



# EAST SLOPE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

## 30 YEARS TRAIL TAILS MAY 2011

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### President's Letter

Greetings to All,

The weather is starting to warm up a bit, the grass is turning green and growing more each day. The horses are trying to eat it as fast as it can grow. My little filly is getting bigger each day and already showing a little attitude, but is learning very quickly to lead and give to the halter.

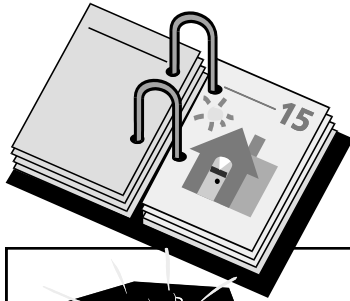
At the last general meeting Ian Bardwell, Forest Service representative talked about the Blackleaf Trail Head project, improving the access for larger units and installing a new bathroom. One of the issues that we discussed was camping at the trailhead. The issue of camping is not allowed at most trailheads in the National Forest unless designated. The Blackleaf trail head does not allow for overnight camping.

The first project will be on Memorial Day weekend at Swift Dam constructing a highline tie up and possible trail maintenance. This should be a great project for doing a little horse spring tune up. Most of the work will be in the camp ground, but bring your horse or mule we probably will take a ride on one of the evenings.

We have some projects that will take you in to the back country, stay at an administrative site and maybe do some fishing. Please look at the project calendar on the website and schedule a weekend or two that you can help us out.

Hope to see you on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> for the general meeting at the Conrad Public Library 7 pm.

**BOB**



## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS MAY 2011

Patrick Dailey, Gloria Ries, Don Cleveland, Jim Brogger, Martin Metz, Dick Preputin, Kurt Dyer, Fred Fitzpatrick, Merlyn Huso, Julia Drishinski, Bonnita Poser, Charlotte Marshall, Helen Suta & Lake Mellott

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL

### General Meeting – ESBCCH April 20, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm at the Conrad Public Library by President Bob Hermance.

Members present: Bob and LeAnn Hermance, Ron and Debbie Ries, Fred Fitzpatrick, Dick Kinyon, Bill Poser, Gary and Connie Manning, Steve Hutton, Kurt Dyer and Don Cleveland. Guests were Ian Bardwell and Karen Horn.

Special presentation was given by Ian and Karen on Black Leaf Trailhead project. Project will increase horse trailer access and improve out house facilities. Present time there is not a designated camping area for the rock climbers. E-mails and letters were sent to rock climbing groups for comment, but none were received. Also work will be done at the Cave Mountain campground.

With funding cut backs, they are not sure what will be coming out. Last year's capital investments went to Gates Park; this year will be back on trail maintenance. Connie asked about the recreational trails grants. The process has changed so the grant working group only reviews the grant apps that were pre-judged and pre-approved. Gates Park contractor is Richard Mays from

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**May 18:** Regular Meeting at the Conrad Library in Conrad at 7:00 PM

**May 28-30:** Memorial Day Weekend & Work Project ( Swift Dam Trailhead )

**June 1:** Directors Meeting in Conrad, 7:00 PM Steve & Lisa's (Graham Ranch)

**June 3-5:** Whoop-up Trail Days in Conrad

**June 4:** National Trail Day

June 11-13: Work Project (Trail 153 North Fork of Dupuyer Creek)

California. This work should start this summer but currently snow pack is 1025% from last year.

Trail Management Objectives (TMO's) – Connie questioned the trail classifications being reclassified downwards. Ian provided a classification form on how decisions are made and that there will be no changes without notice. Class 2 trails to be managed to a pack & saddle standard. The maintenance decisions are based on use patterns of trails. Dick K. recommended the use of chain saws for a limited period of time in the burn areas, trails could be cleared faster than using a saw. More trails cleared with less manpower. Ian recommended doing a BCH regional and national resolution addressing this issue. Decisions on chain saws are not allowed at the district level. TMO's on RMD are completed.

