



4XFORUM

Montana 4x4 Association Convention April 12

It's that time of year again!! That's right the Montana 4x4 Association's annual convention and awards dinner. This year Region 1's bid for convention in Billings was accepted. Magic City and Rimrockers 4x4 clubs have chosen the theme



"Beards & Camo," think Duck Dynasty!

There will be awards for Best Real Beard, Best Man's Beard, Best Woman's Beard, Best Child's Beard, and Best Camo outfits. As well as, Games (bobbing for Ducks) and other entertainment. Get your creative juices flowing and make something unique! Search fake beards on Google, or the www.coms, Beardhead.com, Beardowear.com or Orientaltrading.com for ideas and or items to help create the winning "Look!"

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. Coffee, juice, muffins and bagels will be provided by Region 1. The Billings Golden K Kiwanis will be holding a sourdough pancake breakfast fundraiser at the Shrine, offer-

ing an all-you-can-eat breakfast starting at 8 a.m. with eggs, ham, hashbrowns, pancakes, juice and coffee for \$7, \$4 for 12 and under, which is open to the public.

Convention dinner and awards will be at 5:30 p.m. A no host bar will be provided by the Shriners (no host means you pay). The dinner menu is Chopped Pork, Roasted Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Corn Bread Muffins, and Dinner Rolls. Beverages to choose from are tea, lemonade, coffee and punch. For dessert, there will be pies, brownies, cakes and cookies.

2013 Awards for 4-Wheeler of the Year, Junior 4-Wheeler of the Year and the John Hazard Memorial Award (for conserva-

tion) will be presented.

Cost to attend is \$20 per person, kids 6-10 are \$10, and children 5 and under are free. Pre-registration and full payment is required no later than April 5th. See page 4 for a registration form. There is no cost to just attend the meeting.

The Shrine Auditorium is located at 1125 Broadwater Ave.

Lodging:

- Hilton Garden Inn \$109.00, King size bed, located at 2465 Grant Rd, 406-655-8800 (must tell them you are with M4x4A and register by March 21, 2014 for that price)
- Big Horn Resort 406-839-9300 (Has indoor water park)
- C'Mon Inn 406-652-5200
- Fairfield Inn 406-652-5330

Honor Your Fellow Four-Wheeler... 2013 Award Nominations Due

It's the time of year to be thinking of what members deserve recognition for 2013. Nominations for Four-Wheeler of the Year, Junior Four-Wheeler of the Year, and John Hazard Memorial Award (for conservation) are due. Please get your nominations sent in by March 14, 2014! Send a write up of why this 4WD enthusiast deserves recognition! The award committees are made up of the previous winners of that award. Send a copy of your nomination to each person on that

committee!

4-Wheeler of the Year Committee:

Tom Pionke
417 S. Black Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715
tpionke23@yahoo.com
John Wall
34971 Courville Trail
Polson, MT 59860
wallauto@ronan.net
Steve Settle
269 Riverside Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901
sci269@bresnan.net

Junior 4-Wheeler of the Year Committee only two members on this committee, the third is no longer a member):

Katelyn Stone
PO Box 1152
Whitehall, MT 59759
c/o kdschat@yahoo.com
Ty Hardie
PO Box 1854
East Helena, MT 59635
c/o justjeepin273@hotmail.com

John Hazard Memorial Award (for Conservation) Committee:

Larry & Linda Ellison
3301 W. Babcock
Bozeman, MT 59718
ellrep2@gmail.com
Don Gordon
1420 Shirley Road
Helena, MT 59601
DGordon315@aol.com
Joe Skaggs
3725 Pioneer Park Dr
Helena, MT 59602
jskaggsmt@hotmail.com

Plan Ahead... Conservation Projects Need To Be Advertised

Clubs must give thirty days advance notice for conservation projects to earn a patch! Send your project information to the M4x4A Secretary - email spidy-cats@q.com, with 30 days advance notice so she can get

information about your project sent to members, and so it will qualify as a State or Regional conservation project! Regional Conservation projects are those done by one club. State Conservation Projects are those done

by two or more clubs.

