, the live auction made \$3,685 and other individual donations \$950. The proceeds that go to the State is \$1855 cash and \$1800 credit card receipts less credit card fees for \$3,656.09. Clete made a motion, 2nd by Steve to pay that amount. Motion passed. Fred will

deliver the check at the next State meeting.

LeAnn said she had made up some thank you cards to send to people who made donations and to vendors and sponsors. Fred suggested LeAnn, Debbie and Helen get together with him to address the thank you notes and get them sent out. The upcoming Saturday will work. Fred did a slide show from the pictures Linda took at the convention, and he still has some copies available.

NEW BUSINESS

We then set up the calendar of events for the club for the next year. Meetings will still be the 2nd Thursday of each month except for November and December. The Christmas Party will be the 11th of December. The meeting will be at 4 P.M., followed by gift exchange and potluck dinner at Dick and Mary Jane Kinyon's home. The January 14, 2017 election of officers and prime rib dinner at Dick and Mary Jane Kinyon's home starting with meeting at 4 P.M., followed by dinner. The chili feed will be at Ron and Debbie Ries's home on February 4, 2017. Meeting at 4 P.M., followed by chili feed.

The work projects for the coming year were then discussed. We will need to do some work at Swift Dam. The gate is closed to the reservation side right now, but we will need to check the burnt area to see what needs to be done. Steve said we should also look at the trail that goes to Gateway Pass as there is a bridge over a seep that is impassible now, and you need to go through timber to get around it. He thought a culvert would probably work best. Fred said he would get ahold of Ian Bardwell and discuss it.

The Forest Service work list was then discussed. It was decided that Elk Creek and South Fork of Teton would be worked on. Fred said he talked to Greg Schotz about doing a joint project with Flathead BCH at the Summit trailhead. The trailhead needs feed bunks and hitching rails. The members thought that would be a good idea, and a date will be worked out.

The next meeting will be May 12th at the Conrad Public Library at 7 P.M. You can sign up for

the Swift Dam work project then. Helen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Clete.

DRAFT COPY

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Suta, Secretary

Swift Dam Spray Day Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Alternate Date in Case of Inclement Weather: June 22

Time:7:00 a.m. **Place:** Swift Dam
Campground

This is your chance to help control the spread of knapweed from the Swift Dam area onto other private and public ground! Please bring your spray rig filled with water, if possible - chemical will be provided. If you do not have a spray rig, backpack sprayers will be available.

We will begin at 7:00, with a brief introduction and participant sign-in. All participants will receive a spray assignment, and will spray until about noon, when a barbecue lunch will be provided, with an educational program to follow.

The **educational component provides private and commercial applicator credits**. Please bring your restricted chemical license. Your RSVP is appreciated! For more information, please contact **Shaelyn Meyer** at the Pondera Extension Office at **271-4054**.

My Volunteer Trip to Mongolia

\$2,075 of \$5,000

Raised by 26 people in 16 days

Donate Now Share on Facebook

<https://www.gofundme.com/d-g-schatz>

[GO FUND ME](#)

Greg and Deborah Schatz, members of Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead, are invited to join BioRegions in Mongolia this summer. We are raising money to help with travel expenses.

What is BioRegions?

The Montana State University BioRegions faculty, staff and students collaborate with local citizens and communities in their bioregions to learn about the way of life and resource base. Resulting partnerships apply local knowledge, science, humanities and management to create proactive solutions to meet local needs. MSU BioRegions focuses in the Darhad Valley of Hovsgol Province in northern Mongolia, southwest of Lake Baikal in Russia.

Why are Greg and Deborah invited to join BioRegions? We will travel to remote communities bordering the newly formed national parks in the Darhad Valley. We will give workshops encouraging the local people to work and volunteer in the back country - building local support for public lands. We will share and compare the history of Wilderness and public lands in Montana. Our workshops will focus on horse packing skills, leave no trace principles for people and horses, horse safety, outfitting practices, and land management tools and regulations.

Greg and I have been members of Back Country Horsemen for 28 years. During that time we have gained many skills related to back country use and management. We are thrilled that MSU finds our knowledge and experiences valuable to the people of Mongolia.

The people of Mongolia need and want our help in setting up management policies and local volunteerism on their public lands. We can help them learn from our own successes and failures in Montana. Your support is most appreciated by Greg and I and the people of the Darhad Valley in Mongolia.

A "GoFundMe" account has been set up if you wish to donate to the trip.

Our friends Sherri and Bernie Lionberger sent us this photo of their Mongolian saddle. Does this look comfortable?!



Some Throwback Pictures from Memorial Day 2009

