

Bitterroot Ridgerunners Snowmobile Club Minutes
March 19, 2008
Groomer Shed Building

The potluck began at 7:10 p.m. Richard Peters called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. Twenty people attended including Board members, Richard Peters, Kirk Nickish, Russ Englund, Dennis Wessels, Brent Nelson, Cliff and Pam Cooper and Betty Frost. Treasurer's report is \$18,238.68. Pam reported that all State grant monies have been expended so regular Club funds are being expended for grooming expenses. Richard explained the Club will try to obtain additional State funding, but if not available, the Board will closely monitor and the Club will request grooming expense reimbursement through the Recreational Trails Grant funding program. Russ Englund and Pam are monitoring grooming expenses. Reggie motioned for acceptance of the February minutes and the membership approved.

Safety report – Justin Singer was the guest speaker. Justin is the contact information for the Beacon Training Park Project in Cooperation with the West Central Montana Avalanche Foundation. Justin a Beacon Training Device will be placed at Lolo Pass this fall. He solicited donations so other Beacon Training Devices can be installed in western Montana. For information, of interest in donating to this cause, contact Justin at 1justinsinger@gmail.com or Todd Frank at 543-6966.

Groomer's report – Russ readdressed the grooming expenditures. He is still pursuing options regarding purchase of an angle blade for the groomer. Embroidery work is done on Dan Meuchel's jacket. Club will present jacket to Dan at the next meeting. Per agreement with the FWP, grooming ceases the end of March. Russ said the signs will be picked up March 31st. Jerry H, Richard P, Gary S. volunteered to assist with sign pickup. Dean F. volunteered to pick up the survival pack in Martin Creek & Brent will pick up the signs near the end of Rye Creek. Anyone willing to volunteer with sign pickup should contact Russ Englund. Russ praised groomer operators Dan Meuchel, Dean Frost, and Brian Rouse for the great grooming job and for the many hours of volunteer maintenance they performed on the groomer. He also thanked the Board for their support.

Travel Management Plan – Dennis stated the TMP committee is waiting for the Bitterroot NF to come out with the Draft Environmental Impact State (DEIS) Travel Plan package this summer. Dennis asked Dan Thompson to provide update on the (B-D) Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF Travel Plan. Dan emphasized the comments are due regarding the B-D Final EIS by March 31. With TMP input, Dan developed and the Board approved the letter and map that the Club is sending to the B-D Forest. A copy of this letter will be posted on the Club website and an email will be sent to the membership requesting they comment on the B-D FEIS by March 31st. Dennis indicated that Nora Hamilton provides training on how to respond to DEIS's and that the Club address hiring her services once the Bitterroot Forest DEIS is close to being published. This seemed favorable and will be discussed with other organizations and readdressed at future meetings.

Recognition – KJ Nickish was recognized for being the youngest member who attended the most Club meetings **and** for being the County Spelling Bee champion on March 12th. Figaro's Pizza donated a giant pizza gift certificate for the Club to present to KJ. The Club is proud of KJ and encourages more youth participation.

Skalkaho Highway Cleanup – The Bitterroot Ridgerunners, along with the Ravalli County Off-Road Users, set April 26th as a tentative date for picking up trash along the Skalkaho Highway. The date and section of highway which will be cleaned will be finalized depending upon weather conditions.

Sign Project – Kirk Nickish is Chairperson of the sign project. This includes the design, contents and installation of a weatherproof, informative, locked sign case on Skalkaho Highway. The Club agreed this sign should be installed before fall. Anyone willing to contribute to any portion of this project should contact Kirk at Mountain Motor Sports. Member input is solicited.

Announcements – Richard mentioned the upcoming events

1. Comments on Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Plan FEIS are due March 31.
2. Club Picnic – March 30th
3. State Trail Conference in Missoula April 17-19
4. Congressman Rehberg is speaking in Kalispell 3/24/08 at 5:30 p.m. The range of topics expected to be discussed include multiple use, wildfire fighting, mining, logging, sustainable resource development, recreation and tourism.

Nominations - Richard sought nominations for officer positions. Starting with the secretary position he explained Betty is willing to help but does not want to serve as secretary. Shelley Appler was not present but has indicated a willingness to accept the secretarial position with support from Betty. Betty nominated Shelley Appler for the secretary position; motion was seconded by Kirk Nickish. Pam indicated she still wants to be relieved of the Treasurer position but no one volunteered. It was agreed to table nominations for the other Board positions until the next meeting so more nominees can be sought. Election of officers will occur at the next meeting.

Next Meeting - After discussion it was agreed that maybe some people are not attending Club meetings because they are on a work-week night. It was suggested the next regular meeting be held SUNDAY, APRIL 13th. Anyone willing to assist with grounds/building cleanup should show up at 3 p.m. at the groomer shed. The Club will furnish and serve hot dogs at 5 p.m. and a brief meeting and election of officers will follow. (Weather permitting maybe we can also have some family games on the lawn – I will bring ladder golf – suggestions welcome).

New Business –

- Dennis suggested the Club should pursue getting an Avalanche Beacon Training Center at Lost Trail. Dennis will research interest of other clubs and contact Justin Singer
- Jerry Hinson indicated many of the people he snowmobiles with are not members of the Club and he felt the main reason was because the Club was not hosting family functions. After good discussion it was agreed that the Club will do everything possible to recruit members for the committees for which we had NO VOLUNTEERS this past season which includes the Fund Raising and the Special Events Committees. Members need to be assertive as to why it is important to be a member of our Club.

Dennis motioned, Cliff seconded meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The Silent Auction began.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Frost, Secretary, Bitterroot Ridgerunners Snowmobile Club

Approved: _____ Richard Peters, President