

MONTANA

SUMMER 2019

TRAIL RIDER NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MONTANA TRAIL VEHICLE RIDERS ASSOCIATION



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MONTANA TRAIL RIDER NEWS

Is published by the Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the MTVRA or its officers. Your editorial or news contributions would be appreciated. Carl Siroky, Editor.

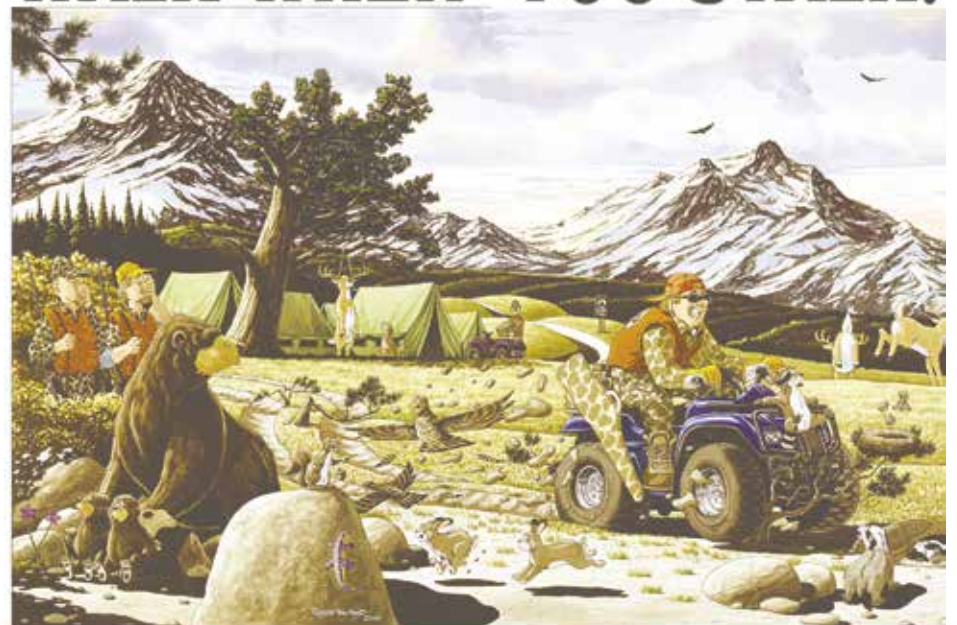
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MTVRA BYLAWS - Current bylaws, with changes approved June 2006, are posted on our website, www.MTVRA.com

WALK WHEN YOU STALK!



Ride on legally designated routes!

A MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Electronic Network

Attention: Members if you are not receiving email news, please send in your email addresses. The cost of producing the newsletter, shortage of volunteers, and the real time lag in getting information to you in a timely fashion make the electronic network an important tool now and for the future. We

promise we will not deluge you with excess notices. All news releases sent to MTVRA will be reviewed for importance to Montana before sending out. To be added to the network, simply email infomtvra@bresnan.net and ask to be added.

FROM THE "OFFICE"

Where I spend my time, not the trails where I'd rather be.

By Mona Ehnes

MTVRA applies annually for Recreational Trail Program Grants (RTP) and the Off-Highway Grants. The heavy mechanized maintenance grants have allowed our contractor, Scott's Fire Service to work on the backlog of motorized trail maintenance on the Forests around the state. The contractor performs work at the request of the specific forest, with their on-site monitoring. The invoice cost of this work is submitted to MTVRA who then pays the contractor. Once the canceled check from paying Scott's Fire Service is in hand, a request for reimbursement is sent to the RTP coordinator who reviews and submits it to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for their approval and then payment is sent to reimburse MTVRA.

This year's maintenance list has a full schedule extending into the middle of July. This work list is: 33.5 miles of trail on BLM Pipestone, 44 miles on USFS Whitetail/Pipestone, and work just completed on the Helena Ranger District. The contractor is now to finish a trail project on the Lincoln Ranger District and will then move to the Gallatin, West Yellowstone/Hebgen area to complete work started last fall along with other trail projects. During August the schedule and plan will include completing work on the Gallatin.



Later in the fall maintenance work will be done on the BLM trails in the Pryors. Sandwiched between these two projects the contractor will be working on the Great Falls Trail Bike Riders Association (GFTBRA) OHV Program grant to complete Trail 338 in the Logging Creek Area.

