

Friends of the High Lakes

Minutes - Steering Committee Meeting 8-15-13

Directors present: Ken Knull, Chair
Nick Repanich, Secretary
Traci Brenneman, Treasurer
Norm Sovereign
Gary Gambill

Members Present: Louis Johnson, David Feldhaus, Aleece Feldhaus, Tracie Feldhaus, Bryan Riddle, Matt Williams, Nick Graham, Mike Rich, Darryl Merrin, Bea Pickett, Tyler Ahnmark, Cecil Phillips, Ethan Wood, Adam McAlister, Nate Goldstein, Tyler Marr, Chris Borunda, Bruce Griggs, Dyllyn Knox, Tyler Traynor, Jay Lowe, John Maehl, Ryan Hughes, Dan McCann, Gary McElroy, Daniel Johnson, Corbin Goggia, Hans Oswald, Dan Foshee, Pete Player, Justin Carpenter, J. Gebbia, Karen King, Tobias King, Mike Ladd, Matt Derrick, Wilson, Debbie Earl, Doug Poppelreiter, Mike Kemp, Randy Burke, Tiffany Andersen, Chris Hamby, Andy Lipkin, Chelsea Coon, Paula, Sarah, Bob, Dallas Chappell, Josiah Sandstrom, Jeana Jay, Donald Darby, Pete and Peggy Moak

The meeting of the Steering Committee was called to order at the PPPOA Library at 7:08 PM by Nick Repanich. Nick recognized the Board of Directors, the official members of the Steering Committee and welcomed all of those newly present to the Steering Committee. A round of introductions of all present followed (see sign-up sheets), and it was a good-sized crowd of enthusiastic and committed individuals – great to see!

Nick explained that there would be two meetings that evening – first the Steering Committee meeting, and then the Board of Directors Meeting. Nick explained the nature of the Friends of the High Lakes as a 501(c)3 organization, with governing by-laws and a Board that handles the business of the organization, with significant and credible contributions from members of the Steering Committee and especially individuals acting as committee chairs or captains for specific functions. The Steering Committee acts as an advisory group and a resource for volunteers to actually accomplish the tasks established as goals.

The FOTHL was organized in 2007 in response to closure of access roads to the High Lakes area by the US Forest Service. The volunteer group FOTHL was dedicated to road and campsite improvements to allow re-opening of access roads, and the Forest Service was responsive to the initiative of the group.

Some FOTHL accomplishments:

- Filled numerous mud holes with rocks where streams were impacted to get rid of “red flag” designations (meaning the roads would have otherwise remained closed due to erosion and environmental damage).
- Blocked off meadows and sensitive areas to avoid damage from vehicles
- Re-routed some compromised areas, with USFS approval
- Designated campsites and installed fire rings
- Created high quality, detailed map of routes, campsites, etc. used for large posters at entrances and in brochures that were passed out to visitors – used as the official USFS map of the area
- Repaired “Pucker Point” on the 519 jeep trail
- Organized, purchased and installed Ham Radio Tower and certified 50+ Ham Radio Operators
- Nick personally cut away downed burnt trees and debris to open the road to Mud Lake

- Obtained OHMVR grant that paid for materials and workers to continue improvement projects in 2011-12
- Conducted census of visitor activity over a three year period (thank you, Jim & Debbie Earl)
- Recognized by USFS Region 5 as Volunteer Organization of the Year at an award ceremony

The minutes of 4-19-2012 were circulated, and unanimously approved by Steering Committee members. The minutes had highlighted a couple of issues: change from Trail Patrol to “Ambassadors” to better reflect the role of those involved in educating visitors to the area, and noted a decline in participation that needed to be reversed. A desire for new High Lakes' users to become involved was stressed, and a change in Board members/officers was discussed at that meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

- \$4,562.67 is currently on deposit in the operating account.
- A \$1000 donation from Money/Arenz Foundation and about \$500 in “employee match” PG&E grants are included in the above balance
- \$100 was donated to the Ham Radio operations from the Philbrook Community Association at this meeting
- The final financial reporting, etc. for wind down of the OHMVR grant is in process
- Kudos to Tim Jacobsen for merchandise sales – a big part of the money raised
- \$800 was raised with last year's dinner and raffle. Consider pre-selling tickets this year
 - Clay Ledger is cooking
 - Josiah Sandstrom is heading up raffle assisted by Adam McAlister and others
 - Saturday, Sept. 28 – National Public Lands Day for 2013 – Be there!

Adopt A Trail Report – Nick Repanich – Power Point Presentation (see PP file)

Nick provided a detailed review of each trail area, work done and work to be done, and which clubs have assumed responsibility for each area:

- Pair O Dice (Long/Campbell)
- Jackass Wheelers (608 to Morris Lake)
- Quincy Wheelers/Feather River Rock Crawlers /P&P Moak(South entrance past Grassy Lake)
- Dogtown Wheelers (612 to Saddle Lake)
- Norcal Crawlers (519/Pipejam)
- Hi-Lakes Trekkers/44 Trailfinders (501 to Soda Ridge, 602,606)
- Chico State Crawlers (619 to Mud Lake)
- Paradise Ridge Riders (single track only)

Lassen Forest Service Projects update:

- Place “info” signs at places where improvements/work has been done by FOTHL
- Install 10 more fire rings
- Re-route North entrance from Lott Lake Road to new cutoff on USFS land

Potential Special Projects for FOTHL:

- Connect Frying Pan Falls trail to Grassy Lake trail (motorized area)
- Reclaim 606 to Soda Ridge
 - Student workers did a great job opening that up – need to finish the last 100 ft.
- Construct loop around Morris Lake – challenges: inaccessible terrain, privately owned land
- Staging/camping area at the “T” to utilize boulders there and allow group gathering spot

Overall goal of Adopt – A –Trail Captain will be to maintain primary contact with all clubs, match capabilities to assignments, and report to the President, who is the primary contact with the USFS. (USFS “One point of contact” requirement was discussed)

Nominations:

Board of Directors - Member and President: **Torey Feldhaus** announced his candidacy and was widely endorsed by those present. Torey gave a brief overview of his related experience, motivation for involvement, and plans to build on the positive momentum of the FOTHL accomplishments. His nomination was accepted.

Board of Directors: Member and Vice President nominations:

- **Nick Repanich** announced his candidacy and gave a brief presentation on his qualifications and interest in providing continuity to the Board and the FOTHL in that role.
- **Doug Poppelreiter** announced his candidacy and gave a brief presentation on his qualifications having served various organizations in responsible capacities over the years. Both were accepted as nominations for VP.

Adopt a Trail Captain: **Darryl Merrin** – currently active and willing to assume role
Doug Poppelreiter – interested in organizing and actively participating

Both nominations were accepted.

Fund Raising Chair: **Josiah Sanderson** and **Adam McAlister** announced their interest in serving in this capacity. Both nominations were accepted.

Positions with incumbents that remain active:

Trail Ambassador and Quartermaster – Jim Earl and the Pair O Dice Club

Web Master and Communications – Ken Rice

Ham Repeater Trustee: **Gary McElroy** – serves as contact point to all involved including U.S. FCC, Butte Co Sheriff Comm Reserve, Butte Co. Search and Rescue, and of course FOTHL.

Nick explained that the election of President, Vice president, Adopt-A-Trail Captain and Fund Raising Chair would be conducted by the Board, in accordance with FOTHL By-Laws.

The Steering Committee Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

