

## BCH of NV, HIGH SIERRA CHAPTER MINUTES of the regular meeting April 18, 2012

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PRESIDENT:	Chuck Shepherd	VP:	Johnny Locke
Secretary:	Sabine McCowen	Treasurer:	Cari Hansen
Director:	Elaine Anagnostou	Director:	Larry Fenkell
Director:	Donna Kapala		

Meeting called to order: Chuck called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Introductions.

Treasurer's report: Cari Hansen - \$1372.96 is our current bank balance.

VP comments, Johnny Locke: Johnny asked to see our by-laws, he wanted to review how the election process works and also suggested we should have them on our website. Don has a copy. He also mentioned the Californios are coming to Reno May 11-13.

Chuck Shepherd mentioned that our insurance representative Darryl Huff reminded us that each participant in the upcoming clinic needs to sign a liability waiver form. Chuck will print out forms for the clinic; he also has it in PDF format and will email it to Jerry Williams.

Don Daniel talked about the clinic scheduled for April 21 at the Washoe Lake arena/pavilion. The Carson chapter will help us present this event with about half and half help from each chapter. Cost is \$15 for existing BCH members, \$35 for non-members. At the end of the clinic after 5pm, attendees can join BCH, in which case half of the clinic fee will be applied towards the membership fee. Attendees will be split into two groups to enable everyone to attend both the desensitizing course and the pack clinic. Each person entering the park has to pay the \$5 entry fee and for overnight campers (lots of room) the camping fee is \$15. Sunday for everybody still there we will have a trail ride which is not part of the official event.

Volunteers should arrive Saturday at 7:30am for setting up. Registration starts 9 a.m. and the clinic officially starts with a 10 a.m. safety briefing. Lunch from 1pm until 2pm, provided by Char for all volunteers. Clinic ends officially at 5pm. Wrap-up and review (what went well, what should we do differently etc) immediately following the clinic. BYOB and food to BBQ and to share 6pm we will have a camp-fire.

A member from the Carson Valley chapter had suggested a swap meet. If you have tack items to sell, bring it labeled with price and your name. The only fee is that 10% of the sale is donated to BCH and any money made will be split 50/50 between the two chapters

Chuck Shepherd:

He is going to the National Meeting. If anybody has issues for him to take along, see him privately after the meeting.

Food bank – December food drive: Sabine will bring the tin to collect money starting with the May meeting.

Domain name: Chuck stated we renewed the website and the fee will be paid by State. Don corrected him, this has yet to be voted on.

Presentation:

Anna Lowell, ranger from the Carson district (part of Region 4): BCH is vital especially since the Forest Service has less funding and most districts have no livestock left. A new MOU was signed between USFS and BCH on the national level. Locally a Volunteer Service Agreement is being drafted, it is similar to the MOU but will contain more details. The Reno to Rim project is still going on this year. There is also a plan to develop a staging area at Bronco Canyon in the Verdi area. Work at Mt Rose Wilderness area will continue. FS will offer a crosscut saw course which will take about 2 days. Each volunteer working at a saw has to be certified. Anna also clarified that no FS trails currently in existence can be closed to equestrians. She explained "categorical exclusions" where the public is excluded in providing input. California is Region 5; each region follows different rules. Her email address is [ablowell@fs.fed.us](mailto:ablowell@fs.fed.us). We were cautioned when riding off trail to keep eyes open about marijuana fields. Often they can be detected by the presence of black PVC pipes used for irrigation. They are often also booby-trapped. Growers are usually dangerous and have killed people before. She also mentioned the Nine Mile Training Center in Missoula, Montana, which offers various training courses at decent prices.

Chuck mentioned that National plans to increase dues by \$5.

Tahoe Rim Trail – mountain bike riders are trying to get some portions of the trail opened to bicyclists which were previous only open to hikers and equestrians. Our visitors mentioned that his experience is that both groups have mostly the same goals – keep trails open, and working against bikers will not work, we need to work together. They pay taxes just like we do and are entitled to the same access we have.

Carson Valley chapter plans to work at Wolf Creek June 2/3, 9/10 and 16/17 weekends, volunteers from our chapter are welcome.

Hope Valley restoration project is also headed by Carson, contact Trudy if you can help.

Lahontan work weekend: Donna Kapala shared details about our annual Lahontan event. May 4-6 this year. Scout Camp is the planned location, in case of flooding like last year we would relocate to Delta Horse Camp. The local ranger has work for us if we are 6 or more volunteers. Please RSVP to Donna at cell 527-2121. There is no potable water at the site. Camping fee is \$12 per night, if we do work it will be reduced.

Harlene mentioned she recently went to the BCH California Rendezvous and was very impressed by all the classes offered; the event is free and camping is available right at the site. Many things to learn there.

At a recent meeting Chuck Vickrey from CVC suggested to have the state meeting in Las Vegas next year, concurrent with the Rocky Mountain Elk Camp.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Sabine McCowen  
Secretary