

Ravalli County Off Road User Association

www.rcorua.org

November 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our season – and my term as President of the Association – is drawing to a close. On January 1 John Transue will assume the duties of President of your Association, and we will elect a new set of Officers and Board members for 2014 at our November 12 membership meeting. Over the past several years, I have come to admire and respect John and I look forward to actively supporting his term in 2014.



It's been a tough year for people who like to pursue their recreational interests on public lands. The current Administration in Washington, DC has encouraged Federal Agencies to go on an unprecedented rule-making spree and a gridlocked Congress has been ineffective at "spanking" these Agencies for the resulting administrative overreach. Virtually all of this rule-making overreach has resulted in further restrictions on public access to public land, and does not serve the social or economic interests of the citizens of our country.

But we have also had some successes in 2013. We have been successful in maintaining the momentum of our volunteer program. Our educational program (with the assistance of local Forest Service personnel) continues to be recognized by state and national groups as an exceptional effort. Mike and Kathy Jeffords and Jim and Marsha Waliser deserve our admiration and support for their exceptional efforts to keep this program going. We have also been successful in strengthening our relationships with local officials and like-minded organizations. Even groups who do not always support motorized recreation are beginning to realize that their interests are also threatened by outrageous land management policies trickling down from Washington, DC.

I want to thank everyone who participated in Association activities this year. Membership participation is critical to keeping our Association vital and effective. I look forward to continuing my involvement with you in 2014 as Past President.

Dan Thompson 642-9824

A graphic advertisement for JC & Associates. It features a decorative border with a central archway. Inside the archway, the text reads: "STUCCO PLASTERING", "Exterior Insulation Finish System", "Interior 'Old Time' Plastering", "by", "JC & ASSOCIATES", and "Detail Our Specialty". Below the archway, it says "Carl Lieberth (406) 363-7487".

A graphic advertisement for Niles Enterprises. The company name "NILES ENTERPRISES" is written in large, blue, stylized letters with a fish icon below it. Below the name, it lists services: "TRAILER & EQUIPMENT REPAIR ON-SIGHT" and "DIRT-N-SNOW-N-STUFF BOBCAT SKID LOADER EXCAVATING". It also identifies "Kent Niles, Owner" and provides contact information: "406-349-2067 home", "406-239-3043 cell", and "7210 W. Lapwai Ln. Darby, MT 59829".

Calendar of 2013 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.

November 6th Board Meeting 6 PM at the Groomer Shed

November 12, 2013 General Meeting with **Elections of Officers and Board Members for the 2014** Year. See the List of those running below, as our By-Laws require, nominations for these positions will also be accepted from the floor during the meeting.

December 14th, 6 PM—ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY CALL JULI MORGAN AT 369-1707 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP!

See Inserted Flyer for Details

RCORUA ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 12, 2013

At our regularly scheduled membership meeting on November 12, the Association will elect new Officers and Board members for 2014. As our current President-Elect, John Transue will serve as President for 2014. RCORUA By Laws require the current Board of Directors to recommend a slate of candidates for 2014. Nominations for Officers and Board members will also be taken from the floor at the November 12 meeting.

At the present time, the Board of Directors offers the following candidates for consideration by the membership:

PRESIDENT ELECT (vote for one): No candidates at this time.

SECRETARY (vote for one): No candidates at this time.

TREASURER (vote for one): Kathy Jeffords

BOARD MEMBER (vote for four):

Brent Nelson

Marsha Waliser

Lisa Jessop

Dave Doll

Julie Morgan

Don Miller

Ron Brace

Any member who would like to investigate the possibility of being included as a candidate for any office should contact Dan Thompson at 531-3103.

