



EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

FOUNDED 1978 37 YEARS OF TRAIL TAILS July 2015

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Helen Suta

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[www.bchmt.org/esbch/
default.html](http://www.bchmt.org/esbch/default.html)

Montana BCH Web Site

www.bchmt.org

Greetings fellow riders.

The June project was a success and we completed the Elk Creek Project. This trail clearing has been going on for many years— 8 to be exact. After splitting into two groups and working our way from two directions, we finally met at the top. This trail will need ongoing maintenance but we now know the location of the trail . Thanks to all who helped get this done.

Our next project will be the Swift Dam trail maintenance. In the past we have just done the brush clearing but this year we will do trail work. This project will be on July 25th and 26th and we will be staying at the Swift Dam trail head. A sign up sheet will be at the next meeting on the 9th at Ron & Debbie Ries's home. With all the topics we need to discuss, we do not have enough time at the library.

Time is going fast and the haying is almost completed for the first round. I did put up some certified small squares but the amount of hay was about 1/2 of what I normally grow. I did hear that Teton County had a much better hay crop.

The bear spray was ordered for those who signed up and will be available for pick up at the July 9th meeting. Please make a check out to the ESBCH for \$28.20. We also received 10 inert cans for practice.

See you on the trail, *Bob*

****** July 9th, 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 Rascal sign.**



July Birthdays

Nick McCubbins
Susan McNeal
Bob Hermance
Ron Ries

June 11th minutes

President Robert Hermance called the regular meeting to order at the home of Ron and Debbie Ries on June 11, 2015 at 7 P.M. There were 11 members in attendance: Bob and LeAnn Hermance, Ron and Debbie Ries, Joe and Helen Suta, Fred Fitzpatrick, Dick Kinyon, Clete Gregory and Joshua Snow, and Marty Metz.

Minutes

Bob asked if there were and changes or corrections to the minutes as published in the newsletter. Ron mentioned one change to be made to the name of Chuck Chepulis, a National Delegate. The first name of the delegate should be John. The rest of the minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report

LeAnn read the Treasurer's report and noted the bills paid since the last meeting which were reported in the last minutes. She also transferred money from savings to checking in the amount of \$500.00. The Treasurer's report was approved as read.

Correspondence

LeAnn asked if anyone was receiving other club's newsletters, but no one has. It was discussed publishing them on our web site, and Fred will look into it.

Committee Reports

Fred read a letter that Connie Long, State President of BCH had sent voicing our approval to Sen. Tester and Daines for their sponsorship of Senate Bill 1110, the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act.

The Saw Policy has been completed, but is not in the Federal Register as of yet.

Old Business

A list was passed around and names taken of people interested in purchasing bear spray from the club which will be purchased from Counterassault at a discounted price. Fourteen cans have been spoken for from an order of 15 cans.

The Swift Dam Poker Ride poster needs to be sent to the printer. Fred has a template for the poster, and wanted to know if we wanted any changes. The members decided that the price of poker hands would be the same for adults and kids, \$10.00. We will still sell burgers after the poker ride, set up a picture board of the

club's activities, have drawings of donated items, and possibly an auction if there are enough more valuable donated items.

Clete then reported that he had been in contact with Ryan Rauscher, FWP biologist from Conrad. Ryan said that the proposal for Blackleaf area has been published, and the comments are running about 50/50. One of the comments was that this trail would tie into Clary Coulee. Ryan checked out the trail himself, and found that the GPS noted the trail, but that it was steep and impassable in an area. Clete brought a copy of a comment he had sent and article from the Choteau paper, and asked members to comment also. There is a link to send your comment which he provided. The deadline is the 19th of June for comment. This is the trail that our club has been asked to adopt for maintenance in the future.

New Business

Bob said that there is supposed to be a packing/horse clinic taking place at the Boone and Crockett Ranch this year which is being sponsored by the Selway-Pintler BCH. Kathy Hundley of that club is in charge of this project. Bob asked if we thought it was something we should become involved with, and said he would contact Kathy.

There will be a weed spray day on June 23 sponsored by the Pondera County Extension Service.

There will be a trail maintenance club project at Swift Dam a week before the poker ride. A sign-up sheet was passed around for member.

Four new member applications were read to the members. Fred made a motion to accept all, seconded by Ron and all were approved.

