

**Back County Horsemen of Nevada - High Sierra Chapter 501**

**P.O. Box 19324, Reno, Nevada 89511**

**July 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

<b><u>President</u></b>	<b>Jerry Williams</b>	<b><u>Director</u></b>	<b>Jim Dragoo</b>
<b><u>Vice President</u></b>	<b>Larry Fenkell</b>	<b><u>Director</u></b>	<b>Lynne Liebelt</b>
<b><u>Secretary</u></b>	<b>Dodi Broker</b>	<b><u>Director</u></b>	<b>Teri Tatom</b>
<b><u>Treasurer</u></b>	<b>Jeannie Dragoo</b>		

**1. Call to Order:**

Jerry Williams called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at Black Bear Diner.

**2. Approval of April Minutes:** No minutes available from June meeting.

**3. Officer Reports:**

**President's Report:**

Jerry expressed feeling good about all the projects getting done so far this year. He has an idea for possible membership recruitment: grandkids! Maybe we can entice new members with grandkids to join our club? Larry and Gail's grandson, Kai, who is 12 years old, was able to join the Table Mountain trip and it was fun to have him participate.

**Vice President's Report:**

Larry hopes to hear back from Pinnochio's soon about moving our meetings there.

He and Gail recently attended an equine expo in Sacramento and he inquired about fund raising. It was shared one club puts together a calendar each year, charge \$25.00 for it and make a nice profit.

The August meeting will be a potluck BBQ at Larry and Gail's house on August 19<sup>th</sup> at 7565 Bluff View Way at 6:30. They will provide meat to BBQ and members attending are requested to bring a dish to share. **PLEASE RSVP TO DODI BY AUGUST 11th IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND** so our hosts can plan how much food will be required.

**Secretary's Report:**

Dodi reported as of tonight we have 13 single memberships and 9 family memberships.

Welcome to new member John Pocino!

## Treasurers' Report:

Jeannie reported our current bank balance is \$635.71, and she continues shopping to fill our Food Bank donation boxes.

### **4. Presentation**

No guest speaker this month but Jerry provided a nice slide show of photographs from recent events.

### **5. Old Business:**

- a. Jerry reminded members our calendar is a living document. Please contact him or Dodi if you want to sponsor an event and we'll add it to the calendar.
- b. Jim reported we had eight members participate in the annual Chuck Shepherd Memorial Hitching Post maintenance and BBQ event on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you everyone who helped clean up the area of the hitching post, adjoining trail area and picnic areas. After the BBQ lunch some members went on a trail ride.
- c. Jim also reported checking into whether or not the club could remove an abandoned travel trailer from the Sun Valley Regional Park, but learned from law enforcement we should not do so for legal reasons.
- d. Larry F. reported the Table Mountain Cottonwood Creek trail work event in cooperation with three members from Friends of Nevada Wilderness went real well with club members Jerry, Larry and Gail (and grandson Kai), Barb and Dave, and Terry G. participating. The group worked on a trail that hadn't been maintained for a number of years. They cleared six miles of trail which included clearing brush, building a rock wall on a creek in one area, making a new creek crossing in another area, and shoring up an unsafe spot on the trail with rock, and cleaning up the trailhead area. The group also went in to Belmont, Nevada to attend what they described as a very patriotic and fun 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

### **6. New Business:**

- a. Jerry reported some information from the last Eastern Sierra Trails Coalition meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup>. To summarize: they've completed their MOU and we'll be checking to see if it complies with BCHA requirements; they're planning some training days on modern trail building and tools, basic first aid and CPR, and Tread Lightly; they're working on an advertising theme with the focus of bringing tourism to the area to enjoy trails; they've put together a mapping committee and will be writing a grant application; and they're developing a coalition matrix to identify what agencies are involved in the coalition and to identify leadership. Jerry communicated there are several mountain bike and OHV clubs

already heavily involved in this group and they will have a large voice about the trails and work to be done. We need to get involved to ensure equestrians also have a voice.

- b.** Don B. was unable to attend tonight's meeting but communicated news to Jerry about a new Nevada State Park that's going to be created which is being reported will be the largest state park in Nevada. Very exciting news! Jerry discussed this with USFS rep Jamie Fields. The State of Nevada purchased three large ranches that will make up this new park to be called the Walker River State Park. The park will be created from just south of Yerington all the way to Bridgeport. There is discussion about putting in a twenty eight mile trail along the river. One project already discussed will be to remove barbed wire the ranchers had strung across the river. Jerry talked to Jamie about equestrian trailheads and trailhead camping facilities with corrals and hitching posts. Jamie and Eric Johnson will be our points of contact. Our club really needs to be involved on the ground floor development of this huge park that will be a really great riding area for us, but we need member commitments to do the work involved. **PLEASE EMAIL DODI ASAP IF YOU ARE FIRMLY WILLING TO COMMIT TO WORKING ON THIS PROJECT** and she'll put together a list of names and forward it to Jerry. Please keep in mind...if you enjoy trail riding and hope to utilize this park one day....this type of endeavor is exactly what being a member of BCHA is about. **WE WILL NOT COMMIT TO USFS THAT OUR CLUB WILL PARTICIPATE ON THIS LARGE PROJECT WITHOUT AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF FIRM COMMITMENTS FROM CLUB MEMBERS WILLING TO HELP.** Jerry will be asking the Carson Valley Chapter for commitments as well.
- c.** On June 29<sup>th</sup> Jerry participated in the BCHA President's Conference Call. Some of the highlights from the call include: a policy manual review to include executive committee responsibilities, asset review, training for executives around employment practices and treatment of staff; working on the business plan to include a national fundraising plan, a plan to increase membership, review of how member dues are spent, and working with USFS, state land managers and private land owners. Club member Erika Kline is in charge of maintaining national membership information and all chapter communication about membership must go through our state secretary Harlene Shepherd to Erika. National has noticed the decline of membership and discussion ensued about the state president's responsibilities around recruiting and retention of membership.
- d.** It is reported the POTUS has proposed \$70-80 million in budget cuts to USFS. Last year USFS reported \$77 million went to trails and recreation. We're unsure how this issue will affect us.

- e. A very important issue National working on is proposed legislative bills to allow mountain bikes in wilderness areas – HR1349. California has sponsored a bill to allow mountain bikes in wilderness areas and we need all BCHA members to participate in letter writing campaign to our state senators and representatives. Dodi is providing contact information at the bottom of these minutes.
- f. Other important issues National is working on include that the state of Alabama has always allowed horse drawn wagons in their wilderness areas as part of Alabama heritage, but opposition to this is growing. And in Washington State there has been an unbelievable bill submitted to CLOSE USFS LAND TO EQUESTIANS! This is why BCHA exists and we need to support our lobbyists' working against these types of bills and get our voices heard.
- g. National is also working on topics such as funding membership brochures, advisory to USFS on the use of saws and chainsaws in wilderness areas, and issues around communications between National and states. Action Alerts go to Randy Rasmussen who decides whether to send them out to state staff or directly to members, and National Alerts go directly to state leaders and national board members.
- h. There was discussion about the availability of a CD that chronicles the start-up of BCHA and whether these could be used for fundraisers.
- i. Nationwide businesses that support BCHA include REI and their new Force of Nature Campaign (women in the wilderness); the Grassroots Outdoor Alliance and Kuhl Clothing Company, so please try to support them in return.

## **7. Upcoming Events:**

- a. July 28-August 4: Jarbidge: God's Pocket or Camp Creek, to support FONW trail crews
- b. August 11-14: Wolf Creek fun pack trip – **Larry will announce soon if this event is on or cancelled due to bad road conditions to the trailhead caused by the fire.**
- c. August 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. HSC monthly meeting will be a potluck BBQ at Larry & Gail Fenkell's house at 7565 Bluff View Way in Golden Valley. **RSVP to Dodi by August 11.**

## **d. Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Terry G. moved to adjourn the meeting, Larry F. seconded, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

(State of Nevada rep contact info on next page)

Tell State of Nevada reps **NO ON HR 1349!** Mountain bikers currently have access to 97% of public land trails and should not be allowed into the mere 3% of wilderness land reserved for hikers and equestrians due to the danger they present to hikers, horses and riders from riding their bicycles quite frequently at unsafe speeds on trails.

**Senator Dean Heller**

400 So. Virginia St. #738  
Reno, NV 89501  
775-686-5770

**Senator Catherine Cortez Masto**

400 So. Virginia St. #902  
Reno, NV 89501  
775-686-5750

**Rep. Dina Titus**

495 So. Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Las Vegas, NV 89101  
702-220-9823

**Rep. Mark Amodei** (has already expressed his support for mountain bikes in wilderness areas)

5310 Kietzke Lane #103  
Reno, NV 89511  
775-686-5760

**Rep. Jacky Rosen**

8872 S. Eastern Ave. #220  
Las Vegas, NV 89123  
702-963-9500

**Rep. Ruben Kihuen**

2250 No. Las Vegas Ave. #500  
North Las Vegas, NV 89030  
702-963-9360