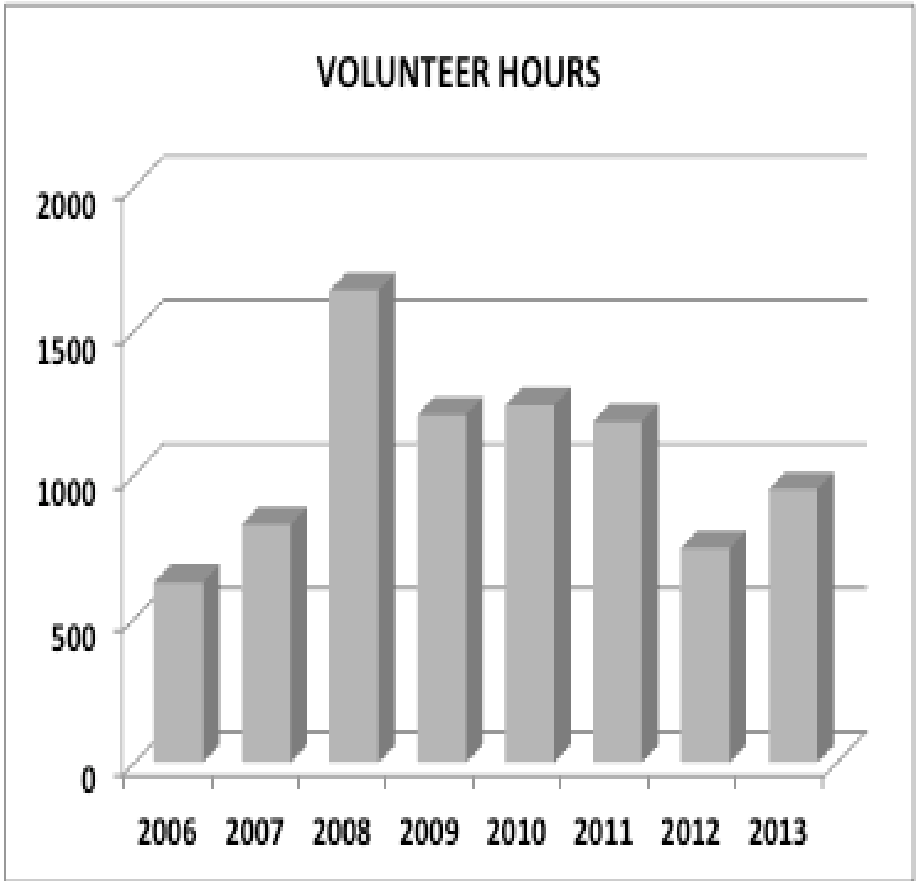
VOLUNTEER REPORT

Every year, based upon the Forest Service's fiscal year that ends August 30, RCORUA provides a report of our volunteer activities for that fiscal year. During this last fiscal year (2012-2013), 39 individuals reported a total of 950 hours of volunteer time and \$3,331 in incidental expenses. RCORUA tabulates our volunteer hours by category, and the totals by category are shown in the table. Our total number of hours for this fiscal year come very close to satisfying our goal of 1000 hours.

DESCRIPTION	HOURS
Forest Clean-Up; trash removal	353
Trail Maintenance	245
Educational Activities	312
Forest Service Meetings	40
TOTAL HOURS	950

Reporting your volunteer hours is easy. Simple report forms are available at regular meetings or can be downloaded and printed from our web site. We also have a very nice on-line reporting system that is working well and convenient for many members. Just log onto www.rcorua.org, click on the Trail Maintenance box in the upper left corner of the page, fill out the form and submit it.

The shining star in our volunteer program once again this fiscal year has been our Educational Programs. A total of 700 elementary school children received a course on OHV safety and ethics, and volunteers reported contributing 300 hours of their time to this effort. Our efforts on this program have garnered statewide attention, with many OHV clubs asking Mike and Kathy to help them set up similar programs for their groups. Thanks to Mike and Kathy Jeffords, Jim and Marsha Waliser, Brent, Billie, Mike, Dave and Elisia Nelson for their contributions to this program this year; and special thanks to Monte Monroe, OHV Ranger on the Bitterroot National Forest, for his continued encouragement and participation in this program.



2013 BUSINESS SPONSORS

ALL VALLEY SANITARY SERVICES

P.O. Box 344 Corvallis
Dave & Tina Johnson 369-1587

AL'S CYCLE

619 HWY 93 North Hamilton
Russ and Kim Englund 363-3433
www.alscycleamaha.com

BITTERROOT RIDGE RUNNERS

P.O. Box 265 Hamilton
Dennis Wessels 381-0409

CLIFF REED, Inc.

656 Willow Creek Road Corvallis
Cliff Reed 961-3224

DJ'S ELECTRIC

P.O. Box 18 Hamilton
D.J. Lengyel 961-1972 or 363-1972
www.djselectric.com

DONALDSON BROTHER'S READY MIX, Inc.

