



# EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

## 30 YEARS

## TRAIL TAILS

JULY 2010

### OFFICERS

**President:**

Bob Hermance

**Vice President:**

Ronald Ries

**Sec-Treasurer:**

Fred Fitzpatrick

**State Directors:**

Fred Fitzpatrick (09-11)

Connie Manning (10-12)

**Alt. State Director:**

Bob Facklam (10-11)

**Chapter Directors:**

Dick Kinyon

Bob Facklam

Lisa Schmidt

Dale Sand

Steve Hutton

Debbie Ries

**Jr. Director:**

Kelsey Fitzpatrick

**Editor:** Gary Manning

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**Webmaster:** Fred Fitzpatrick

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**BCH of Montana:**

**Chairman:** John Chepulis

Beartooth BCH

**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)

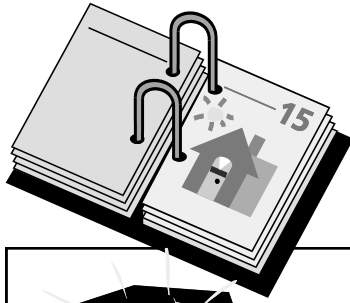
### President's Letter

Greetings from your President,

The summer is in full swing and projects are happening. July is a busy month for all of us. Some are haying, some are going fishing, some are going to rodeos and then there is work around the house. So get these things taken care of because on July 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> is the Swift Dam Project and the Poker ride on August 1<sup>st</sup>. There are a few of you that have not made any projects this year and the Swift Dam is usually a fun one. We could use your help. Some of us just have to take the time for ourselves. So mark your calendar for the next project. Gates Park will have some BCH members from across the mountains that want to help with this project. We might have to limit the amount of people that can go on this one so get your name to me if you think you might go. Also the classic ride will be on Labor Day weekend back to half moon basin. We did this fun ride several years ago and a few members wanted to do it again so we are going. The summer is slipping by and before you know it you will be another year older. That's what someone has been telling me lately.

Hope to see you on the trail.

Bob



## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS JULY 2010

Bob Hermance, Mike Galloway,  
Ray Redding,  
Ronald Ries and Karson Smith

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO ALL**

### EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

Un Official Minutes of the Directors Meeting June 2, 2010

#### Opening:

The director meeting of the **East Slope Back Country Horsemen** was called to order at 7:33 P.M. at The Graham Ranch in Conrad by: Vice-President, Ronald Ries.

#### Members present:

Lisa Schmidt, Steve Hutton, Ron & Debbie Ries, Connie Manning, Dale Sand, Dick Kinyon and Fred Fitzpatrick.

#### Approval of Minutes:

Dick Kinyon made a motion to accept the minutes as read by the secretary, motion carried.

#### Treasures Report:

The treasures report was given; no bills were presented. On a motion by Steve Hutton the treasures report was approved.

#### Correspondence:

There was no Correspondence.

#### Committee Reports:

No committee reports were given.

#### Unfinished Business:

We decided to reschedule the Memorial Day weekend work project at the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area too June 11-13 in place of the North Fork of Dupuyer Creek. We will try and

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**July 4: Choteau 4th of July Celebration-Parade, Rodeo and Fireworks**

**July 7: Directors Meeting at Bob Hermance in Conrad 7:00 PM**

**July 21: Regular meeting ( CANCELLED )**

**July 31, Aug.1: Work Project and Poker Ride Swift Dam Trail Head**

**Aug. 4: Directors Meeting at Bob Hermance in Conrad 7:00 PM**

reschedule the North Fork of Dupuyer Creek project sometime later in the summer when the water at Johnson's crossing we will lower.

We had no new report on chapter First Aid as LeAnn Hermance was not present.

#### New Business:

We discussed the Swift Dam Weed Spray work project and Steve Hutton will be heading up the project and it was decided to hold the spray day on June 27<sup>th</sup>. So if anybody wants to help please contact Steve Hutton. We will have more information on the weed spraying in the next newsletter.

We discussed about having chapter members receiving their chapter and state newsletters either electronically or snail-mail, we will be having a survey in the next newsletter.

Connie Manning reported that she is working with the SO office in Great Falls in obtaining the Trail Management Objectives for the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

#### Other:

Fred suggested that we need to have more input for the newsletter. After some discussion Fred made a motion that all officers and directors write something for the newsletter on a schedule that will be put together by Connie, motion carried.