Convention Progress Update

Ron said he had been in contact with the Crawford's from Heart Butte and Wylie about providing entertainment at the convention. The Crawford's don't book that far out, so Ron will check with them again. The price of their entertainment was discussed, and a motion was made by Helen, seconded by Fred to hire both acts for the convention.

Fred said he has not applied for the club's 501c3, but he will work on getting the application in soon. It was discussed applying for a grant with Northwester Energy for the convention and other business. As long as we have a letter showing the 501c3 has been received, we can use that for the application for a grant.

Ron said he was still going to get the pack saddle for a raffle item. The rifle he was trying to order is no longer being made, but he will still have Randy Brenteson place an order for a rifle. Marty asked if looking into the rental of a lookout cabin would be a possibility for a

raffle item. It was discussed that there probably weren't too many of them.

LeAnn said she had found out about an executive from Google who lives in Whitefish who is donating one million dollars per year for a rescue helicopter for wilderness rescues. It is a Bell Jet Ranger that has been outfitted with a winch and lift. He found out that some rescues in wilderness couldn't be made in the winter and wanted to make that possible. LeAnn thought that might be something we would want to show at the convention as a Saturday program.

Fred read a vendor draft letter he had made. It was discussed the amount we wanted to charge vendors for the convention. It was decided that \$50.00 would be a fair price or ask the vendor to donate a comparable item for auction.

Fred also showed a bracelet made of Para cord which can be worn as a survival tool if unraveled. It might be a good item to place in the delegate packets for the convention. There was some discussion on whether we could make that many or just purchase them.

Ron had some unfinished business to discuss. The hitching rails for the Beartooth need to be put together some weekend, and then they could be installed the second weekend in August.

There being no further business, Cleve moved to adjourn, seconded by Ron.

We weren't able to watch the video on horse safety, but will try at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Suta, Secretary

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
KORD AND KELSEY
ON YOUR UPCOMING
WEDDING, SATURDAY
JULY 11TH.**

Hello All,

Some of you have not met me and some of you may wish you hadn't but anyway I am looking for a lover of mountains and mules to come along with me this summer. I have several Bob Marshall Wilderness trips scheduled and have some hay and pellets to haul for the FS. Since moving to Choteau last winter from Helena I have lost some of my packing partners and as we all know packing is not nearly as fun when you are by your lonesome. Besides it's hard to film the wrecks if'n you are in the middle of them. This is all volunteer work so our payment is the intangibles we get from the backcountry. This is nothing to formal just asking if anybody would like to come along.

You can reach me via email or call 406-749-1212.

Thanks

Keith Alltucker

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/lcnf>

The Helena and Lewis & Clark National Forests have begun revising their Forest Plan. This section provides information on the Forest planning process and how you can learn more and become involved. It will be updated and revised as new information becomes available.

Here you will find information and links to planning documents and reports, dates for meetings, press releases, maps, briefing papers and ways to comment or be involved in the process. If you have questions regarding the below documents, please send an email to hlcplanrevision@fs.fed.us. New Available Information

[Forest Plan Revision Public Engagement Plan](#)

[Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study Paper](#)

[Wilderness Evaluation Process Paper](#)

[Public Participation: Lessons Learned Implementing the 2012 US Forest Service Planning Rule](#)

[HLC Stakeholder Listening Sessions Summary](#)



PLBs and Satellite Messengers: How to Choose **By Steve Tischler**

While deeply rewarding, backcountry adventures also entail risks that can occasionally prove life threatening—even for the most experienced outdoor enthusiasts.

Technology has come to the rescue with:

- **Personal locator beacons (PLBs):** Available in the U.S. since 2003, these satellite-based handheld devices provide a powerful safety net for wilderness travelers.

Satellite messengers: A more recent innovation, these handheld devices—such as those from [SPOT](#) and [DeLorme](#)—have evolved to offer additional backcountry communication options.

Though both are portable transmitters, personal locator beacons and satellite messengers have some important distinctions. This article covers the basics of each.

Personal Locator Beacons

Personal locator beacons are high-powered (typically, 5 watts) devices **designed primarily to send out a personalized emergency distress signal**. They generally require an open view of the sky to transmit successfully.

PLBs are the land-based equivalents of Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs), a technology that has been in use for decades in marine environments. Over the years, these devices are estimated to have saved more than 33,000 lives.

