

BCH of NV

HIGH SIERRA CHAPTER MINUTES

September 21, 2011

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

Meeting called to order at 7pm

Introductions – skipped with permission of attendees since everybody present knows each other.

Favorite Ride for October 2011? No volunteer

August minutes approved unanimously (Ed Acosta motioned, Gary Anagnostou seconded)

Committee Reports:

Vice President - Ed Acosta – will cover under membership section of the meeting.

Secretary - Sabine McCowen: 10 family, 15 single membership.

Treasurer - Jan Koval: The current balance is \$1960.52. We donated \$100 to the Elegant Ears Mule Association to help them establish the Sayles Canyon Trailhead, 4 miles west of Echo Summit.

Membership – Ed Acosta submitted Jerry Williams' article about the weekly pack trips from Timberline to Jackie Green at the Reno Gazette Journal. It will be published in the next few days. He submitted good pictures as well as information about our meetings. Flyers have been put up at feed stores etc, some members at the meeting took flyers to post at other places. Ed reminded everybody to invite friends to the meetings.

Librarian - Joan Edwards: 3 John Lyons books were donated to the library.

Historian - Donna Kapala: nothing new to report. Sabine had brought some RGJ article from a few years back. Please continue to bring things, old or new, to add to the scrap-book.

Events since Last Meeting:

American Discovery Trail ride, Paula Lenz: 8 riders rode an 8 mile section of the Toyabe Crest Trail on Aug 27. From camp then 6 riders did the out and back ride 18 miles on the 2nd day, 2 horses had lost shoes and had to turn back. All returned to the trailhead August 29. Paula will write an article about the event. Jerry mentioned that Paula did a wonderful job organizing this ride, she is like a "mother that took care of all of us".

INFORMATION

1. Collected items and cash donations for the December Food Drive.
2. Oktoberfest –September 24, 2011, Sabine's. Ride at noon, party starts at 4pm.
3. National Public Lands Day September 24. There are countless events even in our area to work on trail clearing, cleaning and related projects. Ed mentioned 2 in Carson City, 1 in Reno and 1 in Gerlach. Donna suggested we should put a reminder in the calendar early next year to see about organizing an event for National Public Lands Day 2012.
4. The Pigeon River Michigan group had sent video information regarding their challenges regarding keeping trails open for equestrian use. Video available on YouTube.
5. The Center for Adaptive Riding is holding a baked potato bar to raise funds.
6. In the August edition of the Trailblazer Magazine Allison Schottenhamml was nominated for the Trail Warrior award. Ed will submit information / an article about the weekly trips Jerry and others took this summer from Timberline.
7. USDA's new release shared numbers of visitors to the forest service areas. Those visitors create an annual income of 14.2 billion dollars. 17.8 Million of the visitors each year come for recreational purposes.

RAFFLE – Donna – Jan is the lucky winner, she donated the entire win towards the December Food Drive.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Trail Classification Sleuth – Paula Lenz is our Nevada representative. Equestrian trail classification requires having a certain maximum slope and height of clearance. During the Toyabe ride Paula found the trail is not maintained according to those standards. Most times the lack of funds for trail maintenance is the issue, not the plan to re-classify trails.

NEW BUSINESS

Land and Water Conservation Fund – Ed Acosta. Due to funds being cut the LWCF is asking for support. We are asked to contact our senators and representatives to ask keeping funds and not cutting. This email coming down the BCH chain was a good example for a topic that is addressed without a proper summary or introduction of the topic at hand. The members in our chapter trying to make sense of the email had to do quite some research to find out where this subject originated and what exactly it was about. As result, BCH is asking that any email distributed in such manner is properly worded and contains all the necessary information for member to make sense of.

Volunteer work in horse camps: Sabine horse-camped at Skillman off Highway 20 towards Grass Valley this past weekend. That camp was scheduled to be closed not too long ago, then a horse group spent a weekend fixing up the camping sites and now it continues to stay open. This is just another example that without the kind of work we and countless other similar groups do, we would lose many trails and camp sites.

Sabine also mentioned she has a foster puppy looking for a good home, flyers were at the table, if anybody knew of a good home to please spread the word.

December elections – the Elaine presidency is coming to an end after this year (2 years maximum term for P and VP). Starting in October we need to work on nominations, announce the candidates in November and then hold elections in December. Paula Lenz mentioned she is hoping other than P and VP, all other officer will run again since everybody has been doing a wonderful job.

Pack mules for sale – Ed recently went on a pack trip which was organized by Little Antelope Pack Station off Mill Canyon just south of Topaz. They plan to sell 5 pack/riding mules.

PROGRAM: Jerry Williams with support from Paula Lenz talked about how to ride defensively during hunting season. Highlight aside from the standard practices (let somebody know where you are going, don't ride alone etc) are to wear hunter orange on you and your horse (he uses an orange scarf around his horse's neck), orange saddle bags. Make noise (talk to your riding partners, have bells on your horse) so hunters know you are present. Avoid thickly wooded areas where other cannot see you very well. John Lenz added to just avoid riding in hunting areas during hunting season (which is in full bloom now (Sept/Oct) and for a few more months. NDOW website shows what animals are open for hunting season during which time of the year and what locations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm

Favorite Ride – Marianne Merriam shared pictures and details about their recent trip (which was also their first horse camping trip ever) to Euer Valley. Sabine mentioned that Euer Valley is being sold and not continued as horse camp after the 2011 season.

Sabine McCowen
Secretary