



# EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

FOUNDED 1978 38 YEARS OF TRAIL TAILS FEBRUARY 2016

## OFFICERS

**President:**

Fred Fitzpatrick

**Vice President:**

Lisa Schmidt

**Secretary:**

Helen Suta

**Treasurer:**

LeAnn Hermance

**State Directors:**

Ron Ries

Fred Fitzpatrick

**Alt. State Director:**

Merlyn Huso

**Chapter Directors:**

2 year term

Dick Kinyon

Debbie Ries

Joe Suta

1 year term

Bill Poser

Clete Gregory

Steve Hutton

**Jr. Director:**

Abbey Hutton

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**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](http://www.bchmt.org)

Dear ESBCH Members,

First and foremost, I would like to say Thank You for allowing me to serve as your President. I will try and be beneficial to the chapter and serve all of you fairly. And Thanks to Past President Bob Hermance for his time spent as President, and Thank You Bob for presenting myself with the Presidents award.

As my first official presidents letter, although I have written a few for some of the past presidents being the East Slope secretary for eight years, so here it goes.

This year we have a lot of things going on, first of course is the 2016 Montana Back Country Horsemen State convention at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls, Montana on April 1-3, 2016. We have progressed quite nicely with quite a few of the arrangements for the convention, but we still have a ways to go yet.

I would like to ask that our members have got to step up and help where they can, so that we can make this a memorable convention for everyone. In the near future we are going to have to set our calendar for the year. Decide on what Work Projects we are able to do and of course or Annual Poker Ride. So If anyone has any ideas about maybe some other activities for the chapter please feel free to contact me so we can discuss them.

I know this year one of things that is going to have to be addressed is the trail around Swift Dam with the fires that hit the area last year. We will definitely have to spend some extra time clearing the trail and making sure that there are no hazards in the trail that could cause problems for our participants.

Something else I would like our chapter to think about is participating in the Back Country Horsemen of Montana joint RTP Grant application for 2017. I realize that this is next year, but we need to consider what projects that we think would be beneficial to the chapter and the public. I have a couple of thoughts. Trail 153 that runs along the front from the North Fork of Dupuyer Creek and The Blackleaf area then to Trail 177 through Clary Coulee to the Middle Fork of the Teton road. We have worked on this trail before, but we have never finished it. We need to finish the northern portion and also from Blindhorse to the Middle Fork Road. My other thought is the possibility of bridge or culvert on the trail around the dam just past the North Fork of Birch Creek heading up the pass where you drop into the Middle Fork there is spring. The trail there is quite often in bad shape and with the fire situation it will only be worse.

I would ask that if any of you have any questions or thoughts to please feel free to contact me.

When in doubt, let your horse do the thinkn'

Fred



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 2016

Dick Kinyon

Steve Hutton

Clete Gregory

Hannah Nieman

Gale Gustafson

Ginger Flesch

March 2016

Greg Schatz

East Slope Back Country Horsemen  
Annual Meeting/ Election of Officers  
January 16, 2016 **DRAFT** Minutes

President Bob Hermance called the annual meeting to order at 4:45 P.M., January 16, 2016 at the home of Dick and Mary Jane Kinyon. There were 15 members in attendance: Joe and Helen Suta, Bob and LeAnn Hermance, Ron and Debbie Ries, Steve and Abigail Hutton and Lisa Schmidt, Bill and Bonnie Poser, Keith Alltucker, Sue McNeal and Dick and Mary Jane Kinyon, and Fred Fitzpatrick.

Bob asked the members if there were any corrections to the minutes. Fred said he had one correction, and that he corrected in the newsletter that was published. Bob asked if there were any other corrections, but there were none. Minutes approved as published.

LeAnn gave the Treasurer's report. There were two checks written, one to replace the check lost by Merlyn Huso, and one for the purchase of more raffle tickets in the amount of \$207.66 to Allegra. LeAnn also made a transfer from savings to checking for \$600. Steve made a motion to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa.