How a PLB Works

PLBs transmit powerful signals at 406 MHz (Mega Hertz), an internationally recognized distress frequency monitored in the U.S. by NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and the AFRCC (Air Force Rescue Coordination Center).

A PLB communicates with a network of Russian, Canadian, American and French military satellites known as COSPAS-SARSAT (SARSAT is an acronym for "Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking").

After receiving your transmission, these satellites "fix" on your location using a Doppler Shift method and relay your information to the AFRCC where search and rescue procedures begin. If you use a GPS-compatible PLB, you can deliver your GPS coordinates very

quickly without having to wait for the satellites to determine your position.

Keep in mind that it's always a good idea to have a visual and/or audible distress signal such as a signal mirror, whistle or strobe light to help catch search and rescue's attention when they get close. Many PLBs include a built-in LED signal light for this purpose.

How Long Will a PLB Transmit?

A PLB comes equipped with a long-lasting lithium battery. This battery remains dormant until you flip the switch to activate the PLB.

By COSPAS-SARSAT regulations:

- A class 1 heavy-duty battery must be able to transmit at -40°F (-40°C) for 24 hours.
- A class 2 battery must be able to transmit at -20°F (-28.9°C) for 24 hours.

Cold temperatures will shorten a battery's operating time, and the situations above represent worst-case scenarios. For example, at a temperature of 70°F, these batteries will operate for approximately twice as long as they will at very cold temperatures.

Satellite Messengers

Much like PLBs, satellite messengers are handheld transmitting devices that are useful in backcountry areas far from reliable cell phone coverage. These user-friendly devices **allow you to communicate short text messages and/or your location coordinates** with friends or family back home so you can report on your trip's status or, in an emergency, send calls for help.

While a handy tool for casual hikers and backpackers, satellite messengers transmit signals that are much less powerful than a PLB signal. They are not intended for serious mountaineering use.

How a Satellite Messenger Works

Satellite messengers are GPS-based devices that rely on either of 2 commercial satellite networks—Iridium or Globalstar—rather than the military network used by PLBs. Emergency calls using either network are routed to the privately run GEOS International Emergency Response Coordination Center headquartered near Houston, Texas.

A subscription fee is required to use a satellite messenger.

ger. Each manufacturer offers a variety of usage plan options, usually including duration (yearly, seasonally or monthly) and GPS tracking frequency (with intervals ranging from hours down to a few minutes).

What are the differences between the satellite networks?

Iridium:

- Used by DeLorme devices.
- Offers 100% planetary coverage via a 66-satellite network.
- Uses 2 ground-based gateways (rather than satellites) process and switch messages.

Globalstar:

- Used by SPOT devices.
- Covers most of Earth's land masses (except polar regions and sub-Saharan Africa) via a 48-satellite network.
- Uses 24 ground-based gateways to process and switch messages.

Note: Satellite messenger devices are considerably less powerful than PLBs and virtually always require an open view of the sky to transmit successfully.

Each satellite network has its share of fans and detractors relating to their ability to deliver messages 100% of the time. At this point, the jury is still out.

Note: This Tuesday Pondera County received a 911 call from a SPOT company informing us of a injured hiker who had been hiking the Continental Divide Trail. He had injured a foot and needed rescue. We contacted Clete Gregory who brought his FS map in so we could locate this individuals location. While the SPOT locator gave the lat and long, Clete used a FCC Lat-long conversion program to identify the degrees, minutes and seconds. By using this program we were able to pinpoint the hikers location. They were at the Elbow Creek and Continental Divide Trail junction. (We need to have Clete do a training for the club members, on why and how this is important information.) Good ending for the hiker as Pondera County contacted the ALERT rescue helicopter from Flathead County to pick up the hiker and his wife.

Please don't forget our Poker Ride is coming up on August 2nd. I know that some of the posters have been put up and some will have to get out ASAP after the July 9th meeting. It is imperative that we get them out in as timely fashion as possible so people can make plans. Also we need all members to help get donations from local business so that we can have some good door prizes and auction items.

I will include a copy of the poster on the back page of this newsletter if you get your newsletter electronically.

Also remember that Grizzly Day is the day before our poker ride on August 1st. It would be nice if we could have a good showing in the parade. The good folks of Dupuyer have always supported us and our Poker Ride.

Thanks, Fred



The Golden Spike Location were we joined the top and Bottom of Weasel Creek. The trail from Hell. This pictured even got shared by the BCHA on their Facebook page.



**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.*