

TOP OF THE STATE UNIT – BCHC
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Grenada Fire Hall
May 29, 2025 (June meeting)
7 p.m.

President Michele Machado called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Officers:

Michele Machado Woods (President)
~~Debbie Daigalupi~~ (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: Jamie Essex and son Jaiden Nowdesha, Allison Pick and daughter Aubrey Champlin, Amanda Ortiz and son Raul Ortiz, Stephanie Reynolds and grandson Cale Brandon, Shirley Tickner, Marsha Pitkin and granddaughter Aubry Bridwell, Kathy Graves, Beau Burton and daughter JayCee

Administrative:

- Establish Quorum/Flag Salute
- Members sign in sheet with miles
- Guest Speaker: Youth packers spoke about their experience at Bishop Mule Days. Kids and parents/coaches talked about what they learned, including how the event was not organized well. Kids competed against college teams in one event. They met some great contacts with the college teams and there are plans in the works to have training events with the college teams later this year at various locations throughout the state. Bishop Mule Days organizers are planning to add a Youth division for future events to encourage more teen/high school age competitors.
- Additional agenda items: Get completed BCHC membership forms for Jamie Hayden, Amanda and other coaches in attendance, if possible
- Introduction of Guests: Youth packers

Approve Minutes of May 1, 2025, meeting. Robert makes a motion to approve and Caralee seconds. Motion carried

Correspondence:

- On May 6, Spencer Valenti, PCTA Regional Trail Stewardship Coordinator, reached out to Michele to ask for our Unit's support for packing needs for a PCTA work event on the PCT in the Russian Wilderness on July 14-19. Michele sent the information to Penny to send to members.
- On May 14, Michele received an email from BCHC Secretary, Susie Patton, with a request for all Units to help with the planning of the 2026 Rendezvous scheduled for March 20-22 in Ceres. Mid Valley Unit will take lead on securing the venue and catering, but other Units are being asked to help. Michele has the full list of needs so please reach out ASAP if you want to help.
- On May 16, Gabe Howe, Executive Director of Siskiyou Mountain Club, called Michele to speak about our Unit leadership's recent correspondence with Alicia Deery, Recreation officer with the KNF Happy Camp/Oak Knoll ranger district. Gabe relayed his frustrations regarding proposed work that was not being approved by Alicia. Gabe then included Michele on an email to Alicia regarding proposed work in September on the PCT "north" of Cook-n-Green Pass, as well as the Boundary National Rec Trail between its junction with the PCT and to where it ties into the Fort Goff Trail near Lonesome Lake. Michele plans to continue to be part of this

conversation for this SMC proposed work, including likely attending an in-person meeting with Gabe and Alicia to hopefully gain access and agreement to help with work in that ranger district later this year.

- Carter Meadows “Adopt a Campground” opportunity: Per an email from KNF’s Shelby Weister on May 20: The KNF is now able to cover the group sites on weekends and be able to manage Carter fully with our current staffing levels. Thank you so much for your enthusiasm to help and for the support! It means a lot to us that you were ready and willing to help make it work so we could keep the site open and running this summer, but we are so glad we will be able to provide that service ourselves this summer.

Treasurer Report: Caralee Scala reported that the checking balance as of April 30, 2025 was \$17,546.45. Income for April/May was \$272.00 (\$150.00 for Fort Jones hall rental refund; \$122.00 for dues rebate). Expenses for April/May were \$3,732.25 (\$1,932.25 for two new chainsaws and supplies; \$1,800.00 to Outfitters Legacy Project for support of youth packers at Bishop Mule Days). Checking balance as of May 29, 2025, was \$14,086.20. Bill to pay was \$88.07 to Michele Machado Woods for raffle tickets printing. Gail makes a motion to approve the Treasurer report and pay bills and Robert seconds. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- Education: Debbie Bacigalupi; report on Siskiyou Agriculture Awareness Day at the fairgrounds. Debbie not in attendance. 21 schools at Ag day. Teachers rated all of the exhibit and we were rated one of highest because we interacted with the kids. Many of the schools did great at balancing the boxes. Montague did the best. When do we submit our entry for the fair booth? Michele to follow up regarding fair booth, Caralee said entries are open online.
- Membership: Jennifer Bull reported via email that we have 89 Voting members. She sent out two expiration letters. New email for Alison Pick, alisonrpick@gmail.com
- Newsletter: Michele Machado Woods will get the next newsletter out at the end of June. Will get photos of kids at Bishop from Jamie Essex and others.
- Insurance: Michele Machado Woods nothing to report
- Website: Kathryn Matthews not in attendance; nothing to report
- Adopt-A-Highway: Michael Stapleton not in attendance; nothing to report
- Public Lands: Michael Stapleton/Michael Journey not in attendance; nothing to report
- Work Parties: Robert Robustellini talked about how we had a crew of three members for the Juanita Lake campground cleanup, cleared campgrounds, cleaned fire pits and trimmed limbs, cut up logs in camp host campground, cleared some brush at the gate at Group campground; Carter Meadows work party plans, Michele talked about what is planned for each day, including how the youth packers can help.
- Fish Plants: Don Menne not in attendance; fish plants cancelled by CDFW
- Programs and Events: Debbie Bacigalupi not in attendance, nothing to report
- Parades: VACANT. Consensus was to leave this chair idle for now.
- Scholarships: Penny Wells-Thomas not in attendance, nothing to report
- Trail rides: Michele Machado Woods and Laurie Robustellini, nothing planned until September, need open trail first
- Publicity/Social Media: Michele Machado Woods nothing new to report

Unfinished Business:

- Audit of 2024 financial records: Was this scheduled and completed? Not yet. No day yet, likely at the end June.
- Raffle to raise funds to pay for BCHC North State packing intern for 2025 (Matt Alloway), trail work programs and Youth packing sponsorship: Michele has tickets to disperse to BOD and others who will sell them.
- Payment of \$1800 for Youth packers for Bishop Mule Days travel; need to know who to write check to. Check given to Jamie Hayden. Robert asked Jamie Essex what it actually cost and Jamie said she would report back.
- Alan and Robert to report back on chainsaw purchase idea using insurance claim funds (**\$2585.78**). Robert reported that we purchased two chainsaws. Alan has the large one and Robert has the smaller one. Stihl chainsaws purchased at Shasta Valley Chainsaw in Yreka, 28-inch bar and 20-inch bar, both gas saws. Used them at Juanita for work.
- Penny Wells-Thomas is pursuing idea to schedule a rattlesnake avoidance event for dogs in 2025. Penny reported via email that we can get an event scheduled in July or August, just not during the fair. Per email from

Penny on May 5: I'm not having any luck getting hold of the rattlesnake guy. I've emailed him twice with no reply. I know he is coming here in August to put on a clinic for a dog training group so I'll keep trying.

- We learned at the March 15 dinner that Dave Tyler can offer basic farrier lessons to members. Need to know interest so we can get this event (or events) on the schedule.

New Business:

- Michele reported on chainsaw training with Siskiyou Mountain Club on May 10-11. Crosscut saw training opportunity June 12 (classroom) and 14 (field evaluation). Learn more: <https://siskiyoumountainclub.org/pages/calendar-sign-up>
- 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?

Announcements: Janice spoke about a June 10 rabies clinic in Yreka, 1-3 p.m. 109 Broadway, Humane Society

Next Meeting: July 10: BOD meeting, 7 p.m., Fort Jones City Hall/Community Center

Adjourn: 9:07 p.m.