



EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

FOUNDED 1978 37 YEARS OF TRAIL TAILS AUGUST 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

Editor: Le Ann Hermance

Hermance@3rivers.net

Publisher: Fred Fitzpatrick

Webmaster: Fred Fitzpatrick

richfitz@3rivers.net

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

Greetings,

Being involved with the East Slope Back Country Horsemen has been very rewarding for me. To be able to volunteer, to help the forest service in maintaining some of their trails and in doing so help others to have a rewarding experience in our backyard we call the Bob Marshall Wilderness. What better way to be able to work with our stock and have them ready to go when we head back into the back country to enjoy ourselves.

We currently have 15 active members and 34 total members. Some like to join just to support our club. We know everyone is busy and maybe in the future our schedules will work so that those who haven't been able to participate can do so. We might be calling on you to help during the 2016 convention.

Our annual Poker Ride will be this weekend, August 2nd. Last weekend we were busy clearing the trail around the lake and helping Cliff clean up the camp ground. On Saturday August 1st we will be riding in the Grizzly Day parade and I hope you will be able to join us in Dupuyer and then on Sunday with a ride around the lake. I would also like to thank those who donated door prizes and a list of sponsors will be in next month's newsletter.

At the last meeting we did bear spray training. With the order from Counter Assault we received 10 inert cans to practice with. A picture will be in the newsletter. We went out to the driveway and practiced with the cans and how to spray when they are in the holster. We will be taking a couple inert cans to the Poker Ride and maybe do a demonstration. Since we did put the cans into the holsters, we are short one holster for the regular cans. If anyone took an inert can with a holster, we need it back.

On Friday, the 24th we received a letter from the IRS giving us our Public Charity Status. We are now officially under the 501-C-3 a 509-a-2. For the upcoming convention we needed this status to request donations or sponsorships from corporations. Our requirements will be to fill out the yearly form 990 and report contributions. Thank you to Fred and LeAnn for getting this completed.

Here's to seeing you on the trail. *Bob*

**** August 13th, 7:00 PM meeting will be at Ron and Debbie Ries's home at 4718 Old Shelby Rd. For the new members you come into Conrad, turn west on Central Ave, (or right) and go over the overpass for 1/2 mile or so, turn left onto Old Shelby Rd. Go 4.7 miles till you see a wagon and the Rascal sign on your right.



August Birthdays

Marsha Nieman
Haylee Nieman

.East Slope Back Country Horsemen
Regular Meeting/Ron and Debbie Ries Home
July 9, 2015

President Robert Hermance called the regular meeting to order at the home of Ron and Debbie Ries on July 9, 2015 at 7:15 P.M. There were 12 members in attendance: Ron and Debbie Ries, Joe and Helen Suta, Bob and LeAnn Hermance, Clete Gregory, Keith Alltucker, Merlyn Huso, Fred Fitzpatrick, Dick Kinyon, Al Winter and Bill Poser.

Minutes

Bob asked the members if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes as published in the newsletter. There were none and the minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report

LeAnn gave the Treasurer's report and noted bills paid since the last meeting. The IRS electronically withdrew \$400.00 for our application for a 501c3. A bill for the bear spray ordered for members was also paid in the amount of \$366.21. Members in attendance paid for and picked up their bear spray orders.

Correspondence

LeAnn presented a newsletter from the Bitterroot club for the members to read. Bob said he has not heard from Kathy Hundley concerning the packing clinic that was to be presented at the Boone and Crockett Ranch for kids.

Committee Reports

Fred said he had received the new saw policy in PDF form which comprised 35 pages. He has not had time to read through it.

He also said there had been some amendments presented in the House of Representatives in an effort to sell Federal Lands back to the states. Another amendment from a representative from Colorado was to prevent the Federal government from collecting fees on Federal Land.

Old Business

The bear spray arrived with 10 inert cans to be used for practice. The members in attendance did practice with

the inert cans after the meeting was over. Some inert cans were kept to be used at the Poker Ride for demonstration.

There will be a work project the 25th and 26th of July at Swift Dam to clear trail. LeAnn reminded members that their Forest Service paperwork needs to be completed to be on the work project.

Clete had some information regarding the status of the Blackleaf area. He has talked to Ryan Rauscher, FWP biologist, and the project has been shelved for now.

The comments ran 50/50, but found that the State would need to do an archeological study and the cost would be prohibitive.

New Business

Flyers for the Swift Dam Poker Ride were handed out to members to be placed in businesses. Members were also asked to try to get donations from businesses for door prizes. Members are to write down what was received as a donation and who donated it so we can thank those businesses.

The Lange Creek work project was discussed and a sign-up sheet was passed around. It has been very difficult to locate the area that needs to be sprayed in the past. Some discussion was made concerning the best way to approach the area. This will be discussed more at the next meeting.

2016 Convention Progress Update

Ron reported that Wylie had been booked for the convention. He has not been able to talk with the Crawford's about performing. He has not been able to secure a gun or pack saddle. Clete suggested talking to Thales Mullennax about making a pack saddle to raffle.

LeAnn said Sun River Saddlery also makes pack saddles. She also checked into getting a \$500 gift certificate from Town Pump, but we need a letter from the IRS concerning receipt of our application for 501c3 before we can get a donation from them. Clete suggested looking into bear proof boxes instead of a gun. He was able to order some through Amazon for a reasonable price the year before.

