



EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

FOUNDED 1978 37 YEARS OF TRAIL TAILS June 2015

OFFICERS

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Bob Hermance
- Vice President:**
Joe Suta
- Secretary:**
Helen Suta
- Treasurer:**
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- State Directors:**
Fred Fitzpatrick
Ron Ries
- Alt. State Director:**
Merlyn Huso
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www.bchmt.org

Greetings to All,

It is amazing how time flies and the next work project is around the corner on June 13th & 14th at Elk Creek. If you have not signed up and would like to help out, please let us know ASAP as we have to get the volunteer forms into the forest service and plan for the most important part – FOOD. So far we are looking at ten members and there's room for more.

I would like to share some information that we found out about caring for elderly parents. Bob's dad Gerald has moved in with us and it was a pretty nerve racking first week. He came down with both A and B strains of the flu and ended up in the hospital. Due to the very poor condition he was in the PA's did not give us much hope. We had no information about his wishes and were not sure if he had a living will and they asked about a DNR order. Luck for us with the great care he got in Conrad, he pulled through and is doing remarkably well. If you drive past our house you will see the motor home where he is living and loving life. What we found out was there is a new form called a POLST – Montana Provider Orders For Life-Sustaining Treatment, link below. If you Google this it will bring up a form that everyone can fill out which has more information on a person's wishes. Once this is filled out it needs to be placed on the refrigerator or a conspicuous place and given to the ambulance crew when they respond. We will definitely be more prepared next time.

You should have already received my email on the change of location of the next meeting on the 11th. The new location is Ron and Debbie Ries's home at 4718 Old Shelby Rd. Thanks Debbie and Ron for opening your home.

Hope to see a good crowd there.

LeAnn

http://bsd.dli.mt.gov/license/bsd_boards/med_board/pdf/polst.pdf

 * **June 11th meeting moved to Ron and Debbie Ries's** *
 * **home 4718 Old Shelby Rd. 7:00 PM** *



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Lisa Schmidt, Deb Schatz,
Kelsey Fitzpatrick

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO ALL

East Slope Back Country Horsemen
Regular Meeting/Conrad Public Library
May 14, 2015

President Bob Hermance called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. There were 8 members in attendance: Joe and Helen Suta, Bob and LeAnn Hermance, Ron and Debbie Ries, Dick Kinyon and Fred Fitzpatrick.

Minutes

Bob asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes as published in the newsletter. There were not, and the minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report

LeAnn read the Treasurer's report, and it was approved. There were several bills submitted to be paid. LeAnn submitted \$160.00 for her and Bob's convention registration, \$49.00 to purchase stamps, \$1.40 postage for a packet of member registration papers mailed to a prospective member and \$15.00 for the annual report for a total of \$225.40. Joe and Helen Suta presented a bill for \$390.00, \$160.00 for convention registration and \$230.00 for mileage to Deer Lodge for the State meeting. Ron and Debbie Ries submitted a bill for \$240.00, convention registration for themselves and Fred. Merlin Huso also submitted a bill for \$80.00 for convention registration.

Dick Kinyon made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Debbie. There was also a motion made by Dick to increase the amount paid for mileage to \$.50 per mile. The motion was seconded by Fred and passed.

Correspondence

There was a packet of information received from the Forest Service covering forms needed to be filled out for work projects, along with JHA's or Job Hazard Analysis's covering several possible hazards and how to address them. These JHA's need to be covered before a work project begins, during the work project and at the end of the day. LeAnn said she wasn't sure if the Volunteer Services Agreement form will needed to be filled out prior to every weekend work project, but would

look into it.

State Meeting Report

Fred gave a report on the State BCH meeting that he and Joe Suta attended May 9, 2015. Fred reported that there had been 11 applicants for grants at the \$90K level of one or two grants available. A couple of the State BCH directors will be attending a meeting to present and ask questions of the RTP Grant committee. National director Dave Crawford reported on volunteer hours for 2014. The hours had increased from the year before, but a decrease in stock days.

Chuck Chepulis, another National Delegate, reported that Jim McGarvey, National BCHA Chairman, will serve another year without pay, but with an expense account.

A resolution was passed to oppose transfer of public lands. Fred reported that a bill, HR1931, was introduced by a Texas representative to amend the bill transferring public land. The amendment presented was co-sponsored by Sen. Tester. A letter was sent to Sen. Daines as he voted for the Budget bill in which the transfer of public lands was included. He sent a letter back saying that he was opposed to the transfer to public lands, and will vote for the amendment to the Budget bill.

