



NFLA - Membership Meeting Minutes

Sunday June 8, 2025

Location: Community Hall
Host: Jack & Sue McFarland
Attendees: All Members invited

6:30 pm: Guest Presentation:

Two Bear Air – Hosted by Mark Heaphy

8:00 pm: Membership meeting

Board Members present:

- ✓ Jack McFarland
Jim Rittenburg
- ✓ Beth Ulrichsen
- ✓ Kevin Ulrichsen
- ✓ Cheryl Crane
- ✓ Ruth Kinsolving
John Stone
- ✓ John Zardis
- ✓ Richard Hildner

1. Call to order at 8:09
2. Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - a. Jack welcomed all back
 - b. Remembering losses in the community since last summer
 - i. Bonny Ogle shared the names of North Forkers we lost over the winter months this past year. (Please see the attached list.)
 - c. Clean-up and maintenance day – thanks for everyone’s help and a wonderful lunch provided by Zoe and Dawn.
3. October 13 Membership Minutes – Short summary was provided by Beth
4. Treasurer’s Report
 - a. Monthly report – John Zardis shared that all was going well. We have a few more paid members this year than last year at this time. Dues are past due; you can pay on line using the “donate button” or send payment to John Zardis.
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Sunshine
 - i. Bonny Ogle shared that 132 cards were sent out over the winter months for birthdays, get wells, sympathies, thank you...
 - b. History
 - i. Lois Walker shared the many things she has been researching and cataloguing over the winter months. (See attached list.)
 - c. Maintenance
 - i. Jack shared that the propane heater was fully functional over the winter and was much appreciated at the events at the hall during cold weather.
 - ii. Dan Jacobson, Jim Rittenburg, Ed Neneman and Daryl Johnson were recognized for their work in installing the support brace for the south wall of the Hall to help prevent further leaning.

- d. Welcome
 - i. Beth shared that she and Zoe would soon begin visiting new folks again to welcome them to the North Fork. They have a long list of new residents to welcome and encourage to join the community events.
 - e. Fire Mitigation
 - i. Kevin Ulrichsen shared that there will be a Fire Awareness Day on June 19th on how to report a fire and the grants that are available for fire mitigation.
6. Organization Reports (Non-NFLA)
- a. North Fork Patrol
 - i. Mark Heaphy shared that 138 properties are signed up to be checked and that the Patrol will be having a meeting later this month.
 - ii. Over the winter there was minimal property damage (stove pipes leaning and tree on generator shed)
 - iii. Patrol cards will be left on the door after check, but not dated for security. If you would like to know when it was last checked, contact Patrol and they can share the dates checked from their log data.
 - iv. Two poaching incidents this year:
 - 1. 2 elk cows were taken illegally in fall, charges pressed
 - 2. 7 white tail deer taken illegally in 2023, conviction handed down this winter.
 - v. Red truck sightings, suspicious activity over the winter. Several reports, known by law enforcement, but checked out that they were legally collecting firewood and camping out. See something, say something.
 - b. Polebridge Bear Smart
 - i. Suzanne Hildner shared the new bear spray recycling program. A receptacle for expired bear spray cans will be on the front porch of the Hall for NF residents to dispose of their EMPTY cans. Suzanne demonstrated how to safely empty and puncture cans so that they can be taken for recycling.
 - ii. Bear Smart still has a few bear resistant trash cans available.
 - iii. Training of seasonal employees will be taking place again this year at Northern Lights and Home Ranch. People and Carnivores is donating bear resistant food storage and trash containers to the employees.
 - iv. Susanne has scare devices available for North Forkers if they are having a bear issue.
 - v. Polly Preston has donated a piece of her art to be printed on fabric bags and will be sold at the Merc and Home Ranch as a fund raiser.
 - c. NFPA
 - i. Suzanne Hildner shared that the newsletter will be coming out soon!
 - ii. Their annual meeting date has changed for this year to August 23rd in hopes of attracting more members to attend.
 - d. NF Trails
 - i. Bill Walker shared that they have cleared about 24 miles of trail so far this season.
 - ii. First aid class is scheduled for later this summer, see calendar for dates.
 - iii. Chain Lakes Trail is next on their list to be worked on
 - e. NFLUAC
 - i. No report available
 - f. Fire Chief
 - i. Lynn Ogle warned all to be careful, very dry already.
 - ii. Lynn reminded all that you must have burn permit to burn.
 - iii. All should start getting ready now for fire season!
7. Old Business
- a. Propane heater worked well and was much appreciated, thanks to Jim Rittenberg and Dan Jacobson for their help in getting it up and running.
 - b. Membership suggestions for speakers for next summer:

- i. Dawn Jacobson suggested her son, Thane to speak about his ice fishing and travel with Team USA.
 - ii. Larry Wilson suggested that we ask North Valley Search and Rescue to present.
8. New Business
 - a. Hall projects under development:
 - i. Handicap access ramp in front is being planned, John Stone is the lead.
 - ii. Storage room and new back porch for better accessibility. Thank you to Polly for the rendering a drawing of the addition.
 - iii. Suggestions welcomed (now or later)
 - b. Carol Daly gift to fire mitigation- Carol was the person that started fuels management and forest stewardship on the North Fork. Her vision has spread nationwide. In her estate, she left a very generous donation to the NFLA. She was dedicated to fuels reduction and forest stewardship. The Board is considering ways to use the money that will honor her, and her vision.
 - c. NFLA Auction on July 18
 - i. Ruth Kinsolving shared that she is in need of more volunteers for the event.
 - ii. Ruth has already started collecting donations, and has acquired several really nice donations.
 - iii. She will be accepting donations, starting at the next Membership Meeting, you may bring things to the next meeting.
 - d. Summer interlocal:
 - i. NFLA is the host and will provide the main dish for the luncheon
 - ii. Wednesday, July 9th
 - e. Pints night at NLS on Thursday June 12
 - i. This is a community outreach project being hosted by the Saloon. For each pint sold, \$2 will be donated to the NFLA.
 - f. NF Road Trash Clean Up June 6 to 13
 - i. A competition as to who can haul in the most bags of trash. Winner receives a \$25 dollar Home Ranch Bottoms gift card.
 - g. Live Band Contra Dance
 - i. June 21st, donations being taken, but not required.
 - ii. Ladies Lunch, June 17th at Northern Lights Saloon at 12 noon.
 - h. Gerry Sterns suggested writing a note of appreciation to Dave Prunty for the NF Road improvements and grading this spring.
 - i. Dawn Jacobson reminded all of the July 4th Community picnic at their house. All are welcome. Bring a side dish to share.
 - j. Kevin Ulrichsen shared that over the winter, the Military group that was training in the area presented the NFLA a plaque expressing their appreciation to the community for the support and rental of the Hall during their winter training.
9. Next Membership Meeting
 - a. Sunday July 13, 2025 at 8pm (Speaker at 7)
 - b. Doug Chadwick is presenting
10. Adjourned at 9:17pm

Respectfully submitted by,
Beth Ulrichsen
NFLA Secretary
June 9, 2025

NFLA SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

06 08 2025

Bonny S. Cole

BIRTHDAYS	66
GET WELLS	25
DEATHS	14
SYMPATHY	6
Thinking of you	4
ANNIVERSARY	5
THANK YOU	9
CONGRATULATIONS	13
	<hr/>
	132

DEATHS BY NAME

ROBERT SCHEPE JR

KEN KNAPP

GEORGE OSTRON

SISTER of Richard Sloan Check Returned

ELIZABETH STONE

GAEY McDONOUGH

STEVEN KEECH

KEVIN DEHLAND

BARBARA MEECE

BONNIE BENSON

BILL OLMSTEAD

NATHAN JACOBSON

LISA MUELLER

Please send your inquiries to:

NORTH FORK HISTORY PROJECT

June 2025

Rachel Potter unearthed some interesting information about Frank Lorence, who homesteaded on Tepee Lake. I've added it to the archives.

I was contacted by a lady from Bigfork who volunteers for the Mountain Brook Homestead Foundation. They have a homestead-era school they're hoping to preserve and restore, located northeast of Bigfork. I gave her what information I could and a list of contacts that would be helpful for their project.

I helped Bill Cusick identify some old photographs that he found, including one of the hay barn at the Polebridge Mercantile that burned in the 1988 Red Bench Fire.

I helped Beth Ulrichsen put together the spring NFLA newsletter, which you all should have just received. It's a real masterpiece—16 pages of good information.

Lorna Rittenburg is organizing history days again this year, with which I'm helping. We have one at the North Fork Hostel this Wednesday, June 11, with Oliver Meister, Bonnie Hankey, and me. There will be one at the Ford Schoolhouse in July with Larry Wilson, Jack McFarland, and me. Rob Fisher will be talking about Polebridge in the 1970s in August at the Saloon. Bring a chair, a coffee mug, and your insect repellent.

I helped Greg Evans identify people mentioned in an old letter that a friend sent him; former Glacier National Park North Fork rangers.

I made arrangements for Terry and Karen Atha to donate an old pot belly stove to the Forest Service for the Ford Schoolhouse. It is now stored at the Chipmunk Cabin on the Wurtz property. Morgan Hart is helping locate some old school desks that Ray would like to donate eventually.

Andrew Scrimgeour, a scholar who is working on a biography of Robert Funk, asked me help track down history about Howard and Annemarie Harrod and how they originally came to the North Fork. They all taught together at the University of Montana at one point, along with Molly Shepherd's husband.

I helped David Pokorny, "Poko," put together materials about Bob & Sophie Schepe and their cabin, which he just bought from Robin Chopus, for an open house that he held yesterday.

And finally, Rob and Trish Rego are here for the summer. I have a list of projects that we are going to work on together, including: (1) finish going through the bound volumes of the *Hungry Horse News* at the Park library, scanning any articles or columns that deal with the North Fork; (2) retrieving and organizing the last batch of boxes in the John Frederick collection, which have been stored in the Square Peg barn; (3) working on my Homestead-Era Structures project that's been languishing for the past several years; (4) continuing the process of downloading Larry Wilson's brain and organizing his memories; (5) finishing up my oral history interview with Lynn and Bonny Ogle and conducting a few more, including with Ray Brown and the O'Haras. It's going to be a busy summer!

Lois Walker, Historian