Fred commented on state BCH financial statements and copy of the Memorandum of Understanding that was e-mailed to members of the club. The MOU is between the BLM, the Wilderness Society and the BCH of America. It is an agreement to build better relationship with the BLM. He said it probably wouldn't concern our club that much.

## OLD BUSINESS

There was a discussion about the cookbooks Marsha McCubbins had printed as a fundraiser. The members had a chance to look them over, and all said there should be some changes made. To reorder them would cost \$10 each. Fred wants to know what the minimum order could be. It was decided to look into having 15 or minimum amount printed with revisions, and be able to proof the final product before purchasing more. Bob made a motion to print more if approved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron.

## NEW BUSINESS

A member wanted to know if the club had by-laws to look at. Fred said they could be accessed on the web site.

## CONVENTION UPDATE

Bob said we needed to figure out how many people we are going to need to run the convention. After it was discussed how many people are needed for helping vendors set up, work the registration table, take in auction items, photos and sell raffle tickets, Ron said he thought it would take 14 people each session. LeAnn said she thought we should have enough people so everyone could take a break from the job, which would double the amount needed. Fred said we would need to set a time limit on registration, and after Saturday morning, most of that should be done. That should give everyone a break. Bob said he will bring some outside people in to help out.

We have 12 vendors set up to come to the convention. Fred said he would like to get more vendors if we could. LeAnn said we need to concentrate on selling raffle tickets, and Fred said we need to start working on getting door prize donations. Lisa said she thought we should be set up to use credit cards. She is already set up for her business and it has doubled sales. Ron said he will have the center-pieces done and the gun engraved in a couple of weeks.

Bob said he talked to Jim Sargent about doing the slide shows and sound system, but he doesn't do that. He gave the name of Marty Severson who could do the job for \$1000 on Saturday and \$500 on Sunday. Fred said we could get Dan Marsh to do it as well. A motion was made by Ron to bring in Marty for Saturday and have Dan do the job on, seconded by Lisa. We are still looking for a DJ for Saturday.

Helen asked what we should do for prizes for the photo contest. Fred said we could just give the winners a ribbon award. There was discussion about getting shirts for the members for the convention. Fred said Sandy Himmel, who owns Shining Mountain in Great Falls, could make the shirts and he would check on getting the photo contest ribbons from her too. It was decided to put the photo contest ballots in the delegates' packets.

We have a couple of speakers to give a presentation during the breaks. Dick Kinyon will do equine in the back country, and Lisa said she has Sandy Watson, who is a professional photographer, to do a presentation.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The ballots were handed out to the members. Most of the positions were unopposed, so Bob asked if there were nominations from the floor for each position. Fred made a motion for nominations from the floor to cease,

2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa. Helen made a motion to elect the unopposed by unanimous ballot, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Debbie. A motion was made to vote for the two opposed positions, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve. The new officers are: Fred, President; Lisa, Vice-President; Helen, Secretary; LeAnn, Treasurer; State Director, Fred; Alternate State Director, Merlyn; Chapter Directors, Debbie, Joe and Dick. A motion was made to elect Abigail Hutton as Junior Delegate by Bob, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron. Motion passed by voice vote.

#### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Bob gave the President's Award to Fred Fitzpatrick for all his hard work on the convention.

#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

LeAnn reminded everyone that they needed to fill out the paper work to renew their membership. The next meeting will be February 3, 6.M. at Bob and LeAnn Hermance's home.

It will be a convention planning meeting. The meeting will follow a potluck dinner. There being no further business, Debbie made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred. The meeting was followed by a delicious prime rib dinner cooked by Dick Kinyon. A special thank you to Dick and Mary Jane for opening their home to us for the meeting and dinner.

DRAFT COPY

Respectfully Submitted,  
Helen Suta, Secretary



MARCH 5th 4:00 PM

Ron and Debbie Ries's Home

Bring your best post of chili or other goodies

The following resolution will be discussed at the state convention in Great Falls on the 3rd of April.

