

TOP OF THE STATE UNIT – BCHC
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Fort Jones City/Community Hall
May 1, 2025
7 p.m.

President Michele Machado called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Officers:

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

Directors:

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

Alternates:

Gail Lyons ~~Michael Stapleton~~

Members and Guests: Jamie Essex and son Jaiden Nowdesha, Allison Pick and daughter Aubrey Champlin, Robert Robustellini

Administrative:

- Establish Quorum/Flag Salute
- Members sign in sheet with miles
- Guest Speaker:
- Additional agenda items: Juanita Lake CG cleanup, set a date before May 18; creation of a non-profit for youth, packers, trail work/reforestation
- Introduction of Guests: Michele asked the youth packers in attendance to introduce themselves

Approve Minutes of March 6, 2025 Meeting and Minutes of April 3, 2025 Meeting. Gail made a motion to approve the minutes from both meetings and Janice seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- Michele had a chat with Spencer Valenti (PCTA) at Rendezvous regarding PCT work this spring and work. During that discussion Spencer mentioned help needed for log-out work at Cook and Green summit north of Seiad Valley. Ian Nelson reiterated this need for work in an email on April 15. Dates for work are TBD in late May. **NEW:** Michele spoke with Ian Nelson on April 30 and he said the Cook And green work is currently paused. PCTA will be working at Ash Camp south of McCloud Reservoir this month instead.
- Michele had a short chat with Katy Bartzokis, North Zone packer for the USFS Pack Stock Center of Excellence in Weaverville, at Rendezvous regarding scheduling an event (or events) with youth packers for them to learn about packing opportunities with the Forest Service. Michele followed up with Katy on April 26 to see if we could have a first event at Carter Meadows in June.
- Alicia Deery, Recreation Officer with the KNF Happy Camp/Oak Knoll ranger district, emailed Michele to ask to reschedule our planned April 18-20 log-out work weekend at Grider Creek TH. Will discuss more in Work Party section
- On April 18, Michele had a phone conversation with Shelby Weister, KNF Volunteer Coordinator, regarding upcoming work needs. We can discuss work needs in New Business.
- On April 25, Michele received an email from Cate Bendock, BCHO Sourdough Chapter packer coordinator for pack support for Siskiyou Mountain Club trip on July 6-9. Trip would be into the Tin Cup Peak area of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in Southern Oregon. SMC will help cover reimbursable costs like mileage, feed, and food for volunteer packers. Michele initially reached out to Jamie and Vose Hayden to see if they would be interested in the trip to take the Youth Packers for continued education. Haydens are not interested. Bill Bradshaw is not interested. Michele will send email to Robert.

Treasurer Report: Caralee Scala read the March 6 report again so we could vote on it. See April 3 minutes for full report. For April report, Caralee reported that our Checking Balance as of March 31, 2025 was \$18,423.35. Income for April was \$134.74 (March dues rebate). Expenses for March were \$1,011.64. (Go Daddy website subscription for 3 years \$491.64, first aid training for 7 members \$210, three camping spots at Rendezvous \$160 and Rendezvous packing contest prizes \$150). Checking Balance as of April 30, 2025 was \$17,546.45. Janice makes a motion to approve the Treasurer report for both months and Gail seconds. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- Education: Debbie Bacigalupi confirmed we're invited to the Siskiyou Agriculture Awareness day at the fairgrounds, Thursday May 15. 310 fourth graders scheduled to attend; 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Set up at 7:30 a.m., BBQ lunch provided to all presenters. We will again do the pack pannier load balancing, kids challenged to come closest with both packs; Gail, Caralee, Kathryn, Debbie can attend. Robert is a maybe. Debbie to organize the equipment and panniers.
- Membership: Jennifer Bull reported via email that we have 92 Voting Members. She sent on new member packet and three expired letters.
- Newsletter: Michele Machado Woods reported that she won second place for BCHC journalism award. She received a certificate and scoring sheets.
- Insurance: Michele Machado Woods nothing to report
- Grants: Joe Croteau not in attendance. Gail makes a motion to remove this chair, Janice seconds. Motion carried.
- Website: Kathryn Matthews not in attendance; nothing new to report
- Adopt-A-Highway: Michael Stapleton not in attendance, Gail spoke about how there was only three volunteers for April 24 trash cleanup day. It was decided that we will only do spring cleanup and drop it if there are few volunteers.
- Public Lands: Michael Stapleton/Michael Journey not in attendance; nothing to report.
- Work Parties: Robert Robustellini; Michele was trying to reschedule Grider PCT log-out work for May 16-18 but will call and cancel. May 10-11 Chainsaw training with Siskiyou Mountain Club; Debbie talked about the BCHO Sourdough Chapter had people at the last class that had zero experience; emphasis is more on training and safety; Debbie thinks this will be a great opportunity to get more sawyers trained; Michele talked about opportunity for campground cleanup at Juanita Lake, Robert suggested May 17 or 18. Robert talked about riding up to Shackleford and how they got just to the Wilderness boundary and cleared 11-12 logs in the chainsaw area.
- Fish Plants: Don Menne not in attendance; nothing to report, cancelled for year.
- Programs and Events: Debbie Bacigalupi has nothing to report
- Parades: VACANT, Jamie said the youth packers are going to be in the Etna Rodeo parade, will have one pack mule, kids will be wearing shirts from Rendezvous, kids are going to walk, not ride, Caralee asked if the kids could carry the Unit flag; Robert would need to get the flags to Allison at her shop in Etna
- Scholarships: Penny Wells-Thomas not in attendance, nothing to report
- Trail rides: Michele Machado Woods and Laurie Robustellini nothing to report.
- Publicity/Social Media: Michele Machado Woods nothing new to report.
- 2025 Rendezvous organizing committee: Michele Machado Woods and Robert Robustellini gave final thoughts on Rendezvous.
 - Announcement of our Unit Top Hand award for 2024. Award was presented at this meeting to Debbie Bacigalupi for her excellent work as our Education and Events chairperson.
 - Our Youth Packing teams finished 1st and 2nd in the Youth Packing competition. Aubrey and Jaiden talked about their experience. Jamie talked about how the kids went to the classes and how they met all expectations.
 - Jamie talked about how great it was that we had such good attendance from our Unit and from Siskiyou County
 - Alison suggested that there be more competitions for the kids during the event, make it more worth it for the people who traveled to watch them compete and learn; competition should have been during the more busy day on Saturday; competitions should be done on the busier days.

