



EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

FOUNDED 1978 37 YEARS OF TRAIL TAILS November 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:

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Clete Gregory

Lisa Schmidt

Dick Kinyon

Steve Hutton

Debbie Ries

Jr. Director:

None

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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

Greetings,

Well we have Ron and Debbie back from a very successful trip to Alaska with only a few babbles. Pretty impressive pictures of the two moose and what his Argo will do. Maybe he'll cook us a moose burger and Zane can tell us the real story? I heard a rumor Ron said two months isn't long enough, need to go for three.

Usually we do not have a meeting in November but with getting the packets ready for convention, we decided at the last meeting to hold a work night. We will have a potluck at our house at **6:00 pm on November 5th**. I will make a pot of sloppy joe mix and everyone can just bring something to go with it. Our address is 26 Pendroy Rd or first house on Pendroy Rd.

We still have not heard from a couple of businesses on the raffle items. Hopefully by the 5th we will have our third item so we can get the tickets printed.

For those who were lucky enough to draw an elk tag, I hope you are successful. This is the first year Bob will be support staff at camp. Please be safe out there.

I would also like to recommend the article in the BCH of America newsletter on "A study of Crosscut Saws or Power Saws for Trail Clearing" by Dan Applebaker. It is on page 11 and well worth reading, it makes sense to me. After the fires in our own back yard, there will be a lot of trails to maintain. Tell me what your opinion is at the next meeting.

We look forward to seeing everyone on the 5th. We also wish you a happy hunting season and Happy Halloween.

Bob and LeAnn





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Justin Nieman
Robert Skorupa



East Slope Back Country Horseman Regular Meeting/Bob and LeAnn Hermance Home October 8, 2015

President Bob Hermance called the regular meeting to order at the Hermance home on October 8, 2015 at 7:10 P.M. There were 12 members in attendance: Joe and Helen Suta, Fred Fitzpatrick, Merlyn and Linda Huso, Bob and LeAnn Hermance, Clete Gregory, Marty Metz, Keith Alltucker, Sue McNeal and Gale Gustafson.

Minutes

Bob asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting as published. There were none and the minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report

LeAnn reported on the current balances in the accounts. She reported that two CD's will be renewing January 2 automatically. Merlyn presented at bill for \$68.00 for mileage to the State Committee meeting. A motion to pay the bill was made by Clete, seconded by Fred and the motion passed. The Treasurer's report was approved.

State Committee Report

Merlyn Huso attended the State meeting and gave a report.

There was discussion about a situation a member encountered in the Rattlesnake Wilderness out of Missoula. He ran into an arbitrary feed regulation as he was taking a friend in for an overnight stay. He was told he would need to pack 10# of feed per horse per day, and if you came out without feeding all the grain, there would be a fine. Discussion was to contact Joni Packard, volunteer packer about the issue. Hope to have an answer by December.

All chapters have received the new Defensive Horse Safety book. The ESBCH Secretary has our copy if anyone would like to look at it. There were no reported accidents since the last State meeting. Rich Inman (Gallatin Valley) ran into a drone that a volunteer was using to show progress on the work trail even

though people had warned him the drone might scare horses. There was also some discussion also about copyright issues concerning photos used in the manual. Nothing has been done yet.

Deb Schatz (Flathead) is the new newsletter editor for both BCHA and the State. LeAnn Martin is the new Regional forester.

Merlyn said he asked for support of Ken Ausk's nomination to the Mt Outdoor Hall of Fame. A donation of \$50 was approved to Outdoor Legacy.

The Youth Challenge done at the Boone and Crockett Ranch was very successful. There was talk of having more camps in the future to interest young people. Mack and Connie Long do a packing skills class each spring which includes a trip to the wilderness to use the skills. At the last annual meeting, they donated a spot to a young person aged 18-25, and BCHA paid the expenses at the cost of \$795.00. They want to donate another spot to a Montana youth. Connie asked the directors to think of a way to choose a youth for the award such as an essay.

A Recreational Trails Project Grant was applied for by 5 or 6 chapters in the amount of \$90K, but only \$40K was received.

Mark Himmel (Charlie Russell) gave a report on the National Saw Policy. They are still addressing some of the mechanics of the policy. There is a way for members to self-certify at the B level.

