September 15, 2015

 SIERRA FREEPACKERS MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order by President Mary Odell at 6:37 p.m. in the Oakhurst Library.

Minutes: Three corrections to minutes: Correct the spelling of Leak Pen’s name from Leek to Leak. Correct ice chest money: money to purchase ice chests came from unit treasury; not from grant money. Correct location on trail recon from Shaker Flat to Shake Flat. Corrected minutes approved, seconded and passed.

Treasurer’s Report: Slight increase to balance reported by Joyce Granger due to member rebates.

Publicity: Mary met with CJ to provide her with information and tips on how to get started as our publicity person.

Membership: Joyce reported we continue to add members, and we are holding steady at about 50 Sierra Freepackers!

Monthly Ride: See Old Business….

Public Lands: Nothing to report. Jay absent.

Old Business:

1. Monthly ride: Mary suggested a change of venue from AHRP to Snow Play as she secured approval from Leak for tree removal on the (numbered therefore ok) road. Plan on about an hour for trash clean up, then (if Ted and his saw are available) some trail work followed by a ride. Plan on meeting at Snow Play at 9:30. Bring lunch, gloves and water for your stock. Date is September 19; Mary to put out email.

2. Calendars: Please pick some up and try to get them sold! They are excellent revenue for the unit and the state!

3. Trail Trials: Cathy reported she had no luck in getting a response from AHRP. Ideas were discussed for possible locations. Cathy will keep trying to contact AHRP. Volunteers for this event will be needed; so think about how you can help. Contact Cathy if you are available.

4. Recon of French Trail: Mary reported the recon went well. First, three volunteers drove the area, then 4 volunteers rode the area. There will be some trails clean up needed; some tree removal will be necessary so a saw is called for. Also, this is not a summer job; possibly more like fall to snow fall when it’s not so hot. It is a bear area, according to the poop, so be “prepared” if planning to help. The goal is to get the trail cleared all the way to Shake Flat. Also, due to the number of dead trees, and dust, it would be good to wait even now for a few rains to bring limbs/trees down and settle the dust.

5. Granite Creek Corral Take Down: Denise reported the tentative date to be after 9/17; Deb (who has the trailer for panel moving) is still working fires. She suggested a date of 9/24. Anyone willing to help (the panels are heavy and the more hands the better), RSVP Denise and plan to meet at Granite Creek at 10:00 a.m.

6. Christmas Party: December 6, Library. Mary to take membership and divide into 3 groups: salads, main dish and dessert. Unit to provide paper products. The Christmas party is open to everyone, so bring your family! There will be a gift exchange, and it’s also the time for elections; Joyce to look to see which offices will be open for elections.

New Business:

1. Wilderness Ride Class update: A hearty congratulations to Cathy Miller for completing the course! She reported she had a wonderful time, and learned a lot. Wilderness Riders is a partnership between the BCHC, NPS, National Forest and the National Parks; whose forum is to educate users on the seven principles of Leave No Trace and how to be responsible when using public lands. The course is offered every 2 years, is limited to 10 participants and is 5 days long. This years’ class was hosted at Granite Creek, and the participants were from units throughout the state. Well Done CATHY MILLER!!! Denise will be participating in the Master’s Training in November.

2. Hensley Lake Tree Removal: Terry (absent but still reporting) via Mary reports there are lots of trees down at Hensley, in the back along the fence. We have the ok from Hensley to remove the trees; now it’s a matter of waiting for Ted and his magic saw and cooler weather.

3. Snow Play: discussed earlier. There is a need for trash clean up!

General Discussion:

1. Grizzly Run: the Run is a bike race. North Fork to Mammoth Pool around and around eventually to Bass Lake. The current hosts don’t want to host it anymore, so there was general discussion about whether or not the unit would take it on. It might make money for the unit but most (all?) of the profits go towards improving the scenic byway. Mary asked Denise to try to find out how many volunteers would be needed; what we had to do, and how much had to be done. To be continued…

2. Linda hosts trash clean ups every year at Bass Lake, Shaver Lake; the second weekend in May. Mary suggested we consider adding trail clean ups on those days to support the general clean up of the area; we can both participate and make it a ride. Trails in that area we can maintain are the Spring Cove trail and the Goat Mountain trail. Look for this to be added to next year’s calendar!

3. Denise added the state meeting is fast approaching; Santa Nella! And invited anyone who wants to go would be welcome. Mary will be presenting our Best Project (Granite Creek week long trip with John Glen) at the state meeting.

4. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 20 here at the Oakhurst Library.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Seslowe