#### Next Meeting:

The next board meeting is scheduled for July 7, 2010 at Ron and Debbie Ries's in Conrad, dinner will be at 6:30 P.M.

#### Adjournment:

On a motion from Steve Hutton the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 P.M. by Vice-President Ronald Ries.

Signed: *R. Fred Fitzpatrick*

# **EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN**

## **Unofficial Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**June 16, 2010**

### **Speaker/Program**

The chapter viewed a program on natural balance shoeing. Shirley Brogger brought treats for the meeting, Thanks Shirley.

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the **East Slope Back Country Horsemen** was called to order at 8:07 P.M. in Choteau, MT at the U.S. Forest Service office by: President; Bob Hermance.

### **Members Present**

Ron & Debbie Ries, Bob & LeAnn Hermance, Don Cleveland, Gary & Connie Manning, Jim & Shirley Brogger, and Fred Fitzpatrick.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the newsletter on a motion by Gary Manning.

### **Treasures Report**

The treasures report was given and Connie Manning had 1 bill for newsletter copies in the amount of \$ 8.96. LeAnn Hermance made a motion to accept the report and pay the bill, the motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

Jim Brogger asked if anyone had heard of any thing new on the Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front, nobody had heard of anything new on the Coalition or the Heritage Act legislation.

### **Unfinished Business**

Sign-up sheet for the Swift Dam weed spray was passed around, but nobody new signed up. The weed spray day is June 27<sup>th</sup>.

We discussed the newsletter survey and Connie reported that she has only heard from one member as of this meeting date and several members present completed their surveys.

### **New Business**

We discussed the work project for July 31<sup>st</sup> and it will include mostly brushing work at the confluence of the South and Middle Forks of Birch Creek. Ron Ries, Fred Fitzpatrick and Bob Hermance are the trail bosses for the project.

The Poker ride was then discussed, Fred had a

sample poster for the poker ride and after discussion of hamburgers and hot dogs, suggestions were made for the poster and Connie will have the posters printed and she will hand them out at the next directors meeting. Connie and Gary Manning are in charge of the Poker Ride. It is suggested that members please try and solicit and/or donate some type of prizes for the Poker Ride.

Ray Creek turnpike was discussed and we will have something in the next newsletter for signing up. We need a firm count for this project as it is in the Wilderness and the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula have asked to participate with us on the project. Trail Bosses are Dick Kinyon, Ron Ries and Bob Hermance.

### **Other**

No other business was presented.

### **Next Meeting Program**

No program has been scheduled for the next meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Regular meeting scheduled for July 21, 2010 at the U.S. Forest Service office in Choteau, MT at 7:00 P.M. **HAS BEEN CANCELLED!** A tentative meeting maybe held at Swift Dam before the Poker Ride if needed.

### **Next Meeting Treats**

Treats for the next regular meeting in August have not been decided.

### **Adjournment**

On a motion by Connie Manning the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 P.M.

Signed: *R. Fred Fitzpatrick*

## **Swift Dam Poker Ride**

**Aug. 1 2010**

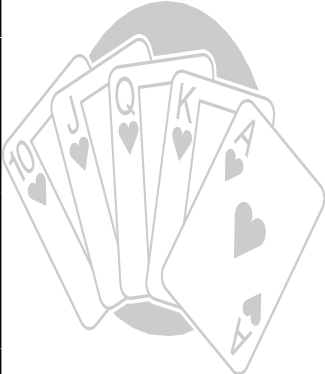
The poker ride is fast approaching and to ensure that it is a great success we need the support of all chapter members. **Please go** to your local business's and ask them for their support. We will need members to man the three stations away from the club house. Come up and enjoy yourselves spend the whole weekend at Swift dam.

**EAST SLOPE**



**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN**

**INVITES YOU TO  
COME  
JOIN THE FUN AT  
OUR *ANNUAL POKER***



**AUGUST 1, 2010**

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

**REGISTRATION STARTS  
AT 9:30 AM**

*Cash Paid  
for the first  
three best  
Hands.*

**RIDE BEGINS AT  
11:00 AM**

**PLEASE  
NO DOGS**

**ADULTS \$ 10.00**

**NO FIREARMS**

**UNDER 18**

**NO STALLIONS**

**\$ 5.00**

**JACKPOT PRIZES  
DOOR**

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

*Served with baked beans and potato salad.*

*Will Be Available For \$5.00 / Plate*

**(Bring your own refreshments)**

*Come up on Saturday to  
the Swift Dam Park and  
Trailhead and camp the  
evening before the  
Poker Ride.*

## Grizzlies in our Independent Nation

By Lisa Schmidt

Good things often come from bad situations. I was unsure how a grizzly bear eating my sheep would yield goodness, but I learned an invaluable lesson: People in my world go to great lengths to show that they care.