A letter was sent by the Missoula chapter thanking Counter Assault for their bear spray program. Smoke Elser noted that some chapters purchased bear spray at the discounted rate then sold them at a higher price. He asked chapters not to do this as it hurts BCH's reputation.

Some chapters function with the USFS by cost share agreement. I was learned they also needed a Volunteer agreement. There have been some difficulties encountered, but discussions have not produced a solution.

No Old Business or New Business

Convention Progress Update

Clete said he has been in contact with the Malmstrom Honor Guard, and they will be able to do the flag presentation at the opening of the State Convention. Bob said he, LeAnn and Fred had visited the Holiday Inn and signed a contract for the convention. The price for rooms for the convention will be \$90 per night. They set aside 35 rooms for Friday night and 54 for Saturday night guaranteed.

We still need to decide on a theme for our convention. LeAnn sent letters and copies of our 501c3 to North 40 and Town Pump stating our mission and requesting a donation. We still need a couple of more raffle items.

Lisa, LeAnn and Fred also sent out letters to vendors, but to have only received one response. LeAnn asked about buying supplies and printing tickets, etc. It was decided to go ahead and make the purchases then be reimbursed by the club. Marsha McCubbins talked to LeAnn about getting recipes from members to put together a cookbook to sell at the convention.

There was discussion about speakers, entertainment, publicity, how to set up vendors, door prizes, help for the convention. Dan Marsh has agreed to run power point, and Zane will be auctioneer for Saturday night.

Fred said we need to have a schedule, tickets printed, a theme, a picture board idea by the next meeting. Everything needed to be worked out and organized by the State meeting in December so packets and tickets can be passed out to the other chapters. Bob suggested coming up with an idea to have a competition between chapters as to who can sell the most raffle tickets.

It was decided to hold a potluck work meeting on **November 5th**. It will be held at 6:00 P.M. at Bob and LeAnn Hermance's home. LeAnn will make sloppy joes and everyone is welcome. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Clete, seconded by Fred. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Suta, Secretary



CONGRATULATIONS TO MARSHA AND NICK

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

ALL CLOSURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SPOTTED EAGLE FIRE HAVE BEEN LIFTED AS OF TODAY, 10/28.

The Moose Ridge and Sheep Mountain fires continue to be active. Only small amounts of moisture have been received on the fires over the past week. Fuels in the area continue to be dry with potential for fire activity with winds predicted this coming weekend. 10-15 personnel continue to be stationed at the Fish and Game cabin near the K Bar L Ranch as well as personnel continuing to patrol between Pretty Prairie and Cabin Creek cabins.

Fortunately, the cooler and shorter days of autumn have helped to moderate fire conditions sufficiently to allow a limited relaxation of fire closures on the southern portion of the Sheep Mtn. Fire while still providing for public safety. Modifications to the current fire related closures go into effect today and will provide some additional opportunities for trail use, camping and hunting within areas impacted by fire.

Travel from Mortimer Trailhead will continue to only be allowed from midnight through 10:00 am each day. Groups arriving at trailhead after 10:00 am may be required to wait until the following day to depart. However travel into Big George from the trailhead will be allowed without restriction.

THE FOLLOWING TRAILS ARE OPEN FOR TIME LIMITED TRAVEL ONLY FROM MIDNIGHT THROUGH NOON DAILY:

- North Fork Sun River Trail #201 (south of Circle Creek and west of Big George Creek)
 - North Fork Sun Cut Across #272
 - Moose-Furman Trail #261 (from Trail #272 north to junction with Circle Creek Trail #231)
- Elk Hill Trail #268 (south of Elk Hill)

OPEN AREAS FOR CAMPING AND HUNTING:

- Big George drainage
- Patrick's Basin and Lange Creek and Neal Creek
- Pretty Prairie area
- Windfall Creek area

Cabin Creek area and north

AREAS CLOSED TO ALL ACCESS AND TRAVEL:

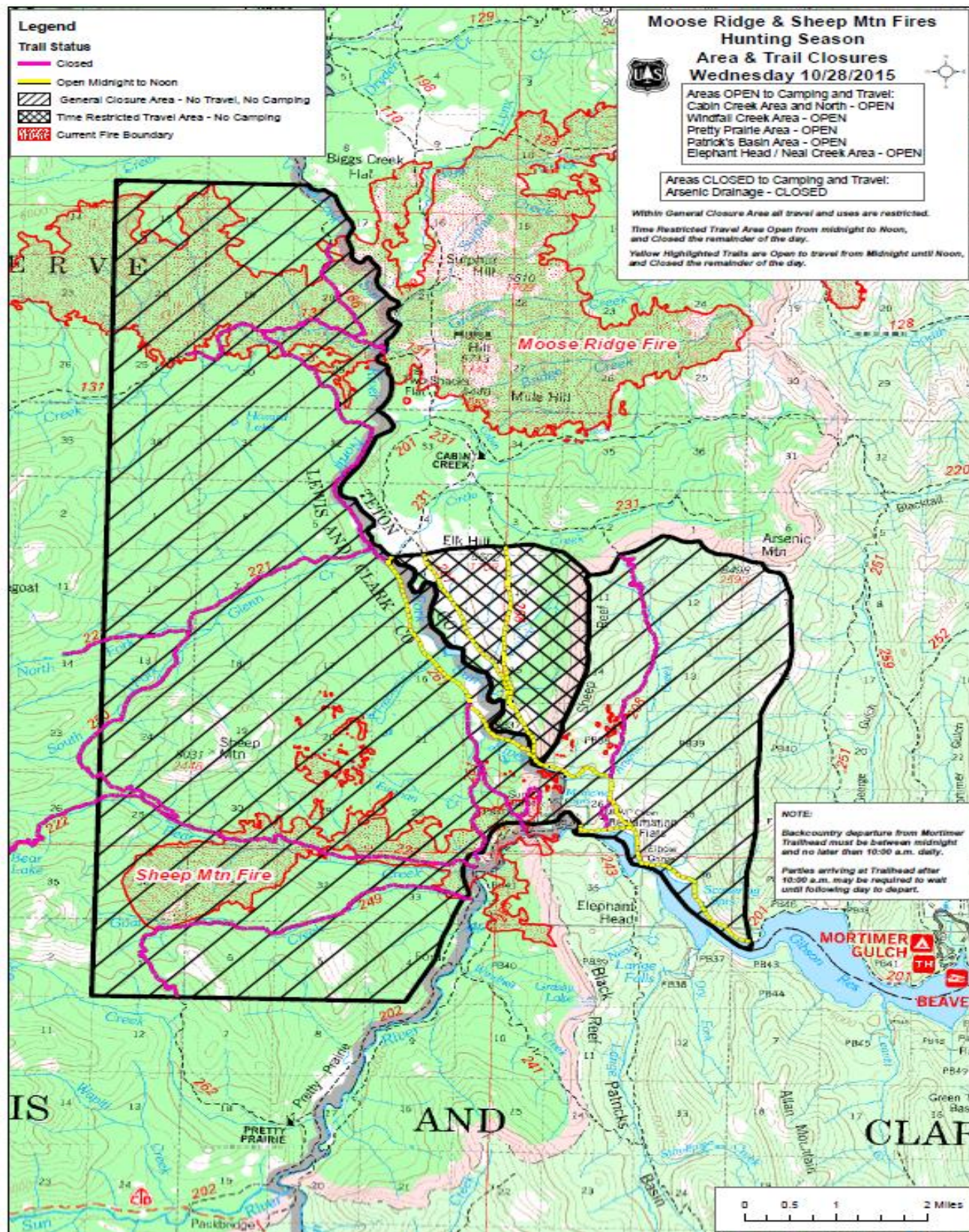
- Arsenic Creek drainage
 - Scattering Springs (off trail)
 - Closed fire area west of Sun River
- Weather and fire conditions can and will change daily. Fire related trail and area restrictions are solely for the purpose of public safety and can and will continue to change quickly as fire conditions change.

Anyone planning on traveling through, camping or hunting on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District within the areas affected by

fire in the South Fork or North Fork of the Sun River drainages should contact the Rocky Mountain Ranger District office in ChoctEAU at (406) 466-5341 or the Augusta Information Station at (406) 562-3247. Visitors should observe caution and be alert for the following hazards in recently burned areas:

- Falling trees and snags, particularly in windy or wet conditions.
- Rolling rocks or logs from above when traveling below an area that has burned.

Occasional smoke or open flame.





The Moose Hunters.

Top Picture; Zane Drishinski measuring the horns on his moose.
Bottom Picture; Ron Ries posing with his moose.