

BECON

10/02/2020

Today's guest is Bob Gibson with Montana Fish, wildlife and parks to speak about the opening of hunting season and how the changes this year can impact us all.

Announcements

Good job to the social committee for an outstanding Shrimp boil and horse race event. It was announced that Sheila Wilson was the winner, however there was some grumbling in the back about the event being rigged. For some reason, there was an issue with the replay equipment, so the world will never know!

Wiley announced to save the date for October 31st if you are not going to be passing out candy this year. The social committee is planning on hosting "Bowl - A – Weeny" that evening. Stay tuned for more details.

Tony announced that the Division 2 Exchange Blood drive will take place between November 5th and November 20th. Donation of blood can be done at Vitalant, just call and set up an appointment. You can also have friends and family go in and donated and just say they are with our club and it will be recorded for us. The winner will be determined by percentage based on size of the club, not just by total number of donations. More information will be sent out to everyone soon!

Congrats to Arnie Bejot for celebrating 41 years in Exchange. Knowing how many events were worked by every club member back in the day, try and figure out how many hours Arnie has donated to our community in the name of Exchange. Quite a feat!

Bob Morrison began his talk by explaining a little about how Covid has affected their office staffing situation. The only people that are actually working in their office are four people that are keeping the ship afloat. Everyone else is working from home including Bob.

Whats new??

Hunting & Wildlife is cranking up for the hunting season that they anticipate could be the biggest season Montana has ever seen. The number of licenses already issued is approaching a record, so hunters look out. This means hunters will need to be even more careful of where they hunt. Biologists have also said that this year will be a better year than average because of the boom of deer, especially on the Musselshell.

Hunter safety has been different since covid as well. The instructors for hunter safety are all volunteers, but the schools have closed off access for hunter safety training, so it is all being done online which doesn't give the students the hands on training they used to have, so keep your fingers crossed!

Parks – Of course this year has been a huge year for park usage due to covid. Cooney, Tongue River and Lake Elmo have seen record attendance. Because of this, the parks service has had to add more personnel to keep up with the cleaning. Some of you have probably heard about the draining of Lake Elmo. This is going to happen, probably in 2021 or 2022. The reason for this is that there is an invasive clam that can damage the eco system living in the lake. (Just remember if you want to keep our lakes and streams clear of invasive life, don't own a fish tank).... Ask someone who was at breakfast to tell you the story!

Fishing – It seems as though if you want to go fishing for the weekend right now you have to start on Tuesday because that is when the campsites start filling up.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Upcoming Club Events

Bowl a Weeny (Oct 31st)

Blood Drive (Nov 5 – 20)



#ExchangeStrong
#GrowExchange



The last bit of info that Bob spoke about was a potential wildlife management area that the Wildlife fish and Game may be trying to obtain. It is in the northern half of Golden Valley County and roughly 9000 acres. There is an abundance of elk winter range as well as other wild life range. One of the key reasons for trying to obtain this land is that it will provide access to the snowy mountains, where access is mostly cut off due to private ranches that close off the access points.

Have a great weekend and week. Enjoy the weather, we all know that in a month we will be complaining about how bad the weather is, but right now, it is perfect!

