



EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

31 YEARS TRAIL TAILS April 2015

OFFICERS

President:

Bob Hermance

Vice President:

Joe Suta

Secretary:

Helen Suta

Treasurer:

LeAnn Hermance

State Directors:

Fred Fitzpatrick
Ron Ries

Alt. State Director:

Merlyn Huso

Chapter Directors:

Bill Poser
Clete Gregory
Lisa Schmidt
Dick Kinyon
Steve Hutton
Debbie Ries

Jr. Director:

None

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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

REMINDER

**NEXT MEETING APRIL 9TH
7:00 PM CONRAD LIBRARY**

April President's Letter:

The State Convention in Hamilton went very well. All of the vendors were outside in wall tents with wood stoves to keep warm. The weather was cool and windy Saturday morning and raining a little. The convention ended a little after noon on Sunday and so did the rain. They had planned the luncheon to be served outside, but due to the weather they moved it in doors. The sun came out in the afternoon and it was perfect to spend time with the vendors. They had Jasper the Mule in the park area where the vendor's were located. The winner of Jasper gladly took the mule to his new home. No one from our area won any raffle prizes, sorry Dick we crossed our finger and had positive thoughts that you were the one that was going to win. I guess our psychic power didn't work.

As I mentioned in my last letter, our chapter will be hosting the 2016 State Convention in Great Falls. Hosting a convention takes time and commitment. Our Chapter is going to do the best we can and I hope our members can help when we need them.

Each delegate that went to the convention was assigned to check out different areas of the convention that they liked and also what they didn't. The delegates are going to get together soon after the convention and start putting our ideas on paper.

I hope everyone is getting out and enjoying our spring weather. I was able to get my horses hooves trimmed up so I will be able to put shoe's on in the next month or so.

The 2015 project list and dates that were set at the last meeting will be listed in this newsletter. So get your calendar out and put down when the projects are and plan to come. The first project will be over the memorial weekend, hope to see you there.

The next general meeting is April 9, 7:00 pm at the Library.
Hope to see ya on the trail.

Bob





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Will Early, Sue Facklam,
Gary Manning, Bar Gustafson

East Slope Backcountry Horsemen Regular Meeting Conrad Public Library March 19, 2015

The ESBCCH regular meeting was held March 19, 2015 at the Conrad Public Library. In attendance were Bob and LeAnn Hermance, Ron and Debbie Ries, Joe and Helen Suta, Kurt Dyer, Clete Gregory, Fred Fitzpatrick and Bill Poser. Ryan Rauscher, FWP biologist, was a guest in attendance.

Minutes:

President Bob Hermance asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes in the newsletter, and if there were any corrections or additions. Ron Ries said he would like to make a correction. He said he would be donating a pack saddle as a raffle prize for our convention in 2016, but not a wall tent as stated in the minutes. Clete moved to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Kurt. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

LeAnn read the treasurer's report, and asked if there were new bills to pay. There were none. Clete moved to approve the treasurer's report, Kurt seconded. Motion passed.

There was no old business.

New Business:

The members were given the names of new members, and asked for their approval. Fred made a motion to approve them, and LeAnn seconded. Motion passed. Ryan Rauscher, FWP biologist from Conrad, came to address the club about a trail that is partially in State Wildlife Management area and partially on BLM land in the Blackleaf area. He said both the FWP and BLM would like to have our club endorse the project and make a commitment to keep the trail maintained in the future.

Right now, they are waiting for an Environmental Assessment to be completed on the project. The cultural assessment has already been completed. It is mostly a

two-track trail, and if the project is approved, they hope to send a MCC crew in August to do the initial maintenance. The crew would need our club to pack in supplies for them. He is expecting some negative feedback from people who have been using the area, so they want to be sure all of the assessments have been done first. The trail will be closed to motorized use from then on. Kurt made a motion to endorse the trail project, make a commitment to keep it maintained and pack supplies for the MCC crew when work gets started. Clete seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Newsletter:

LeAnn reviewed the list of people who are receiving newsletters, and wondered who some of them were and why they were getting hard copy newsletters. Fred thought that they were probably people who were donors in the past. In the attempt to save on some postage, she wants people who have e-mail address to receive their newsletters electronically. Those who don't have e-mail or would rather get the hard copy still can, but to let her know.

