

RAVALLI COUNTY OFF ROAD USER ASSOCIATION

www.ravallioffroad.org

JULY 2015

Calendar of 2015 Upcoming events:

The rides listed on the Calendar are hosted by a club member and are not "club sponsored" rides unless they are stated as such.

NOTICE: THE BOARD MEETINGS WILL BE THE 1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH AND THE GENERAL MEETINGS WILL BE THE 2ND MONDAY OF THE MONTH, all meetings to be held at the BRR Groomer Shed, 663 Grantsdale Road Hamilton.

July 6th Board Meeting 6 PM at the Groomer Shed

July 13th General Meeting 7 PM at the Groomer Shed. Guest Speaker will be Erin Proctor from Montana State Parks, Erin is the OHV Program Manager.

July ? RCORUA First Aid, CPR & AED Training

Burnt Fork Lake Area Ride: John Transue is making plans for a mid July ride. Call John at 369-2909.

August 27th & 28th: Salmon Area Ride Sponsored by the Western Montana Trail Riders Association. Contact Don Miller 961-3874, Don has planned a ride to Leesberg for one day and the Goldstone Mine for the other day.

August 3rd. Board Meeting, 6 PM

August 10th General Meeting 7 PM

NOTES: Huckleberries are starting to ripen! The Lupine, Scarlet Gila and Indian Paintbrush are in full bloom!

A great 40 to 50 mile ride in the East Fork (all on roads open to full sized vehicles) is starting at Teepee Road #5778 continue to Skalkaho Rye Road #75 turn left, then turn left again on Road #1397 (or continue on to road #1398), then turn onto road # 1398 (road is getting overgrown so would not take a full sized vehicle) continue on 1398 road to the intersection of Road 311 (Guide Rye) turn right (or can go left to #723 and then #5788 back to Teepee) and it gets you back to the East Fork Highway, turn left to get back to Teepee Road. (by Marsha Waliser)

As the hills dry out please be extra cautious as where you stop for breaks, do not stop in tall dry grass as your exhaust system could start a fire. If you smoke, please be aware of what you do with the ashes and butts of your smokes, they can start a fire if dropped in dry grass or pine duff.

Please support our Business Sponsors!

Business Sponsorship is only \$100.00 per year!

A great value as it reaches hundreds of individuals each month. Your business is listed each month in the newsletter and on the web and once a year your business card or your ad (if provided with your sponsorship dues) is included in the newsletter! Please send a card to the club or email Marsha with a scanned card or colored layout at: mwaliser2292@gmail.com . If you want your web address listed in the newsletter and on our web site you can email Marsha or Kathy T. kathy.transue@gmail.com

Veteran's Ride a Huge success!

On June 27th 8 Veteran's (some retired, some active) joined 8 club member sponsors for a ride on the CB Ranch. The riders along with Bruce & Kristi Gaul (serving as EMT's), Brent Nelson (Tour Guide), Frank Delamater (Veteran rider a no show) and Alice Brace (extra support) took off from the Rye Creek Lodge, breakfast snacks provided by Triple Creek Ranch. They left the Rye Creek Lodge and crossed the road to enter the CB Ranch and rode the ridge tops and then to the river, along the river road and then back to the ridge tops and back to Rye Creek Lodge. They saw bear, elk and deer and had a lot of dust and some unseasonably hot weather.

The club provided water and lunch (along with Triple Creek Ranch) for the riders along with a potluck at the Club House. A Big **THANK YOU** to all who helped make the ride a success. A special Thanks goes to Craig Barrett for the use of his land.



A few pictures of the dinner after the ride!

Pictures by Marsha Waliser

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Russ and Kim Englund 363-3433
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P.O. Box 265 Hamilton
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CLIFF REED, Inc.

