

TOP OF THE STATE UNIT – BCHC
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Fort Jones City/Community Hall
July 10, 2025
7 p.m.

President Michele Machado called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Officers:

Michele Machado Woods (President)
Debbie Bacigalupi (Vice President)
Alan Woods (Secretary)
Caralee Scala (Treasurer)

Directors:

Ashley Adkins Kyle Adkins Laurie Robustellini Robert Robustellini ~~Janice Rushton~~

Alternates:

~~Gail Lyons~~ Michael Stapleton

Members and Guests: Aysha Falconer (new member), Barbara Schuyler, Sherry Glendenning, Christine Nahmens, Vose Hayden, Donna Bacigalupi

Administrative:

- Establish Quorum/Flag Salute
- Members sign in sheet with miles
- Guest Speaker: None
- Additional agenda items: Friends of the Museum
- Introduction of Guests:

Approve Minutes of May 29, 2025 (June) Meeting. Michael moves to approve the minutes and Caralee seconds. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- On June 9, Alicia Deery, Recreation Officer for the Klamath National Forest Happy Camp/Oak Knoll District, reached out to Michele to ask about scheduling a campground cleanup day at Grider Creek Campground. After reaching out to Top of the State Unit members for interest, Michele and Alicia settled on July 26 for the cleanup day. Work to be done: installing some campfire rings and a kiosk. There is also some debris cleanup and general cleanup. Alicia will attend and provide all materials.
- On June 22, Michele received an email from Lucy Badenhop, BCHC Grant Writer, regarding 2026 Unit pledges for the BCHC packing intern. Michele replied that our Unit would only pledge money if funds were made available for an intern for the northern part of the state (BCHC intern is traditionally employed in the southern part of California).
- On June 23, Michele received an “Action Alert” from BCHC VP of Public Land, Troy Patton, regarding action needed to communicate with elected officials regarding our opposition to a proposed public land sell-off from Senator Lee (R) of Utah.
- On June 26, Klamath National Forest Recreation Volunteer Coordinator, Shelby Weister, emails are trail work partners to let us know that beginning on July 1, she will be out on maternity leave until the end of October. Moving forward, the point of contact will be John Bookout, who will be sponsoring most of the upcoming trips, and Sarah Borman.

Treasurer Report: Caralee Scala reported that the Checking balance as of May 29, 2025, was \$14,086.20. Income for June was \$86.50 (\$50 from City of Fort Jones for 2023 rent; \$36.50 for May due rebate). Expenses for June were \$88.07 for raffle tickets purchased by Michele Woods. There are no bills to pay for June. Checking balance as of June 30, 2025, was \$14,084.63. Debbie moves to approve the Treasurer report and Ashley seconds. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- Education: Debbie Bacigalupi talked about her trip to Washington D.C. with American Ag Women, talked to Forest Service rep about our relationship with the FS, Department of Interior, she offered to be a representative for BCHC next year. Regarding the Siskiyou Golden Fair booth, Blast from the Past is the theme, she has not signed our Unit up for our feature booth yet this year. Consensus was to not do the booth. Outfitters Legacy Project may do a booth. Friends of the Museum, last Saturday of September 27, Bill Roberts did iron mules in the past, branding of pieces of wood. Can you pack balancing too for challenge the kids, like at Ag Day. TBD on whether we will have a presence at museum event.
- Membership: Jennifer Bull reported via email that we have 92 Voting Members. She sent out 4 new member packets and two expired letters.
- Newsletter: Michele Machado Woods sent the newsletter out for third quarter and sent a story to the state newsletter.
- Insurance: Michele Machado Woods has nothing to report
- Website: Kathryn Matthews not in attendance; nothing to report
- Adopt-A-Highway: Michael Stapleton talked about the declining interest, will do once a year in the Spring.
- Public Lands: Michael Stapleton/Michael Journey talked about the sale of public lands and how it was stopped. Vose talked about the podcasters who helped stop the idea. Michael and Vose talked about “corner crossing” in Wyoming. We talked about the CCC crew that was at Long Gulch when we were at Carter Meadows.
- Work Parties: Robert Robustellini talked about trails he had heard that were recently cleared, including work that Reese Gomes did to open the Deacon Lee Trail. Michele spoke with Ellen Andrews at the KNF about working on the PCT Etna Southbound. Michele said she would speak with Ian and Spencer about this work. Michele reminded those in attendance that we will be working with the KNF Happy Camp/Oak Knoll rec crew at Grider Creek campground on July 26.
- Fish Plants: Don Menne not in attendance; nothing to report
- Programs and Events: Debbie Bacigalupi has nothing to report. If we do Christmas Party potluck, will need to reserve hall. What’s the last day we can cancel the hall. Meeting attendees talked about how there are a lot of Christmas parties at the start of December, which sometimes affects our attendance.
- Parades: VACANT Youth packers will be in the parade representing TOS Unit and Outfitters Legacy Project at the Etna Rodeo on July 26. Can have membership forms and a flyer with plastic holder. Kids can sell raffle tickets at rodeo booth.
- Scholarships: Penny Wells-Thomas not in attendance; nothing to report
- Trail rides: Michele Machado Woods and Laurie Robustellini Labor Day weekend ride possibly
- Publicity/Social Media: Michele Machado Woods has nothing new to report.

Unfinished Business:

- Audit of 2024 financial records: Was this scheduled and completed? Will do it next week, week of July 14.
- At the May 29 meeting, Gail asked that we encourage more members to come to meetings. Need new ideas to keep the Unit going. In September need to think about future of the Unit. How do we get in front of the public more often? Is there a chance to have some kind of event or display at the fair?

Michael suggested having a yearly meeting to organize a plan for the upcoming events and work parties. Barbara asked to have more trail rides and events for the horses/mules. Debbie suggested having a trail ride on their ranch and then having a picnic. Debbie reiterated that we need more people to step up and take leadership. Make work parties more fun and more opportunities to ride. Kyle offered to take more leadership for trail rides. Debbie talked about riding more in the Grass Lake area to maybe scare away the wolves.

- Penny Wells-Thomas is pursuing idea to schedule a rattlesnake avoidance event for dogs in 2025. Penny emailed on July 8 to let us know that she's had no luck getting ahold of the rattlesnake avoidance instructor so she's going to give up on scheduling anything for this year. She'll try again for Spring of 2026.

New Business:

- Raffle to raise funds to pay for BCHC North State packing intern for 2025 (Matt Alloway), trail work programs and Youth packing sponsorship: Almost all tickets have been sold by Youth Packers. Should we order more? 100? 200? Robert is going to get the tickets from business for the rodeo. Not ordering more tickets.
- BCHA put out newsletter in email, applications for youth program grant, \$500. Robert will look into it.
- Robert asked if we have received a final count on Rendezvous and Michele said no. Michele will inquire.
- Debbie reminded the group that there are leadership roles that will need to be filled at the end of the year.

Announcements:

Next Meeting: September 4: BOD meeting, 7 p.m., Fort Jones City/Community Hall. Note: No meeting in August because of the Siskiyou Golden Fair.

Adjourn: 8:23 p.m.