

Sierra Freepackers Meeting Notes – October 21, 2025

Called to Order: 6:30 PM by Denise Robinson

In Attendance:

Patricia Vallentyne, Teri Cook, Gloria Garland, Denise Robinson, Robby Robinson, Lee Smith, Alex Krevitz, Laurie Wagoner, Guest: Judi Farzaroli

Minutes Approval:

- **Motion:** Lee Smith made a motion to approve the September 2025 minutes (with corrections).
- **Seconded:** Laurie Wagoner.
- **Result:** Motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- Laurie Wagoner shared the opening and closing balances.
- A \$200 donation will be transferred from the unit's education fund to support the internship program at the Center of Excellence.

Education:

- **Wilderness Rider/LNT Training:** A weeklong Leave No Trace training will be held from April 6–10, 2026, in Weaverville. The cost is \$750 for the full week. Contact Denise Robinson if interested.
- A **Wolf Safety** flyer is being developed by the state Education committee.
- Discussed the idea of a **Video Competition** to help stimulate interest in membership.

Public Lands:

- Denise, Patricia, and Teri attended the **State Board Meeting** on October 4, 2025. Key topics included:
 - The redesign of the state website.
 - Updates to the online payment system.
 - Clarifications to volunteer time sheets.
- **SNF Leadership Change:** A petition for removal of Dean Gould from his position due to the NFS's failure to conduct controlled burns in the Tea Kettle Experimental Forest was discussed.

- **E-bike Use:** Ongoing discussions with the NFS regarding e-bike use in public lands.
- **Hensley Lake:** Patricia submitted a report per the MOU, detailing the mileage and hours worked on the trails this year. Members worked on trail maintenance and planted a pollinator garden during Public Lands Day, which included the installation of signs and bat house.

Membership:

- Laurie Wagoner updated the membership roster

Unit Work Projects:

Mariposa Trails:

- Beth Killner and Patricia Vallentyne are working on developing safety standards and discussed upcoming trail stewardship projects for October and beyond.
- **Volunteers Needed:** Volunteers are needed for trail work and to help pack tools and supplies to the ACE trail crews.
 - For project dates and sign-up info, visit: mariposatrails.org
 - The Sierra Freepackers will cross-post Mariposa Trails updates and share open trail info for both hikers and equestrians.

Upcoming Trail Work Dates:

- **TBA**

Volunteer Hours & Reminders:

- Please track and report all volunteer hours, including those for planning and recon rides. Send totals to: office@cvacupuncture.com

Other Business:

- **Public Education Day:** Scheduled for November 15, 2025 (1:00–3:00 PM) at Yosemite Lakes Stables. Coordinators: Laurie Wagoner and Annette Deneuve. The presentation will feature a guest speaker, Dr. Mero.
- Discussed future clinic topics and the need for volunteers for the **Rendezvous** event. Parking attendants were suggested.

Calendar Updates:

- **Dec 7, 2025:** Holiday Party & Elections at Yosemite Gateway Art Center.
- **Jan 2026:** State Officer Leadership Training – Visalia Farm Bureau Office – Jan. 24 for all new Officers

- **Jan 1, 2026:** New Year's Day Ride at Hensley Lake.
- **Mar 20–22, 2026:** Rendezvous in Ceres, CA – Volunteers needed (Contact Denise).

Announcements:

- Please send any agenda items for the next meeting to Denise at **robnden76@gmail.com**.

Next Meeting:

- **Date:** Tuesday, November 18, 2025
- **Location:** Oakhurst Library, 6:30 PM

Adjourned: 7:26 PM