

State Board Meeting 10/17

Education

First off membership is up statewide 386 and every unit had an increase. San Joaquin Sierra Unit had the most. Also we keep 96% of new members after the first year which is very gratifying.

All units have been very diligent about turning in their volunteer hours for the year and it is much appreciated. Check the web site out, it now has tabs to direct you to your requested information. Our Facebook page has 2800 likes.

Youth Education has several activities planned for Rendezvous. Beyond this they are looking into insurance requirements for kids events. Also what about sponsoring youth from schools. There will be most likely 17 different colleges competing at Mule days this year and we need to tap this enthusiasm. Pierce College is one. Can we support them? Starting Mar. 1st. there will be a new Leave No Trace program for all ages so that it is defined for age specific education.

We have a verbal approval from Region 5 that our saw policy for certifications is good and they promise written confirmation shortly. This will be for chainsaw and X-Cut saw certifications. State has plans to issue one set of PPE (personal protective equipment) to each unit. This will be the latest equipment approved by the Forest Service. This is good because specifications for hats and chaps change regularly or in the case of hats they have a time life limit. The unit will be asked for a size for the chaps. If the unit is already set then please turn down the offer. Armyproperty.com through Amazon is a good source for equipment and BCHA gets some benefit from the sale.

Unit training for So. Ca. was a success with 22 attending from 3 units. Redshank Riders hosted this.

Rendezvous is coming along however registrations are not coming in, only 40 so far. It is normal for this to be late but if you are attending please do sign in for any of the extras. They will have the dining hall open all day for R&R and chats with members. Coffee is being provided by the fairgrounds but state is requesting snacks/cookies to be brought by units. Also they need volunteers to host this event, especially Fri. and Sun.

Raffle items include a handmade pack saddle by Lee Rossier, and a \$500.00 gift certificate at a gun shop. The auction at dinner where each unit donates an item generates a large part of the profit for Rendezvous. The value of the donated auction item has been \$1.00 per unit member for 20 years or more. There was discussion of raising this amount somewhat. That will be a discussion for later but I'm interested in your input.

Those that will be camping if you want full hookups you need to make reservations with the fair campgrounds, otherwise all other hookups are dry.

The Marines are coming again this year from Bridgeport for a presentation as well as a BLM sale of stock. The CHP will have a safety orientation.

State is rebuilding their booth after many years of use. Also word doesn't always get out when we lose a member to the great roundup so there will be a wall of remembrance available for units to post pictures and a write up of the individual.

Wilderness Rider interviews will be conducted at the Rendezvous.

The PCT is being loved to death. The book and movie Wild generated a huge increase in use, especially in the southern 700 miles of the trail. State is proposing a trial program to PCTA where a Leave No Trace course would be put up on the internet. Then anyone asking for a permit for the trail from PCTA would have to show that they had taken the course. There would be no fee involved and this would be for the PCT only. The cost would be shared evenly by PCTA and BCHC through our 501c3 fund. There will be more to come on this endeavor.

There was discussion about creating a First Aid cadre to teach this course which is required to use saws on the trail. State will look into it more but the reception for it was not great.

State wants to create tags with leave no trace items on it that will have our Logo as well as the FS logo. Current tags only have FS logos. .

April 15th is the deadline for the next Newsletter. I have asked for 20 extra copies for our unit to hand out to new members.

The attendance of Mid Valley Unit in the Rose Parade generated a lot of free advertising. RFD TV channel had a short video clip of it. There were a half million hits on Facebook for this event. Obviously electronic media is the way to go. (Facebook Instagram twitter) There is something new called Facebook Live where you can video something, i.e. a ride or event and post it immediately. Do we have a videographer in our unit? We need to reach 18 to 40 year olds. The state could use help with this. There is a lot of enthusiasm at the state level to generate new young members.

Public Lands

There was more talk about Preserves and Reserves being created and what they want. Anza Borrego State Park is working on their plan and it is way to vague. They had a meeting with the public with seats for 100 and 250 showed up. They realized they need to do more homework with clearer rules and signage. The Cuyamaca State Park is still working on their updated plan and San Diego Unit is very involved. There is a trail project planned for the first week of May and a Mountain Bike group will join.

Indian Flats Campground north of Warner Springs is going to be upgraded and after that Boulder Oaks down near Lake Morena. This will include horse facilities and trailer areas.

Yosemite Park had a meeting and there were 20 speakers each with a knowledge about varying concerns to park use. They seemed to be more inviting to stock use since the new administration took over.

HR845 the national Trail Stewards Act passed and was signed into law in Nov. 2016. This addresses volunteer participation in maintaining national lands. The numbers for backlogged trail maintenance for 2013 the last figures available are huge. The Forest service has 157,000 miles of trail. This act calls for an increase of 100% of maintenance in 5 years and a plan must be completed by 2018. Some forests are fighting this because of Workman's Comp Ins. costs for volunteer injuries. There is thought of putting this all in Wash. DC for them to budget. There are 9 forest service regions in the country and we are number 5. The Forest Service is tasked with coming up with a list of 9 to 15 priority areas that need immediate attention and including at least 1 from each region.

The 3 forest updated plan had 35,000 responses so there is a lot of work to be done.

State has started the process of creating a Business plan which will be used for requesting grants among other things. Each Unit will be required to participate in this creation. They are looking to complete it in a year.

State wants a record of all the forests in California and when their next general plan update is scheduled so they have a good database.

State Board

It was clarified that every renewal generates \$2.00 to our 501c3 fund to be used for education and maintenance.

The National Board Meeting will be in Great Falls Mt. April. 20 to 22

Concerning our insurance when the State forwards the signup sheet we should define are needs as clearly as possible so we can be put with the right company. If we hold multiunit events we need to insure that all riders are currently members.

Chip Herzig will forward membership E-Mail addresses for our unit if requested.

Under Education we voted to pursue Leave No Trace Hang tags, check into Red Cross instructors and classes and a Go Fund Me Account for future fund raising.

Units can forward on line Newsletters for the Newsletter Competition at Rendezvous.

There was a second reading vote adding to State Bylaws the ability to cancel membership for anyone not abiding by rules or using our name or logo without permission and it passed.

Calendar sales continued to be an issue. It takes the sale of 900 calendars to break even. So far for 2017 1100 have been sold and Mid Valley sold 400. It seems that there is not enough energy being put into this fund raiser. We need to generate funds for all the projects we agree to pursue so what about changing horses. The 2018 calendar fund raiser is cancelled.

A belt buckle was presented to Richard Waller for his 3 years as President of BCHC

As reminder the president of the unit must advise the State Sec. if someone other than are listed director will be attending the meeting as a voting participant.

More discussion was held on fund raising. Mid Valley unit had 13 riders and 2 walkers in the Rose Parade plus other volunteer helpers in the background. This was to cost a considerable amount so they had a fund raiser dinner and auction. They were hoping to raise \$5,000 to \$10,000 and it brought in \$27,000. You couldn't buy a cake for less than \$100. There are ways to generate funds so we need to put together ideas.

The next Board Meeting will be Oct. 13/14 and in the new year Feb. 9/10

Respectfully

Jerry Stone