

TOP OF THE STATE UNIT – BCHC  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Natalee Thai Restaurant, 105 East Miner Street, Yreka  
May 30, 2024 (June meeting)  
6:30 p.m.

President Michele Machado called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**Officers/Directors:**

|                   |                           |                              |                                  |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Kyle Adkins       | <del>Sandy Mason</del>    | Laurie Robustellini          | Michele Machado Woods            |
| Debbie Bacigalupi | <del>Janice Rushton</del> | Caralee Scala                | Alan Woods <del>Kelly York</del> |
| Alternates:       | <del>Gail Lyons</del>     | <del>Michael Stapleton</del> |                                  |

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Members and Guests: Ashley Adkins, Don Menne, Robert Robustellini

**Administrative:**

- Establish Quorum/Flag Salute
- Members sign in sheet with miles
- Guest Speakers:
- Additional agenda items: Pack support request for PCTA. See New Business.
- Introduction of Guests:

Approve Minutes of May 2, 2024, Meeting: Kyle makes a motion to approve the minutes and Laurie seconds.  
Motion carried.

**Correspondence:**

- On May 8, Michele and Alan attended a community workshop in Weed for the Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance, a nonprofit organization based out of Mount Shasta that “advocates for opportunities for all access outdoor recreation and creates meaningful and responsible connections to the trails, mountains, forests, rivers, lakes and landscapes of the Shasta-Siskiyou region in Siskiyou County.” SORA is the recipient of a Sierra Nevada Conservancy Recreation & Tourism grant to fund the South Siskiyou Sustainable Recreation & Trails Partnership, a sustainable outdoor recreation planning project. Funding for the project is restricted to South Siskiyou County (Weed, Mount Shasta, McCloud, Dunsmuir, and surrounding areas). Michele and Alan voiced our ideas regarding stock use on trails in that area, including the PCT, Siskiyou Lake and Military Pass areas, and the need for better signage, education for all users on mountain roads and trails, and possible new horse camps. We provided our contact information for additional input in the future. More info on SORA: <https://siskiyououtdooralliance.org/>
- On May 15, BCHC VP of Membership, Chip Herzig, sent another updated 2024 BCHC Officer booklet. Michele forwarded it to Kathryn for upload to our Unit website.
- On May 16, Michele received an email from BCHC Public Lands VP, Troy Patton, regarding a Connected Communities Project in Plumas, Sierra, Butte, Lassen, and Nevada counties. The plan would include the use of bikes and e-bikes on trails. Michele forwarded the email to Michael Stapleton.
- On May 20, Klamath National Forest Salmon/Scott Ranger District Volunteer and Partner Coordinator, Shelby Weister, emailed Michele regarding a potential new project we can help with at Big Flat Campground near Coffee Creek. Per Shelby: *Big Flat currently has an abundance of dead and downed trees which is creating a bit of a cluttered mess for us. We are in the process of falling the hazard trees, but we are looking for some help in the cleanup. Ideally, we would love to have you all come out to help limb, buck, build burn piles, stack, and haul rounds. This would be all chainsaw clean up since everything is right in the campground. It would also help clean up for a future corrals project as a number of trees are around the existing corrals.* Michele responded that we could help with this work. **ACTION ITEM: We need to send to Shelby suggested workdays in June (weekday dates) we are available for at least two chainsaw sawyers. Also need several “swampers” to help with clearing debris, stacking, and creating burn piles.**

All work will be supervised and assisted by KNF Recreation officers. **NEW:** Holly Seibold (KNF Forestry Technician Recreation) is looking into compensation (likely for mileage) or the ability to offer our volunteer crew meals if we stay overnight for this opportunity. Possible dates June 17-19, or any Monday-Thursday dates. Robert, Laurie, Kyle, Ashley, Alan, and Debbie are interested

Treasurer Report: Caralee Scala: The Checking balance as of April 30, 2024 was \$18,820.06. Income for May was \$88.44 (March dues rebate \$72.96 and April dues rebate \$15.48). There were no expenses for May. Checking balance as of May 30, 2024, is \$18,908.50. Bill to pay is \$2,134.28 to Michele for purchase of AED machines. Debbie moves to approve the Treasurer report and pay bills and Laurie seconds. Motion carried.