477 HWY 93 North Hamilton
Charles Donaldson 363-3600

FIVE VALLEY HONDA & YAMAHA

5900 HWY 93 South Missoula
Lloyd Eckley 251-5900

HAMILTON POLARIS

1151 North 1st Hamilton
375-9903

HARPERS BITTERROOT VALLEY LES SCHWAB TIRES

4026 HWY 93 North Stevensville
Tracy Harper 777-4667

HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS

1720 North 1st Suite A Hamilton
Reg McCutcheon 363-4363
RAVALLIHEARING.COM

JC AND ASSOCIATES

153 West Hills Way Hamilton
Carl and Kathy Lieberth 363-7487

JERRY WESSELS TIRE CENTER

P.O. Box 518 Hamilton
Dennis Wessels 363-3884

JONES KORMAN INSURANCE

518 South 1st Hamilton
Bryan Jones 363-6583

LONE PINE / RIVERSIDE CONOCO

504 hwy 93 South / 1987 North 1st Hamilton
Steve and Brian Hawkes 375-0536 / 375-0554

MERCHANTS DELIVERY, Inc.

1410 North 1st Hamilton
Case Quist 363-1131
merchantsmoving@qwestoffice.net

MILDENBERGER MOTORS

P.O. Box 1630 Hamilton
Brad Mildenberger 363-4100

NILES ENTERPRISES

7210 West Lapwai Lane Darby
Kent Niles 349-2067

PARTS UNLIMITED

1829 HWY 93 North Victor
Bob and Sydney Hazeltine 642-3403
partsunlimited@cybernet1.com

RYE CREEK ENTERPRISES, Inc. DbA BITTERROOT ADVENTURES

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

SAWYER BROWN CUSTOM BUILDINGS

P.O. Box 85
Wisdom, MT 59761
Nigel Brown 689-3425
www.sawyer-brown.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

140 Bitterroot Plaza Drive
Tom & Tamara Fair 375-0007

VALLEY BICYCLES AND SKI, Inc.

219 South 1st Street Hamilton
Randy & Kerri Leavell 363-4428

VALLEY UNITED INSURANCE SERVICES, Inc.

748 West Main Street Hamilton
Jim, Jan and Tim Thomas 363-1227

VERCRUYSSSEN EXCAVATING, Inc.

300 6th Ave. Victor
Norm and Betty Vercruyssen 642-3506

WIMPS BODY WORKS, Inc.

998 North 1st Street Hamilton
Tom Kimp 363-4050

**Business Sponsorship runs from
Date Paid on a yearly basis!**

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 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 (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@msn.com . Or if you want your web address listed in the newsletter and on our web site you can email Marsha.

FOR SALE

2009 Skidoo XP Summit 600, \$5700
42" Aerator, \$250
8' Estate Thatcher Rake, \$330
Land Pride 630111 50" Large Tiller, \$1170
Honda FG110 Small Tiller, \$210
4' Hawline Box Blade, \$370
Snowmobile Track Jack, \$40
Snow Jack, \$100
Large Wood Stove, Make offer

Please contact: DeDe Adams, 381-3489, Ray Waliser, 363-6816 or Dan Thompson, 642-9824

ORTOVOX AVALANCHE TRANSCEIVER Model F1 Focus (Sapphire Blue and Silver) used Twice (New \$270.00) Sell for \$150.00

Call Juli Morgan 369-1707

WHO REALLY CONTROLS OUR PUBLIC LANDS?

by Dan Thompson

By virtue of their wealth, a dysfunctional tax code and the “Gordian Knot” of environmental law, a small group of wealthy individuals and their Foundations have gained control of the management of one-third of the surface area of the United States. This is not the result of a democratic process nor does it represent the will of the majority of citizens. It has been a deliberate, sophisticated and skillful plan by a few wealthy individuals who use their money to subvert and manipulate the public will.

When we think of “environmentalists” we think of organizations that are visible in the news or at meetings – front line organizations such as Defenders of Wildlife or The Wilderness Society or “Friends” groups. These are the groups who most typically get involved with NEPA plans and projects and who file endless lawsuits. The “Generals” in this environmental army are a group of about 250 tax-exempt Foundations. These are the individuals and organizations that formulate, direct and fund the activities of front line environmental groups. These Foundations are largely invisible to the public.

Foundations are formed by wealthy individuals who initially endow or fund the Foundation from their personal fortunes. Foundations are usually formed as 501(c)3 corporations which means that the original endowment and proceeds from the investment of the endowment are exempt from inheritance and income taxes. Indeed, many wealthy individuals will form a Foundation as a means of avoiding state and federal estate or inheritance taxes, which can be as much as 80% of a person’s gross worth. In addition to its tax advantages, Foundations provide an opportunity for wealthy individuals to promote and advance his or her ideological or philosophical beliefs indefinitely into the future.

