

Alice Millington called the meeting to order.

We greeted a guest, Ann Pape, joining us at the meeting.

Diana Little made a motion to accept minutes from 6/6/19. Ken Nungesser seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Maureen Jackson handed out the treasurer's report. There were no bills for approval. Joe Williams had two bills that he wants reimbursed that have been submitted to Maureen Jackson.

Alice Millington brought attention to the email that had been sent out to the chapter for the Pistol Creek Project. Fuel reimbursement will work differently due to the grant and therefore it is important to follow the instructions in the email to be reimbursed for fuel for this project.

Committees

Chain Saw & CPR/First Aid Training: Wendy Coome and Alice Millington completed their "B" bucker crosscut saw certifications in Stanley since the last meeting. A chart was passed around for members to mark the dates of the certifications that they have received so that the chapter can keep track as well as to know when we need to have classes to stay certified. Alice Millington informed us that Charlie Jarvis has confirmed that they are not doing any more chain saw classes this summer.

Convention: Alice Millington updated the chapter to let us know the new Holiday Inn was looked at as an option for a venue; however, the accommodations are too small. The search is continuing for a venue for the convention. We also need to start going around and work on gathering donations for the auction at the convention.

Projects: Work & Trail: Bill Bell spoke about the Pistol Creek Project starting July 6th. The group that was planning to go held a meeting to discuss details. The minutes from that meeting were emailed out. He presented the write up that is going to the Forest Service with the details of the project. He and Steve Sanderson plan to make breakfast for the group on Sunday, July 7th. Reminders to bring gear, take before and after pictures, and a brief rundown of the plans wrapped up the discussion for the Pistol Creek Project. The Bear Valley Trail Clearing Project (August 9th-11th) and the Seafoam Guard Station opportunity (August 17th-31st) were detailed on the upcoming projects on the agenda for this meeting.

Lois Murphy brought up the opportunity for group discounts for Life Flight and if that was available for the chapter. She is willing to look into getting a group discount set up if it already isn't set up.

Social Events/Fun Rides: If anyone has any ideas for social events or fun rides, please let Alice Millington or Jill Nebeker know so that they can announce it to the chapter.

Volunteer Hours/Project Reports: Jim Smolinski reminded everyone to please fill out the project reports for the upcoming projects.

Alice Millington informed the chapter that 8 members earned crosscut saw certifications and 2 members earned chainsaw certifications in June. She announced that individuals that are not certified can work under the supervision of a “B” buckler.

There was an inventory done on the equipment that was being stored at Joe William’s house. Some equipment has been moved to the storage container and some has been documented but it is going on the Pistol Creek Project. Bill Murphy has volunteered to be the equipment monitor.

Alice Millington announced that we will be having our next meeting on August 2nd and the FRA is providing us with the meat for a BBQ for that evening. The chapter will be responsible for bringing sides for a potluck style meal. The plans are to meet at 6:00pm and start dinner at 6:30pm that evening. Ken Nungesser has informed the chapter that Bill Hall from the FRA is missing a stainless steel bowl that has been missing since the breakfast we put on for them and he would like his bowl back. It had, had gravy in it the morning of the breakfast.

Alice Millington reminded the chapter of an email that was sent to the chapter about Rod Parks’s request to clear trail from Redfish Lake for the individual that is swimming the length of the Boise River. There are details in the email that was sent out to the chapter. The point was made that in the area that needs cleared, you would not be able to graze your animals and you would have to haul in food for your stock.

Alice Millington presented the chapter with an opportunity to “house sit” at the Seven Devils Guard Station in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. If you are interested, contact Cathy Conover at cathy.conover@usda.gov

Cini Baumhoff reached out to the chapter again to see if anyone was interested in packing in food for the Camp Hodia group to the Copper Basin area. Approximately 100 pounds of food would need packed in 7 miles and dropped off. The trip would be extensive as chapter members had already looked into the details. It was suggested to reach out to Eagle Rock Back Country Horsemen to see if they may be interested.

Joe Williams offered to do another crosscut saw certification class when there are members interested.