## ***BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF MONTANA*** **RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE SALE AND/OR TRANSFER OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS**

WHEREAS, the mission of the Back Country Horsemen of Montana is, "To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness areas. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use. To assist the various government, state, and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource," and

WHEREAS, these public lands are a part of "our" national treasure and heritage, and are held in trust and perpetuity to benefit current and future generations of all Americans, and

WHEREAS, we support sustainable management of renewable resources, recreational opportunities, historic preservation and the lands of our heritage, and

WHEREAS, the sale and or transfer of these lands will remove large acreages from the Nation's federal public lands system, fragment management, compromise public access, and set a precedent for the privatization of all public lands, and

WHEREAS, the sale or transfer will significantly decrease recreational opportunities, and

WHEREAS, no federal lands should be sold or transferred except for lands considered under the Federal Land Transaction Reconciliation Act (FLTRA, PL 106-248),

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Back Country Horsemen of Montana, that we oppose any plan, action or legislation that facilitates the sale, transfer or disposal of any public lands held and managed in trust for all Americans (except under FLTRA), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be made known in writing to the Governor of Montana, Attorney General, our Congressional Delegation, our elected officials, Region One Forester, State Office of the BLM, and Montana National Park Superintendents.

East Slope Back Country Horsemen  
Convention Meeting  
Ron and Debbie Ries Home  
February 3, 2016

President Fred Fitzpatrick called the Director's meeting to order at 6:53 P.M., February 3, 2016 at the home of Ron and Debbie Ries. There were 14 members in attendance: Fred Fitzpatrick, Ron and Debbie Ries, Kurt Dyer, Lisa Schmidt and Steve Hutton, Joe and Helen Suta, Bob and LeAnn Hermance, Keith Alltucker, Marty Metz, and Patsy and Clete Gregory.

Fred said we would not report the minutes from the last regular meeting or give a treasurer's report. There was no correspondence or committee reports. The purpose of the meeting was to go over convention progress and membership applications.

### **Registrations and Vendor Applications**

LeAnn reported that she had received 6 registrations and a vendor request with money for the Saturday night dinner. To date, we have 12 vendors for the convention. Lisa reported that Cassiopea Books would like to set up as well, but would only be there Friday night and Sunday morning. Lisa also reported that Sherry Linebarger could give a talk on Sunday on fires in the back-country as well as be a vendor. Sandy Watson, the professional photographer, would also be a vendor. Bob reported that Don Dutro might set up panels. If a vendor wants more than one table, the cost is \$50.00 plus \$25.00 for additional table.

### **Raffle, door prizes and silent auction items**

Ron reported on the items he had received, and LeAnn reported on the items other members had received and who they were from. We keep a report of businesses who have donated so they won't be approached again by a member. There was a discussion on who would approach which businesses in the future. Ron showed the members the rifle and engraving done. He reported that the total for the digital logo and engraving was just over \$88.00, less than the cost reported before.

### **Budget Cost Review**

Fred did up a budget cost review for the club, and went through it with the members. Since there could be several variables before the convention is over, it is just an estimate, but we should clear about \$1400 in the end. Convention registration for members was discussed. Fred initially thought we could give members who worked at the convention meals for free, but felt it would be better to charge at least \$35.00 per member. A motion to set the fee for members at \$35 was made by Helen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Keith. Motion passed.

A discussion about BCH members who have primary and secondary memberships attending the convention was discussed. The question was if a BCH member with dual membership could vote on behalf of each club. It was reported that they can only vote with their primary club.

The main topic of the convention will be changes to the constitution concerning term limits and when new officers will take their positions. The change being proposed is having officers take over the 1<sup>st</sup> of January instead of after the convention. A change of lettering is also being proposed from BCHM to BCHMT to identify the Montana BCH over other states with the letter M.