Unfinished Business:

- Audit of 2024 financial records: Was this scheduled and completed? Caralee reported not done yet; no date yet. Janice is available to help.
- Board of Directors vacancy: We still have one opening to fill. Consensus at April meeting was that Robert should fill the spot. Can vote at this meeting to make it official, if Robert agrees. Janice makes a motion to vote Robert in to be a board member, Debbie seconds. Motion carried.
- Raffle to raise funds to pay for BCHC North State packing intern for 2025 (Matt Alloway): We voted in March to move forward with printing 300 or 400 tickets for two prizes (\$10 per ticket). The \$3000-\$4000 earned for these ticket sales would pay for the \$2000 for our Unit contribution for the intern, printing costs, etc. **Money could also be used to fund trail work and/or youth packing program.** Prizes will be a \$500 gift card from Shasta Valley Chainsaw and a guided fly-fishing trip (\$800 value) at a Northern California or Southern Oregon location/date agreed upon by the raffle winner and the fishing guide. Per April meeting, we'll put both prizes on one ticket, first prize is the fishing trip and second prize is the \$500 chainsaw/gun in-store gift card. Drawing would be at the October BOD meeting on Oct. 2 or Oct. 4. Caralee asked at April meeting that we check with BCHC about whether there are any special rules for raffles. Michele will report on correspondence with Lynn Joiner, BCHC Treasurer, regarding rules for raffles for Units. **ACTION for this meeting:** Vote to approve cost to order tickets (\$74.41 for 400 tickets; \$69.86 for 300 tickets). Michele needs final details to order raffle tickets, and create a flyer and social media posts to promote the tickets. Gail moves that we order 400 tickets, and Janice seconds. Motion carried. Michele will bring tickets to next meeting.
- Let's make a final decision to keep or eliminate Parades chair. Table it till next meeting.
- 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. No additional update for this event.
- 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:

- Our Unit has been asked to donate a sum (at least \$750) to help Youth Packing teams go to Bishop for Mule Days. After the Youth Packers did so well at Rendezvous, the idea was floated by parents, grandparents and supporters to try to send the kids to Bishop Mule Days. Jamie Essex has registered a team of at least five of the youth packers for competitions at Mule Days. Jamie believes the youth and their parents (or chaperones) and coaches going to Bishop will need at least \$5000. **Discuss and vote. See below.** Jamie gave some background on how the youth packing teams came together and how great the parents/grandparents have been. She talked about how the Bishop idea was hatched and how they got the kids registered for Bishop Mule Days. The event is talking about putting youth packing in the rule book for next year, but kids will still compete in some individual classes this year. Five of the eight kids are going. Barbara Schulyer is helping, working to use live mules that the college teams use, Reece Gomes is bringing helmets for the kids. Jamie talked about how Jamie and Vose Hayden are moving forward with non-profit, Outfitters Legacy Project for youth, veterans, restoration/trail work, etc. Jamie asked that we donate to this new non-profit instead of donating to the Bishop trip. Lots of discussion about how the Outfitters Legacy Project will work and how much money they need to start up (\$10K - \$20k). Veteran program has generated a lot of excitement, to get up into the mountains and get chainsaw certified, and get work done. Timeframe to donate is not as urgent. Jamie thinks she can get the Bishop trip funded with Essex Vet clients so she would like us to donate to this new non-profit instead. Robert suggests that our Unit donate \$1800 to help get the kids to Bishop. Robert makes a motion that our Unit donate \$1800 for the Bishop trip, Janice seconds. Motion carried.
- Michele would like to propose that we offer family or individual memberships (1-year) to Youth Packing coaches Vose and Jamie Hayden, Beau Burton, Randy Shinskie and Amada Ortiz. **Discuss and vote.** Total for three family members and one individual (for Randy) will be \$285. Laurie makes a motion to pay for these memberships and Gail seconds. Motion carried. Michele will coordinate.
- If we are not going to be able to make a decision about compensating trail work crews for mileage, stock use, chainsaw use, chainsaw fuel, Alan would like to discuss the Unit using some of the 2021 insurance money to purchase at least one new Unit chainsaw so our sawyers don't have to use our personal saws. Alan has a rough estimate of cost of one chainsaw he thinks would be a good investment. Janice asked how much a new chainsaw would cost. Alan said one estimate of the chainsaw he thinks is appropriate is about \$1100. Alan

wants a Husquavarna and Robert is asking to shop local at Shasta Valley chainsaws and getting a Stihl at the local store. Jamie asked why we are only asking to buy one saw. Robert suggested we get a price for two saws, perhaps to get two sizes. Alan and Robert to talk with Josh Gomes at Shasta Valley Chainsaw for saws and PPE. Discuss again on May 29.

- From the November 4, 2021 minutes: Insurance claim for and replacement of damaged/burned trail equipment.
 - Need to get a committee to decide if we want to buy new items. We should be able to replace what we need with the **\$2585.78** from insurance claim. Claim money was deposited into bank, but no equipment has been purchased to replace damaged items. At the September meeting Alan proposed we review the list and bring ideas on what we need to replace. Robert said he has a list of items he'd like to replace.
 - Discussion to buy new tools did not continue after Nov. 4, 2021 meeting.
- Carter Meadows "Adopt a Campground" opportunity: In discussions with the Klamath National Forest recreation staff, we have been asked if our Unit would have an interest in "adopting" the Carter Meadows Group Equestrian Campground. This work is most needed on weekends. What this means is Unit volunteers would be in charge of unlocking the campground gate the first day of a reservation. When the campers vacate the campground, we would tidy up the restrooms, replenish toilet paper, remove trash bags from the bins and lock the gate. All supplies will be provided. First reservation to help with would be clean up and close gate on late afternoon of June 14 (Saturday). Next reservation to help with would be close the gate and clean up on afternoon of Sunday, July 6. Can ask the KNF if we can get a free camp spot at Hidden Horse for any volunteers who want to stay multiple days to help with this opportunity. KNF does not have funds to reimburse for mileage/time for volunteers who help with this request. Can we get a sign to say we have "adopted the campgrounds".
- KNF request to pack in Wilderness signs to Russian Wilderness boundaries on PCT. Per Shelby: We have the larger, wooden Wilderness Boundary signs that would need to be installed at the Wilderness boundaries for the Russians. We have a sign for the boundary North of Carter Meadows Summit and a sign for the boundary south from Etna Summit. From Etna Summit to the Wilderness Boundary, it's about 5 miles and from Carter Meadows Summit to the boundary it's about 6 miles. We have the signs and the bolts we use to install them, and Adam would either go install them with the volunteers or be able to provide volunteers with GPS coordinates and a description of the location where they need to be installed.
- Michele and Alan would like to discuss resigning their Officer roles at the end of this year. Need current board members and other leaders/members to think about who can fill the President and Secretary roles. There was discussion about how difficult to it has been to get younger people involved and get new ideas. Jamie and Debbie suggested writing letters to BCHC President regarding issues at Rendezvous and one on behalf of our Unit. Michele to send info on how to get a letter to BCHC leadership.

Announcements:

Next Meeting: May 29 (June meeting): BOD meeting, 6:30 p.m., location TBD, Yreka. Caralee said we could have the meeting at the Grenada fire hall. Confirmed after this meeting that we will be meeting there.

Adjourn: 9:26 p.m.