



MHPC General Meeting MINUTES

Wed. March 18, 2026

Silver Buckle, Press Room

1. OPENING:

Quorum: Yes 14 members

Call to Order: 7:04pm

Introductions all around - a few new Members tonight!

Motion to accept the AGENDA by Pat and 2nd by Dave. Carried.

Motion to accept the previous MINUTES by Kathy and 2nd by Frances. Carried.

2. FINANCIAL:

Richard reported we currently have \$6,565.39 in the bank.

Motion to approve the budget for the hosting site and the .ca name for our club website, \$81.90 by Richard and 2nd by Pat. Carried.

3. EVENTS:

- a. **Activity Expo** - held March 1 - Rob provided a summary of the event, great response, awesome banner stand was very useful!, videoclips and newclub promo cards as hand-outs. Jim H. (new member!) shared that he was manning a pickle ball sign-up table and came over to register with the paddle club!
- b. **Guest Speaker** coming next month (April 15): Laurie shared that Mark Fletcher, author AND club member will be coming next month to read a couple of short stories from his newly published book, "Love Big Country".
- c. **MH Massacre** - May 9 - the Sat. before Mother's Day - Dave shared details he has so far and indicated he is still looking for 2 more volunteers. This year, volunteers will need to be on the water by 7am. Cabins are available for rent if you want to be there the night before. Also, camping sites. Club volunteers take up different positions on the lake and then call organizers for help if someone is in distress.
- d. **Fun & Safety on the Water** - Echodale Pond - May 30. Rob for Stan who is currently away, but is planning on holding a meeting in the next two weeks with his volunteers.
Rob shared that this year, the city will be encouraging people to NOT park on the roadway near the boat launch/take out area, but instead park near the baseball field OR at the pavilion parking lot once the boat launch area is full. Out at Echodale, participants are encouraged to utilize the overflow parking lot (baseball field) next to the boat launch OR the Echodale Boat Pond parking lot. Again, NOT along the edge of the road! Room for Emergency services.
- e. **Great Big Paddle** - Rob - Insurance Grant - no news yet. \$2,200 last year. MH Tourism is hopeful they will receive adequate grant monies this year to again provide for this. Going down the river, Members wear a club 'patch' on the back of their life jacket and 'shepherd' groups of participants down the river.
- f. **McKay Hat Hat Regatta** - Rob asked AWA if we can invite other paddle groups across Alberta using AWA as a 'link'. More later.



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4. DIRECTOR REPORTS:

- a. **Membership** - Stanley - 23 signed up members so far for 2026. A final push for membership via the fb Members Only page will happen in April.
- b. **Pool Lessons** - Rob - info coming soon. As to pricing, Rob is thinking we'll figure out the price and add \$20 for non-members (price of membership?). AWA has grant monies to assist with Level One Certified instructor courses available until the end of July. Rob is working with High Level instructor 'Craig' for possible dates. Anyone interested in obtaining Level One Instructor certifications please reach out to Rob. Once we have Level One certified people in our club, it makes it possible to give advice to newbies, or even run beginner level classes!
- c. **Social** - Kathy reminded everyone of the 'Welcome BBQ' scheduled in May down in Kincoolee, where we will hold our regular meeting AND eat, play some games and get to know each other better! Another paddling opportunity: 'Paddle and Brunch' on June 14. The tentative plan is to head out early to Spruce Coulee (or rent a site and camp overnight the night before). After paddling, all go for brunch! Drumheller on the weekend of July 24, 25, 26 is really coming together. There has been a lot of interest. Some folks have booked sites in the campground, another has booked a 'yurt', and still others will be hotel-ing it. Still lots of options, but things fill up fast, so if you're planning on attending, don't wait too long to book your accommodation! Kathy is currently looking into 'transfer' services offered by a local Drumheller person. More info coming soon.

5. PADDLING THREADS: Group conversation

Other options for club adventures could include Harvey Passage in Calgary, Pumphouse to Strathcona, the Milk River? Let's all keep talking together and see what we get organized through the season. Trailer situation: Currently, it is being stored in Tom's backyard. Rob is looking into a possible temporary storage location in Redcliff. Dave shared that the club used to store it at a facility near Desert Bloom. Rob will explore further.

Best ways to communicate? Email is used for MAIN info to members - Agendas, Minutes, Bigger Trip plans, Events, Lesson Info, etc. The private 'fb MHPC Members Only' chat page is good for spontaneous trips, "Hey, we're going down the river tomorrow, anyone want to join us?" Also, it was mentioned that forming 'text groups' can also be a way of communicating about adventures with each other.

8pm Motion to Adjourn: Rick

Next meeting: Wed. April 15, 2026 7pm @ Silver Buckle- Press Room

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laurie Benn, Secretary



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Medicine Hat Paddle Club General Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Date: Wednesday, Mar. 18, 2026 7pm
Silver Buckle Press Room

Please Print!

#	Name	Member? ✓	#	Name	Member? ✓
1	Rob Benn	✓	20		
2	Laurie Benn	✓	21		
3	Shauna Mitchell	✓	22		
4	Chantelle Bitterfield	not yet ✓	23		
5	Dave Romank	✓	24		
6	Ivan Slavik	-	25		
7	Christina Spindeman	✓	26		
8	Ross Buttar	✓	27		
9	Melissa Torgerson	✓	28		
10	Jim Holloway	✓	29		
11	Rick MacDonald	✓	30		
12	Francis Satherly	✓	31		
13	Pat Bradley	✓	32		
14	Brent Mack.		33		
15	Kathy Gonnet	✓	34		
16	Stan Scott	✓	35		
17			36		
18			37		
19			38		