MTVRA has been awarded an OHV grant for the OHV Outdoor Ethics & Education program for the 2019-2020 school year. MTVRA will be reviewing the program and getting a new presenter (hopefully) in place for the year. Our contractor last year, Nate Leazer, is returning to school.

This year GFTBRA is employing George Chamarro and John Vehrs again to perform trail safety and maintenance work in the Little Belt Mountains. They have been doing this work during the summers since 2011 with the funding assistance from the grant programs. These jobs can seem a thankless task with the bug kill and trees falling behind you to clog the trail clearing you just opened. Reports from this work completed are sent to the Belt Creek Ranger District.

Other office work includes processing weekly payroll, scanning trail reports and sending them to the USFS, and sending other reports to the State and Federal Agencies.

The "Office" is a busy place, but not near as much fun as being out on the trails.

Montana Trails are 2-Way Traffic

From: Mona Ehnes, MTVRA

All Montana OHV trails are two way traffic. You should expect to meet oncoming riders so be aware, slow down, and keep an eye out for that new little rider just beginning to enjoy the family sport we all love!

Montana OHV Clubs

Billings Billings Motorcycle Club	Hamilton Ravalli Co Off-Road Users Assn.
Billings Rimrock Trail Riders	Helena Capital Trail Vehicle Assn.
Billings Treasure State ATV Assn.	Lincoln Blackfoot Valley OHV Assn.
Butte Mining City Trail Riders	Manhattan Gallatin Valley Dirt Riders
Glendive The Ranch Riders	Missoula Western Montana Trail Riders Assn.
Great Falls Great Falls Trail Bike Riders Assn.	Seeley Lake Seeley-Swan ATV Club, Inc.
Hamilton Bitterroot Ridge Runners	Trout Creek Cabinet Ridge Riders

Download the Montana State Parks App to your phone using the QR code below. The app contains information about all of the State Parks in Montana. For information on Montana's OHV program, visit their website at www.stateparks.mt.gov

See you in the parks!



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BVOHVA Spray Trailer

From Frank Malek

Late in the summer of 2017 the BVOHVA club was approached by members of Lincoln's Ponderosa Snow Warriors club with a request for help with getting equipment to use for spraying to control dust from the trails in the borrow-pit along the road.



Prior to the summer of 2017, the Ponderosa Snow Warriors had been using a pump and trailer owned by one of their members, until the member moved away from the area. That fall the BVOHVA club purchased the pump and trailer unit pictured here. The size of the new trailer makes it very useful for spraying on trails not accessible by full size vehicles.

The two clubs now share the trailer and split the task of spraying to control dust in the borrow-pit trails and noxious weeds along the OHV trails.

If anyone would like to donate a two-wheel drive chain or shaft driven ATV or UTV that's not being used, BVOHVA would really appreciate it. BVOHVA could make good use of an older machine like this to pair with the trailer and pull it at the slow speed needed.




Upcoming Trail Riding Events and other important dates

August 8th – Comment deadline for the Montanore Evaluation Project

The two to three-year Evaluation Project would provide 40 to 50 badly needed direct and indirect family wage jobs in northwest Montana. Links to the document and other background information is also available on the web site www.miningmontana.com

August 15 – Comment deadline for the BLM Lewistown RMP & EIS

The RMP and EIS is for the lands managed by the Lewistown and Butte field offices in northern Lewis and Clark County. Both plans directly affect motorized access, and you know best which motorized recreation issues are most important in the Lewiston and Butte areas. For more information, contact Dan Brunkhorst, RMP project manager, at (406) 538-1981 or at the mailing address below. **Sut**  **mail** them to:


Lewistown Field Office
Attn: Lewistown RMP
920 NE Main St.
Lewistown, MT 59457

Also, forward a copy of your comments to grassroots@amacycle.org.

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MTVRA On-Line Membership Renewal

Third Times a charm; Ya' think?

