

BCH of NV
HIGH SIERRA CHAPTER MINUTES
July 23, 2011

Minutes Regular Meeting, home of Harlene and Chuck Shepherd, Red Rock, NV

President:	Elaine Anagnostou (not present)	VP:	Ed Acosta
Secretary:	Sabine McCowen	Treasurer:	Jan Koval (not present)
Director:	Jim Dragoo	Director:	Don Daniel (not present)
Director:	Jerry Williams		

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.*

Part of the group met at 10am for a 2 ½ hour ride from Harlene and Chuck's ranch.

Before the BBQ, Ed Acosta called the meeting to order at 3pm

Favorite Ride: In August Jan Koval will share some information

Joan Edwards motioned, Joel Cote seconded, all in favor, June minutes approved unanimously

Committee Reports:

Vice President – Ed Acosta: nothing new to report

Secretary - Sabine McCowen: Same membership numbers as last month

Treasurer – not present, no report

Librarian - Joan Edwards: Nothing new.

Historian - Donna Kapala – not present

Events since last meeting:

Jerry Williams with support from Larry Fenkell and Chuck Shepherd has been packing food from the Thomas Creek trailhead into the Tahoe Basin/Mt. Rose wilderness area every Monday to support the college students workin on the trails. There are three trail crews made up of 10 college student volunteers each, working for the Nevada Conservation Corp. The Great Basin Institute has a working agreement with the USFS to provide supervision, tools and equipment for the trail crews. The USFS has oversight of the project. Starting Tuesday July 5th and every Monday after that for the months of July and August, the High Sierra Chapter has and will pack in food for the trail crews. The 14 to 15 mile round trip takes a full day due to staging of supplies and the steep terrain, packing in close to 2000 pounds of food per month. The trail crews have a rotating schedule. Each crew works eight days in the wilderness then has six days off. The end result is one week you have a single crew working and the next week you have two crews working. Alternating Mondays the High Sierra packs in food for 10 people for eight days and the following week packs in food for 20 people for eight days. Garbage and trash are packed out each week by the High Sierra Chapter to keep the area clean and reduce the bear visits the crews have endured. College students can earn a \$5000 credit towards a tuition or student loan. Before the crews started their work this year, after the first 3 miles the trail was barely visible, now it is 3 foot wide. Jerry asked for help for the following Monday, Chuck volunteered to once again help packing. Ed Acosta plans to ride along without pack-horse on one of the upcoming trips to see the area; it is only 15 minutes from town but seems so far away from civilization.

Upcoming events:

August – The Granite Chief work-trip is now officially cancelled due to the snow cover still being too deep. Foot crews would probably be ok to access the area, but it will not be safe on horseback. Jerry's contact with the Forest Service, Bob, indicated Sept 27 to Oct 6 there will be need to pack supplies in and out starting at the top of Donner Summit, a 5 to 6 mile round-trip. Jerry will be able to pack in on Sept 27, but we still need help to pack out items Oct. 6.

The first trip on the American Discovery Trail still needs a new trip leader since Paula Lenz will not be able to organize it. Jerry plans to ride in it, but he will just be returning from another trip and won't be able to organize it.

Old Business

Jerry wrote an article about their weekly packing trips from Thomas Creek to Sabine to forward to Trailblazer Magazine and also Peg (National BCH Secretary). Ed will send the article also to the RGJ and other newspapers/magazines.

Chuck mentioned coming Friday evening (7/29) his band Sawdust Charlie will play at Portola. Also reminder about next year's July 4 event in Austin/NV. This year many of the riders participating in the poker ride won money (only about 8 riders). Harlene and Chuck camped in the Arc Dome Wilderness for the remainder of the week, beautiful country and great riding there. Ed said he heard great things about Lamoille as well.

Ann Windle motioned, Joan Edwards seconded, all in favor to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:24pm

Sabine McCowen
Secretary