Rural Montanans know how to step up and offer support before a person even asks. After the bear attacked, I received emails, phone calls and many stops on the street. One Wyoming rancher and writer mailed a book about the tragedy of western wildlife management. Several people offered advice about how to keep my orphan lamb alive. A couple of neighbors made up a song for me to sing as I packed my Smith & Wesson .41 Magnum pistol to the barn in the morning. A friend drove far out of her way to give me a hug.

Along with all of those acts of friendship came expressions of frustration. Many people voiced my opinion in theirs: Wildlife management that allows grizzlies to roam where they want, but does not allow a person to protect livestock from harm is wrong. As a rancher, my cattle and sheep are my paycheck, but even more importantly, my moral obligation to do everything I can to help them thrive. I need to defend them from threats, but my only legal recourse to a grizzly attack is to call my government officials. Dialing the phone to ask for government intervention just is not enough to appease my sickened heart.

Solutions to alleviate this frustration ranged from offers to kill the bear outside the law to organizing a group to pressure the courts and lawmakers to change wildlife policy. With every possible solution, emotions ran high. Most Montanans -- along with most Westerners -- don't like to have their hands tied behind their back when a situation is intolerable. Our independent nature can't stand it.

This frustration reveals itself in other situations, too, not just wildlife management.

We protect ourselves from terrorists by body scanning grandmothers at airport security terminals. We clean up the world's largest oil spill by criticizing the oil company president for watching yacht races. We pull ourselves out of an economic recession by asking consumers to spend money they don't have on things they don't need. Each of those policies is more of a frustration vent than an effective solution to the problem.

We celebrate America's birthday, Independence Day, this month. We honor our Founding Fathers for creating the basic rights and freedoms that give us a national foundation like no other. We thank our military

personnel, veterans and their families for believing so strongly in those rights and freedoms that they put their lives and those they love on the line. We commemorate all that is good about our country and our independent mindset. We have what no other country in the world has because of who we are. We should be proud.

And we all should take one more step to celebrate this Independence Day. We should use our independent mindset to find real solutions instead of blowing through hot air vents. Each of us should choose one issue that is near and dear, and then step up to the plate and offer an idea. Follow through with emails, phone calls, advice and even hugs and songs.

We live in a great country -- one that became so great because people care and they are willing to take action on the things they care about.

That is how even more good things will come from bad situations.

## Recent surge in Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) activity in Montana

Between June 13th and 17th the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program, received four reports of Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) illness, three in MT residents and one in a traveler.

RMSF is an acute tick-borne illness caused by the bacterium *Rickettsia rickettsii*. People who become ill with RMSF do not always recall being bitten by a tick. Symptoms associated with RMSF include fever, headache, fatigue, muscle aches, vomiting, nausea, and loss of appetite. A rash may appear 3 – 5 days after fever onset and is present in up to 90% of pediatric cases, and up to 60% of adult cases. Infection with *R. rickettsia* can cause severe illness and appropriate antibiotic treatment should be initiated IMMEDIATELY when RMSF is suspected on the basis of clinical and epidemiologic findings.

**Please be aware of ticks. Bob has had 3 on him, so if you're out in tick country, check yourself and your livestock thoroughly.**

## **Middle and South Fork of Birch Creek Work Project**

**Date: July 31, 2010**

**Place: Swift Dam Trailhead**

This work project will include brushing and trail clearing particularly on the upper end of Swift Reservoir where the Middle Fork and South Fork come in to the Reservoir. This project will be held in conjunction with the Poker Ride the following day on August 1<sup>st</sup>. We would like to see an adequate crew so that the majority of the brushing can be completed for the Poker Ride. So please sign up for the project and Poker Ride we can always use the help at the Poker Ride also. Swift Dam Trailhead has some nice camping so come on up and camp and enjoy yourselves for the weekend. We will need a head count for the project so groceries can be procured. Trail bosses for the project are Ron Ries, Fred Fitzpatrick and Bob Hermance. You can call one of these three people to sign up. We will not be holding a regular meeting for the month of July so you will need to call in order to sign up. We will probably go up to Swift Dam on Friday evening the 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank You.

