

September 19, 2013

Montana Back Roads 4x4 Club meeting, held at Perkins Restaurant, Reserve Street and Mullan, Missoula, MT.

Members present: Derek Emerson, Jeanne and Willie Worthy, Larry Garrison, Jason Summerfield and family, Bruce Erickson, Steve Slagle, Pete Elmer, Fred McDowell and guest, Dick and Sue Riebe, Rich Hood, Jay Schweitzer, and guest Owen Hood.

Fred reported that his Land Rover was used in a Ralph Lauren brochure photographed in Glacier National Park, and that they took 1000s of photos! The PR firm had contacted Willie from the club's web site looking for a Land Rover.

Bruce reported on the Pozega Lake Trail, ran by the club on Sunday, September 1 by Willie and Jeanne in their 2A, Bruce in his "new" Jeep, Jeff Dobie in four door Rubicon, Steve Gehring in his Suzuki and Steve Slagle in his ..., plus guests Brad and Janet Bloxham in their Toyota truck. Bruce said it was "kinda" fun...steep scree areas with lots of cobblestones. The road had been maintained by quads so wasn't very wide. Aliens broke Bruce's valve stem on way back out, and he had to change the tire on steep hill. Club left Deer Lodge at 9:30 am, didn't get back until 8:30 pm!! If you don't like cliffs, this trail has a pucker factor of 5++

Willie and Jeanne ran several trails in the McAllister area near Ennis with Brad and Janet over three days. Probably will write them as five routes, as all were 10 hour days, with about 6 of those hours in low range.

Why hasn't any one else led a trip?

Survival equipment: first rule, stop and think...use your brain! Take inventory of what you have and think outside the box.

In vehicle: two flashlights, extinguisher, first aid kit, light sticks and/or flares, mosquito spray, sun block, compass, map, space blankets, paper and pencil to leave a note, knife, nylon string, more food and water than you think you'll need. Other items are a shake type flashlight so you don't have to depend on batteries, fire starters, warm jackets, wool stocking caps, extra wool socks, wool blanket, ratchet strap, work gloves, hand and foot warmers, parachute cord or dental floss. Fritos work great as a fire starter! Or use the pitch from an evergreen. You can insert a candle wick in a can of Crisco and it will burn for 30 hours. Charging unit for your electronics, even a solar type. Cell phone booster antenna \$100, Wilson Electronics, at Best Buy. Binoculars and whistle. Jason has an emergency locator beacon, which will send a text message to 9-1-1, \$100 then \$100 subscription per year.

Willie also carries chain saw, fuel and oil for it, diesel fuel for fire starter, as well as in his camo painted CJ2A a bright hunter orange piece of material. Jay uses "Backcountry Navigator".

Dick asked how Curtis Evelo was doing after the fire at Rick's Auto Body, Willie said he'd talked to him and he's handling it well. OSHA hasn't completed their investigation yet, but Missoula Fire Department said it was a freak accident.

If the weather holds, Willie and Jeanne are planning trip to Twin Bridges area, details will follow in an email.

Larry went to the South Dakota Jeep Jamboree in the Black Hills. They had to pay \$25 a day each to use Forest Service trails.

UPDATE from MONTANA 4X4 ASSOCIATION:

BLACKTAIL/WILD BILL TRAIL: the appeal was dropped after negotiations, and a collaborative group (the Skyliners and Big Sky 4x4 Clubs, FS, upset resident, bike group, cross country skiers, and Wildlands CPR {which has since merged with WildEarth Guardians, based out of Santa Fe, NM, and has 3 attorneys on STAFF!}) The collaborative has authority to start a brushing project and are getting some funding from a grant. M4x4A donated some money which was helpful and it was used to spray weeds. They plan on constructing both motorized and non-motorized trails to be open mid summer 2014. Big Sky 4-wheelers is now welcoming side-by-side rigs into their club since there are more of them than there are 4x4 vehicles (plus they hope to influence them with proper trail etiquette). FS is duty bound by law to give consideration to the majority of the public who comment....numbers are important...so do WRITE a letter, or call, or send an email! Non-motorized versus motorized comments are something like 5:1!! Richard Hiltz stated that the "green groups" closely watch club's face book pages and web sites for "stuff" to use against 4x4s.

Richard Hiltz stated that Citizens for Balanced Use (CBU) is working on getting a trail re-opened between Elkhorn and Boulder.

Big Sky 4-Wheelers Snow Bash is upcoming on Saturday, January 25, 2014, \$40 for two meals, a raffle and four wheeling. It is free to participate (the \$40 is for the dinner). There will be three different runs to accommodate different size rigs. Take a look at their face book page to sign up.