SIERRA FREEPACKERS MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 2016

Meeting called to order by President Mary Odell at 6:40 p.m. in the Oakhurst Library.

Minutes: One correction to correct the spelling of Laurie’s name. Motion to approve with correction by Cathy; second by Terry. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: On hold pending Joyce’s arrival. Cathy announced her stepmother donated her recent winnings back to the unit for us to spend any way we wanted. She won $50 and donated an additional $50. A wonderful donation!

Publicity: Position remains open.

Membership: Joyce absent. Mary reported the mistake with Terry’s membership has been corrected. At last count, we have 60 members in the unit.

Education: Denise absent; LNT box work on hold this month.

Monthly Ride: Kelty Work Party; to be discussed later in meeting.

Public Lands: Jay reported on the possibility of Proposition 1 Tree Mortality grants that might fit in to the scope of work the unit does. Mary stated Joyce was our grant person and would give her this info. Mary also reported that Leak has asked us to notify her of any big changes in dead trees anywhere we ride; it will help them know what is going on in different areas.

Old Business:

1. Grant: We did not get the BCHA grant but are set up to try for it again next year. Joyce will continue working on this.
2. French Trail Up-Date: Mary reported the trail from Powerhouse 8 Road to above Fish Creek, approximately 5 miles, has been re marked and cleared of trees. She submitted an article to Sierra News Online, BCHC and BCHA. These were great articles with photos! Thanks Mary! There is still more work to do but between the already calendared events and weather it might have to wait until fall when it’s cooler. Mary got a call from Leak about a group working on the San Joaquin River Trail asking for help from our unit. She responded that as long as it is equestrian friendly we would be happy to help; she’s waiting to hear back. We can consider taking this on in the fall as well. Mary reminded us that for trail work we have to report down trees to the Forest Service first then FS will ask us if we can do the work. We can’t just go in and clear down trees.
3. Snow Play Camp Out: Wrap up: Some camped, some came for the day but in all several hours were put into cleaning up trash, and a nice ride Saturday afternoon was enjoyed as well. Mary sent an article to Sierra News Online and to BCHC as well.
4. Kelty Work Day: Scheduled for Saturday 6/25. A small group did a recon 6/20 and found 6-7 trees down out the back side of the camp. Our volunteer agreement allows us to do the work there so it’s ok to clean them up. Mary suggested people meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Fresno Dome visitor parking area. Bring helmet, gloves, long sleeved shirt, boots and eye protection. Water at Kelty is ok; John and John installed the pump and the tank is full. Since it’s so hot, make sure you bring plenty of water for yourself to prevent dehydration.

New Business:

1. Granite Creek Work Party: July 5-9. Discussion included money for food, members going, how good the food is, and don’t try to come up after dark. A motion was made by Mike to approve a budget of $1000 for food; seconded by Laurie. No opposition; motion approved. It is ok to bring dogs to the work party.
2. Calendar Sales. It’s that time of year again but we will hold off issuing calendars to sell until next meeting as Joyce is absent.
3. Cross Cut Class Donation: Mary got an email from Dan Horn about BCHC trying to get their own in house cross cut and chain saw trainers. He is asking for donations from the units themselves to cover the $2000 cost for Forest Service trainer(s) to train BCHC personnel. A few units have ponied up $1700, the remainder needs to be raised. Discussion about how much we could donate, if we decide to… but several questions were raised as to what the donation will get us… any guarantee we could then send a member to become a trainer? Several members in the unit are interested in becoming certified, and John is interested in being a trainer. In the end we decided we needed more information before we made a donation so Mary will contact Dan and get back to the unit at the next meeting.

Announcements from the floor: None

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 19 at 6:30 p.m. here at the Oakhurst Library.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m; motioned by John, seconded by Terry.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Seslowe