Following your conservation projects, you must send a report to the M4X4A Secretary. It should include: When and Where, who participated (please state what club the member be-

longs to). Include what was done during the project. You can send photos too! Some projects will not qualify as a conservation project, such as, highway cleanup projects or other civic duty projects, such as park cleanups.

2014 M4x4A Event Dates

Please include contact information and phone numbers for any event added. All dates and times subject to change. Contact the hosting organization if you have questions.

March 15 — Magic City 4x4 will be participating in the St. Patrick's Day parade, downtown Billings, parade begins at 11 a.m.

March 15 — Rimrock 4x4 Trail Ride, destination to be determined, meet at IGA in Laurel 7:30 a.m., leave 8 a.m.

March 22 — Hells Canyon Ride with Continental 4-Wheel Drive Association, Butte group will leave Three Bears at 8:00 a.m. to head to Whitehall (Karina's) for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and then Billy will lead us to and on the Hells Canyon Ride

April 12 — M4x4A Convention, 10 am., Shrine Auditorium, Billings, \$20/adult, \$10 children 6-11, Free for kids 5 and under

May 3 — Mountaineers Hill & Hole Mud Bog, Gallatin County Fairgrounds

May 31-June 1 — Big Sky 4-Wheelers Conservation Project Work Weekend

June 14-15 — Big Sky 4-Wheelers Father's Day Run

July 1 — M4x4A Dues are due!!

July 19 — Mountaineers Mud Bog, during the Gallatin County Fair, Gallatin County Fairgrounds

Club Contact Info

Region 1 - RVP Brooke Andrews

Magic City 4x4

PO Box 21241, Billings, MT
59104, mc4w.com — Meet first
Monday of each month, 6:30
pm., at El Corral Restaurant,
4907 Southgate Drive, Billings

Rimrock 4x4

PO Box 361, Billings, MT
59103
Meet third Wednesday of each
month, 7:30 pm., at the Rod
and Gun Club, on Saddleback
Trail, Billings

Region 4 - RVP

Region 5 - RVP Daryl Hardie

Frontier 4-Wheelers

PO Box 7011
Helena, MT 59604
www.m4x4a.org/frontier
Meet first Wednesday of each
month, 7 pm., in the meeting
room at The Staggering Ox
Restaurant, 400 Euclid Ave., in
Helena

Region 7 - RVP Jim Young

Continental 4 Wheel

Drive Association

Meets last Monday of each
month, 7 pm., at Legion Oasis
Recreation Hall, 2400 Hill Ave.,
Butte.

Region 6 - RVP

Mountaineers

PO Box 951,
Bozeman, MT 59718,
bozemanmountaineers.org
Meet second Wednesday of
each month, 7:30 pm.,
Korner Klub in 4-Corners, 8191
Huffine Ln., Bozeman

Region 8 - RVP Dick Riebe

Region 9 - RVP Nancy Hines

Big Sky 4-Wheelers

Meet first Monday of each
month, 7 pm., at the old Lasalle
School, on the corner of Pio-
neer Road and Helena Flats,
Kalispell

Skyliners 4 Wheel Drive Club

PO Box 1416, Polson, MT
59860, skyliners4x4.com
Meets first Tuesday of each
month, 7 pm., at the VFW in
Polson, at 423 Main St.

