



## NFLA - Membership Meeting Minutes

Sunday, Aug 10, 2025

Sondreson Community Hall

Host: Kevin/Beth/Cheryl

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

**Guest Presentation: Presenter was late due to road conditions, presentation was from 7:30 to 8:30**

Wendy Cole, Wolf biologist – Hosted by Kevin & Beth Ulrichsen

7:19 pm: Membership meeting

1. Call to order -7:19pm
2. Welcome and Opening Remarks
  - a. Jack welcomed all
3. July 13 Membership Minutes – Short summary (copies available online)
  - a. Beth reviewed briefly the minutes from last month's meeting
4. Treasurer's Report
  - a. John Zardis shared that even with the propane heater addition, ceiling installation, ceiling fans, porch, and ramp improvements we are still doing very well. Total assets are \$45,000, but we will owe \$1,600 for insurance and a few outstanding bills for the ramp and porch work, bringing the balance to about \$41,000
  - b. Donations are helping to keep things going, \$4,900 paid in dues, \$4,200 given in donations
  - c. At the end of July, there were 296 full members and 14 associate members
  - d. September begins the new fiscal year, membership due are due next month
  - e. No change to membership dues
5. Committee Reports
  - a. Sunshine – Bonny reported that 34 cards in total were sent, 7 Facebook notes were sent between 6/8/25 and 8/10/25, please see attached
  - b. History – Lois reported many exciting historical findings, please see the attached
  - c. Maintenance – no report available
  - d. Welcome - Beth reported that she and Zoe are creating additional Welcome Plaques to give out when they visit folks, they have about 11 people to visit in the next month
  - e. Fire Mitigation – Kevin shared that a plaque will be created in honor of Carol Daly and hung at the Hall to honor all that she did for the community. He reminded everyone to keep track of their Firewise hours, a new person will be chosen to compile the data and send in (Molly Shepard has retired).

**Guest speaker arrived; meeting was paused at 7:30**

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## Meeting resumed at 8:40pm

6. Organization Reports
  - a. North Fork Patrol –
    - i. next meeting will be held after bow season starts
    - ii. Abandoned vehicle has been towed, the property in the area was checked, delay due to many agencies needing to discuss what to do
  - b. Polebridge Bear Smart –
    - i. LaGriz 50-mile race is in October, two races: 1) Merc to Boarder and back and 2) Merc to HRB and back, Glacier Institute is raising money through sponsors
    - ii. Bear Spray Recycling Program is collecting empty bear spray cans. Contact Suzanne Hildner for information and directions on how to empty safely
    - iii. Bear resistant trash cans are still available
  - c. NFPA –
    - i. 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Potluck and business meeting. Presenter will be the executive director of the Flathead River Alliance.
  - d. NF Trails-
    - i. Taking a short break during the height of tourist season when trails are heavily used.
    - ii. Bill reminded all that info being shared should be sent to him to be posted on the website, as well as posted on Facebook, so that those without Facebook will also get the information.
  - e. NFLUAC –
    - i. Jack reported that all on NFLUAC agreed to run again. There is one opening and they are looking to fill the spot, please see attached list of members.
  - f. Fire Chief
    - i. Lynn reported that fire season is not over. Fire danger is low now, dry weather will bring danger. Enjoy summer!
7. Old Business
  - a. Hall projects completed and under development
    - i. Jack shared that one more day is needed to complete window and porch enclosure.
  - b. Auction results –
    - i. Ruth shared that the Auction was a great success. Many helped to pitch in and pull it all off. She reported that we made over \$3,100
    - ii. Richard shared that there is still one more item up for auction, tongue and groove boards are still available if someone would like to make an offer
8. New Business
  - a. Any new business
    - i. Zoe shared that Irene expressed that there is a need for acoustical changes during Thanksgiving to control the increased noise level. Irene suggested adding something to absorb the noise.
9. Community Events Update
  - a. Calendar changes and notifications
    - i. Beth reviewed the upcoming events on the calendar and highlighted that August 13<sup>th</sup> Morning Coffee was cancelled and shared that there has been an addition to the calendar on Aug 28<sup>th</sup>, Debo will do a presentation on the new property tax laws.
10. Member Comments
  - a. No comments at this time



11. Election of officers

- a. President, VP, Secretary & Treasurer
  - i. Jack nominated Jim Rittenburg to be President, Jim was elected by acclamation
  - ii. Jack nominated Betsy Holycross to be Vice President, Betsy was elected by acclamation
  - iii. Jack nominated Beth Ulrichsen to be Secretary, Beth was elected by acclamation
  - iv. Jim Rittenburg nominated John Zardis to be Treasure, John was elected by acclamation
  - v. Jack will be "Past President"
- b. North Director & South Director
  - i. Jack nominated Cheryl Crane to be North Director, Cheryl was elected by acclamation (August 2025-August 2027)
  - ii. Jack nominated John Stone to be South Director, John was elected by acclamation (August 2025-August 2027)
  - iii. Kevin Ulrichsen will continue for another year as South Director (2024-2026)
  - iv. Ruth Kinsolving will continue for another year a North Director (2024-2026)