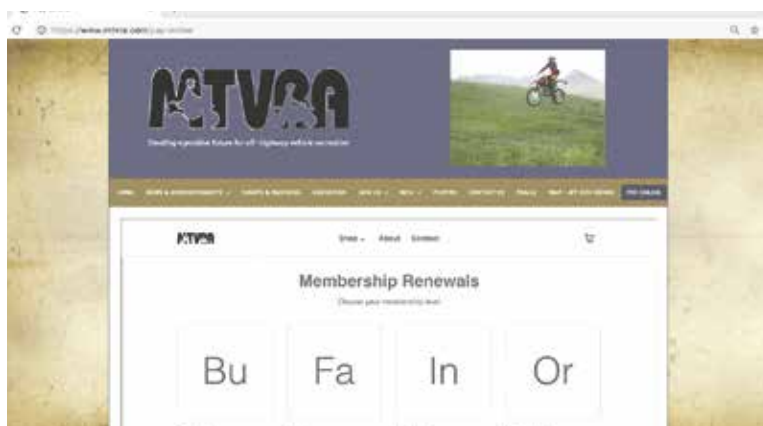
By Mona Ehnés

Well, we have telling the members for the past several years "You can pay your dues and donate on-line through the MTVRA website." The objective has been to make it easier for members to keep their membership current and pay their dues. This has not been an easy nor straightforward objective to achieve.

Now for the rest of the story....

To process payments for membership dues on-line through the website required MTVRA have some type of debit/credit card processing system in place. To get this MTVRA set up an account with a company called Square. The concept of on-line payment was supposed to be simple; you enter your information and the money went into the bank account of MTVRA.

Well, on the first try of the on-line payment system, low and behold when the payment posted, none of the membership information such as address, phone number, email address and where any funds above the standard membership was to be posted or paid, was available. So back to the webmaster and Square to make the system do what was needed. Square said the only way for all the information to be available was to set up a 'shipping document' for the order.



After fixing the shortcomings found on the first try, NOW we KNEW we had it handled. On the second try the issues fixed after the first try the payments came out of the members account then within a week the money was automatically refunded to the member. Again, back to Square, where customer service told us the shipping document required MTVRA (the vendor) to process the payment within seven days or the Square program would automatically refund the amount paid to the customer. My question to Square, which I thought was a brilliant one: "Could we just have the order processed automatically once it was entered?" Of course, my brilliance was not fully appreciated by Square customer service who said "No, our software is not set up to do that, but you can change the payment processing window from seven days to a longer period." Well you can imagine my surprise when I discovered that I could change from seven to sixty days on the processing window.

On the third try with the sixty-day window put in place gives me enough time to process the membership dues every week or every other week, depending on the number of orders to process. The process is now working as it should have the first time.

I apologize to those of you who have tried valiantly to pay your dues on-line, the system now works for us. While it should not have taken this long to get the program working right, I hope that anyone who tried to use it realizes that all of the behind-the-scenes administration of MTVRA is provided by volunteers. While we try hard to make things happen and be smooth for the members, sometimes success doesn't happen the first try. Thanks for sticking with us!



Lewistown draft RMP & EIS released

From the AMA

Help ensure motorized use is central in the plan

The U.S Bureau of Land Management has released the Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for all of the lands managed by its Lewistown field office and those managed by the Butte field office in northern Lewis and Clark County. Lands managed under the plan total roughly 651,200 acres and 1,196,800 acres of federal mineral estate.

Recreation and Visitor Services and Travel Management and Access are two of the 14 issues addressed in the plan. Both directly affect motorized access, and you know best which motorized recreation issues are most important in the Lewistown and Butte areas. The AMA encourages you to explain those issues in detail while describing why motorized recreation is important to you. Be sure to use trail names and numbers and outline your hopes for new or expanded trails.

All of the draft documents are available online: (<https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage¤tPageId=50899>) and the BLM is planning related informational meetings to be announced at least 15 days beforehand on the website.

Deadline: Submit comments by Aug. 15 to ensure the BLM considers them in the document revisions and the final plan.

Submit comments on the BLM website here or through the U.S. mail to:

Lewistown Field Office
Attn: Lewistown RMP
920 NE Main St.
Lewistown, MT 59457

For more information, contact Dan Brunkhorst, RMP project manager, at (406) 538-1981 or at the U.S. Mail address above.

Thank you in advance for commenting. If you do submit comments, please forward a copy to us at grassroots@amacycle.org. Please forward this alert to your friends and ask them to submit comments, too.

Now more than ever, it is crucial that you and your riding friends become members of the AMA to help protect our riding freedoms. More members mean more clout against the opponents of motorcycling. That support will help fight for your rights-on the road, trail and racetrack and in the halls of government.

Join the AMA at americanmotorcyclist.com.

If you are an AMA member, encourage your friends to join by telling them about the many AMA benefits you appreciate and the role the AMA plays in promoting the motorcycle lifestyle and protecting the future of motorcycling.

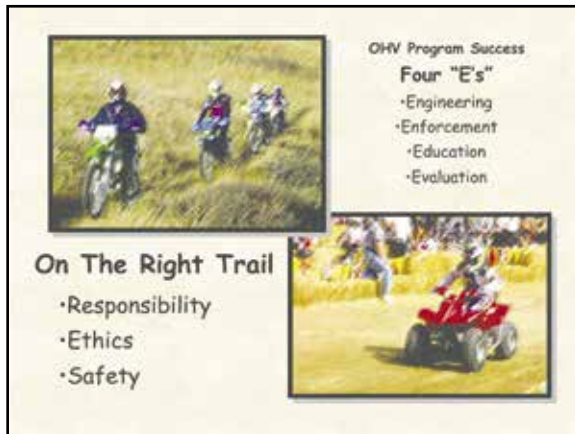
MTVRA Report of the OHV Ethics Program for the 2018-2019 School Year

From Mona Ehnes

Reaching a total of 6,943 students throughout the state made this a successful year for the OHV program. The numbers may not represent the success but every student we reach is important. Nathan Leazer was in his second year of teaching and was able to get into quite a few new schools. Many students and teachers highly enjoyed the program.

We reached a total of 42 schools throughout Montana. The biggest reason for drop off of schools and students was scheduling with different schools. With all the state mandated testing it was hard to schedule with many of the schools. Some schools also only like to schedule every other year. The program may only come to those schools every other year but most teachers let me know they do a review with the students every year.

Every student reached is another child given the knowledge needed to become a good steward of the land, and hopefully they continue to spread this knowledge to others so we can maintain our access to public lands. That's why this program is so important to Montana., most kids are not taught the correct way to take care of public lands and trails. With this information hopefully they will teach others and their parents about the importance of ethical recreation. The hope is these lessons will then lead to an understanding of the impact they have on public lands and access for future generations.



This year Nathan was able to add many activities and a lesson on Leave No Trace ethics. The kids were very responsive to this and it helped include kids who don't ride OHV's. The teachers were even surprised in some areas about the Leave No Trace rules. The more people who learn these rules and pass them to others the better chance we have of preserving our public lands.

Unfortunately, this will be the last year Nathan will be able to do the program. He has decided to go back to school and pursue a degree in surveying. It has been an amazing experience teaching all the kids such important information. He hopes the program can continue with someone just as passionate about the work as he is. Thanks to everyone for the continued support of MTVRA. Every effort counts and makes a difference toward preserving our public lands and trails.



Spring Trail Clearing Report from the CTVA

From Jody Loomis

From later June, here is an update on single-track trails in the Helena area the CTVA trail crew has been working on:

Wilson Creek This is a difficult trail to ride and doesn't see a lot of use. It gets plenty of downfall and often goes years without maintenance. Over the last few years we have tried to keep Wilson open. Last weekend Brian and Alex were in the area and headed up to see how far they could get. Thankfully, after a full day of hard work, fighting snow and mud, they were able to get Wilson completely cleared! Awesome! (I think these guys are going for the coveted "Golden Chainsaw Award")

Red Rocks A crew of seven single-track-riders headed to the Bernice area to work on clearing the Red Rock single-track sections. Three riders headed up the South Fork and four up the Middle Fork. The South Fork crew made it through that section with little downfall. They started down the Middle Fork working towards the four-man crew that was clearing their way up. We knew we were close when we could



hear the chainsaws of the other crew! We all rejoiced when the two crews connected and took a nice break. The whole crew rode to the top and started down the North Fork, the last section to be cleared. With the seven of us working together, this section went smoothly. Now this entire system is in great shape and ready for visitors. The clearing was easier than it has been the over past couple of years. Keeping up with the downfall has paid off! Thanks to the trail crew, David, Brian, Ken, Alex, Abe, & Ash for all your efforts to get these trails opened!