Non-M4x4A Club Event Dates

(all dates are subject to change)

March 28-29 — Bootlegger Challenge, family friendly event, obsta-
cles and events are not designed to break equipment but to chal-
lenge your skill sets and expose your sense of humor, you will also
be on a scavenger hunt where the items are simple; rock, dirt, leaf,
ect. There will be some mud, some bumps, and at the end there
will be an obstacle course like you have never seen before. Big Boy
Motorsports Park, 37 Neuman School Road, Vaughn MT, 406-660-
0760

March 30 — Spring Crawl, Spectators \$10 a carload, Craw Rigs
\$20 per entry, starts 9 a.m., Big Boy Motorsports Park, 37 Neuman
School Road, Vaughn MT, 406-781-7497

June 7 — Montana Off Road Extreme Racing event, short course
race, on Story Road (take I-90 exit 443, turn south to South
Frontage Road, east to Wise Lane, then east to Story Road),
Billings, MT, for more information contact Jeff MacGill 850-8028 or
252-7317 (non M4x4A club event)

July 12 — Montana Off Road Extreme Racing event, short course
race, on Story Road (take I-90 exit 443, turn south to South
Frontage Road, east to Wise Lane, then east to Story Road),
Billings, MT, for more information contact Jeff MacGill 850-8028 or
252-7317 (non M4x4A club event)

August 16 — Montana Off Road Extreme Racing event, short
course race, on Story Road (take I-90 exit 443, turn south to
South Frontage Road, east to Wise Lane, then east to Story
Road), Billings, MT, for more information contact Jeff MacGill 850-
8028 or 252-7317 (non M4x4A club event)

September 6 — Montana Off Road Extreme Racing event, short
course race, on Story Road (take I-90 exit 443, turn south to
South Frontage Road, east to Wise Lane, then east to Story
Road), Billings, MT, for more information contact Jeff MacGill 850-
8028 or 252-7317 (non M4x4A club event)

Additional dates will scroll up in the next issue!

Montana 4x4 Association Board of Directors Contact Information

President, Destry Walker
1122 Cruiser Lane, Apt. E
Belgrade, MT 59714
des4x4@gmail.com
406-240-0401

**Vice President,
Richard Hiltz**
3601 Casper Dr.
East Helena, MT 59635
C2tsales@mtnet.net
406-202-6038

Secretary, Stacey Osborne
4Xforum Content
500 Lois Place
Laurel, MT 59044
spidycats@q.com
406-628-8974

Treasurer, Dawn Hines
8803 Hofferber Road
Shepherd, MT 59079
dawn@redlinebillings.com

**Director-at-Large (Past
President), Tom Mandera**
140 Susan Court
Helena, MT 59602
tsm1@tmcom.com
406-458-6580



When posting on Facebook, for everyone to see it and share it, it must be made public. You'll find an audience selector tool where you share status updates, photos, and more.

Would you like to see your club in this newsletter? Send in reports, photos, events by the 25th of the month for next months newsletter. I encourage clubs to appoint a club member to be your "club reporter." Also - if you know of something happening in your National Forest that members should know about, please share! Send them to Stacey Osborne, M4x4A Secretary, spidycats@q.com



*Friendship
unity
Family Fun
You know you want
to join us. Do it!!*

Frontier 4x4 Club

Making getting stuck fun since 1974



Frontier 4x4 Club, PO Box 7011, Helena MT 59604

Since our last report:

We have not been quit as active as usual here at Frontier. On January 31st a number of us attended the M4x4A Quarterly hosted in Whitehall by the Continental 4 Wheel Drive Association. Several members joined in on the trail ride after the meeting adjourned.

Our club meeting was on the 5th and despite some really rough weather, we had a good turnout.



Frontier held our “Annually Late Christmas Party” on the 15th. We had a GREAT turnout with some members we had not seen in a while, lots of kids and a happy crowd glad to get together. Skaggs was awarded the Frontier’s 4-Wheeler of the year award. Joe is ALWAYS there to lend another wheeler his assistance, advice or even his shop if needed. Joe is a conscientious wheeler who tried to leave no trace when wheeling. And Joe is a great ambassador for our hobby. Daryl Hardie was awarded Frontier’s 2013 Conservation Award. Daryl more often than not leads the way when it comes to trail clean-ups and trash collection. He actively encourages the club members to join in. His leadership

in this area is greatly appreciated and has resulted in the removal of large amounts of trash from our public lands.