12. Next Membership Meeting

- a. Sunday September 14, 2025, at 6 pm with Montana Wild Wings

13. Adjourned at 9:15pm

Respectively submitted,

Beth Ulrichsen  
NFLA Secretary  
August 12, 2025

NFLA Sunshine Committee  
from 6/8/25 to 8/10/25

- 1 Sympathy to Susie Heger E. Busch
  - 1 Thinking of you
  - 12 Birthdays
  - 2 Get Well
  - 3 Anniversaries
  - 15 Thank You
  - 34 total cards
- 7 Facebook notes

Bonny S. Ogilvie

## NORTH FORK HISTORY PROJECT

August 2025

We had a successful history day at the Ford Schoolhouse last month. I have transcribed the audio tape of the session, as well as the session that was held at the North Fork Hostel. I'm willing to email copies to anyone who is interested, especially those who were unable to attend the session.

I compiled a list of North Fork artists for Karina Pettey to share at the recent artists night here at the Hall—artists, authors, musicians, photographers, etc. There may have been others among the old-timers.

Rob and Trish Rego and I have spent several sessions at the Glacier National Park library scanning newspaper mentions of the North Fork in the *Hungry Horse News*. We've done 1956-1960 so far and have uncovered lots of interesting information. Once we finish, we will have all newspaper mentions of the North Fork from 1892 to present. I already have all of Frank Evans' columns, John Frederick's columns, and Larry Wilson's columns, as well as a number of columns submitted by several different North Fork ladies during the 1940s and 1950s. It's great to have them in digital format for purposes of searching.

As we comb through the old newspapers, we've found various mentions of the McFarland family and the Quarter Circle MC ranch on Big Prairie. I'm sharing them appropriately with Jack.

The same is true of the Schoenberger family. I've been corresponding with Bill Cusick, who is interested in reconstruction his family's history.

Zachary Block, grandson of Dan and Gerane Block, got in touch with me to share a 100-page essay that Dan Block wrote about his history and experiences in the North Fork. Zach plans to have a couple of books produced and will donate one to our archives. He also has a collection of more than 100 Block family photos that he's willing to share.

Stephanie McFarland, daughter of former schoolhouse owners Bob and Micki Funk, sent us a audio copy of an old reel-to-reel recording that her dad with some of the old North Fork homesteaders in 1968. The quality isn't the best, and it's mostly random conversations among people, but at least we now have it. We've known about it for years. A good friend of the Funks, Andrew Scrimgeour, had a firm use AI to try and transcribe the tape. I need help from Larry Wilson to identify some of the voices, but hopefully we'll be able to capture at least part of the content.

Yesterday Rob and Trish Rego, Vicky Pittman, and I removed about 20 dusty, dirty boxes of John Frederick papers and books from the old barn at Square Peg Ranch. The Regos will begin sorting through and organizing the contents, to be added to the existing John Frederick collection that I have at the house. John never threw away *anything*, so this is a real trove of North Fork history.

Lois Walker, Historian

## NORTH FORK ARTISTS

### ARTISTS

Peter Moore  
Helen Huck Ramon  
Ted Ramon  
Bob Schepe  
Tom Reynolds  
Ruth Sondreson  
Trish Walsh  
Sue Moris  
Cody Ling  
Diane Boyd  
Polly Preston  
Karin Colby

### SCULPTOR

Joan Lang

### MUSICIANS

Lee Zimmerman  
Mary Bassingthwaighte  
Dan Freund  
Accordion Bob Mislivec  
Raleigh Pettey

### AUTHORS

Lois Walker  
Dave Walter  
Larry Wilson  
Sophia Schepe  
Cecily McNeil  
Ellen Horowitz  
Diane Boyd  
Monica Graff  
Jim Hale  
Don Sullivan  
Joe Novak

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Chris Graff  
Dick Pfaff  
Larry Wilson  
Lynn Ogle  
Betsy Holycross  
Tasia Kain  
Dick Leigh

## **NORTH FORK LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Meets as needed at Sonderson Hall,  
8 miles north of Polebridge on the left

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
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<b>Steve Berg</b> (NFLA)	97 West Cottonwood Kalispell, MT 59901 (P) 406-257-1985 Email: <a href="mailto:sberg@centurytel.net">sberg@centurytel.net</a>	8/24
<b>John Zardis</b> (NFLA)	1327 Moose Creek Road Polebridge, MT 59928 (P) 731-695-7265 Email: <a href="mailto:jzardis@migilc.com">jzardis@migilc.com</a>	8/24
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<b>Jim Rittenburg</b> (NFLA)	1276 Long Bow Trail Polebridge, MT 59928 (215) 796-1592 Email: <a href="mailto:jim.rittenburg@icoptix.com">jim.rittenburg@icoptix.com</a>	8/24
<b>Randy Kenyon</b> (County Appointee)	77 Moose Creek Rd Polebridge MT 59928 (P) 406-890-4460 Email: <a href="mailto:kenyonnorthfork@gmail.com">kenyonnorthfork@gmail.com</a>	12/26 (3 Year Term)
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Vacant		8/24