

TOP OF THE STATE UNIT – BCHC
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Casa Ramos Restaurant, Yreka
December 5, 2024
6:30 p.m.

Administrative:

- Establish Quorum/Flag Salute
- Members sign in sheet with miles
- Guest Speaker:
- Additional agenda items:
- Introduction of Guests:

Approve Minutes of November 7, 2024 Meeting:

Correspondence:

- On November 12, Klamath National Forest Saw Instructor, Jason Murieen, reached out to Michele via text message about scheduling a local chainsaw class. Michele is still trying to confirm dates and locations for classroom and field day. We have at least five members interested in getting A or B certifications.
- BCHC Secretary, Susie Patton, sent an email November 24 reminding Unit Presidents about sending in year-end Unit reports.
- BCHC VP of Membership, Chip Herzig, sent an email on November 16 asking for Unit Presidents to send our list of Officers for 2025. Michele will send our list after this meeting.

Treasurer Report: Caralee Scala:

Committee Reports:

- Education: Debbie Bacigalupi
- Membership: Jennifer Bull
- Newsletter: Michele Machado Woods
- Insurance: Kelly York
- Grants: Joe Croteau
- Website: Kathryn Matthews
- Adopt-A-Highway: Michael Stapleton
- Public Lands: Michael Stapleton/Michael Journey
- Work Parties: Robert Robustellini
- Fish Plants: Don Menne
- Programs and Events: Debbie Bacigalupi
- Parades: Kelly York
- Scholarships: Penny Wells-Thomas
- Trail rides: Michele Machado Woods and Laurie Robustellini
- Publicity/Social Media: Michele Machado Woods
- 2025 Rendezvous organizing committee: Michele Machado Woods and Robert Robustellini to report on plans in progress
 - Unit/area specific baskets for raffle
 - Unit can present special awards or recognition at Friday night dinner
 - Unit table decoration for Saturday night dinner, need volunteer(s) to do this
 - Need to contact local FFA leaders regarding assembling teams for HS packing education/competition. Which Unit members can mentor/prep FFA kids before competition?

Consensus from last meeting was we need more details before we reach out to local FFA leaders. Full information regarding HS packing education and competition will be available in December. Competition will be free to enter and cash prizes will be awarded to 1st-3rd place teams. Teams of four, ages 12-17.

- Event packets will be ready by first week of January. Mailed-in packets will need to be returned no later than March 17.
- TrailMeister cinch-making clinic will require pre-registration and \$100 via TM website.

Unfinished Business:

- First aid/CPR training? Can we get this scheduled this winter so members getting saw training can get CPR/First Card taken care of as well? Robert to look at date in January or early February.
- Need to talk again about filling one Board of Directors spot to replace Kelly. Email went out to members and Michele put a post on our Facebook page.
- Need to get new Committee chairpersons for Insurance, Parades and Volunteer Hours to replace Kelly. Debbie and Michele may need to tag team on Volunteer Hours.
- Michele needs to know if additional leadership members would like to attend the 2025 Wilderness and Primitive Trails Summit on Thursday, January 9, in Eureka. This is a meeting of all Northern California and some Southern Oregon trail work non-profits, the PCTA, and local FS agency partners to talk about future work and collaboration opportunities. Michael and Betsy Stapleton are going.

New Business:

- Will need to confirm Unit Officers at this meeting.
- Penny Wells-Thomas is pursuing idea to schedule a rattlesnake avoidance event for dogs in 2025.
- Larry Shuman from the BCHC Shasta-Trinity Unit has confirmed that there are plans for a BCHC North State packing intern for the 2025 season. **Larry has asked if our Unit can match our previous donation of \$2,000 for this intern.** The 2024 intern, Matt Alloway, spent about 30%-40% of his time working on projects in the Klamath National Forest and the expectation is that the 2025 intern would do the same or more. The Shasta-Trinity NF packers would like to invite Matt back for another season in 2025 if the intern funds can be raised. Here is Matt's end-of-season report for 2024:
 - I would like to start by saying thank you, to the Shasta Trinity Back Country Horsemen of America, (CCC) foundation and the United States Forest Service Shasta Trinity pack team for this memorable internship. I have gained a better understanding and knowledge of mulemanship and horsemanship by some of the best teachers. Throughout the summer season I explored nine separate trails in three different National Forests. I rode a total of ~340 miles and packed 85 loads to support the CCC, Bigfoot Volunteer trail crews and other partnership programs. To say the least, I experienced a great deal and learned a ton. I learned how to pack on an entirely new packsaddle that I didn't even know existed – The Salmon River Saddle. This unique saddle blends the traditional sawbuck and decker packsaddles to better serve the mule in this steep, rocky mountainous terrain of Northern California. I can now say that I know how to pack on all three of the Western packsaddles in the United States. I also learned how to fix tack through utilizing the leather shop. I broadened my knowledge of veterinary first aid. I honed in on my tractor and trailer skills. I also learned how to properly and safely shoe a mule. Both Katy Bartzokis and Erik Cordtz – my teachers, mentors, and experts in this field, have helped me become a better packer and mule skinner. My internship was a great success, and I'm happy to say that I was a part of it.

Announcements:

Next Meeting: January 2: Board of Directors Meeting, 7 p.m., Fort Jones City Hall/Community Center

Adjourn: