SIERRA FREEPACKERS MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 2016

Meeting called to order by President Mary Odell at 6:30 p.m. in the Oakhurst Library. Mary added an additional agenda item: new calendars.

Minutes: No corrections; approved as read. Motion to approve by Robbie, seconded by Linda. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: Joyce absent. Mary reported balance unchanged.

Publicity: Nothing to report; CJ absent. Considering options for getting this position filled and functioning.

Membership: Joyce absent, but Mary reports membership increased due to some sign-ups at the Rendezvous.

Education: Denise brought in little horses and trees to show how they will work in the LNT Gentle Use Diorama being made. She also found three handouts specific to horses and camping that will be excellent when the display is used as a teaching tool. There was some discussion about making 5 X 5 flash cards and how to do that and how the information may be made user friendly. Well done Denise and Robbie!

Monthly Ride: The next ride scheduled is for May 14. We had planned to do the Bass Lake Spring Clean but due to hazardous tree removal that event was cancelled. So we are back to our original plan of the San Joaquin River Gorge; weather permitting. Plan on a 10:00 ride. Ride numbers may mean going both ways…Mary to send an email confirming ride so keep your eyes on your email…

Public Lands: Jay absent; nothing to report.

Old Business:

1. Rendezvous Wrap Up: Mary sent an article off to BCHC with some photos of our work at the Rendezvous including Art Show contributions and results, The kid’s Stick Race and our unit award (for most volunteer hours per capita). She reported we got a lot of compliments on our handling of the art show. Our unit was one of the few with youth that attended the Rendezvous. Thank you one and all!
2. Grant: Joyce watched 2 webinars on the $1500 Wilderness Boots on the Ground Grant; the short story is we cannot meet the requirements this year but we will move forward with attempting this grant for next year. She is moving forward with the second grant, through BCHA and has sent that application in.
3. Coarsegold Rodeo Volunteers needed April 29: Mary sent around a sign up sheet asking for volunteers for the booth for Friday. Several members signed up to assist at the rodeo. Plan to meet and be ready to go at about 8:30; should run through 2:00 p.m. There is a possibility of rain; John will bring his EZ up. Mary encouraged interaction with the kids on their level: Do you camp? What do you do with your trash? Denise and Robbie to bring Brag Booth; Cathy has confirmed the insurance is in place.
4. Regional Wilderness Ranger Academy: Scheduled for June 7-10 in the Stanislaus National Forest for crosscut saw certification. Adam was in charge but he left. Some concern as to who to talk to and if space is available. Denise to follow up and find out who is in charge and how to sign up.

New Business:

1. Bass Lake Tree Removal: Cathy reported several members, led by our own duly certified chainsawer John, did quick and safe work removing several trees on the Spring Cove Trail. It looks like we will certainly have enough tree removal work this year to keep us all in shape and to help John break in his sawing chaps. Keep Mary informed of any new downed trees as you ride around the area.
2. French Trail Signs: Denise and Robbie checked snow levels and found no snow in the Mammoth area by the French Trail where we worked last year. Some discussion about logistics of work: camping, where, water, space. Possible 2 night camping trip to do trail and sign work. Leak (via Mary) said it is ok to replace the signs (about 12 to replace) and Mary will get the sign tool from her.
3. May 14 ride not Spring Clean: see Monthly Ride above.
4. JHA’s and new forms: BCH is developing own JHA’s that coincide with other agencies. They will be filled out every time we go out. Discussion on Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) required when doing forest service work due to recent rash of accidents. Good group discussion on logistics to meet these requirements. Denise to follow up with Leak re: laminating ID cards. Gloria to follow up re: ICE cell phone info. Denise to look at tail gate forms to make sure they will be accepted by BCH.
5. Calendars: People we know are winning! Group agreed to hold off starting to sell 2017 calendars for a few months.

General Discussion:

May 10 is Volunteer Appreciation Night, 6:30 at the Veterans hall in Clovis. Our unit has amassed about 2600 or 2800 volunteer hours for forest service work alone. There will be lots of recognition so consider attending. Lots of groups will be recognized.

Mary was contacted by the Merced River Watershed Group looking for people to pack in equipment for the group to do some trail work. Area is along Hwy 140 to Wawona, to put in a trail there. This is a several year project. Mary will follow up and we would like to help for sure!

Bass Lake is giving away logs: go to the PG & E office to get a load of 25-30 logs delivered to your home for free!

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m. here at the Oakhurst Library.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m; motioned by Gloria, seconded by Denise.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Seslowe