

Montana Back Roads 4x4 Club Meeting Minutes  
June 19, 2008, Thursday  
Montana Club, Reserve Street, Missoula, MT

Members present: Bruce Erickson, Shawn Martinich and whole family, Mark Pickles, Paul Schaller, Larry Garrison, Rachel Maxwell, Mike and Marcella Lenz, and Willie and Jeanne Worthy. Prospective members: Curtis Evelo, Rae McKay, and Steve Schardt.

Guest speaker Kim Sayler, Missoula County Search and Rescue. Started as 4x4 patrol first back in the '60s. Missoula is busiest search and rescue unit in the state. Used to be funded with just grants and donations, but three years ago county residents passed a ½ mill levy to fund, amounts to about \$2.14 per household. They're always looking for volunteers, who are auxiliary sheriff deputies, as it takes an incredible amount of time and training to participate; it takes two years to be fully trained. (He put in 435 hours last year!) Volunteers have to complete basic first aid course, pass a swimming test, and pay \$15 yearly dues.

S & R rescues people, not equipment! There is no charge for a search, as they don't want people to wait till last minute to call. They're called out on average about 3 ½ times per month, both summer and winter. They do mutual aid with surrounding counties, as well as training four times a year and working with Smokejumpers (who are all EMT certified and can jump on extreme cases); also have trained with Mahlstrom Air Force Base, and work with BERT (backcountry emergency response team) at Missoula Ambulance. They also do water rescue, and high angle (straight up and down) and low angle (45 degrees or so) rope rescue. They have a communications trailer, an ATV, a pickup, five snow mobiles, two rafts, two jet boats, and two dog handlers (one has two dogs, one scent and the other tracking; while the other dog is tracking only). S & R is set up as teams, with two in Missoula and one in Seeley.

Tips for 4x4 outings: ALWAYS let someone know where you're going. If you change your plans, be sure to let someone know. Choose the right people to go with. Take CPR and basic first aid, as there is no quick response in back country. Be prepared with proper clothing, food and water. Carry extra batteries for your GPS and/or cell phone. Consider wearing a Medic Alert bracelet if you have medical problems; however, S & R members cannot administer any medication, so if you have prescribed meds, be sure to have them with you (not a bad idea to always carry two or three days worth). If you get into a bad situation, remember not to panic, and to think through what you're going to do. Doesn't hurt to always have with you: small set of cookware to heat hot water for tea or coffee (in case of hyperthermia), extra batteries, marking tape, glow stick or flares for night rescue, whistle in back pack (put it on one of the stretchy/coiled wrist bands for children), and a space bag (kinda like a sleeping bag) rather than blanket.

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Willie called meeting to order at 7:15 pm. As most members know, the club participated in the Letter Carriers food drive for the Missoula Food Bank in May. We received letters both from the Food Bank and from the Letter Carriers Association thanking us for our time. It would have looked good if all members could have worn club t-shirts. We no longer have a source for t-shirts, though we do have the art work available for a silk screen. Does anyone want to take on this project?

Willie mentioned that "Living in Missoula" published by Missoulian newspaper lists club information, though haven't received much response for it. The web site works great...thanks again, Lori Erickson! Several members have sold parts through it, and Willie checks the guest book often to respond to people who sign it. Also, Willie was doing some more internet research on Harvey Creek area near Rock Creek, and reference to our minutes about Harvey Creek popped up!

Ron and Donna Burris have moved to OR. As most of you know, he was a timber scaler for Stimson Lumber and with them closing, it put him out of work. He will be taking a new job with company in OR. It will be a big loss for our club to have him leave. Ron has been a great supporter of the club and we will miss him and his Giant Blazer. Mark made motion that club give them lifetime membership, Bruce second, all ayes, motion carried.

Please update your biography forms if needed and send to Willie.

Paul is building a Scrambler, which will have 350 Chevy, automatic, Atlas transfer case, and Dana 44 and 60.

Harrassed Larry about taking his car to Moab instead of his Jeep. He did research on how much fuel it would cost to trailer Jeep versus renting a Rubicon in Moab at \$175 a day, about the same! However, he ended up riding and driving with a friend who was at Moab too. Be sure to ask Larry about is new Hybrid system 440 volt system on his Jeep

Bruce just installed a 3 ½ inch lift on his Jeep and 33 inch tires, so now he won't have to put the little blue lights in his fender wells and do the mall crawl.

Curtis Evelo has the solid axle conversion pretty much done on his big Suburban, just a bunch of little things to get done before it is on the road.

Jeff is showing some progress on his red YJ with the new suspension system he designed for it.

Willie just made a gear change to 4.56s in his "old man's station wagon"

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Jeff's Off Road has club decals, they are cheap!....club members should have one on their vehicles!

Steve S. is working with Al Hilschie, recreation manager of Lolo National Forest, in regards to Graves Creek/Blue Mountain area out of Missoula. There is a legal Jeep trail at Woodsman Saddle, MP 13, where it goes up steep hill (looks like an ATV trail), on up to Telephone Butte. It has been marked periodically, but signs get torn down. Steve will follow up on trying to find Plum Creek contact so that trail could continue on down the steep shale hill area near Lumberjack Bar.

Willie has a trip planned for either Saturday or Sunday, June 21 or 22, to Rock Creek-Quigley area. Quigley was a town in 1896, there was scam mine exploration, and electric railroad was to be built up Brewster Creek. He has found reference to a water flume that would have pulled water off Rock Creek, and wants to hike area to see if any part remains. Could go on up to Tree Slide Road and Jumbo Mine, where there are lots of wooden remains down a steep hill. This road is "jinxed"...as Willie and Larry have had some strange and non-repairable electrical problems on it.

Rez Run, June 29, Sunday, Kim Manore will lead as he's very knowledgeable about area and history. You do need a reservation permit, available at any sporting goods store. Easy trip, any vehicle can participate. More information will follow in an email.

Bruce is going to lead a Missoula Lake area trip again, probably on a Friday, call him if you're interested. 626-5382

Maxville/Phillipsburg area, FRIDAY July 18, 19 and 20. (maybe longer) Pintler district ranger, Charlene Bucha Gentry, and their law enforcement officer will do ride along with club for discussion of opening Game Pass on over to Rock Creek, possibly other trails in area, as well as doing some restoration work. Charlene has said she is not sure why the trail is closed, so hopefully we can get it opened, as she's very cooperative and willing to talk. Willie and Jeanne will camp near Maxville, so come for the day or the weekend.

Larry was the recipient of door prize: "Worst Case Scenario" book, which we're sure he will need to help him out of a jam some day.

Next meeting will include power point presentation of past trails and vehicles, so send your best pictures to [williesjeep@blackfoot.net](mailto:williesjeep@blackfoot.net)

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm  
Jeanne Worthy, Secretary