A special thanks to Ken for bringing these neglected trails to our attention! If it wasn't for Ken, these two systems would have simply vanished under a massive pile of downfall. Enjoy!

Trail-clearing report from early in June:

Things have dried out a bit and we are ready to get the 2019 riding season underway. The trail crews got out last weekend and began the painstaking process of tree removal from single-track routes in the Helena area.

- One crew rode and cleared most of the routes in the Big Belts. The North and South Forks of Doolittle are cleared and in great shape!
- Most of Little Hellgate is cleared except for the lowest section in the canyon. The grasses are coming in nicely and the tread is firming up on the Little Hellgate reroute section. It looks great and is a nice addition to the route.
- The Jefferson City trail crew worked hard on Sullivan Gulch and Buttermilk Jim in the Basin area. These two routes were completely blocked with downfall. Brian and Alex removed 111 trees from Sullivan and 30 from Buttermilk!

They accomplished this in just one day, whew! Great work guys! Thanks Brian, Alex, and Ash for your efforts to keep these trails functioning.

Volunteers Provide Interpretive Information Along Paiute Trail

News from the NOHVCC

Below is an excerpt of an article taken from the News feed on the NOHVCC web page. The article is a good read but is also an example of what could be done in Montana to capitalize on our great trail experiences our state has to offer. You can read more about this trail in the News at <https://www.nohvcc.org/> Carl

Long-time friend of NOHVCC Max Reid recently sent us some information about a National Trails Day project we had to share. For those who don't know Max, he retired from the Forest Service ten years ago, but his passion for OHV recreation and the Paiute Trail in Utah remain strong. One of his first days on the job with the Fishlake National Forest Max was told he would be the Fishlake National Forest's Captain of the Paiute Trail. Max admits that he initially thought the trail was a "dumb idea." But, nearly 30 years later he continues to serve on the Paiute Trail Committee and remains a dedicated ambassador for the Paiute Trail – he definitely changed his mind!



The Paiute Trail is a public OHV trail system located in Central Utah, managed by the Fishlake National Forest and the Richfield District of the Bureau of Land Management. It has over 2,000 miles of trail and is credited with bringing tremendous positive economic impact to the region. Max's pride in the trail shines through when he says, "I believe the Paiute Trail is the best managed and marked system in the United States and possibly the world."

Read more online at www.nohvcc.org



Neversweat Trailhead Toilet Facility Update

From Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Facebook Page and Doug Abelin

Thanks to our invaluable partnership with Capital Trail Vehicle Association (CTVA), a new bathroom was installed at the Never Sweat OHV trailhead!!! This bathroom was funded through a Yamaha grant that was awarded to the CTVA Club. In addition to the bathroom installation, the Club helped by doing a lot of mowing and improving some of the fencing along the perimeter of the trailhead. In fact, club members also finished tying in the jackleg to the outhouse and seeded the work site so new vegetation will come in, especially with all this rain! Thank you Capital Trail Vehicle Association for



your continued partnership, and for your passion to help care for, and enjoy, our public lands!

"This project has been in the works since the early 1990's, and thanks to the Yamaha outdoor access Grant's funding, which we applied for 2 seasons ago, we received it

last season. We now have a nice trailhead with a large parking area and a beautiful Kiosk with neat signage identifying routes that are all accessed from here. It's a nice place to sit, relax, and release the excitement of a great ride, in a great location, deep in public lands. As the President of "Capital Trail Vehicle Association", I want to thank Yamaha, the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest and all the Volunteers who have worked for years towards this. I want to let the public know that it's done and please come and enjoy it." Doug Abelin



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Montana Outdoor Heritage Project

From Bob Walker

The Montana Outdoor Heritage Project is touting itself as a coalition of citizens, small businesses, conservation and recreation groups. "The project brings together people of diverse perspectives who care about issues from protecting public access to resolving human-wildlife conflicts," according to the group's website.

Saying she is passionate about the state, self-described eastern Montana girl Christine Whitlatch has lent her voice to a growing chorus of people seeking to find new ways to sustain and support the state's outdoor heritage and rural way of life.

The former Glendive Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture director who now lives in Billings joined others Thursday in announcing the launch of a public survey to gauge and prioritize Montanans' concerns. The Montana Outdoor Heritage Project survey, available online, hopes to attract 10,000 state participants.

"It's really exciting to have the opportunity to solicit voices from every experience, every use category, every ability category across the state to talk about what's important to us, what we're concerned about, what we hope we preserve and invest in in the years to come," Whitlatch said. "This is really a great invitation for all Montanans that are interested in and passionate about this access to get involved in the conversation and really share their voice."

In August, UM's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research released a report to gauge residents' desires for state park amenities. Topping the list was trails. The survey of 6,000 residents also showed that nine out of 10 had been to a state park.

Then in October the Montana Trails Coalition released its study showing that more than 100 projects seeking federal funding in the past five years were denied, leaving well-deserved ventures unrealized despite strong local fundraising for matching dollars.

"We've been in a real drought when it comes to funding," said Bob Walker, chairman of the Montana Trails Coalition.

In December the Parks in Focus Commission, appointed by Gov. Steve Bullock, released its report detailing several management priorities, including seeking more partners to benefit and promote an underfunded state parks program. State parks has a reported maintenance backlog of \$22 million.

During a cold day in January the American Prairie Reserve presented a lineup of

agricultural and conservation speakers in Lewistown who were stressing the need for conservation groups and farm and ranch owners to work together to keep families on the land to the benefit of wildlife, local communities and agriculture.



Some lawmakers have been listening, Walker noted. In the just-completed legislative session Senate Bill 24 passed, which increased the opt-out fee residents can pay from \$6 to \$9 to support state parks, trails and recreation. The measure is expected to raise \$2 million a year. Of that \$940,000 will go for a grant program benefiting trails and recreational facilities and another \$900,000 for state parks. Another \$170,000 will go to the operation and maintenance of state fishing access sites.

Also passed was SB 341, which created the Public Access Land Act to provide a source of funding to compensate landowners who provide easements to landlocked public acreage. The bill allots \$500,000 to the program, but it's up to landowners to apply for a portion of the funds, which can't exceed a payment of \$15,000 a year.

Newer to the scene, the Montana Outdoor Heritage Project is touting itself as a coalition of citizens, small businesses, conservation and recreation groups. "The project brings together people of diverse perspectives who care about issues from protecting public access to resolving human-wildlife conflicts," according to the group's website.

Karrie Kahle, the grassroots organizer for the group and a Livingston resident, was most recently involved in opposition to mining in the Paradise Valley — work that also involved an alliance of varied local interests that led to a ban on new gold mining on

federal lands in the area.

In addition to questions about recreation, the group's survey casts a wider net by adding maintaining the viability of working farms and ranches, the threat of invasive species and protecting communities from wildfire as possible priorities.

"We also really see this project as being about bringing people together from all walks of life," said Dave Chadwick, executive director of the Montana Wildlife Federation. "For our organization, and a lot of conservation organizations, we place a lot of value on the public trust, that wildlife is a publicly owned resource ... and that the people have a right and an opportunity in deciding what we want out of those resources. So it's not just about conservation, it's about giving people a voice in our state's future."

Partnering

To hear and honor the different voices of Montanans — from the disabled to Native Americans, young and old, urban and rural, motorheads and hikers — was one of the challenges thrown out to conservation groups and others last spring at a conference in Bozeman that, in part, stressed collaboration as a way to arrive at creative solutions.

Whether the Montana Outdoor Heritage Project can accomplish that has yet to be seen. And what form increasing funding for cash-strapped government agencies might take is also uncertain, although other states have used everything from a portion of lottery proceeds to sales taxes and an excise tax on outdoor gear that is sold. Until then the group is also leading local conversations in towns across the state. Those will be posted on their website.

Whitlatch, a mother of five whose family has camped and fished across the state, sees the survey as a step to let more people speak out about what's important to them.

"The outcome of these conversations are going to determine some priorities that come next," she said.

"We really hope that people from all across (Montana) ... put your ideas into the conversation, and let us see what comes out at the end and how we can collaborate ... to create sustainability and investment in this outdoor way of life."

Montanore Evaluation Project

From TSRA

Montanore Minerals Corp. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Hecla Mining Company) is currently seeking authorization from the US Forest Service to complete the work needed to evaluate the underground mineral resource of the proposed Montanore Mine.

