

Minutes – Last Chance Back Country Horsemen Chapter Spring Event

May 18, 2024 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: Darlene and Neil Horne's Residence

- The event was to begin with freeze branding of a few animals; however the liquid nitrogen container had leaked overnight so this portion of the event did not occur.
- A packing demonstration was held. Members practiced packing concrete crosses that will be hauled to Mann Gulch along with bags of quikcrete and water containers. The USFS will be replacing 4 of the crosses in advance of the August 5, 2024, events for the 75th anniversary of the loss of 13 firefighters.
- The event was to also have a dutch oven cook-off, however there were not adequate entries, therefore the potluck was expanded. Comradery and food was enjoyed by those attending.

A brief meeting was held:

- President Jason Hughey welcomed everyone
- Take Roll: roll was not taken but the event was well attended by current members, new members and guests
- Minutes from April 2024 meeting: Terry H motioned to approve, Jason F seconds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report: presented by Jason H. As of 5/7/2024

Account Type	Amount	Interest Rate	Term	Maturity
Checking	\$9,850.37	-	-	-
Savings	\$1,727.11	0.05%	-	-
CD1-6738	\$11,147.25	5.25% variable	12 mo	4/18/25
CD2-3512	\$10,721.40	5.25% variable	12 mo	3/7/25
CD3-3547	\$11,021.89	5.25% variable	12 mo	3/7/25

Expenses & Deposits: due to the recent treasurer resignation, info is in flux; this info will be picked up again at next meeting

- Brief discussion regarding event expenses/bills
- Treasurer's report and pay bills: Neil H motioned to approve, Fred B seconds. All in favor, motion passed.
- 2025 State Convention (March 15, 16, 17) update: Sherri L/Katy D co-chairs
 - An 8 person teepee tent and stove was purchased as a raffle item; any other raffle items and/or ideas would be appreciated.

- Brief discussion regarding opening the convention to the public. There will be additional meetings and discussions going forward to plan for this event.

OLD BUSINESS

- RAC Grant Application – the 2025-2026 year RAC Grant application was submitted by Allen R; applications may be reviewed by Oct – Nov; if grant is awarded the funds will be approx. \$12,000; proposed primary project is in the Upper Little Blackfoot River area; other projects as needed in the Helena-Townsend Ranger Districts.
- Current RAC funding of approx. \$10,000 for projects to be used by Oct 1, 2024; to receive project funds, reporting of mileage, hours, stock used, etc. will need to be compiled for each project. Some discussion of who compiles the project report of participating members. It was determined the Project Trail Boss will gather info and compile report. Compiled project reports are submitted to Darlene H. A few printed tracking forms were handed out. Contact Terry H if you like to get the form.
- Montana Conservation Elders Youth Expo: April 13, Helena fairgrounds; Jason H is Trail Boss; Hughey family had some pack gear demo; the cross-cut saw portion was well received along with their family teepee tent. Event was well attended.
- MCC crew leader training: held at Fred Benson's residence, May 7; due to unsettled weather the training was held one day versus two; LC BCH attendees: Fred B, Allen R, Terry H, Merlyn H, Mike L, Krissy G; 10 MCC leaders participated; much of the training and gear/load packing practice was done in the garage; minimal outdoor activities included leading and loading packs on animals; main training focus was on safety and awareness of packing and animals.
- Certifications: 1st Aid/CPR training was recently held; chainsaw certification also recently held by USFS; additional training opportunities for crosscut & chainsaw cert. training still to be determined; Terry H will be tracking member certification and expiration dates and will reach out for your info.

2024 Project Updates

- Mann Gulch Project – Concrete Crosses/Monuments; Fred Benson, Trail Boss
 - May 17th, group of members did trail reconnaissance; actual packing in of crosses, quikrete and water is planned for May 21st.
- Gates of the Mountain/National Trail Day, June 1 – Trail Clearing, Fred Benson, Trail Boss
 - Meet around 7:30 – 8:00 am at parking area near corrals; crew will split off and go in from either from Hunter's Gulch or Refrigerator Canyon; Jason H will check on getting radios; discussion regarding crew eating at York Bar at the end of the day, chapter to pay; Fred B motioned to approve, Neil H seconds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Eagle Guard Station/Elkhorns/Crow Creek – Jordan H, Taylor and Nick P Trail Boss
 - Eagle Guard Station will be available to use August 8 through August 12 (Thur -Mon) for trail clearing in the area
- Townsend trails – Cathy Lay, Trail Boss

- Pole Creek Trail Head: Nolan W and Mike L rode into trail and did some hand sawing to start clearing trail; Cathy L hiked into trail to recon for stock trailer parking access and evaluation of clearing to be done; it's about 4 ½ miles to trailhead from Hwy; Cathy will identify some potential dates, Jason H will get info out to members
- Tizer Guard Station – secondary project; MCC crew will be doing some clearing in the area in July/August; they will need pack support to haul tools, chain saws and gas
- Discussion about people working on a project; are they required to be a chapter member if working on a chapter/USFS project; project participants need to sign the USFS volunteer form (provides additional insurance for injuries, etc.); if working on a chapter/USFS project covered by a grant, there will be some monetary reimbursement; options include – chapter covers the membership cost if needed and/or the project participant pays for membership and receives grant funding; resulting opinion – project participants to be a chapter member
- Reminder: for each chapter/USFS project all participants to sign the USFS volunteer form

NEW BUSINESS

- Jodie Ross (treasurer as of Jan 2024) has resigned as of May 13, 2024. The chapter will need a member to volunteer to fill the treasurer role – PLEASE – let Jason Hughey know if you are interested.
- May 30, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Smoke Elser book signing at Windsor Ballroom; Jason H indicated the chapter has helped pay for venue to support this event; everyone welcome

OTHER BUSINESS

- Jordan Hughey has volunteered to do social media postings, pics, etc. on Facebook as an admin in addition to Darlene H
- Jordan H indicated she, Ellery H and Nicole Newman attended a women's packing clinic presented by Krissy G and another lady from BMWF; in Choteau; they enjoyed the clinic
- Next meeting to be held Wed, June 5. More info to come.
- Adjourn: Nick Patterson motioned to approve. All in favor, meeting ended.

Respectfully submitted: Terry Hutton, Secretary