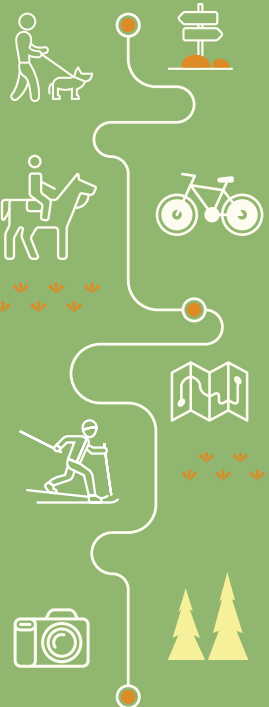




[Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org](https://Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org)

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

- **2023 Recap and Upcoming 2024 Plans**  
Last year was pretty fabulous and we're only getting better with age. Check out our progress and how you can support our new growth.
- **Say Hello to New FTBT Board Members**  
Help us thank two outstanding leaders that have donated their time as FTBT Board Members.
- **Montana Trail Etiquette**  
Six tips to fit in and be safe on the trail.
- **2024 Summer Event Schedule**  
Your favorite events are on the calendar. Join us!
- **Hats Off to Our Amazing FTBT Sponsors**  
We are lucky to have such supporters.
- **6th Annual Foy's to Blacktrail Trail Marathon**  
A great warm up for fall. Get in on the fun!





## GREAT FISH COMMUNITY CHALLENGE 2023 RECAP

# BEST YEAR EVER

YOU HELPED US SCALE UP!  
THANK YOU FOR MAKING  
SUCH A BIG SPLASH.



## 2023 WINS AND NEXT STEPS

As we look back on the Great Fish Community Challenge of 2023, we are bubbling over with gratitude. This is the biggest fundraiser each year for FTBT and we are humbled by your support.

With 243 total donations, your incredible generosity brought in a whopping \$31,580. In addition to \$12,400 in matching funds, plus a \$1,000 Biggest Catch grant, we reeled in a total of \$44,980! Thank you for the trail love you showed.

We also extend a special thank you to the Whitefish Community Foundation for spearheading this fundraising effort across the Flathead Valley that bolstered 77 nonprofits! The grand total raised by our neighbors tallied over \$6 million in funding. Just WOW!

The Great Fish Community Challenge happens every year in August & September. We hope to count on your continued support. Big things are coming our way! Stay tuned.



# WELCOME FRIENDS! NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are thrilled to welcome our newest board members, whose dedication and expertise promise to be invaluable assets to our team. Your passion as volunteers fuels our mission and enhances our community, embodying the spirit of teamwork and commitment that drives us forward. Together, we look forward to achieving great things.

## MATT HOYNE

Matt grew up in Arizona with a passion for riding (and breaking) mountain bikes. He attended The University of Arizona where he earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. He then shunned his education and joined the Marine Corps where he enjoyed several years perfecting amphibious warfare to spend a sizable portion of his 20’s in a desert.

Post military, Matt returned to Arizona to attend law school. After becoming licensed to practice in Arizona and Montana, he worked in criminal prosecution and family law before shunning his education a second time to go work as a bike mechanic. Along the way, he met his wife, a Flathead High School grad, who imported him to Kalispell. He has two daughters, and makes it his life’s mission to constantly annoy them with dad jokes. He currently works as a staff attorney for the State of Montana.

## JEFF MOCERI

As a true outdoor family man, my wife, four children and I live for the outdoors. I spent the early part of my adulthood working in bike shops and working my way up to a position as a product manager to a major bike company. I have spent the last decade in Real Estate. With my mixed background of outdoors and Real Estate, I feel this gives me a well rounded approach to the constant balance of outdoor access and the navigation of private and public lands.

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible volunteer board members at Foys to Blacktail Trails Organization! Your dedication, passion, and tireless efforts have been instrumental in preserving and enhancing our beautiful trails. Your commitment not only ensures the sustainability of these treasured paths but also fosters a vibrant and connected community. We are deeply grateful for your time, expertise, and unwavering support. Together, we are making a lasting impact on our natural landscape and creating a legacy of stewardship for future generations. Thank you for all that you do!



*Matt Hoyne, Board Member*



*Jeff Moceri, Board Member*

# TRAIL ETIQUETTE

*Six reminders to help you fit in, do the right thing on the trail and ensure your safety.*

## *Horses, Hikers, and Bikers*

There is a hierarchy on the trail. Horses have priority, followed by hikers, and then bikers. It's pretty simple to remember and makes encounters much more pleasant when everyone knows who gets to go first. When around horses, it is important to step off the trail, on the *downhill side* if possible. This helps in two ways: it will help keep from startling the horses, and it will keep you from getting run over if they do get spooked. Horses are prey animals, and as such they are always on guard for threats from predators.

## *Be Friendly for Goodness Sake!*

Your fellow trail users are out to have a good time just like you are.