656 Willow Creek Road Corvallis
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153 West Hills Way Hamilton
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P.O. Box 518 Hamilton
Dennis Wessels 363-3884

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Bob and Sydney Hazeltine 642-3403
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RYE CREEK ENTERPRISES, Inc. Dba BITTERROOT ADVENTURES

P.O. Box 877 Darby
Brent Nelson 821-4844
www.bitterrotadventures.com

SNOW MOUNTAIN ELECTRIC, Inc.

3039 Redjou Lane Stevensville
Steve, Kathy & Kerry Roebke 777-0912

THE EDGE RESTAURANT & SPORTS BAR / HAMILTON WINE & LIQUOR / QUICKSILVER CASINO

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Tom & Tamara Fair 375-0007

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300 6th Ave. Victor
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A big THANK YOU goes to all the sponsors, your continued support and involvement helps the association in its effort to keep the trails open.

Business Sponsorship runs from Date Paid on a yearly basis!

DARBY LUMBER PROJECT APPROVED

by Dan Thompson

On July 2, 2015, Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor Julie King signed the Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact for the Darby Lumber Project. The Environmental Assessment for the project survived Objections submitted by the Friends of the Bitterroot and the WildEarth Guardians without change. Supported by funding from the State of Montana and Trout Unlimited, work is expected to begin to decommission and treat (recontour) roads in Sections 1 and 3 in July of this year. Actual work on developing the approved OHV loop routes as part of this project is dependent upon the availability of funding.

RCORUA's involvement with the Darby Lumber Project began in 2008, when the Association reached an agreement with the Bitterroot National Forest to evaluate the condition of the road systems on 11 sections of "checkerboard" land that the Forest acquired in 2005. During the summers of 2009 – 2011, RCORUA volunteers evaluated and characterized the road systems on these lands, and supplied detailed reports and recommendations to the Agency, including recommendations for the development of several OHV routes. These routes utilized existing roads connected by short segments of newly constructed trails to form "loop" routes in the project areas. As a result of 786 hours of work by RCORUA volunteers, data characterizing the condition of 91 Darby Lumber roads (totaling 73.3 miles) was submitted to the Agency late in 2011. These data included GPS tracks for each road, the location and type of culverts, location and nature of water related problems supported by hundreds of photographs, and the Association's recommendation for the disposition of each road (decommission, storage, or convert to an OHV trail). Altogether, the Association recommended the identification of 63.4 miles of OHV trails and the construction of 7.9 miles of connector trails.

Following the completion of RCORUA's field work in the fall of 2011, the Forest began the official NEPA process of scoping late in 2013. RCORUA volunteers who contributed to the field work were gratified and pleased that their data was utilized extensively by the Agency and that many of RCORUA's recommendations for OHV loops were included in the proposed project.

As the process proceeded, several RCORUA recommendations were energetically contested by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and environmental groups. Among these controversial issues were RCORUA's recommended preservation of the upper Sleeping Child access road 73934, the designation of the highly attractive "Fishtail" OHV route, and the inclusion of Rd 1392 into an OHV route. The Final Decision Notice will decommission Rd 73934, close the "Fishtail" route, but will incorporate Rd 1392 into an OHV route.

While RCORUA's original recommendations have been significantly watered down for a variety of reasons, the final project, as approved by the July 2 Decision Notice, still contains significant opportunities to develop attractive and sustainable OHV routes in the Bitterroot National Forest. The burden on actually implementing these opportunities now lies with the Association. We got (at least partially) what we wished for – now we have to find the funding to "get 'er done"!!

Our web site at www.ravallioffroad.org has photos, a calendar of events, ride info, the newsletters and much more. You can email your photos, ride info or other items to: kathy.transue@gmail.com Log on often to see what is happening!

Editor's Note: Human caused global warming advocates claim that 97% of all climate scientists agree that global warming is caused by humans, the result of our excessive production of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Here is what at least one credible scientist has to say about that. I emphasize that many of Professor Plimer's claims are disputed by other scientists. The fact that these debates are occurring within the scientific community demonstrates that the science of human caused global warming is far from settled.

