

## **Sierra Freepackers Meeting Notes – Oct. 15, 2024**

### **In Attendance:**

Patricia Vallentyne, Gloria Garland, Teri Cook, Denise Robinson, Robby Robinson, Lee Smith, Laurie Wagoner, Wendy Brown, Brianna Sainz.

**Meeting Called to Order:** Patricia Vallentyne called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

### **Minutes:**

- **Amendment to September 2024 minutes:** Denise Robinson proposed an amendment to the minutes. Robby Robinson seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Reports:**

#### **Treasurer:**

- Laurie Wagoner presented the beginning and closing balances for the unit.

#### **Education:**

- Denise Robinson, Education Co-Chair, reported that the October 5th BCHC meeting was a success, with 10 units in attendance. A new educational pin and brochure program will be introduced in 2025. Denise will also submit a summary article for the state newsletter.

#### **Public Lands:**

- **Patricia Vallentyne** attended the October 5th BCHC state meeting. Sawyer and CPR/First Aid classes will be offered next year. Patricia will send an email with further details.
- **Hensley Lake:** Patricia secured the MOU with the Army Corps of Engineers. The unit will contribute 100 hours per year of trail maintenance in exchange for a Special Event Permit (SEP) for the January 1 Raffle Ride. These hours may include travel time and reconnaissance.
- **Merced River Trail Working Group:** Wendy Brown updated the group on the Merced River Trail Working Group's plan. She presented a letter advocating for equestrian access on federal and public lands, especially on multi-use trails. Wendy will work to have this item added to the agenda for the next MRT planning meeting.
- **Yosemite Planning Meeting:** Patricia Vallentyne submitted comments regarding park traffic issues, which are blocking access to the national park and hindering our work in the national forest.

### **New Business:**

- **Volunteers Needed for Raffle Ride Day:** Volunteers are needed for several tasks on Raffle Ride day, including food shopping, staffing the raffle table, scouting and marking parking routes, hiding special prizes, and collecting donation items for the raffle. Members are also asked to pre-sell tickets.
- **Holiday Party – Dec. 8, 2024 (1:00 PM to 4:00 PM):** The annual holiday party will be held at the Yosemite Gateway Art Center (40982 Highway 41, Oakhurst). Elections for the next term will be held, followed by a potluck and the gift exchange game.
- **Election Nominations:** Nominations for president and secretary are being requested for the upcoming election.
- **Unit Hours (BCHC Only):**
  - Please submit all hours, including reconnaissance rides, work hours not logged with the SNF, shopping for supplies, equipment, stock use, and travel time to Gloria at [office@cvacupuncture.com](mailto:office@cvacupuncture.com) ASAP.
  - Gloria reported that over 700 unit hours have been logged with the SNF this year.
  - Patricia Vallentyne has reestablished the unit's volunteer service agreement with the SNF.

#### **Agenda Items for Next Meeting (11/19/24)**

Please submit agenda items to be discussed at the next meeting.