An impromptu snow run by members of the club occurred on Monday the 17th. With so many people off for President’s Day, a group formed and headed for Hogback. The found A LOT of snow and had a great time. If we had a winch fund, we would have made some big money that day. Everyone had a great time seeing who could get the most stuck. David may have won the prize on this one.

Our “OFFICIAL” club run was Feb. 23rd. We did a Hay Canyon Snow run in conjunction with the Beaverhead Back Country Pioneers 4x4 Club from Dillon. 8 rigs went out and had a great time. Lunch was BBQ pork ribs, corn on the cob, potato salad, baked beans and grilled shrimp.

Later that evening Joe and Daryl went on a rescue mission. In Joe’s words:

“Daryl Hardie and I just returned from a late night rescue. Started as returning Ty’s girl friend to her home in the Boonies northwest Helena. We passed her off to her dad who was plowing the road (Trail). Before making it back to the main road Ty received a call from his girl friend stating “Come back We’re falling off the bridge” WHAT???? Daryl and I turned back to find their truck was hanging off a bridge where he was attempting to turn around. We found a route to the other side of the bridge figuring on pulling hi forward. The alternate route was covered with several feet of snow but it was no problem. We ended up staging my Cherokee as cl to the truck as possible without getting on the bridge. Ty’s Jeep was connected my Jeep as an anchor. We extended my winch cable completely out and connected it through a snatch block to the closest tree and a 30ft yellow recovery strap which was connect to th truck..... easy recovery. Her dad didn’t think we would have been able to make this work since his truck was larger then the two Jee HA!”

Our next meeting is Wednesday March 5th at 7:00pm.



Montana 4x4 Association 2014 Convention

Shrine Auditorium, 1125 Broadwater, Billings, MT
Theme "Beards & Camo" (think Duck Dynasty)

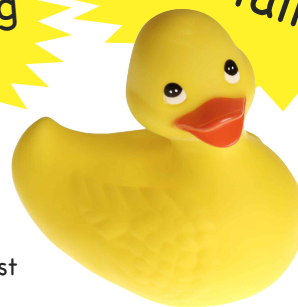
Contest for:

- (1) Best Real Beard, (2) Best Man's Beard, (3) Best Woman's Beard,
(4) Best Child's Beard, (5) Best Camo outfits.

Get your creative juices flowing and make something unique, search fake beards on Google, or the www.coms.com, Beardhead.com, Beardowear.com or Orientaltrading.com for ideas and or items to help create the winning "Look".

Games
Like Bobbing
for Ducks!

Entertainment



Meeting: Begins 10:00 a.m.

Coffee, juice muffins & bagels will be provided by Region 1

The Billings Golden K Kiwanis will be holding a sourdough pancake breakfast fundraiser at the Shrine, offering an all-you-can-eat breakfast starting at 8 a.m. with eggs, ham, hashbrowns, pancakes, juice and coffee for \$7, \$4 for 12 and under, which is open to the public.

Dinner & Awards: 5:30 p.m.

No host bar provided by Shriners (No host means you pay)
Dinner menu: Chopped Pork, Roasted Chicken, Mac & Cheese,
Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Corn Bread Muffins, Dinner Rolls
Beverages (Tea, Lemonade, Coffee & Punch)
Dessert Bar (Pies, Brownies, Cakes & Cookies)
Price: \$20.00 per person 6-10 \$10.00 5 & under free

Lodging

Hilton Garden Inn

2465 Grant Rd, \$109.00, King size bed
406-655-8800 (must tell them you are
with M4x4A & register by March 21,2014)

Big Horn Resort 406-839-9300

(Has indoor water park)

C'Mon Inn 406-652-5200

Fairfield Inn 406-652-5330



Registration & Full Payment Required by April 5, 2014

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Make checks payable to M4x4A, mail to:
Magic City 4-Wheelers, P.O. Box 21241, Billings MT 59104
Contact Michelle Ball 406-671-2064

Avalanche Danger High as More Snow Falls

KALISPELL, MT – The Flathead Avalanche Center (FAC) has issued a Special Avalanche Bulletin for February 20th through 23rd, 2014 to advise backcountry travelers of the elevated avalanche danger through the weekend. The Flathead Avalanche Center advisory area has been under an Avalanche Warning since Sunday with the Hazard Rating at HIGH, meaning natural and human triggered avalanches are likely. We have received many reports of natural avalanches and close calls from human triggered avalanches.