Commenting is easy and fast by going online to www.miningmontana.com

Located in Montana's Lincoln and Sanders Counties twenty miles south of Libby, the Evaluation Project for the proposed Montanore Mine has undergone rigorous review by managing agencies and the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is now available for review and comment by the public.

This Project, utilizing the infrastructure at the current Montanore site, includes dewatering of the current 14,000 foot Libby Adit and the development of 6300 feet of underground drifts (15 feet by 15 feet) and 35 drill stations. The objective of the Project is to collect and analyze additional geotechnical, hydrological, and other information. Data collected from the proposed work will be used to inform future project decisions.

The two to three-year Evaluation Project would provide 40 to 50 badly needed direct and indirect family wage jobs in northwest Montana. The USFS and Montana DEQ have jurisdiction to approve and regulate the Montanore Project.

Links to the document and other background information is also available on the web site www.miningmontana.com

The comment deadline is August 8, 2019.



Event Insurance

By Mona Ehnes

When a club or association holds an event on BLM, USFS, or at a county, state- or privately-owned facility (such as was the case with the recent Fun Run/State Ride) the club or association is required to have an insurance policy in place. The insurance is a liability policy to help protect the club, officers, and volunteers during the event. The agency or entities who oversee the property and/or facility where the event is held will receive a certificate showing they have been added to the policy as 'additional insured'. This insurance requirement is nothing new, it has been in place for at least the past 10 years.

Getting this insurance policy in place may sound simple but it isn't. After the 9/11 terrorist attack on our country, insurance companies changed the way they looked at all risks and, in the process reassessed motorized recreation to be a "high risk". The event insurance available for competition events is generally a Lloyds of London policy. As an AMA (American Motorcyclist Association) chartered club, MTVRA applies for a 'sanction number' for an event and with it for insurance for that event. Certificates are sent to the facility or agency prior to the event.

Along with having the insurance MTVRA is required to have waivers and releases signed by all competitors, attendees, and participants at the event. Parents or guardians are required to sign releases for minors and all attendees sign a release/waiver. These documents are required to be kept on file for a time determined by the State. An 'event entry form' is provided for all to fill out and from that information an on-line report is filed with AMA showing the actual participants, such as riders and passengers. The insurance company requests that all attendees at a recreational event sign the releases because there isn't any way for the areas to be blocked off to keep riders and attendees separated as there is at a competition event.

MTVRA uses wrist bands to identify riders and attendees that have completed the paperwork. This is the process used for the Fun Run/State Ride at Boulder the end of June. The surprise to me was the number of attendees who weren't aware of the insurance requirements, which got me to thinking that maybe MTVRA had not done a good job informing people of the requirements and process. This article is a result of that 'thinking' episode. If you have questions about insurance, send me a message. Mona.ehnes@gmail.com

The typical mindset is "I would never sue you." We are all sure we would accept responsibility for our own actions and not sue the promoter or entity that put on an event. But, did you know that if your health insurance company pays a large medical claim for your self-inflicted injury at an event, they can file a claim to have the promoter of the event or entity where the event was held declared liable for your actions/injury and the cost? Or, if God forbid, you were killed your family or spouse could file to have the promoter or entity declared liable for whatever they think the promoter or entity may be worth. This is the way things are and all a club can do is protect itself. (Sorry about this)



Military Recognition Day

by Dan Thompson

The Bitterroot Ridgerunners' Annual Military Day, organized by current President Brent Nelson, went smoothly on January 18 at Hogan's meadow near Lost Trail Pass. This year Brent hosted 8 active duty military personnel and three of their children as well as one veteran guest.

After breakfast at the Sula Store, our guests spent most of the afternoon in the vicinity of Hogan's cabin riding the various trails and meadows in the area. As usual, BRR provided a warming fire and an opportunity to roast a hot dog at the meadow near Hogan's cabin for our guests and BRR members. After returning to Hamilton late in the afternoon, Brent hosted a dinner at the Coffee Cup Café for our guests.

What a great way to say "Thank You" to those in uniform who protect our families!!

Thanks to Bob E, Dennis Wessels, Len Owings, Kent Sybrandt, Brent Nelson and Wally Deschene for providing sleds for our guests and assisting them during the day as well as to Ray Waliser, Dean Frost and Thom Browne for the warming fire and organizing the weenie roast.