### **Other Convention Business**

We decided that we would need Styrofoam boards and insulation nails for the photo contest which could be purchased from Home Depot. Fred told Joe and Helen he had ribbons ordered for the photo contest, and the cost of them would be \$82. Clete and Marty will do the Cowboy Church on Sunday morning. Clete also said we would need the National Anthem for the

for the color guard at the opening of the convention. Fred thought we could find a recording of the Anthem. Ron reported on the centerpiece progress. He had 34 made, 17 for auction items and 17 to the clubs. He also had 4 extra made for club members to buy. Marty Severson will do the sound and projector for Saturday. Dan Marsh can do it on Sunday with a projector borrowed from Keith Alltucker. A discussion on if we wanted to try and make flowers for the individual tables was had. We decided not to go to a lot of work on that, and Debbie will check with the flower shop about a donation of flowers for the main table.

LeAnn reported that the cost to the club for renting the main room was \$600 per night and \$300 per day for the smaller rooms. She said we might be able to work with the hotel on the cost as they had inadvertently rented out a couple of the rooms to someone else. The hotel called back to report that we had the rooms back and the matter was taken care of. The entertainment for Saturday night will be Wylie and the Wild West for \$1500 and the Crawford Brothers for \$800. Ron said he needed to send Crawford Brothers \$400 down for their performance. A motion by Ron to pay \$400 was made, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob. Motion passed. LeAnn reported the 1<sup>st</sup> batch of raffle tickets cost \$286.46, the 2<sup>nd</sup> \$207.66. Fred reported his estimate of expenses for the convention is \$24,235. Fred is working on the slide show of the state club's activities, and LeAnn brought music CD's for Fred to include in the slide show.

Keith Alltucker and Greg Schatz said they could do a demonstration of throwing a diamond hitch. There was concern about liability of using a live animal unless secured in a pen. The possibility of using a statue of a horse as a better alternative was discussed. Mark Himmel and Greg Schatz are in charge of the saw competition. Fred said Brad Pollman could give a talk on RPT.

### **Memberships**

There was a discussion on the renewed memberships. Bob made a motion to remove Connie and Gary Manning's request for membership, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Keith. Bob went on the cite reasons for the removal. He said she has done a lot for the club, but she has lost some members due to her abrasiveness to them. He said she strained relations with the Forest Service when she was president, and she tried to have Steve Hutton's delegate reimbursement refused because he left the convention on Saturday because of calving, and had been verbally abusive to LeAnn when she went to see Fred in the hospital. The most recent problem was telling the club they couldn't reserve the Heritage Inn more than a year in advance. This was found to be untrue when Bob went to try and reserve the Heritage and it was found to be booked. Bob also said they showed no record of anyone inquiring about reservation for the Back County Horsemen convention. Bob call the directors earlier in the day to discuss the issue so they could think about it. A vote was taken by those present and two by absence with the final vote 8 to 5 to remove the Manning's membership renewal. A motion was made by Clete, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron to approve the rest of the memberships, motion passed.

The next regular meeting will be a chili feed and convention planning/set calendar meeting. It will be held at Ron and Debbie Ries on March 5, 2016, with the meeting starting at 4 P.M. followed by the meal.

Keith made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob. Meeting adjourned. A thank you to Ron and Debbie Ries for letting us use their home for the meeting.

DRAFT COPY

Respectfully Submitted, Helen Suta, ESBCB Secretary

East Slope Back Country Horsemen  
Special Director's Meeting  
Ron and Debbie Ries Home  
February 18, 2016

President Fred Fitzpatrick called the Director's special meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. on February 18, 2016 at the home of Ron and Debbie Ries. There were 15 members in attendance: Joe and Helen Suta, Ron and Debbie Ries, Clete and Patsy Gregory, Steve Hutton, Abigail Hutton and Lisa Schmidt, Bob Hermance, Bill Poser, Dick Kinyon, Merlyn Huso and Fred Fitzpatrick. The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss possible change to the criteria used for accepting new memberships and renewals, and discuss the renewal of membership for Connie Manning and family.

