

March 15 2022 Minutes Sierra Freepackers meeting

Call to order at 6:30 and greeting by Patricia

Kelli Land
Joe Machado from San Juaquin Sierra
Denise Robinson
Robby Robinson
Mary Odell
Patricia Vallentyne
Robert James
Gloria Garland

Minutes of previous meeting motion to approve Minutes as presented by Mary Odell second by Denise

Reports

Treasurer's report Laurie not present

Education: Denise is organizing a packing demonstration for 4Hers March 27th in at 2 pm. Using iron mules John and Mary will help. They plan to hand out Leave No Trace Hang tags. They are expecting 8 – 10 kids.

Denise led a discussion about the need for signage at Granite Creek to distinguish between the equestrian camping and non-equestrian camping area. Concerns were expressed about OHV taking over the camp while it is closed

This Saturday march 19th in Auberry near shaver tree planting day

Public Lands: Patricia reported on the Sierra and Sequoia Forest Plan Revision Update Water Resources; the revised plans to modernize the prior strategy into a new Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy. Potential stressors, including climate change, and how these could affect ecosystem health and resilience, were central in the development of the plan components. They reviewed the plan content in the context of large fires that burned on both forests in 2020 and 2021 to consider if additional changes were needed.

This Saturday March 19th in Auberry near shaver tree planting day

Membership: Patricia reported that the unit new members are Penny Jefferson, Annette and Pasqual Deneuve, Barbara and Megan Wilkins and Keith Wheeler and Lillian Peters (associate). Keith has packed at the Grand Canyon for the NPS

Old business

Mariposa Trail days June 4th packing demo and brag booth

AHRP update Gloria reported that the mastication work is on hold right now due to insurance concerns. They need to update the insurance before park can reopen. Tony Ward is the new interim president of AHRP. We need to meet with him and set up volunteer agreement before we work in the park.

Nelder Grove update: We received a \$5000 donation from Dave Siebold. Patricia applied to **Oakhurst Sunrise Rotary** for a \$3000 grant. Gloria applied for a fire wise grant for \$500. Mary applied to the BCHC Educational fund for a \$2000 matching grant. We have not heard back from them

Raymond Parade April 16th: Unit to meet at 10:30 at the Footman Park. Joyce's boys are carrying the banners. Patricia will bring the forms, Burgundy saddle pad covers and flags. Wilderness riders wear white shirts and vests, everyone else wear blue shirts and red scarfs.

Update on letter to YNPS concerning equestrian parking and camping. Patricia reported that she has been researching the issue and working on a letter to the Superintendent. A discussion was held about equestrian concerns about access to the park. Sharon suggested that we acknowledge the difficulties of the construction but that we still want to be able to access Yosemite and have safe places for parking for horses.

New business

Medical forms/emergency contact: Patricia told the group that the BCHC requires each member have a current emergency contact at all BCHC activities. Patricia suggested putting form in an envelope and gives it to the ride or project coordinator at the beginning of the activity; they will keep them during event and then give back to you. She suggested that you include a note in paperwork for your horse and equipment that can go with such and such a person. The San Joaquin Sierra Unit had a card that info is placed on. We also need to sign release/waiver at every event that we do. Gloria brought up about ICE On our phones because medical personal look for ICE your phones. Have notes on the phone for additional info.

Director vote for BCBHC: Patricia asked the group if they wanted her to present all the motions that need to be voted on for the BCHC Board of directors to the unit first and the unit decide how the unit president/director vote on the issue or do they want the president/director to vote for the group?

Mary made motion to have president/director vote for the unit on BCHC Board of Directors motions/items for the group. Seconded by Gloria. Motion approved by unanimous vote

Announcements from the Floor: Robert discussed what it would take for the unit to make shakes the Biledo Cabin

Future trail work discussed

Agenda items requested for next meeting

Next meeting April 20

Motion to adjourn by Gloria Seconded by Mary
Motion approved by unanimous vote

Adjourned meeting 7:33