

Bitterroot Ridgerunners Snowmobile Club Minutes
February 20, 2008
Groomer Shed Building

The potluck began at 7:10 p.m.

Richard Peters called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Twenty nine people attended including Board members, Richard Peters, Kirk Nickish, Russ Englund, Cliff and Pam Cooper and Betty Frost. Treasurer's report is \$18,552.72. The remaining available funds in the State Grant have been requested. There are unpaid labor, fuel and maintenance bills scheduled for payment. The January minutes were approved by the membership.

Groomer's report – Russ reported grooming schedule is back on track. The groomer operators have put in long hours. Bryan Rouse was introduced as the newly trained groomer operator and the Club may still hire another intermittent Groomer operator. Russ thanked Dan Meuchels for his outstanding commitment to the Club for the past 13 years of grooming operator and maintenance foreman. Russ advised the Club had purchased a Klim coat for Russ but the embroidering of the Club Log and Dan's name had not been completed on the coat.

Safety report – The safety officer was unavailable but a handout on “Winter Recreation Code of Ethics”, “Safety Tips” (what to take and what to know) and “Winter Travel” was handed out to all members. A copy is on file.

Travel Management Plan – Dennis was unavailable. Richard reported that comments on the Bitterroot NF Travel Plan are due to the Forest Service **by** February 29. The Club handed out a “National Forests-Our Trails Are In Trouble Fact Sheet” and made available pre-addressed envelopes and encouraged all members to send written comments before the deadline. Dan Thompson made a powerpoint presentation about the six Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF FEIS alternatives. There were good questions and answers. THANKS DAN for this informational presentation. Comments are due to the B-D Forest by March 31st. Members were encouraged to review the maps posted at the Groomer Shed and to submit written comments. Pre-addressed envelopes were available.

Membership Report – Hamilton Polaris has provided the Club with 20 membership forms and a donation. There were eight members who had not previously attended any Club meetings this year. They were introduced. The Club has some new business sponsors, all Business Sponsors were acknowledged and the membership encouraged supporting these Sponsors

Calendar of Events – The Club Picnic to Hogan Cabin on March 16th was mentioned. Gary Senn volunteered to assist with this project. Still seeking someone to Chair this project and purchase groceries needed for the picnic. The Club pays for the groceries.

There was discussion whether the Club, along with Ravalli County Off-Road Users, would like to again perform a community project of picking up debris along a portion of Skalkaho Highway. This will not be an adopt-a-highway project but will be coordinated with the State Highway department. Gary Senn motioned the two Clubs work together and pick up debris along Skalkaho Highway this Spring. Dan Thompson seconded the motion. Brent Nelson volunteered to coordinate the efforts between the two Clubs. The Motion carried.

Volunteer Agreements – Volunteer agreements were handed out and all members who perform trail or grooming related maintenance projects were encouraged to complete a form. Mike Hathaway,

guest from the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks explained why the forms are necessary, including the submission of the member's driver's license. The completed forms are being mailed to the FWP.

Volunteers Needed – Members were informed that the Club has received Federal matching funds to install weatherproof, informative, locked sign cases at the trailheads of our groomed trail system. Kirk Nickish volunteered to chair this project. Anyone willing to assist should contact Kirk. The Club also sought a volunteer to assist with pursuing a Yamaha Grant Application. It appears funding from this grant could be used for maintaining public access to public trails. George Bettes volunteered to Chair this project.

Announcements - The upcoming workshop, convention and conference were mentioned and attendance was encouraged.

1. B-D Forest Plan Public Workshop – Butte Copper King – Feb. 27th 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
2. MSA Winder Riding and Director's Meeting – Feb. 29th and March 1-2, Seeley Lake
3. State Trails Conference in Missoula – April 17 or 19th.

If anyone is considering attending please contact a Board Member, including myself.

Nominations - Richard sought nominations for the position of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. No nominations were received. Nominations and election of officers will occur at the next meeting.

At 8:35 p.m. Dan Thompson motioned the meeting adjourn and Kirk Nickish 2nd the motion. It carried.

After the meeting members participated in a swap-meet and Mike Hathaway of FWP personally met with members and Board Members regarding issues as funding, reports, groomer maintenance needs and was available to answer questions. We appreciate this working relationship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Frost, Secretary, Bitterroot Ridgerunners Snowmobile Club

Approved: _____ Richard Peters, President