### **New Business**

Fred and Lisa had an e-mail discussion, that was addressed the club members, concerning possible change of criteria used for accepting new members or renewing memberships. Some of the criteria listed was that the person could not be a felon, a listed sexual offender or violent criminal offender. Fred said that certain criteria is already written in the constitution based on the experience of the club with the Terry York situation, and the club had Attorney Gayle Gustafson write a change in by-laws to address it. It is also written on the member application that a membership is subject to review by the club directors. Since our club is now a 501c3, any change to by-laws would need to be submitted to the IRS. It was discussed not changing the by-laws to address future problems, but to use common sense in considering applicants and constantly work for the best interests of the club. Using the Code of Ethics or the Boy Scout code to make a determination was brought up. A motion was made by Steve to just have an open discussion by directors for any potential new members or renewals if there were any concerns, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron. Motion carried.

### **Unfinished Business**

President Fred Fitzpatrick also called this special director's meeting to address the irregularities and confusion at the last meeting concerning Connie Manning's membership renewal. Bob said he felt this meeting was legal and that the vote taken at the last meeting concerning Connie's application was valid. He went on to list other meetings in the past where the membership applications were discussed and voted on by regular members at regular meetings, not just the directors. Dick said the last meeting was posted as a convention planning meeting, and the issue of Connie's membership was brought up at the end. Fred apologized because he allowed people who were not directors and not official members to vote, so he reviewed the rules in the constitution and decided to redo the meeting and vote to avoid any further conflict. Dick and Clete both spoke up and said they felt we should go ahead and do the voting correctly. Dick made a motion to rescind the vote on the membership application for Connie Manning taken at the February 3 meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Merlyn. Motion passed.



There was then discussion on the motion. Bob wanted to discuss why Connie had such bad feelings for him, as he had never had a bad word to say about her. He thought she may have stepped aside last year because he had stepped in as president to take some things from her as there had been problems. He talked about Ian Bardwell telling Ron he would rather not work with Connie. Ron said what Ian said was that Connie would get to talking about other things off topic and it would get confusing. Bob also said when she was running the poker ride, she was upset when station people didn't show up when she thought they should. There were also complaints from people attending the poker ride that it seemed like the members were getting the nice prizes instead of the contestants so he took that away from her. He also didn't want her being in charge of the upcoming convention because we had lost a couple of good members because of a disagreement Connie had with them.

Fred and Ron said Connie was upset with Bob for cutting her off at meetings and dragging his feet by trying to have the convention in Choteau instead of Great Falls. Fred also said he saw the dispute at the 2005 convention differently. He said Connie asked Gloria if she needed help with the neck coolers, and Gloria said no because she wanted the stitching done right.

Bob then brought up the fact that Connie told the members in the fall of 2014 that the convention couldn't be booked more than a year in advance. After Connie terminated her membership last year, Bob looked into booking the convention at the Heritage in February to find that it couldn't be booked on those dates. He said he felt Connie had been untruthful with the club about the booking. Fred said he was in Connie's office, and she called the Heritage and asked the caterer if she had called her last year, and Alisha the caterer said she did remember speaking to her about booking the convention. Bob said he talked to Alisha afterward, and he got a different story. Steve said it was time to call for the vote, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron.

Ron then spoke up and said that if anyone in the club felt they didn't want to be part of the club after this vote, he was going to be very disappointed in them. He also thanked Fred for making the effort to be sure the vote was done correctly. The vote was taken, and motion to accept Connie's membership application carried by a vote of 7 to 6.

Bob then asked to speak. Bob gave Fred a letter of resignation from the board of directors. He also thanked the members present for allowing him to serve as president of the club for 6 years. He said after 6 years president and 3 years vice-president he was tired of serving. He was thanked for his service as well.

Lisa had one quick question for Fred concerning vendors. She wanted to know if they could show up at the last minute, and Fred said that would be fine.