FAC will be issuing regularly scheduled advisories on Saturday and Sunday and will issue a special advisory on Friday and continue the avalanche

warning if the conditions warrant. Even if the threat of natural avalanches decreases, the potential for human triggered avalanches will remain elevated and we are seeing the magnitude of the avalanches increase as time passes. If you would like more information, the Flathead Avalanche Center and Flathead Nordic Backcountry Patrol will host a discussion on current avalanche conditions at 630 on Friday-Columbia Falls City Council Chambers, City Hall, 130 6th St West.

Flathead National Forest Supervisor Chip Weber says, “The Flathead Avalanche Center and its partners are working hard to stay on top of the current, elevated avalanche hazard. Please utilize the information they put

out when planning your outings. Public safety is our top priority for the forest, its partners and all users. We encourage backcountry users to use caution this weekend.”

FAC and its partners are urging backcountry users to make very conservative decisions this weekend while choosing terrain and making decisions. This will be a good weekend to stay out of avalanche terrain or choose only low angle slopes with low exposure and consequences. Because of the current avalanche hazard, some groups have cancelled planned outings. The Summit Snowgoers Club cancelled their outing scheduled for Saturday at the Skyland area and the Flathead Snowmobile Association is going to delay

grooming the Canyon Creek Trail until conditions moderate.

FAC would like to thank all of the individuals and groups that are submitting observations to the avalanche center and assisting to get the message out about elevated avalanche hazard. The Flathead National Forest, Glacier National Park, MT DNRC, Flathead County, Flathead Nordic Backcountry Patrol and other groups are working together to ensure the message about current, elevated avalanche hazard reaches as many backcountry users as possible.

Please visit www.flatheadavalanche.org for up to date information on conditions, call the Advisory Hotline at 406-257-8402 or call the FAC Office at 406-261-9873.

Public Comment Open for South Bridger Interface Project

The Bozeman Ranger District, Custer and Gallatin National Forests has released an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the South Bridger Interface Project that is available for review and public comment.

The proposed South Bridger Interface Project is located approximately 15 miles northeast of Bozeman, MT in Bridger Canyon.

The South Bridger Interface project area is located within the wildland urban interface, adjacent to and partially within the Bridger Bowl Ski Resort in the vicinity of Slushman Creek. It lies between private residential and forested/agricultural lands

to the east and National Forest System lands, partly occupied by Bridger Bowl to the west. Forest vegetation in the project area consists of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine that has experienced a high rate of tree mortality from spruce budworm and mountain pine beetle. The proposed action would thin approximately 250 acres of forest vegetation to reduce tree mortality from ongoing insect infestations, and is needed to maintain a healthy forest in the Bridger Canyon corridor. Without treatment, there is a high probability that many more trees would be severely impacted by budworm and Dou-

glas-fir beetles.

“The proposed project includes treatments that are designed to alter stand micro-environments that will create conditions less favorable to western spruce budworm, mountain pine beetle and Douglas-fir beetle; along with improving the growing space of remaining trees to allow for tree growth, vigor and resiliency,” explained Keith Konen, Forest Silviculturalist.

Minimal temporary road construction of one half mile or less is anticipated for access. The proposed project would start in 2014 and would be completed within a three-year time-

frame, followed by burning of slash piles, rehabilitation of temporary roads and monitoring of the project.

