

BCH of NV
HIGH SIERRA CHAPTER AGENDA
April 21, 2010

Minutes Regular Meeting, Black Bear Diner, S. Virginia, Reno

President: Elaine Anagnostou
VP: Ed Acosta – not present, on the way to National Meeting
Secretary: Sabine McCowen
Treasurer: Stephan Pate – not present
Director: Jim Dragoo
Director: Debbie Maurer – not present, had called Sabine that she won't make it
Director: Jerry Williams – not present, on the way to Leave No Trace training

The purpose of this organization shall be:

1. *To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness*
2. *To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.*
3. *To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.*
4. *To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.*
5. *To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen organizations.*

Meeting called to order at 7pm.

Favorite ride Volunteer for May? nobody

Introduction of people present.

Guest Speakers: Ranger Bob Mergell, on the Lahontan Trailhead Clean up. (Donna Kapala). Clean-up this Saturday will be mostly working at the campsite, if there is enough time also put up signage. 6 campsites total, 3 are pull-through sites, the others are back-in sites, one is handicap accessible. Access from the 9th Street entrance in Silver Springs. Trails connect to the Ft. Churchill horse camp, but require multiple river crossings, so one will only be able to ride those about 4-5 months out of the year. Another trail follows the river along the north bank; since there are many off-shoots signage will be needed to keep riders on the main trail.

Each camp-site will have a picnic table, fire-ring and BBQ grill.

Work will be to put 3x1ft holes in with an auger. The cement truck is supposed to come next week, if that does not work out we might also have to mix and pour cement. Bob advised to bring bug-spray. There are 3 small corrals (1 horse each or 2 if they get along really well) and 2 big corrals for multiple horses, for a total capacity of about 15 horses.

Tina Mudd, Weed Free Forage Program Coordinator, NV Department of Agriculture (Larry Fenkell). tmudd@agri.state.nv.us, phone 775-353-3670. Tina handed out brochures about the certification and program highlights, the 2010 list of weed seed free forage growers, and a spiral booklet "Nevada Noxious Weed Field Guide" to help people identify weeds. In Nevada on any US Forest Service land, only weed seed free forage is allowed. They are not worried about the common weeds (like cheat-grass), but noxious weeds. NV has stricter regulations than CA – NV inspects the hay in the fields, where CA only checks stacks of hay. So, hay certified weed seed free in CA is not allowed on USFS NV land. Currently Tina saw Sierra Feed, Benson's in Carson, Greens Feed and North Valley feed offering weed seed free hay.

March meeting minutes approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Secretary- Sabine McCowen: 12 family, 16 single members. (1 each new from pack clinic)
Treasurer- not present. Sabine McCowen: Latest bank statement as of 3/31/10: balance \$ 2093.20

Membership- Ed Acosta, Alma and Kathleen – nobody present

Librarian - Joan Edwards. Suggestion from Sabine which was agreed upon is that any member who is willing to share books or magazines should email Joan with the list of available items, then Joan will compile and share list with members. That way each person keeps their own books at home and we can all benefit from them without having to donate them.

Historian - Donna Kapala – Nothing new to report, thanked Sabine and Char for taking pictures at the pack clinic.

EVENTS SINCE LAST MEETING:

Lemmon Valley Pack Training Clinic – Jim Dragoo: Perfect weather, we had 5 stations where Jerry Williams, Ed Acosta, Jim Dragoo and Larry Fenkell shared different knot information, and Paula Lenz showed how to pack your own riding horse for multiple-day trips. Other volunteers staffed the check-in area. We had 1 single and 1 family sign up for new memberships, all of them found out about the clinic from the article in the RGJ. After the event ended and clean-up was done, Donna Kapala invited everybody for margaritas and various dips/chips. Thanks to everybody for making this a great success. Elaine thanked Sabine for organizing the RGJ article.

Members attended Carson's Wilderness First Aid 2-day class. Donna reported this was wonderful training, attended by horse people and customized for horse people, including a 2 hours CPR certification. Many trip-ending scenarios were covered. Don Daniel suggested that our chapter should assemble a first aid kit for any chapter-trips.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 8 Hoof-care clinic, Jim Dragoo will hold the clinic at Sabine's ranch in Spanish Springs. Start is 10am, clinic part will last approximately 1 1/2h to 2 hours. Anybody participating is welcome to bring a horse, after the clinic we will go on a trail ride, back lunch and water/drinks. RSVP is requested so Jim can have the right amount of hand-outs available. Email Sabine for RSVP and directions.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Camp Kitchen update – Jerry Williams – will report in May. Cherie and Ryan Shorter brought some items (thank you!), Char took them home for Jerry.
2. Web update. It seems we need to find a webmaster who can take over the maintenance of our website. Sabine will email all members, asking who would like to take over this task. Most important is to get our calendar posted, various participants at the pack clinic asked about the website being very out of date.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Kodak American Greenway Award has a deadline of June 15 to submit a grant application.

Raffle – Jim won the raffle, half of the pot was his. Congratulations!

Adjournment 8:05pm

Favorite Ride: Sabine – showed pictures and talked about Mill Creek, south of Topaz/Coleville. Email her for directions.

Sabine McCowen
Secretary