**Ron Ries; 278-3015 or 450-1017**  
**Bob Hermance; 278-5378 or 289-0120**  
**Fred Fitzpatrick; 279-3232 or 450-3232**



## **Ray Creek Turnpike Project**

**Date: August 20-22**

**Place: Gates Park / Ray Creek**

We will be camping at the Gates Park Administration site and working near Ray Creek. This will require approximately an hour commute both ways to the work site from the administration site.

As this project is in the Bob Marshall Wilderness we will require a firm head count as we are limited to fifteen people. This means that in order for this project to work we can not have yea maybe I will go, if you can not sign up and be there don't sign up. We will need to have people signed up by **August 7<sup>th</sup>** at the latest. It was the consensus that we needed to have a work project at an administration site, so lets have a good turn out and get this project completed. We have had to postpone this project twice now from lack of participation, please help out if you can. Trail Bosses for this project are Dick Kinyon, Ronald Ries and Bob Hermance. You can sign up by calling one of the trail bosses.

**Dick Kinyon; 278-5288 or 278-3236**  
**Ronald Ries; 278-3015 or 450-1017**  
**Bob Hermance; 278-5378 or 289-0120**



## **American Horse Council Highlights Recreational Riding**

On Tuesday June 22, the American Horse Council (AHC) held its first Recreation Forum in Washington, DC to highlight issues of importance to recreational riders. The forum was attended by representatives from national equestrian organizations, state horse council's from around the country, as well as individual recreational riders.

The forum began with a presentation by Stephanie McCommon of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA). McCommon, briefed attendees on AQHA's Stewards for Trails, Education and Partnerships (STEP) program which seeks to "increase participation in trail stewardship among equine enthusiasts." The forum continued with a presentation by Dennis Dailey of Backcountry Horsemen of America (BCHA). Dailey spoke on the U.S. Forest Service's Trail Classification System and its impact on equestrians in National Forests.

The forum also included two enlightening panel discussions. The first panel focused on the benefits of equestrians building better partnerships with other traditional recreational users and conservationists. The panel featured Kim Hutson de Belle of the American Hiking Society (AHS) and Anne Merwin of the Wilderness Society (TWS) as well as Dennis Dailey, BCHA. The panel discussed many important issues including declining numbers of Americans recreating in the outdoors and its impact on conservation, the need to link public and private lands with trail easements, and the challenges equestrians, hiking and conservation groups face when working together.

"The equestrian, hiking and conservation community have many shared interest. I believe Tuesday's discussion demonstrated that these shared interest are being recognized and great progress is being made in efforts to work together," said Ben Pendergrass Legislative

Director of the AHC.

The second panel focused on building better relationships between equestrians and federal land managers. The panel included Rick Potts, Chief, Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Division, National Park Service (NPS), Bob Ratcliffe, Division Chief, Recreation and Visitor Services, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Jonathan Stephens Program Manager, Congressionally Designated Areas and Trails, National Forest Service (FS). Topics included the need for equestrians to build relationships with their local federal land managers before problems arise, the backlog of trails and facility maintenance, the Presidents America's Great Outdoors Initiative, and efforts to preserve traditional recreational uses.

The forum wrapped up with Ginny Grulke of the Kentucky State Horse Council discussing the challenges faced by trail riders in Kentucky on the state level and how they have been responding.

"Recreational riding is important to millions of Americans and these Americans rely on public lands and trails to ride. The AHC believes it was important to bring equestrians, leaders from NPS, FS, BLM, and AHS, TWS together in Washington to talk about recreational riding and our public lands," said AHC Legislative Director Ben Pendergrass. "We are very happy with the outcome of the Recreation Forum and believe it is a positive step in ensuring recreational riders continue to support and have access to our nation's public lands."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Contact: Bridget Harrison  
202-296-4031

[bharrison@horsecouncil.org](mailto:bharrison@horsecouncil.org)

# Beartooth Work Project June 11-13, 2010



Bob and LeAnn crossing the bridge we built last year



LeAnn and Debbie cooking breakfast



Marty and Merlyn entertaining the group after a hard day of trail clearing