Try out one of these greetings if you're not sure what to say.

HOWDY! • HI THERE • HAVE A GREAT HIKE • COOL SOCKS!

If someone steps off the trail for you, that's a nice thing. Say thank you!

A friendly exchange goes a long way toward fostering a positive atmosphere among everyone on the trail. Do your part!

## *Move Over, Bacon!*

We love seeing families enjoying the trail together! Bring grandma, grandpa, and all the kiddos for an unforgettable outdoor adventure. To ensure everyone has a great experience, please remember to share the trail. When you need to pause for a family meeting or a quick chat, kindly step to the right to let others pass on the left. Let's all be considerate and keep the trail flowing smoothly for everyone. Happy hiking!

## *Scoop the Poop*

We know how much joy pets bring to our lives and how they love joining us on the trails. If your furry friend happens to answer nature's call, please remember to clean up after them. It's a simple act that keeps our trails beautiful, enjoyable and clean for everyone. Please kindly use the doggie bags at the trailhead and bring your trash to a bin (not left on side of trail).

Also, thank you for keeping your pet leashed to ensure a safe and fun experience for everyone on the trail. Let's work together to keep our beloved a place we can all go to get some chill time.

## *Stay on the Trail*

It can be muddy in the spring or after a big rain. Please don't take horses or bikes out when the trail is soggy. If you head out for a hike when paths are wet, please stay on the trail. Trampling the sides of the trail also degrade the trail structure. Keeping our trails in good shape takes time and resources. Please help us out. Also, respect private property and stay on the trail when you are headed up to the Chase Overlook. Let's take care of our nice things.

## *Tune Down the Tech*

Take a moment to look up and appreciate the beauty around you. While enjoying the trail, be mindful not to hold up other hikers or trail users. Embrace the natural serenity by leaving your speakers at home, and if you use earbuds, stay aware of others who might need to pass. Remember, wildlife like bears also enjoy these trails. Stay connected with your surroundings and soak in the peaceful vibes of Mother Nature.



# GET OUTSIDE WITH US 2024 EVENT CALENDAR

Your favorite races and events are back again in 2024. Each year registrations fill up earlier and earlier. Don't delay—sign up soon!

**June 1 // National Trails Day at Herron Park and Lone Pine State Park**  
Trail work in the morning, food in the afternoon. Join the volunteer list on the FTBT website ([FoystoBlacktailTrails.org](http://FoystoBlacktailTrails.org)) and we'll send you all the pertinent details.

**June 9 // 12th Annual Herron Half, 10k, 5k Race & Fun Run**  
Register online: [ftbtraces.com](http://ftbtraces.com). Something for everyone! All proceeds support new trail building and maintenance on Foy's to Blacktail Trails.

**July 13 // Herron Park Equestrians Derby & Dressage**  
Event info and details online: [herronparkeq.org](http://herronparkeq.org). Come watch these hard-working equines and their riders show off their skills (no-cost to spectate).

**August 8 - September 13 // Great Fish Community Challenge**  
Ready. Set. Donate! This is a five-week fundraiser hosted by The Whitefish Community Foundation to bolster the work of Flathead Valley nonprofits and FTBT is counting on you to lend a hand. Please mark your calendars.



**September 14 // Herron Hustle**

Youth mountain bike race for the National Interscholastic Cycling Association. Check out [montanamtb.org](http://montanamtb.org) to learn more.

**September 8 // Foy's to Blacktail Trail Marathon**

Join us for the 6th annual FTBT Marathon. The only trail marathon in Montana! An all single-track course with over 5,000' of vertical. It's a great training race for The Rut. All proceeds help maintain and develop trails from Herron Park to Blacktail Mountain. Sign up online: [ftbtraces.com](http://ftbtraces.com).

**September 28 // National Public Lands Day**

Trails don't take care of themselves. Volunteer at Herron Park and Lone Pine State Park. Help get our trails ready for the long winter. Sign up on the FTBT volunteer list at [FoystoBlacktailTrails.org](http://FoystoBlacktailTrails.org) and we'll send you info. 🌿



If you have ever gone to the woods with me, I must love you very much.  
“ Mary Oliver

I like this place and could willingly waste my time in it.  
“ William Shakespeare



*Thank you to our trail sponsors!*



## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT HATS OFF TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We sure want to tip our hats to the amazing local businesses who support Foy's to Blacktail Trails. Boy howdy, these folks are the real backbone of our operation, propping up our nonprofit like the sturdy beams in a barn and we are mighty grateful for their support.

Our sponsors are the trailblazing partners who make every ride smoother. So here's a big ol' cowboy salute and a hearty 'thank you' to each and every one of them. With your help, we keep galloping forward, making trails better for each one of our diverse trail users.

Keep your spurs sharp and your generosity flowing. We're darn grateful for all you do to help us hold down the fort!