Approval of Minutes, Steve Hutton moved to accept the minutes as published, Connie Manning 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Fred Fitzpatrick gave the treasurer's report. Bills presented were Connie Manning for \$47.78, ink and newsletter costs, Kurt moved to accept treasurer's report as given and to pay bills, Steve Hutton 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

Correspondence – Connie read a letter from Lewis & Clark County on improving the Benchmark Rd. Project will be from Augusta to Bench Mark. Request a letter of support for the project. Fred F. moved that Connie draft a letter of support, Dick K 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

Committee Reports – Fred Fitzpatrick attended the LAC meeting in Choteau. Issues brought up were the following;

Kevin Arnold will do spot checking on proper food storage in camp. New water proof maps of BMW will be available in June. White Nose Syndrome (WNS) is affecting bats in the backcountry. Check with Forrest

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## CONTINUED

Service before going spelunking. Holly Baker presented a slide show on the RMF. Ranger districts will be doing weed mapping. Greg Schatz, FBCH, presented bicycle resolution in the back country. Asked what the fine is for bike trespass in the wilderness. Potential fines \$125 to \$5,000. FWP update, there are 566 wolves in 100 packs in MT. There are 6,000 Elk along RMF, highest number in years. Jim Brogger lost a calf due to wolf kill. Combo hunting licenses are available on line April 18<sup>th</sup>. They will be planting cut throat at Nichols lake August 29<sup>th</sup>. Seely Lake will have 2 MCC crews this year with 10-12 people out of Big Bear and Schaeffer Meadows.

Unfinished business- Swift Dam sign project. Ron and Fred are in charge of the project. We will need three signs, entrance, midway and upper campground. Sign size 2' x 18", cost \$270.00. Kurt will donate posts. Dick Kinyon moved to accept sign design, Connie M. 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried. Connie M. moved to buy cable and supplies for high line, Kurt D. 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

Connie M. reported that at the directors meeting the discussion was to recommend that annual & new membership's apps be reviewed. This will be done at the next directors meeting. Directors meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> cancelled.

Next general meeting will be May 18<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at the Conrad Public Library.

No further business, meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

LeAnn Hermance

## Swift Dam Memorial Day Work Project

May 27-30, 2011

Submitted by Fred Fitzpatrick

This project will be the construction of a permanent high line for horses (no mules) it will be constructed east of the main building towards the fenced pasture area and running parallel with the pasture fence. The high line will consist of three power poles buried in the ground and running 100 feet in length with one pole in the center at 50 feet. A 1/4 inch steel cable will be strung between the power poles and swivels with steel rings will be attached to the cable with cable clamps for securing stock to the high line. The high line will have a spring assembly for allowing give in the

cable, thus allowing stock basically the same movement as on a regular rope high line; (in theory).

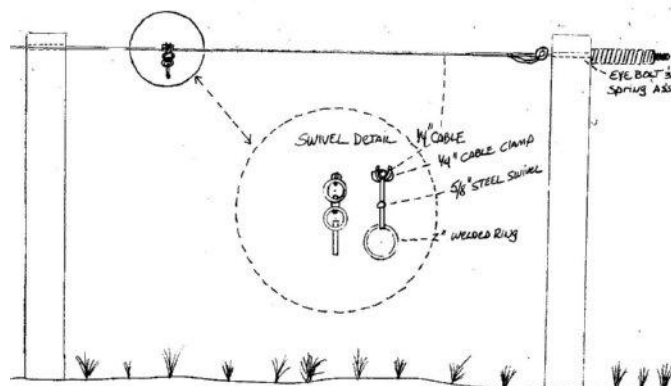
We will also be putting up some new signs at the campground that will address the loose horses in the campground. Are hope is that users at the trailhead and campground will adhere to the new policy that was adopted by the Pondera County Commissioners' after the incidents that took place last year during our poker ride.

We will also try to do some clean-up of the campground area if time permits. So come on up and help us out with this project and enjoy some time in the mountains after being cooped up all winter. Spring has sprung we hope; get out and enjoy yourself! You are welcome to bring your horses along, hopefully we can find some time for a little riding; just remember no loose horses allowed in the campground area!

To sign-up for this project please call Fred Fitzpatrick at 279-3232 or Ron Ries at 278-3015 or 278-3727.

It would be nice if you could let us know by May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Diagram for proposed high line is not to scale and subject to change, the diagram is for reference only.



**Please Join us on the Beautiful Rocky Mountain Front for Memorial Day Weekend at the Swift Dam Park and Trailhead (You never know what adventure awaits you!)**