Dan Marsh, Website Chair, reported that a couple of the clubs had been hacked in May. He was able to fix the websites. He is also looking into mobile access to club websites, and that there would be an app to download for each club.

There was a defensive horse safety book handed out to the State delegates. It has been reviewed by Smoke Elser and approved. There will be a DVD of the information which can be reviewed by each club.

The PA system had needed repair or updating. To purchase a complete new system would cost \$4000.00. Dan purchased a module and thinks it will repair the system. He also wants to add Bluetooth for an additional \$70.00 which will enable directors to use their cell phones to speak at meetings.

Fred said Glacier Park is rewriting a new travel plan. He said we need to keep monitoring the situation.

Comment to these plans will need to come from organizations, and he thinks we should select alternative 2. Historian Julie Schram is still looking for more reports from clubs concerning the history of their club. Fred said he wrote one and gave it to the State BCH, but it was misplaced. He thinks he may still have a copy and will look for it.

Bear spray will need to be ordered from Counterassault. They will give a discount to our club, and we can purchase them for \$28.17 for 10 oz. cans. Ron made a mo-

tion to purchase 15 cans, seconded by Fred. The cost will be \$422.50 to the club, and members can purchase them at cost.

The issue of the Forest Service's proposed Food Storage order was discussed. JonI Packard of the Forest Service was in attendance at the State meeting and said there would be no change at this time. Thank you to all who sent letters with your comments regarding the proposed order.

Old Business

Fred checked the mailing list for the National and State newsletter with LeAnn's list for the club to see if there had been any changes. All of the members present said they had been receiving a printed copy from the National and State and would like to continue to.

The State board meeting for December is going to be on the 6th which is a Sunday. We questioned whether that was accurate because State meetings are never on a Sunday. If it is, we will need to change the date of our Christmas party. Will check further.

New Business

Our club is supposed to send information to the State for the June newsletter. Fred said he had already submitted an article for our club.

There were sign-up sheets for the next two work projects, but it was decided to cancel the Memorial Day work project on the South Fork of the Teton due to shortage of response. It may be rescheduled at a later time. The Elk Creek project is still open, and Helen will have the sign-up sheet at the June meeting.

2016 State Convention Progress Report

We plan to check the different committee's progress each meeting to make sure we are getting things done in time. Bob said we need to start writing letters to potential vendors. Fred said he would get together with

Helen and draft a letter.

Ron said he would get started on the centerpieces and check on musical entertainment. We talked about getting speakers for break-out sessions. There was an idea that instead of break-out sessions in different conference rooms we could just have speakers set up in the main conference room and eliminate moving from room to room. That would also give more time for delegates to shop with the vendors. Dick Kinyon was asked if he would do a talk on back-country veterinary medicine, and he said he would. Fred said he could talk to someone from the Rocky Mountain Coalition about doing a talk about the Heritage Act and its impact.

For raffle items to date we have a rifle, a pack saddle and Fred is working on getting a Yetti cooler, but we need four raffle items. Different members said they would start checking with business about donations for the convention. It is important to try and get these things lined out as soon as possible.

LeAnn said we would need to get a poster made up for the Poker Ride by the June meeting. Fred said he thought he had a template for the Poker Ride poster and would look for it. The members also approved a membership application for Marty Metz.

Fred said he was going to file for a 501.c3 status for the club, and it would cost \$400.00. A motion was made by Debbie Ries to fund this, seconded by Ron.

There being no further business, Helen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Fred. Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held June 11, 2015 at the Conrad Public Library at 7 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Suta, Secretary



Story on next page.

Bee calm...the Bee wrangler is here!

On Tuesday, May 19, a swarm of bees settled on a tree near 5th and Maryland. Concerns for children walking home from school led to a call to the Extension office about, "what do we do?"

Enter Bob and LeAnn Hermance, local bee wranglers. Suited up in coveralls and other protective gear, Bob sprayed the swarm with sugar water. This is bee food and it keeps them from swarming because they clean each other off. Because they are distracted, they don't seem to mind the bee wrangler gently scooping them off the tree and into a bee-box.

Safely removed from the tree, this colony is starting a new home and in the future, there will be sweet rewards for the wranglers.

It is unusual for bees to swarm this early in the year. If you happen to see a swarm, bee calm. They are probably looking for a new home. Leave them alone or contact a person with experience to move the colony so you can avoid the stinging realities of trying to move bees on your own.