#### Committee Reports:

- Education: Debbie Bacigalupi reported about the Ag Awareness Day. Had four teams and Caralee and Robert weighed the bags. Little competition between Debbie, Ashley, Kyle, and Kathryn. Fun day and lots of schools. If we do this again next year, we need a minimum of six to eight volunteers. Next year, give instructions to smaller groups instead of talking to the whole group. Debbie reported about ideas for the Fair booth, theme Country Fair with a Golden Flair, camping theme, spray paint accent items gold, have hanging gold colored rain drops that have motion. Gold trail, gold pan with "gold" rocks. Need more help to construct the booth. Need booth done by Friday, August 2. Need photos from a mixture of events.
- Membership: Jennifer Bull did not send a report for May membership updates.
- Newsletter: Michele Machado Woods said she will compile stories and photos for third quarter newsletter and will send by end of June for July 1 publication.
- Insurance: Kelly York not in attendance; nothing to report.
- Grants: Joe Croteau not in attendance; nothing to report.
- Website: Kathryn Matthews not in attendance; she said via email that she will update old information on website
- Adopt-A-Highway: Michael Stapleton not in attendance; nothing to report.
- Public Lands: Michael Stapleton/Michael Journey; Robert reported that KNF is proposing fees at certain trailheads, day use areas and campgrounds such as Grouse Gap, Mt. Ashland, Juanita Lake, Kangaroo Lake, Lovers Camp, Orr Lake, and Trail Creek. **More information on KNF website.** \$5 per vehicle per day for some trailheads and day use areas. Campground fees would increase at Hidden Horse and Carter Meadows Group campground. Comment period is through September 1, 2024, online, regular mail, email or by phone; money generated will go back to maintain sites; Robert talked about the metal corrals that were supposed to go to Hidden Horse, corrals are being used by FS instead. Need to find out if we can get additional corrals built.
- Work Parties: Robert Robustellini and Michele talked about plans for Carter Meadows work weekend on June 5-9. Robert, Alan, and Michele will be up on June 2 to clean campground. Work will concentrate on campgrounds, connector trails, PCT. We also have Carter Meadows reserved for the Unit on June 19-23 for additional work, likely all on the PCT. Michele and Alan reported about additional PCT log out work in Grider Creek area performed on May 24. Accessed the PCT via the X spur and cleared approximately 20-25 logs with chainsaw on about 1.75 miles of trail. Had help from Grider Creek local resident Brian Koenig, who helped with swamping and brush work.
- Fish Plants: Don Menne reported that we have four lakes. Hogan Lake (1500 fingerlings), Syphon Lake (1000 fingerlings), Summit Lake (1000 fingerlings) and Cliff Lake (4000 fingerlings). Need to make sure the trails are open. Robert and Duane will scout Summit Lake and Cliff Lake access; our Unit will get the trail cleared to Syphon; Robert asked that we compensate like we did in 2022; \$1 per mile round trip, \$30 per animal (riding animal and packing animals); up to four animals, one packer and two helpers; Caralee makes a motion to compensate as we did 2022, Kyle seconds the motion. Motion carried. Dates for plants are noted on sheet for July 8, 12, 15 and 22.
- Programs and Events: Debbie Bacigalupi nothing to report; event at museum in September, would like to participate with balance box demo, need to find out if we need background checks.
- Parades: Kelly York not in attendance; nothing to report.
- Scholarships: Penny Wells-Thomas not in attendance; nothing to report.

- Trail rides: Michele Machado Woods and Laurie Robustellini briefly discussed a possible ride at Bacigalupi ranch last weekend in June or any time in July
- Publicity/Social Media: Michele Machado Woods nothing new to report
- 2025 Rendezvous organizing committee: Michele Machado Woods and Robert Robustellini; next meeting will be June 1 at 11 a.m. at M&M Restaurant in Red Bluff. Will report back any updates at next meeting.

#### Unfinished Business:

- Per direction and recommendation from the May 2 meeting, Michele purchased two Powerheart G5 refurbished AEDs. Per instructions for BCHC State Treasurer, Lynn Joiner, Michele, and Caralee will submit the receipt from the purchase (\$2134.28 on Michele's personal credit card) to receive funds from our BCHC Education Fund (\$1959 as of April 30, 2024)). Balance will need to be paid by our Unit. Per order tracking, AED machines are scheduled to be delivered to Michele's home address on May 31. Michele will bring at least 1 machine to our Carter Meadows work event in June.
- First aid/CPR training? Any updates on training day options with Etna Ambulance? Robert reported at our May 2 meeting that First aid class same cost as last year (\$20) and that we will need to schedule after June 22 due to Teri's busy schedule. Robert is going to ask Teri if she can be at our next meeting on July 11 for AED training sessions. Start meeting at 6:30 p.m. Robert will get one AED machine and Alan and Michele will have the other machine. Need to know how much will charge. Will follow up with Teri also to get a first aid for our members certified and re-certified/refreshed.
- Regarding our discussion about the different ways to reach emergency services via InReach, iPhone, etc., while in the backcountry, Michele published a third-party link for best products on our Unit Facebook site. There is a very comprehensive flyer on the BCHC website that speaks to preparing for backcountry emergencies and lost riders. Michele brought copies to the meeting. Flyer can also be found here: <https://www.bchcalifornia.org/public/documents/education/LostRiderPlan.pdf>
- Sawyer training and certification: Michele spoke to KNF Sawyer Trainer, Jason Murieen, regarding chainsaw training and certification and it was determined that Jason's schedule is too busy in the coming weeks and months due to work, family and chainsaw carving commitments. Jason gave Michele the contact information for his KNF colleague, Bill, and Michele has contacted Bill once via text to coordinate classroom and field certification. We have six members who would like to get certified. More information to come when we get on Bill's calendar.

#### New Business:

- Via Ian Nelson, request for pack support for a small group of PCTA volunteers in the Russian Wilderness. Pending agency approval, project would pack in on Monday, 7/29, and out on Saturday, 8/3, with camp location to be determined. Robert said Duane likely wouldn't be interested, Don may be interested, need much more information.

#### Announcements:

Next Meeting: July 11, 6:30 p.m., Fort Jones Community Center/City Hall (need to make sure we have the hall for this date since we can't meet on July 4)

Adjourn: 7:45 p.m.