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Story about Rocks

By Mona Ehnés

Parke Scott with Scott's Fire Service performs trail maintenance with a Sutter or Sweeco Trail Dozer and does a great job. There are times though when he has had to pull the dozer off a project because there are too many rocks.

When it comes to rocky trails, I've made this comment and received some flak for it "This is the Rocky Mountains, what are mountains made of?" Well let me tell you there are rocks, Rocks and ROCKS." When Parke hits 'ROCKS' the agency brings in the big guns to clear the rocks from the trail. By Big Guns I mean blasting or a big excavator.

The trail construction project currently underway at Lincoln project had a ROCK problem. The trail maintenance in the Little Belt mountains last season took longer than expected because of rocks.

Parke has built lots of trail for Bull Run at Cascade. On one trail it seemed like when he rolled one rock out three more rocks were below it and no dirt to speak of. As Harold Lear said at the time, "I don't think Parke would normally do this trail". Bull Run thanks Parke for his hard and rocky work.... The trail is a great addition, even though there is a long section that is still 'rocks'.



2019 MTVRA State Ride and CTVA Fun Run

By Doug Abelin

Thank you to the members of MTVRA, CBU and CTVA for their attendance and help with this year's State Ride and Fun Run in Boulder, Montana. Over one hundred people attended, many of whom put their time and effort into setting up the parking, eating areas, posters, and prizes. Also, a special thanks to everyone who asked for donations and donated their own items for the prizes at the silent auction.

The Friday night potluck was very good. Thanks to everyone who brought the food; we enjoyed it and the social time. The clear skies and sunshine that we had Saturday was nice for riding the trails. Saturday night we enjoyed the catered dinner, followed by prizes, and a speech to the crowd provided by Kerry White.

Clean up went very well. The attendance, participation, and help were very much appreciated.





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WE NEED PHOTOS!

We are always looking for good photos to feature in the newsletter. Set your camera to high-resolution and snap away. Who knows, your image may end up as the next newsletter cover! Send your photos to Carl Siroky, carlsiroky@hotmail.com. Be sure to include the date the photo was taken, the location, the event (if applicable), and the names of anyone in the photo. You may also include a little write-up about the photo. We may include your story in the newsletter!

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10 Reasons to Let Your Husband Buy a Dirt Bike

By Kyle Brothersen from the Dirt Bike Channel

It's considered an extreme sport to most, but at the basic level (if you're a beginner), riding a dirt bike can be an excellent way to stay healthy and fit. Sure, you might get a little dirty while riding through the terrain of a course or through the woods, but the workout you receive could surprise you.

These are my wife's top 10 reasons to let your husband buy a dirt bike. The first three were her top 3 reasons, the rest are in no particular order.

1. It makes him a better man. He gets to recharge and gives him something to be proud of. This translates over into other areas of his life.
2. Keeps him in shape!
3. It's a great way for his to bond with the kids.
4. It keeps him mentally sharp.
5. He is less likely to be addicted to substances when he's addicted to his dirt bike.
6. He gets to get out and appreciate the beautiful earth we live in and see things most people will never see.
7. It helps him with problem solving, because that IS a skill.
8. Dirt Bikes keep him young.
9. It's a good stress reliever.
10. It's not as dangerous as you think.

MTVRA Newsletter - Let Us Know What You're Doing!

Your Board of Directors of the Montana Trails Vehicle Riders Association will regularly publish a quarterly Newsletter beginning to be distributed to members by email and hard copy where appropriate. The purpose is to disseminate information among Montana and other state associations and clubs, motivate members by sharing information about successes and challenges, and promote unity among OHV recreationists. We need your help to succeed!

Please send information/articles about your club programs, activities, and schedules. Let us know about successes and challenges in your area. Share information about how you have succeeded or advice on procedures to avoid. Where do you ride and what is your favorite trail? We would like to highlight a trail or trail system in each newsletter.

Send your information by email to Carl Siroky, Newsletter editor, at carlsiroky@hotmail.com.

Thanks in advance for your hard work in providing improved opportunities for OHV recreationists and others!

A big MTVRA thank you to these BUSINESS MEMBERS

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