

**LAST CHANCE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
October 2, 2019 7:00 P.M.
Montana Wild, Helena, MT**

Members present:

Nicole Anderson, Warren Armstrong, Fred Benson, Joann Chambers, Bud Criner, Renee and Debbie Duykaerts, Ed Darfler, Jim Darfler, Katy Donnelly, Neil and Darlene Horne, Merlyn Huso, Don Kristenson, Mike Layng, Sue Mohr, David Pool, Howard Reid, Lyndsay and Tony Smith, Russ Wattnem, Tom Weiss, Rick Yearry

Katy opened the meeting. Chuck Witmer the equine vet is coming next month. Email Katy if you have topics or questions you want covered.

Guests: Don Kristenson; Deb and Renee Duykaerts. Used to be packers in the Sierras and Ojai and have moved here. We are happy to welcome our three new members!

Business meeting:

Sept Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes was made by Fred and seconded by Rick. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report.

Jim made the report.

Checking: \$16247.39
Savings: \$1688.52
2nd CD: \$10,000 matures 8/28/2020.

CD: \$10,208.66 matures 11/11/20

Newest CD: \$10,000 matures 9/1/2020 (2%): will be purchased tomorrow out of our checking account. THANKS Jim!

Bills

Food for the MCC event. \$47.82 to Fred and one from Darlene, older expenses sharpening saws, tape and lath and food: \$51.02

Motion to approve bill pay: Howard, Lyndsay second. Unanimously approved.

Motion to approve Treasurers report: Fred, Nicole second. Unanimous approval.

MCC Equine Awareness Training: Fred/Merlyn/Bud

The **Montana Conservation Corps** (MCC) is a young adult voluntary development program modeled after the Civilian **Conservation Corps** of the 1930s, using **conservation** projects to foster citizenship and personal growth in its members. The MCC operates crews in four towns throughout **Montana**: Missoula, Kalispell, Helena, and Bozeman.

Six people from MCC attended the training. They started in the round pen. The group (Fred, Sherri, Merlyn and Bud) reviewed types of pack saddles and how to put on packs and work around the stock.

In the afternoon, the group worked on packing and loading packs and giving everyone a good idea of proper packing procedures, what items are easier to load, and other things to be aware of re: doing work around pack animals. They even got a bit of experience in mantying.

They also practiced trail manners when hiking on the trail around pack animals. Good job and thanks to Fred who headed up this effort along with Bud, Merlyn and Sherri.

BCHMT Website Questions

Lyndsay reported that the state is working on getting a grant to hire a website consultant to work with them managing the state website.

Lyndsay was tasked with interviewing the club re: the state website and what areas need improvement. She asked all of us for ideas and thoughts.

Howard reported that at the State board meeting this was also discussed, specifically having a calendar available and posted on the state website and maintained by the state organization so people could be aware of what neighboring clubs are doing and perhaps join forces.

Other ideas from club members include:

- How can the state website help with recruitment of new members?
- Promotion of the volunteer aspects of BCH.
- Promote how many trails and how many miles of trails are cleared by BCH.
- List projects that clubs are committed to doing.
- State website: administrative, confusing, jumbled.
- Each club website needs more to it so it's personal and attracts people.
- BCH needs to be less specialized and exclusive; promote the idea that BCH welcomes anyone who wants to participate. Livestock not necessary.

Top Three types of people visiting the site:

- Interested in membership
- Wondering what we do
- Being a point of contact re: Trails and trail conditions specifically for equestrian users.

Lyndsay will prepare a report to the state BCH on our ideas. Thanks Lyndsay!

State Directors' meeting: Howard

Joe Meek educational scholarship for the Youth Program was approved by our club. A check was delivered to the treasurer at state board meeting for that purpose.

Discussion re: the state website. Want to make sure that it links to other outdoor related activities.

Christmas Party: Rick

VPW hall is set up to do our party Jan 10. Ham, twice baked potatoes, green beans, pies.

Committee: Darlene, Jim Darfler, Ed Darfler, Nicole

Katy will sign the contract getting the space reserved. A deposit of \$50 will be given to the VPW. Thanks Rick for getting this set up!

Old Business:

Upper Missouri River system will be looking for proposals for a RAC grant by December. Proposals will be for 2020 and on. We have some work left to do on our old grant: site posts needed in Elkhorns and Gates of the Mountains trail clearing.

We should propose whatever we want to do this time.

RAC grants are easier to deal with, paperwork-wise, than RTP grants.

We assigned a committee for this. Sherri would be good to confer with.

Tony, Darlene, Merlyn, Dave Pool

Ex of RAC grants: Gates of the Mountains, Elkhorns: major trail clearing projects.

Rebuilding any trails.

The committee will report back in November.

Fred: where are our first aid cards from last spring? Darlene will follow up with the Forest Service.

Howard distributed cards developed by the State to handout to mountain bikers and other trail users helping them to understand how to interact with equestrian users on the trail.

New Business

None

Next meeting November 6 at Montana Wild.
Treats: Fred Benson.

Motion to adjourn.

Rick moved and Howard seconded.
Unanimous approval.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Sue Mohr
Secretary
LCBCH