Rob Price won the fly spray that was a prize in a drawing for this meeting.

Cini Baumhoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ken Nungesser seconded the motion.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Manners are just as important, maybe even more important, while group riding as they are at the dinner table. There is nothing more aggravating or unsafe than someone who does not follow the rules of etiquette while riding the trails. Here are some good rules to follow.

1. The cardinal rule of group riding: *Ride at the ability level of the least experienced rider or horse.*

1. If you have a horse that is just learning to trail ride, learn with smaller, more experienced riders and horses before joining a larger group.

2. DO NOT LEAVE RIDERS BEHIND. *Be aware of all those in your group. Don't be afraid to ask other riders to slow down if the pace does not feel safe and/or comfortable for you and your horse. If you have those who want to ride faster or slower, split up the group. Horses left behind can become anxious, making the ride unpleasant and possibly unsafe.*

3. With time and experience you will gravitate towards those who prefer to ride at similar speeds and terrain and schedule rides with them.

4. In general, the larger the group the slower the pace will be, so be patient.

2. Especially in larger groups, have a designated trail boss who if familiar with the trails. He or she should stay in or near the lead. Assign an experienced rider to bring up the rear who can help those having difficulty or communicate up the line as necessary. Respect the pace the trail boss sets; he or she is responsible for setting a pace to safely accommodate the group.

3. Think like a horse, especially if you are the leader of the group. If you look at objects on the trail like a prey animal (is it unfamiliar or potentially dangerous), you can help prepare yourself for anything. Once again preparation and awareness can be the difference between a controlled flight and a bad wreck.

4. Nasty horses in the back. If your horse is unruly, he should bring up the rear where his poor behavior will not be witnessed by the other horses and cause them to get upset as well. And, if you are lucky, he may learn a thing or two from watching calmer horses in front of him all day.

5. Keep at least one to two horse lengths between you and the horse in front of you. Ride side by side only where this is adequate room to do so without crowding. This will allow

you to view the trail ahead and prevent your horse from being kicked. Be especially aware of spacing on hills, bridges, water crossings and any area requiring cautious foot placement.

6. When leading and/or riding with anyone behind you

- Walk
- Ask before trotting/loping
- Warn of holes, bad footing and other dangers
- Warn when you are stopping
- Warn if a branch might snap back in someone's face
- Keep track of other riders behind you

7. When you reach a watering area, take turns and don't crowd. Wait for everyone to finish before moving off, a thirsty horse will not drink if left behind. And remember your **Leave No Trace** ethics: do not destroy additional water front so you can all water at the same time. Use only the obvious area where animals come down to drink.

8. Stop if there is a wreck. This should be pretty obvious. Your help may be needed. But also, once again, horses are herd animals and do not like to be left alone, especially in an unfamiliar area. If you ride off, while someone is trying to mount back up, their horse could panic and take off to catch up with the group.

9. Take turns leading, if possible...share the dust.

10. If you are the leader, be watchful for trail hazards and relay them to those following you. Be specific, such as: "Deep hole on the left, Stay to the right" or "low limb, Duck!"

11. Review hand signs with all riders to prevent bunching up when slowing or stopping.

1. Raised open hand means "Slow-down"
2. Raised closed fist means "Stop"

12. If someone needs to dismount or wait for their horse to urinate, everyone should stop and wait before resuming the ride. If you need to stop, let your fellow riders know!

13. For multi-use trails it is important to understand who yields to whom.

1. As a general rule, all users should yield to horses. It is not discourteous to ask those you encounter to yield; however, it may be in everyone's best interest for you to move off the trail to allow them to pass if they choose not to.
2. Be prepared for any reaction your horse may have to others. If you know your horse reacts poorly to certain situations, move farther off the trail if possible or even dismount.
3. Always greet those you meet and hope they return the greeting so your horse will recognize them as human.
4. When encountering others on a hill, the uphill group has the right of way and those going downhill should yield. Do not begin your descent if you see a group coming up a narrow trail. If you are already on the trail heading down, move your horse off the trail with his hindquarters away from the trail.