

May 14th, 2025

YSTRA Meeting

This meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by President, Ron Walker.

Location: Walker Residence

The meeting was started with the pledge of allegiance to the United States of America.

Attendance: Ron & Carla Walker, Kathy Taylor, Ken & Ruth Terpening, Laura Soper, Rickie Ward, Sarah Buehler.

Excused: Travis Buehler, Heather Ward, Heather Slocum, Jeanne Burger, Tom Chaffee

Attending Member: Dick Smith

This meeting began with a moment of Silence in remembrance of our lost friend & board member, Skip Burger.

Kathy- Sending flowers on behalf of YSTRA to Skips funeral. Thank you, Kathy!

Ron- Looking into getting a plaque made in remembrance of Skip to be put on the YSTRA firepit at camp. Skips service will be at Thornapple Valley Church, 2750 south M-43 HWY, 11:00 am Wednesday May 21.

Consent Agenda: Kathy motioned to accept the treasurer & secretary report. Ken 2nd the motion. All voted & approved.

Current Business:

Ron: The spring roadside clean up was completed and reported to the commission. We must remember to report this clean up to the road commission for YSTRA to get credit for the work completed each season.

Ron & Carla attended the Barry Co. Expo Tack Sale event on behalf of YSTRA. They were able to secure new memberships and sell some merchandise.

The May Annual Members Appreciation Luncheon went wonderfully! Thank you to our volunteers for putting on another great event.

2025 Upcoming Events & Information:

- October 11th (Saturday) Annual Halloween & Members Meeting

- o Location: YSTRA Camp

- o Time: TBD

New Business:

The board agreed that new merchandise was needed. We will be gathering quotes for...

Vests, Hats, Zip-up sweatshirts/hoodies, T-shirts (men's and women's) , long sleeves etc. with embroidered & screen printed YSTRA logo's/ slogans.

Ron requested that the board approve a budget for the merchandise.

Kathy motioned for an approximate \$2k-\$3k budget. Carla 2nd the motion.

All voted & approved.

Sarah & Ron will work on gathering quotes & designs for the board to approve.

The current merchandise is quite old. It will be put on sale at the Halloween/Members event in October.

Ron reported that the material for the kiosk is ready. Travis will be cutting it out for assembly.

Merchandise Trailer: Needs a logo. Ron will be working on getting a YSTRA logo for the trailer.

Carla: Can we get trash cans in camp, at the pavilion?

Trail Report:

During this meeting, it was brought up that all trails needed attention and needed trees/brush cleared.

The following evening (Thursday) Yankee Springs and surrounding areas were hit with straight line winds as well as a localized tornado.

Volunteers Ron Walker, Travis Buehler & Don Suwyn cleared as much of the 9 mile that they could on Friday, May 16th . Currently, a portion of the 9 mile is CLOSED. And it may remain closed for the rest of the season. More information to come. Maps have been provided to our trail users for a work around.

Also on Friday, Ruth Terpening, Dick Smith & Kathy Taylor cleared the 4 & 6 Mile trails. Ruth also placed trail markers where she could during the day (More trail markers to come as volunteers are able).

Thank you to our volunteers who got to work so quickly after the storm.

Additional Clean Up/ Work Still Needed:

Carla: The driveway to camp has significant holes. Can these be fixed? Would the DNR be able to assist with the camp drive?

Julie Suwyn: Reported doing 2 hours of trimming and picking up trash on the 4 mile to the YSTRA FB Page. She also went around camp ensuring gates were shut to corrals and picking up manure piles left behind in day parking. Thank you, Julie!

Carla: The wooden map at camp of Yankee's Horse Trails- can it be redone? Since adding the new day use, mileage needs to be added to the map to include how far it is from camp to new day use (Ruth reported it is about 1.5 miles).

A reminder to all trail users, you do not need to wait for a work bee or for your board members to do general camp/trail clean up. We appreciate all everyone does to keep our camps and trails maintained each year. Please remember to
report all volunteer hours to YSTRA.

Recruitment Notice:

YSTRA has 2 available board member seats. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in joining the board, we would love to have you! Inquire with any of our current board members for information.

Kathy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carla supported and 2nd the motion.

All approved.

This meeting ended at 7:25pm.

Regards,

Sarah Buehler YSTRA Secretary