Clete made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron. Meeting adjourned. Thanks to Fred for the dinner he made for the members and the deserts other members brought. Thank you also to Ron and Debbie for the use of their home for the meeting.

Draft Copy  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Helen Suta, Secretary

# A band of (mostly) brothers: Crawford Brothers Band keeps music in the family

Traci Rosenbaum, [trosenbaum@greatfalltribune.com](mailto:trosenbaum@greatfalltribune.com) 3:39 p.m. MST February 11, 2016

Nick Crawford had attention deficit disorder as a kid, so when he first picked up the fiddle at 4 years old, he had a hard time following the notes.

That might have been the end of Crawford's fiddle career if not for a woman named Phyllis, who taught Crawford to play by ear in a way that made sense to him.

"She taught the way I think people should teach," Crawford said. "She introduced me to kind of the fiddle world."

Crawford, 34, is lead singer and manager for the Crawford Brothers Band, a group that has its roots in a musical Heart Butte family.

"Everybody in my family, you're pretty much given a guitar when you're born," Crawford said.

By the time he was 8, Crawford was practicing the fiddle at least two hours a night and playing up to four gigs per week with his brother at any local event his dad could find that didn't take place in a bar.

"I was never a prodigy or anything like that, it was just that I practiced so much," Crawford said. "By the time I was 12 or 13, a lot of people knew the Crawford Boys."



The Crawford Brothers Band of Heart Butte play across Montana and the Dakotas. They are in the process of producing their first album. (Photo: Sierra Taylor/Shawnee Photography)

After high school, Crawford's life took many paths. He went to college for firefighting, worked as an EMT and spent time on the oil rigs in North Dakota, but every time it came down to a choice, Crawford always chose his music.

"I moved back home to Heart Butte, and I called up some old buddies that I knew that knew how to play," he said. "That's when we actually started as a late-night band."

Crawford took on as many gigs as he could, sometimes for low or no pay, trying to build recognition. During that time, the band went through a lot of members.

"I don't think they realized how hard I wanted to hit it," said Crawford.



At one point, both his drummer and his bass player quit, and the band already had several gigs booked. Crawford was worried, but he refused to cancel the shows. Instead, he contacted his cousins, Joe and Vernon Crawford.

“They weren’t really ready to play in front of people,” Crawford said, “but we didn’t really have a choice.”

These additions, born of necessity, solidified the Crawford Brothers Band into what it is today: Nick Crawford on lead fiddle, guitar and lead vocals; Vernon Crawford on bass; Joe Crawford on rhythm guitar; and Justin Crawford on drums.

The success of the band has only grown, and it now plays all over Montana and the Dakotas, including gigs at the Montana State Fair and the Indian Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, both of which it has been invited back to. It’s also had offers from Tucson and even the Calgary Stampede.

The lack of a finished album is the only thing holding the members back. They’ve built a recording studio and are in the process of laying down tracks, but the equipment they use in the studio has to go with them on the road, which takes up a lot of their recording time and limits their gigs.

“It took me forever to learn all this stuff. I thought you just pushed the record button,” Crawford said. “We have to have our album. Otherwise we’re just going to be a bar band.”

Once the album is done, along with a music video for at least one song, Crawford hopes the doors will begin to open. The group is looking into small business grant, and one band member is working on getting an RV.

No matter what happens, though, the Crawford Brothers Band will keep playing together as a family.

“We grew up as brothers,” he said. “We can cuss each other out and beat each other up and we’re still brothers. People believe in us and we have a lot of fans. It would be stupid to just quit now.”



All the members of the Crawford Brothers Band come from the same family. “We grew up as brothers,” band leader Nick Crawford said. (Photo: Sierra Taylor/Shawnee Photography) Printed with permission from Traci Rosenbaum Reach Tribune Staff Writer Traci Rosenbaum at 791-1490. Follow her on Twitter @GFtrib\_TRosenba