

Minutes Sierra Freepackers meeting February 15, 2022

Attendance:

Patricia Vallentyne
Kelli Land
Mary Odell
John Wagner
Laurie Wagner
Karoline Waggle
Denise Robinson
Robbie Robinson
Sharon Seslowe
Robert James

Call to order and greeting 6:32

Minutes of previous meeting motion to approve minutes as presented by Mary
Motion second by John
Vote approved minutes as presented

Reports

Treasurer's report – Laurie: paid out checks for poker ride money put back into account, supplies for poker ride paid to Patricia, Laurie and

Education – Denise: Kerman 4^H March 27 at 1 pm demo on packing we need 2 or 3 live mules how to build loads and demo on packing. Location to be determined.
Mary suggested inviting a veterinarian in to talk about. Ask around to see which local vets would come to talk. Use as a way to get a membership.

Public Lands Patricia

Comments on OHV plan

In reviewing USFS - Sierra National Forest 2023 Ground Operations (G22): DRAFT Project Cost Estimate The Sierra Freepackers appreciate the attention to proposals that mitigate damage to dispersed camping areas, developed campgrounds for problems such as resource damage related to OHV use. We are pleased to see the Forest Wide-Janitorial Supplies Grant Request: for: Supplies for cleaning toilets on OHV routes (paint, toilet paper and cleaning supplies).
Materials to repair toilets along OHV routes.

The Sierra Freepackers are disappointed not to see a proposal for additional trash receptacles in heavily used OHV dispersed areas. We have removed a lot of trash from the dispersed camping area around Sky Ranch rd 6s10 6s90 6s72 area This would encourage the implementation of the "Tread Lightly!" principle Do Your Part by modeling appropriate behavior, leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste

We have found that dumpster and port-a-potties at the Snow Play/Goat Meadow has greatly reduced the human waste and trash in that area.

We would like to see a proposal for funds to increase patrol hours or additional staff for law enforcement to increase safety for all forest users and encourage "Tread Lightly!" principle Respect the Rights of Others including private property owners, all recreational trail users, campers and others so they can enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.

Sierra National Forest plan being redone their plan due to the creek fire in 2019. New release to available later this year for comment.

BCHC are working on a M.O.U. with region 5 of the Forest Service

Membership Laurie 2 new members signed up and 1 renewal

Old business

Mariposa Trail Wendy Brown written/verbal report doing pack demo on June 4th brag booth and LNT in Mariposa at the old frost shop lot in mid town.

Merced River trail committee has 2 openings on their board. Encouraging members in Merced or mariposa to join the committee

AHRP update Gloria not in attendance. Mary comment update on the information board, rain leaked and change backing new sheets after rain with a rubber seal at the top.

Nedler Grove update: John a check for \$5000 from a gentleman from Texas. Laurie will follow up to find out where the check has been sent. Mary will apply for with another \$2750. Cori says there is \$4000 from forest service. Patricia will ask for \$2500 from the Rotary Club

Raymond Parade sat April 16th application is filled out and they are excited for us to participating. Sandra and Abigail are going to flags. Joyce boys doing banner. Karoline can carry and flag. Mary will ask San Joaquin to borrow BCHC flag. Wilderness riders will wear white shirt with vest, everyone else wear blue shirts and red scarf. Parade starts at noon be there by 10 – 10:30, Park across the street from footman park.

New business

Leadership training February 26 in Bakersfield. Denise mentioned training manual online under forms to read about board and position duties.

Priority Objective 6: Website and Social media transition to using more social media. We should keep track how many times people view things. Use to be able to encourage membership Using Instagram... used by younger people and how we can interest them and build membership

Mary will look into setting up Instagram thru Facebook when we post things. Helps bring interest to BCHC with a younger audience.

Ride at the gorge Mary to organize a ride on February 21. Not a unit ride meet at horse camp.

Mary reported that Cori write a letter in support for our grant... she had lead ranger sign the letter for the grant.

Board of Directors meeting report

Updating bylaws

Internship program presented more about the program. Denise commented on the pros of the program. BCHC is asking units to make a donation to the chic education fund to help support the program.

Patricia made a motion to make a donation for the scholarship fund. Karoline second. Floor open for discussion: Discussion among group positive to the \$500 Vote called and approved.

Non equestrian use of horse camp Dept of Agriculture sent a letter supporting the use of horse camps by only for horses. Some forests and other agency are using Change of use plan to avoid public comment making changes and leaving the public out of the decision process

BCHC changing are moving to investing funds that are just sitting in saving to low to moderate risk investments using the same investment firm as the PCTA.

Rendezvous set for March 24-26 2023 California Ranch Company in Temecula.

Insurance coverage: the Board of Directors voted to change insurance company. Things they thought were covered that were not. Coverage will be more. Way they are dealing with it thru less rebate amount to units on membership, in the long run will save BCHC money

Announcements from the Floor

Bob James asked long term plan to reopen Granite Creek. Discussion on how to keep OHVs from taking over and preserving it as a horse camp. John suggested signs up at Granite Creek. Table this for price picture of sign and costs, to make signs for granite creek horse camp only

Friends of the Bass Lake a 501 c3 with goal to get Sky Ranch area camp grounds open. They will want to work with us for sawyer work and certification.

Discussion on private Stock use in Yosemite. Mary suggested sending an email to park superintendent want to bring a horse there where can we park make a clear, to safely load and unload. Not clear place to park a horse trailer.

Agenda items requested for next meeting

Motion to adjourn meeting by Karoline Laurie second motion Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm

Next meeting March 15 2022