Ian Rutherford Plimer is an Australian geologist, professor emeritus of earth sciences at the University of Melbourne, professor of mining geology at the University of Adelaide, and the director of multiple mineral exploration and mining companies. He has published 130 scientific papers, six books and edited the Encyclopedia of Geology.

PLIMER: "Okay, here's the bombshell. The volcanic eruption in Iceland. Since its first spewing of volcanic ash, in just FOUR DAYS IT HAS NEGATED EVERY SINGLE EFFORT you have made in the past five years to control CO2 emissions on our planet - all of you. Of course, you know about this evil carbon dioxide that we are trying to suppress - it's that vital chemical compound that every plant requires to live and grow and to synthesize into oxygen for us humans and all animal life. I know....it's very disheartening to realize that all of the carbon emission savings you have accomplished while suffering the inconvenience and expense of driving Prius hybrids, buying fabric grocery bags, sitting up till midnight to finish your kids "The Green Revolution" science project, throwing out all of your non-green cleaning supplies, using only two squares of toilet paper, putting a brick in your toilet tank reservoir, selling your SUV and speedboat, vacationing at home instead of abroad, nearly getting hit every day on your bicycle, replacing all of your 50 cent light bulbs with \$10.00 light bulbs..... well, all of those things you have done have all gone down the tubes in just four days. The volcanic ash emitted into the Earth's atmosphere in just four days - yes, FOUR DAYS - by that volcano in Iceland has totally erased every single effort you have made to reduce the evil beast, carbon. And there are around 200 active volcanoes on the planet spewing out this crud at any one time - EVERY DAY. I don't really want to rain on your parade too much, but I should mention that when the volcano Mt. Pinatubo erupted in the Philippines in 1991, it spewed out more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than the entire human race had emitted in all its years on earth. Yes, folks, Mt. Pinatubo was active for over one year - think about it. Of course, I shouldn't spoil this 'touchy-feely tree-hugging' moment and mention the effect of solar and cosmic activity and the well-recognized 800-year global heating and cooling cycle, which keeps happening despite our completely insignificant efforts to affect climate change. And I do wish I had a silver lining to this volcanic ash cloud, but the fact of the matter is that the bush fire season across the western USA and Australia this year alone will negate your efforts to reduce carbon in our world for the next two to three years. And it happens every year. Just remember that your government just tried to impose a whopping carbon tax on you, on the basis of the bogus 'human-caused' climate-change scenario. Hey, isn't it interesting how they don't mention 'Global Warming' anymore, but just "Climate Change" - you know why? It's because the planet has COOLED by 0.7 degrees in the past century and these global warming bull**** artists got caught with their pants down. And, just keep in mind that you might yet be stuck with an Emissions Trading Scheme - that whopping new tax - imposed on you that will achieve absolutely nothing except make you poorer. It won't stop any volcanoes from erupting, that's for sure. But, hey, relax...give the world a hug and have a nice day!"

www.ravallioffroad.org



Our mission is to bring together on and off highway enthusiasts to enjoy, promote and protect responsible Off Highway Vehicle Use and other recreational activities.

A few of the riders from the Veteran's Ride June 27th 2015



Pictures by Jim Waliser



View from one of the stops on the Veteran's Ride

Membership Application / Renewal

2015

Mail to Ravalli County Off-Road User Association, P.O. Box 72, Hamilton, MT 59840

Date: _____ Check Number _____

Single (\$10.00) _____ Single Lifetime \$150.00 _____ Family (\$20.00) _____ Business / Sponsor (\$100.00) _____

Donation \$ _____

Individual & Family Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st yearly. Business Sponsors runs from date paid.

Name (s) (please list all family names) or Business / Sponsor Name and Web site (optional):

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

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Number of Off-Road Users in the family: _____ Referred by: _____

Do you want emails sent to you :all _____ , only meeting notices _____ or none _____ ?

Do you want the newsletter emailed to you (colored) _____ or a printed version mailed (Black & White) _____