Volunteer Hours Committee Report – 2014

April 25, 2015

The Volunteer Hours committee met to finalize the 2014 report of the BCHA volunteer effort and select a recipient of the Double Diamond Award. Members in participating were:

Russ Wright (BCH Arizona)
Melinda Wagner (BCH Georgia)
Mary K Church (Show-Me Missouri BCH)
Steve Lindsey (BCH Kansas)
Joanne Mitchell (BCH Tennessee)
Laurie Hufstader (BCH Oregon)
Larry Zauberis, Chairman (BCH Colorado)

Volunteer Effort

The committee has received report from nearly all the states in the organization, 24 of 27 states reported. The exceptions were Alaska, Illinois, and West Virginia. A report is expected from BCH Alaska in the next few weeks which will be included in an amended report. This amended report will be submitted to the chairman as soon as possible. No report was expected from the newly organized organizations in New York and Mississippi. The compiled report is attached.

The total value of the volunteer effort reported in 2014 was **\$14,419,615.89**.

An increase of \$466,666.18 over the 2013 value of \$13,972,949.71. (~0.3%).

417134 hours of basic and skilled work, administrative service, education and public meeting participation valued at \$10,180,960.

An increase of 49,973 hours (\$1,375,433)

1726179 miles were recorded for personal vehicles and stock hauling valued at \$1,684,563.

An increase of 88,127 miles (\$77,021).

7152 hours of equipment use were recorded valued at \$300,519.

A decrease of 4409 hours (\$114,511).

13,044 head of pack and saddle stock were used for 21,832 stock days with a value of \$2,182,300.

A significant decrease from 30732 stock days (\$890,900).

Cash and in-kind donations were down an insignificant \$377.

It is noted that even though the total work hours increased by almost 14 percent, equipment and pack & saddle stock usage was down significantly from the previous year. There is no way to determine the cause for this anomaly, however, in my opinion, it is probably due to inconsistent reporting of those resources by local chapters.

In 2015 I will make an effort to educate the membership on the importance of accurately reporting all resources applied to volunteer efforts on the BCHA website and in the newsletter.

As an action item, I would like the national directors to provide me with the name of the person in their state organization responsible for compiling the volunteer hours report.

The figures in the Volunteer Hours Report are based on the value of volunteer service for 2014 determined by the Independent Sector (https://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time). The value used is \$23.07, an increase of \$0.52 from 2013 value used in 2013 of \$22.55/hour. See the attached 2014 BCHA Volunteer Hours Report Summary.

At the 2014 NBM the committee decided to value the hourly rate for skilled labor to one and one-half the value for basic labor. The value used for the 2014 report was \$34.61 (\$23.07 x 1.5).

Other values for stock use (\$100/day) and vehicle usage (\$0.90 – POV; \$1.10 – Stock hauling) were maintained at rates determined in previous years.

Double Diamond Award

The committee received five nominations for the 2014 Double Diamond Award which were considered:

Mother Lode Unit (California) for completion of Phase I of the Caples Creek Trailhead

Show-me Missouri BCH (Missouri) for their partnership with PepsiCo to develop and distribute mesh bags for the removal of trash from trails and trailheads.

Pigeon River and Beyond BCH (Michigan) for their effort to help DNR personnel understand the requirements of horsemen, to teach equine safety, and resolve issues between users and land managers.

Beartooth BCH (Montana) for the Ernie Strum trail project.

Uinta Basin BCH (Utah) for their recognition by the Utah Lieutenant Governor for hard work in environmental stewardship with U Serve Utah.

The Ernie Strum Trail Project completed by Beartooth BCH in Montana was selected on a unanimous vote by the committee.

This project was completed in 2014, but represents a concerted effort of several years by the Montana Beartooth chapter. The project opened public access to McDonald Basin and the north face of Beartooth Mountain adjacent to a wilderness area in the Custer National Forest. The development and execution of this effort required the chapter to manage the coordination of many government agencies including the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Montana Department of Natural Resources, and the Montana Conservation Corps over a sustained period. In all five government agencies and fifteen private entities were involved which took tremendous dedication by the Beartooth chapter. In 2014 alone, the chapter expended 480 hours labor, 2,953 vehicle miles of travel valued at over \$17,000. The trail was dedicated to Ernie Strum, a long-time member of the Beartooth chapter, after his passing in late 2013 to commemorate his tireless work on the project.



**SWIFT DAM SPRAY DAY
TUESDAY JUNE 23rd**

Starts at 7:00 AM and there will be a lunch provided at noon for all volunteers. They are looking for people with sprayers, water tanks, back pack sprayers, etc. This will include an educational program with the Pondera County Extension Agent Shaelyn Meyer.

For more information contact Pam Converse at 271-5672 or Shaelyn Meyer at 271-4053.

A Picture of trail clearing from Elk Creek last year. Left to Right ; Clete Gregory, Joe Suta and Merlyn Huso.