Discussion will continue at future meetings, but we need to have everything lined up and nailed down by October so tickets can be printed to be handed out at the December State meeting.

Ron said he would need help on Friday the 17th of July to get the hitching rails welded together. They will then be installed at the Beartooth August 8th.

There being no further discussion, Clete made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Merlyn. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Suta, Secretary

Dog Rescue in the “Bob”

By Fred Fitzpatrick

Greg and Deb Schatz recently provided some packing support for a trail crew from CDT of Montana. Their mission was to haul gravel for the turnpike and then haul out the trail crew. “The trail crew was working on their longest trip of the season- nine days in the Bowl Creek drainage of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. These volunteers built a new 50' turnpike, re-crowned an additional 80' and rescued two lost spaniels to boot!” So while the trail crew was working on the trail they found two black cocker spaniels they were very tired, hungry and had sore feet from all their travels. The crew took care of them and gave them something to eat. After Greg and Deb got done hauling gravel for the day they loaded the two dogs in canvas bags and gave them rides on one of their pack horses back to camp. They were so exhausted they absolutely could not walk anymore. Once they got the dogs back to camp everybody took turns feeding them and nursing them back to health, even letting the dogs sleep with them in the comforts of their tents. They used the information on one of the dogs collars and using a radio they contacted the Forest Service who in turn called the number on the dog tag and where able to locate the owners and make arrangements for a joyful reunion at the West Fork trailhead. The ending of the story is the dogs had a \$500 cash reward for their return, so CDT Montana got the cash donation. Way to go Greg and Deb and the whole CDT trail crew.



The two dogs Molly and Abbey getting a bit to eat—pard!

Molly and Abbey with one of the CDT trail Crew in his tent.

Greg and one of the CDT Trail crew loading up Molly and Abbey

So now for the rest of the dog story from Deborah Schatz, Molly and Abbey belong to the father of my co-worker, Lauren Cain. Lauren's dad, Jim Cain, lives in Conrad and works for the railroad. The family has a cabin near the trailhead and the dogs wandered off from the cabin on July 3rd, possibly following a pack string. The dogs had been gone two weeks, and the owners had given up hope that the dogs would be found and were so sad not knowing what happened to them. Tracy, Lauren told me that her dad cried tears of joy when he heard that a trail crew had found his dogs. The lady who picked up the dogs is their step-mom - Lauren's dad was working on Sunday. Lauren said it took the dogs a couple days to get acclimated to life back at home and are now back to normal and doing well. A happy ending!! Lauren and her family send you a huge THANK YOU!!

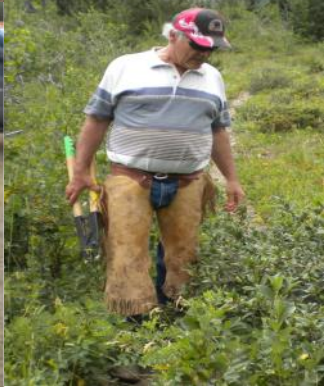
Greg and Deb Schatz are members of the Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead and East Slope Back Country Horsemen. Greg and Deb live in Columbia Falls, MT and have just recently purchased some property on the front range of the Rocky Mountains. Where they moved an old cabin to their property and have been in the process of renovating it. They volunteer a lot of their time and horses providing pack support for crews from The Bob Marshall Foundation and CDT of Montana.



Pictured are

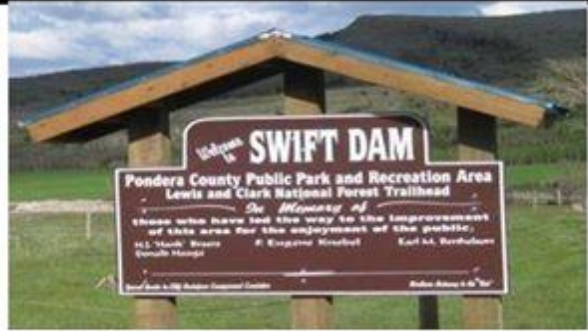
Bob Hermance
Al Winters
Clete Gregory
Fred Fitzpatrick
Merlyn Huso
Keith Alltucker
Joe Suta

Dick Kinyon checking
out the range of the
spray and
the smell



Swift dam work project





**EAST SLOPE BACK
COUNTRY HORSEMAN
INVITES YOU TO COME
JOIN THE FUN AT
OUR *ANNUAL POKER RIDE*
AT SWIFT DAM
WEST OF DUPUYER**

AUGUST 2, 2015

**REGISTRATION STARTS
AT 9:30 AM**

*Cash Paid
for the first
three best
Hands.*

**ALL ARE
WELCOME
RIDERS AND
NON-RIDERS**

**RIDE BEGINS AT
10:30 AM**

**PLEASE
NO DOGS
NO FIREARMS
NO STALLIONS**

**All Poker Hands
are \$ 10.00
Each
Buy as many as
you like**

**AUCTION ITEMS
DOOR PRIZES**

*Concessions Available
1/4 # Hamburgers &
Hot Dogs*

**Served with baked beans and potato salad.
Will Be Available For \$5.00 / Plate
(Bring your own refreshments)**

*Come up to Dupuyer on Saturday
and attend all the fun and activities
of Grizzly Day.
Then come up to Swift Dam Park
and Trailhead and camp the
evening before the Poker Ride.*