

Montana Back Roads 4x4 Club met at Montana Club, Reserve Street, Missoula, MT for last time. Our Saturday, August 22 meeting will be in conjunction with a club bbq at Bill and Charlene Boldt's at 5 pm, more info will follow in an email. Beginning September 17, meetings will be held at Jakers Restaurant, Brooks Street, Missoula, 6 pm, on the third Thursday of each month through November. There was enough interest in a club Christmas party, with gift swap items from auto parts, so Jeanne will book Jakers early December. If Jakers suits our needs, we'll book through all of next year.

Members present: The Evelo family, Willie and Jeanne Worthy, Derek Emerson, Paul Schaller, Larry Garrison, Jim and Lorna Younkin, and Joe Lorenzo, and guests Dick Riebe, Brandon Grosvenor, Kyle Ness, Russell Mills, and Dan Simons and friend.

Curtis did a report on Divide Ride 2009, no major problems, his family had great time, though he wished more club members had participated (Brandon attended too). While visiting with people at DR, Curtis found we have one of the larger rosters of member clubs with 22 members (and 18 prospective members); however, we have less involvement from our members as well. Curtis urged more members to participate in meetings and trips.

He presented club for membership in the Montana 4x4 Association on Sunday and we were accepted. Jeff MacGill, Curtis and Joe will serve as club delegates at quarterly and annual meeting (delegates have vote at quarterly meetings, while every member has a vote at annual meeting). Dick mentioned that the annual meeting is hosted by the various clubs on a volunteer basis. Clubs submit a bid with costs for meeting place, info on lodging, food, etc. Dick offered a ride to Helena for quarterly meeting in October. He also mentioned that our club should submit article to 4XForum asking for help with club projects.

Willie asked what constitutes a club trip: consensus was that it had to be publicized a week ahead of time and had to have two club member vehicles plus any guests.

Willie asked what to do about late club dues. As of now, we have \$10 late fee if past 30 days. Consensus was to then drop member if they haven't paid by 60 days. Since Montana 4x4 Association dues need to be sent in by end of June, we'll change date of when club dues are payable from end of January to end of May, and notification will be sent via email or phone call at end of April.

Willie then flapped a plastic bag to simulate the flapping of Bruce Erickson's soft Jeep top on his mid summer trip to Iowa with no air conditioning. We all gave a moment of silence for Bruce.

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Jeff MacGill, our VP, is moving to Billings, closing Jeff's Off Road, but will still maintain club membership and will be a delegate at Montana 4x4 Association meetings. We have no provision on new election, so Willie made motion to appoint Curtis as new VP, Larry second, all ayes and motion carried.

Willie had asked for volunteers for club treasurer: Joe Lorenzo stepped up and received the \$600.71 we have in treasury. He will open a checking account, with President, Vice President and Treasurer able to sign checks. Discussion on whether club needed a post office box (the cheapest would be \$44 a year), consensus was that mail could still come to Willie as President and Joe as treasurer.

There will be a club trip in the Deer Lodge area July 31 thru August 2, several members are camping at the KOA. There is a fire currently burning in area, the Beaverhead/Deer Lodge National Forest web site lists closures and restrictions. Willie and Jeanne will do short trip Friday afternoon, Mark Pickles will lead trip to Carruthers and Mountain Ben Lakes on Saturday at 9 am, and Willie lead trip to possibly Blizzard Hill/Leadville at 8 am on Sunday, both meeting at the KOA.

Willie mentioned that member Jason Vaughn, who works at Re-Compute Computers on Broadway in Missoula, builds computers and does repairs himself as well. He built new computer for Willie and ONLY stayed till 11:30! last night transferring stuff from old computer.

After much time, Willie was finally contacted by Bob Cashner, Phillipsburg Ranger District, regarding the rehabilitation work at Meadow/Thompson Lakes area out of Maxville. Bob was very apologetic that "ball got dropped" somehow, and is eager to work with us. Willie had asked about rebuilding bridge at beginning of trail--can't happen as would have to do an environmental impact study plus would need a state permit. We could cut local lodge pole pine to build a jack leg fence, as well as moving/planting native sod in ruts. Bob will check with his trail crews if there are any projects that would be closer (it's about 3 hours from Missoula to this area). He'll also contact the PR people within the FS so we'll get some ink. Willie has contact with Missoulian reporter Perry Backus who would also do an article. We also need to submit info to Curtis as rep for Montana 4x4 Association inclusion in the 4XForum newsletter.

Both Dan Simons and Kyle Ness have qualified for club membership. An email vote will be taken.

Derek now has boom on back of his Toyota truck and is offering tow and lifting services.