Most Foundations have sincere charitable objectives and provide funding for organizations such as the Red Cross, United Way, Salvation Army, etc. For example, the Gates Foundation provides funds that are dedicated to improving the quality of life for people in third world countries – a truly charitable goal. Unfortunately, the IRS code also allows tax-exempt status to Foundations who claim to “educate” the public, and this is how environmental Foundations obtain tax exemption.

In 1987 a group of environmental Foundations came together under the wing of the Rockefeller Trusts to exchange information and clarify common interests. In time, this group grew and in 2007 formed a tax-exempt organization called the Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA). Every year, the EGA holds closed meetings to coordinate activities and formulate campaigns and initiatives. The Yellowstone-to-Yukon and Crown of the Continent initiatives are almost certainly examples of the outcome of these EGA meetings. By virtue of the collective wealth of EGA member Foundations, the interests of environmental groups have been hijacked and made subservient to the goals of EGA.

Foundations that qualify for tax exemption as a 501(c)3 corporation are prohibited from engaging in political activities, endorsing candidates, or contributing funds to candidates. However, there are a variety of ways a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization can allocate funds for political purposes. Most commonly, they can form a Political Action Committee (PAC) or simply fund a subsidiary corporation as a 501(c)4 organization. These kinds of organizations are not prohibited from engaging in political activities nor are they required to publically reveal the sources of their funding. A classic example of a politically active Foundation-funded 501(c)4 organization is the Washington, DC based League of Conservation Voters (LCV). LCV contributes directly to election funding, runs negative ads for “blacklisted” candidates and employs various other tactics to directly influence federal and state elections. All with Foundation money.

No one knows how much money is available to EGA member Foundations to manage the environmental agenda and purchase influence in Washington, DC. We know that a medium-sized Foundation awards about \$2 million per year in grants. If that represents an average for EGA member Foundations, the total annual amount could easily exceed \$500 million per year. And that number probably does not include “dark money” allocated to politically active groups such as LCV.

There are some things that pro-access groups like ours can do to dull the spears of environmental Foundations. The first thing we can do is shine some light on how things are currently working. I doubt that most citizens would be content to know that a small group of wealthy individuals have used their money to hijack control of our public lands with the intent of closing those lands to public access.

Membership Application / Renewal

2014

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: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell Phone _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

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

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

January will be time for renewal's PLEASE send in the above form with you check when renewing and fill out the entire form. Your prompt payment is appreciated.

PLEASE fill out the above form when renewing or for a new membership. Check or fill out all the lines that apply. We are encouraging members that have email addresses to sign up for the emailed version of the newsletter (in color) to cut our expenses.

PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW YOU WANT THE NEWSLETTER SENT TO YOU AND IF YOU WANT ANY EMAIL'S!

Your privacy is important to us, your information is only used for club purposes and is not shared with any outside entity. Notify us if you do not want your name or picture published in the newsletter or on the website!

To receive your free decal and keychain/flashlight when you renew you will need to attend a meeting. Contact Kathy Jeffords at 544-5027 if you are not getting the newsletter or need something on your membership corrected or changed.



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.

Remember Hunting Season is in full swing, be careful when you are out riding and for safety wear Hunter Orange. Also, many of the roads and trails closed October 15th and it is illegal to go around or behind the locked gates even to retrieve game. You should have a current Forest Service Map with the roads and trails listed to be on the safe side as many of the signs do get torn down, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW IF THE ROAD OR TRAIL IS OPEN TO MOTORIZED USE!

For your safety and the safety of others PLEASE do not carry a loaded firearm on your Atv or UTV.



BRR MEETING SCHEDULE 2013-2014 SEASON

At their first meeting of the season on October 15, the Board of Directors of the Bitterroot Ridgerunners Snowmobile Club voted to combine Board and membership meetings into a single meeting. At their first meeting of the season on October 15, the Board of Directors of the Bitterroot Ridgerunners Snowmobile Club voted to combine Board and membership meetings into a single meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 19. In addition to reports from the Chair of the Grooming Committee, Safety Officer, and Treasurer, we will be prepared to update interested members on the status of our conflict with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest over the closure of Rd 1260, the status of possible grooming of the Lost Horse Road, and plans for activities for the year. At this meeting, we will need to come to closure on the time and place for our annual Military Day event.