And since we're on the subject, we're rustling up support and looking for five more partners to join our \$1,000 sponsorship level. This is your chance to show your commitment to our community and the great outdoors. Partnering with us isn't just good for the trails; it's a golden opportunity to boost your visibility and be celebrated as a champion of conservation. Reach out today and become a pivotal part of the Foy's to Blacktail Trails team!

# WISDOM *on the run*

In Montana, where the trails are as tough as the folks who run them, Elise Robocker stands out—not just for her age, but for the joyful gusto with which she tackles each winding path. At 65, she’s not merely running; she’s living proof that the best way to face life’s uphill battles is by actually running up hills.

## From Dog Walker to Trailblazer

Elise’s running career began with a practical need to exercise her big dog during college with a few jogs around the block. Yep,



Top: Elise Robocker crossing the finish line at the 2023 FTBT Trail Marathon. Bottom: Elise catching her breath with Brian Miller, race director.

she started as a pavement pounder. But then came raising a family and a burgeoning woodworking business. When her daughter was old enough to join the cross-country running team, Elise found herself thumbing through Trail Runner magazines and curious about this trail running trend. She got some new sneakers and traded smooth asphalt for the rugged embrace of Montana’s wilderness. And she’s never looked back (mostly because it’s hard to look back while navigating rocky singletrack trails).

Her switch to trail running wasn’t just a change of terrain; it was an awakening. “Road running? That was just the pre-game,” Elise quips. “Trail running is the main event, complete with mud, sweat, and views that make you seriously consider stopping for a picnic.”

## Highs, Lows, and Bison Shows

Elise’s adventures on the trails read like an action-packed comedy. She recounts her experiences with wildlife with a giggle in her voice. “There’s nothing quite like realizing a bison is blocking your path to really test your reflexes—and your resolve. Do you turn back, or do you tiptoe around it hoping it respects your personal space as much as you respect its sheer size?”



We had a great time June 9th! Check out race day photos on social media.

Logan Health  
Right On Trek  
Advanced Rehab Services  
Jordahl and Sliter  
PLLCHammer Nutrition  
A7 Cycles  
Montana Dental Works  
First Montana Bank  
Glacier Bank  
Glacier Centre For Dentistry  
Measure Law  
Natural Grocers  
NOMAD  
REI  
Rock Mountain Outfitter  
Rocky Mountain Creative  
Stockman Bank  
Sportsman and Ski Haus  
Wheaton's Cycles  
Whispaw Creative Media  
YWAM

But it's not all moving ahead and getting gains; there are moments of profound connection with nature that anchor her passion. Reveling at the sight of a wide-sweeping beargrass blooms on Columbia Mountain or quietly indulging in the wild warblings of meadowlarks in Utah are Mother Nature's rewards for her efforts. Each run is interspersed with layers of really tough beat-down episodes, tear-jerker moments of relief and achievement, peaks and valleys (literally and figuratively), making every mile a reflection of life's broader journey.

### Wisdom on the Run

With age comes wisdom, but in Elise's case, it also arrives while sprinting over mountain passes. She's seen the evolution of trail running from a niche hobby to an ultra competitive sport teeming with the toughest, newest, youngest and fastest shaking up the ranks on the podium. Yet, Elise holds her own, not with speed but with an infectious enthusiasm, enduring perseverance and relatable humor even on the calf-burning climbs.

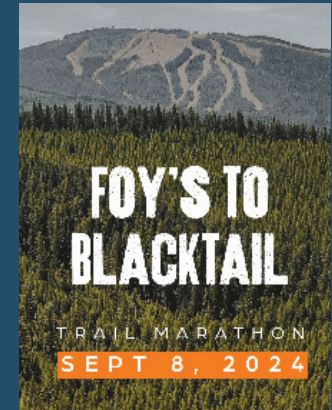
Her advice to the trail-curious? "Ditch the speedometer. It's not about how fast you can go but how much you can enjoy the journey and the views."

She adds, "Forget pace. Embrace place. The best part of the race is the story you tell at the end."

Elise's sage advice and hearty laughter make her a beloved figure in the trail running community, proving that perhaps the secret to longevity isn't just fitness but a good dose of humility and good vibes.

► **Sept 8, 2024:** FTBT Trail Marathon  
It's the perfect stage for testing your mettle, enjoying breathtaking vistas, and understanding why Elise keeps lacing up her running shoes year after year.

► Race details and registration:  
[ftbtraces.com](https://ftbtraces.com)



# SEPT 8

Entry Cost \$120

Limited space:  
Only 100 racers

## SEEKING SPONSORS

Would your business like to sponsor the 2024 marathon? We are in need of a little support to help offset planning costs. Volunteers make this race happen, but a little cash support is needed too! Thank you.

Please email us at:

[info@FoystoBlacktailTrails.org](mailto:info@FoystoBlacktailTrails.org)





Foy's to Blacktail Trails | PO Box 81 | Kalispell, MT 59903 | [FoystoBlacktailTrails.org](http://FoystoBlacktailTrails.org)