2016 BCH Convention:

A discussion on the different committees we will need to have for the convention, and who will be chairman of each. Most of the committees were appointed chairs by Bob and Fred, but there are some still left. Since we are short active members, we will all have to work together on different committees to get the work done. Bob Hermance will be the convention chairman. Bob, LeAnn and Fred have already found accommodations at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls. The convention will be held on March 25, 26 and 27th, 2016. Fred sent each member by e-mail the menu choices for the convention, and asked each member pick the menu they liked best and return the information to him. The meal choices that received the most votes were discussed, and choices for each were approved.

We then had a discussion on what to have for raffle items, centerpieces and different ideas on what needed to be done. Bob said we will need continue to check progress at each meeting.

With no further business, Debbie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by LeAnn. Motion passed and meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Suta, Secretary

If there is any information you would like to share with the club members, please let Le Ann know and we will put it in the newsletter.

East Slope Back Country Horseman Meetings and Work Projects 2015

April 9, 2015 –Regular Meeting at Conrad Library @ 7 P.M.

May 14, 2015 –Regular Meeting at Conrad Library @ 7 P.M. Sign up for work project to be held Memorial Day weekend.

May 23, 24 & 25, 2015 –Work project. South Fork Trail Maintenance.

June 5, 6 & 7 –Whoop-up Trail Days in Conrad Montana.

June 11, 2015 –Regular Meeting at Conrad Library @ 7 P.M. Sign up for June work project.

June 13 & 14, 2015 –Work project. Elk Creek Trail maintenance.

July 9, 2015 –Regular Meeting at Conrad Library @7 P.M. Sign up for July work project.

July 25 & 26, 2015 –Work project. Swift Dam Trail Maintenance.

August 1 & 2, 2015 –Grizzly Days in Dupuyer.

August 1 & 2, 2015 –Work project. Swift Dam Poker Ride Sunday 2, 2015.

August 13, 2015 –Regular Meeting at Conrad Library @ 7 P.M. Sign up for August work project.

August 22 & 23, 2015 –Backcountry weed project behind Gibson Dam.

September 10, 2015 –Regular Meeting at Conrad Library @ 7 P.M.

October 8, 2015 –Regular Meeting at Conrad Library @ 7 P.M.

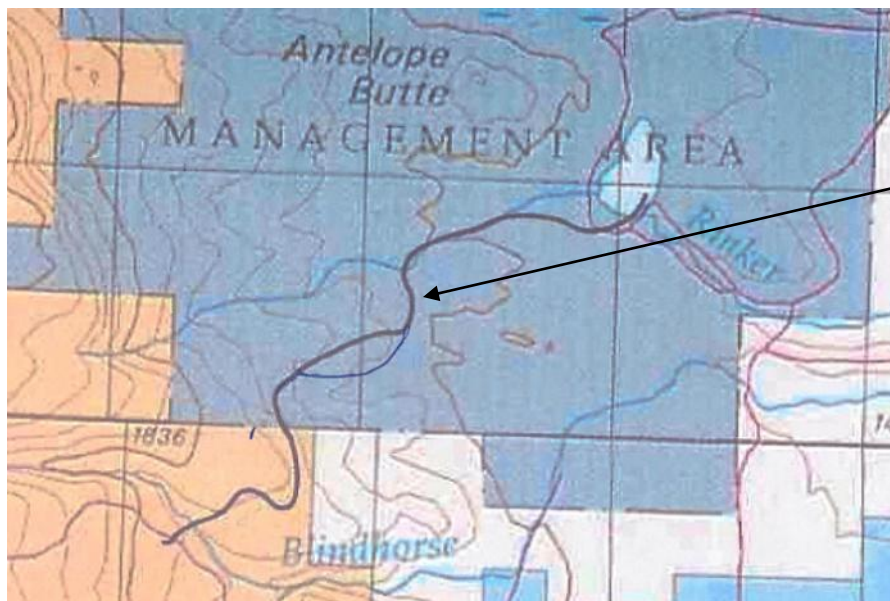
No Meeting in November.

December 6, 2015 –Christmas Party at Dr. Dick and Mary Jane Kinyon home. Regular Meeting @ 6 P.M. before meal and gift exchange.

January 10, 2016 –Annual meeting and election of officers. Dr. Dick and Mary Jane Kinyon home. Regular Meeting @ 6 P.M. before meal.

Director's meetings as needed during 2015 & early 2016 in preparation for hosting BCH of Montana annual convention to be held at Holiday Inn in Great Falls March 25, 26 & 27, 2016.

All members are welcome to participate in the work projects, but will need to have a Volunteer Service agreement for the Forest Service filled out for each work project. More information to follow at May general meeting.



Proposed trail development by FWP.





Pretty Prairie