Public comment on the project will be accepted for 30 days (through March 16, 2014). The South Bridger Interface Environmental Assessment is available online at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/gallatin/landmanagement/projects>, by scanning the QR code, or by contacting the Bozeman Ranger District at 406-522-2520 to request a copy. For additional information about the project, contact Amy Waring, Project leader at 406-255-1451

How to contact your Congressman

- **Senator Max Baucus** (D-MT), 511 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2651 or online www.baucus.senate.gov/contact/emailForm.cfm?subj=issue
- **Senator Jon Tester** (D-MT), 706 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2644 or online www.testersenate.gov/Contact/index.cfm
- **Congressman Steve Daines**, (R-MT), 206 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-3211 or online <http://daines.house.gov>

WEBSITE DIRECTORY

Montana 4x4 Association (M4x4A) — www.m4x4a.org
 Divide Ride — www.montanadivideride.com
 Blue Ribbon Coalition — www.sharetrails.org
 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) — www.blm.gov/mt www.facebook.com/BLMMontana
 Citizens for Balanced Use (CFBU) — www.balanceduse.org
 Families for Outdoor Recreation (FFOR) — www.ffer.org
 Leave No Trace — <http://lnt.org>
 Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks — fwp.mt.gov
 Montanas for Multiple Use — www.mtmultipleuse.org
 Montana National Forests — www.fs.fed.us/recreation/map/state_list.shtml#Montana
 Montana Off Road Extreme Racing (MORE) — www.montanaoffroadextreme.com
 Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association — www.mtvra.com
 National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) — www.nohvcc.org
 Northwest Wyoming OHV Alliance — <http://www.nwwyohva.org>
 Ravalli County Off Road User Association — <http://www.rcorua.org>
 Recreational Trails Program — <http://stateparks.mt.gov/recreation/recTrailsProgram.html>
 Trails in Trouble — www.trailsintrouble.org
 Tread Lightly — treadlightly.org
 Treasure State ATV Association — <http://www.tsatv.org>
 Treasure State Resource Industry Association (formerly WETA) — www.tsria.org
 United Four Wheel Drive Associations (UFWDA) — www.ufwda.org
 Yellowstone Off Road Racing (YORR) — www.yorracing.com

Montana 4x4 Association Clubs

Big Sky 4 Wheelers (Kalispell) — www.facebook.com/pages/Big-Sky-4-Wheelers/165148236890316/
 Continental 4 Wheel Drive Association (Butte) — www.facebook.com/pages/Continental-4-Wheel-Drive-Association/114850405209799
 Frontier 4-Wheelers (Helena) — www.facebook.com/Frontier4Wheelers
 Magic City 4x4 (Billings) — www.mc4w.com
 Magic City 4x4 (Billings) — www.facebook.com/groups/102015127323
 Mountaineers (Bozeman) — <http://bozemanmountaineers.org>
 Mountaineers (Bozeman) — www.facebook.com/Mountaineers
 Rimrock 4x4 (Billings) — www.facebook.com/groups/252774264811991
 Skyliner 4x4 Club (Polson) — www.skyliners4x4.com
 Skyliner 4x4 Club (Polson) — <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Skyliners-4-Wheel-Drive-Club/127378030787187>

Other 4x4 Clubs

Beaverhead Backcountry Pioneers (Dillon) — <https://www.facebook.com/BeaverheadBackcountryPioneers>
 Cascade County 4-Wheelers (Great Falls) — www.facebook.com/groups/180129495357107
 Five Valley Off Roaders (Missoula) — www.facebook.com/fivevalleyoffroaders?group_id=0
 Montana Back Roads 4x4 (Missoula) — www.montanabackroads.org
 Montana Back Roads 4x4 (Missoula) — www.facebook.com/pages/Montana-Back-Roads-4x4-Club/170805969642153
 Powell Valley 4-Wheelers — (Powell, WY) powellvalley4wheelers.com www.facebook.com/pv4wheelers?ref=ts&fref=ts