

TAHOE DONNER HIKING CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, October 7, 2017

MINUTES

WELCOME and thanks to those who helped set up and to those who plan to stick around to help clean up.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Introduced new members in attendance and asked them to tell us something about themselves: Betsy Lurie; Bob & Jen Mahoney; Richard & Cia Heifetz

Membership/Communications/Financial Coordinator, Robin Reese

Report: It was a great season. The only complaint I have probably should be directed to those who aren't here. PLEASE remember to always sign up for hikes you plan to participate in and for the potlucks you plan to attend and never be a "no show". Always let those in charge know if you are coming or have to cancel. No shows for day hikes put hike leaders in a bind, especially because they are counted in planning travel and car pool arrangements. Secondly, just showing up for a hike without informing the hike leader isn't acceptable either; carpooling and travel arrangements usually cannot accommodate extras, so please be courteous and sign up online or by calling the hike leader ahead of time. Thank you.

For away trips, people who sign up are counted on for a portion of permit and camping reservation fees that are contracted for by the leader. The shortfall resulting from people who cancel has to be covered, and the contract could have been for fewer people for less cost to start with. Transportation issues also ensue.

Somewhat the same for backpacking – if an open spot due to a cancellation can't be filled, the permit and camping reservation fees for the person canceling have to be covered. (These fees are incurred months in advance of the trip and are not refundable.)

Therefore, we will no longer be asking for interest in backpack trips or away trips. We will send out a save the date, but when you sign up there may be a non-refundable fee imposed in an effort to reduce the number of cancellations.

Long Hike Coordinator, Butch Rohrback

Butch gave a short summary of the long hike season, noting it was a good season and hikes had good participation with a manageable number of hikers (maximum on any trip was 17). Butch also recognized the following long hike leaders for this season, and invited others to contribute next year.)

Hike Leaders: Robin Reese, Joan O'Lear, Dudley Nigg, Stuart Mikel, Glenn Granada, Ursula Hirsbrunner, Barbara Futran, Sue Kelso, John McGregor, Judy Cuffney, Diane Kiser, Steve Miller and Nan Carnal (hike planned but canceled due to snow)

Short Hike Coordinator and Intermediate Hike Assistant, Marie Colbert

Recap of short and intermediate hikes:

Marie thanked the large group of hike leaders (please refer to the Powerpoint presentation). Special thanks to Dudley and Philippa who led 6 hikes.

Backpack Trip Coordinator: Nan Carnal

Nan gave a summary of the season's 4 trips:

August: 1) Loch Levan Lakes – lead by Joyce Scardina Becker and Dana Becker;
2) Virginia Lakes Trail to Virginia Canyon to PCT to Glen Aulin to 10 Lakes Trail in Yosemite, exiting at Lukens Lake – lead by Robin

September: 1) Paiute Trail to John Muir to Red's Meadow – lead by Nan Carnal
2) 2 day/1 night through Lassen National Park – led by Sue Kelso and Robin Reese

Away Trip Coordinator: Susan Kelso (Report by Robin Reese)

There were 3 trips this year:

1) 21 hikers traveled to Patagonia where they hiked the "W" in Torres del Paine Park, Chile and did day hikes. Highlights included a hike to a close-up view of Mt. Fitzroy in Los Glaciares National Park, Argentina; and an Asada (Argentinian BBQ) to celebrate the end of a great trip. Some members arranged various add-ons (Antarctica, Buenos Aires, Iguazu Falls).

2) Sue arranged a docent-guided hike in the Sutter Buttes in April

3) September's destination away trip this year was 6 days in Lassen Park. This included hiking 38 mi on the PCT, an optional 2 day/1 night backpack through the park, a hike up to Lassen Peak and day activities including fishing and shorter hikes like the Bumpass Hell Trail.

NOTE: AWAY TRIP TO JAPAN next year - 1 double room available. Contact Philippa right away, if interested.

NEXT SEASON

The planning meeting for Backpack Trips and Away Trips will be held November 19th, in conjunction with the coordinator's meeting. Planning meetings for Short, Intermediate and Long Hikes will be held in April or May, depending on the snowfall we get this winter. Look for an invitation and plan to attend if you would like to suggest and organize a hike, backpack trip or away trip. Schedules will then be posted on the website.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Financial Coordinator's Report as of August 31, 2017

Checking = \$2,023.13

Savings = \$1,906.67

Expenses: paper/plastic products for potlucks, walkie-talkies, permit fees, satellite messenger fees

2. ELECTIONS (Coordinators MUST be TD property owners. Positions are all held for 2 years.)

Membership/Communications/Financial Coordinator – Position open

Ken Brady nominated Robin Reese, 2nd Linda Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

Long Hike Coordinator – Position Open - (Volunteer assistant needed as well)

Dan Simmons nominated Butch Rohrbach, 2nd Betsy Lurie. Motion passed unanimously.

Short Hike Coordinator

Marie Colbert will serve the 2nd year of her term (Volunteer assistant needed as well)

Backpack Trip Coordinator – Position open

Jayne Hahin nominated Nan Carnal, 2nd Don Morris. Motion passed unanimously.

Away Trip Coordinator

Sue Kelso will serve the 2nd year of her term.

3. Thanks to Jayne Hahin for coordinating a successful GAIA Workshop this year.

Jayne is willing to do another workshop next year or give instruction session(s) for snowshoers this year.

4. Membership Pins – pick yours up here. Sheet to sign if you never received one. \$5 replacement charge if it broke or you lost it. Must be paid in advance.

5. The Club is still looking for someone willing to post photos from hikes, backpack trips and away trips on our website.

6. Last year we discussed limiting the number of hikers in weekly hikes. Any comments about whether or not this was necessary and, if so, what was done and how was it received? (No comments recorded)

7. Just a reminder that hike leaders have the club's permission to screen those who sign up for strenuous hikes, long hikes or backpack trips.

You can screen by calling the person before the hike or on the day of the actual hike.

Appropriate questions might be:

Have you hiked with the club this season? (If so, which hikes?)

When did you last hike this mileage? How long did it take you?

When did you last hike here in the Tahoe area?

How long have you been at altitude??

If any of the answers set off alarm bells to you, it is better for the person, the group and the leader if you do not let them on the trip. Say "This is not an appropriate hike for you at this time and you should not do it today." You need to have hiked this distance recently/ before/ however you want to phrase it (be firm and decisive). Tell them that they will be miserable/exhausted and therefore more prone to an accident etc. Tell them that we have shorter hikes and/or beginning backpack trips that will help them prepare for

these kind of hikes next season. As a leader, you do have some responsibility to your group and their safety.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Results of Short/Intermediate Hike Survey – Marie Colbert

Please refer to the Powerpoint Presentation

Comments: Marie indicated in her presentation that group size for short hikes was still an issue. Ken Brady commented that results of the survey showed group size is OK with most hikers, so asked if it was important or appropriate to reduce group size. Marie responded saying group size definitely impacts leaders when it is too large, requiring group size management and more hike leaders, and there are not enough leader volunteers. Also, there are too many dogs.

Charlene Simmons suggested a possible model for group size management: she noted docent led hikes at Carpenter Valley sign up a given # of people, when hiker # limit is reached they add another leader before another set of hikers can be added.

2. There have been several requests to move the Intermediate Hikes to Monday or the long hikes to Friday so that those who like longer hikes can participate in two hikes per week without having them back-to-back. Coordinators will meet to determine days for 2018.

Intermediate Hike Coordinator – add to by-laws and elect?

Nan Carnal moved to add this position, 2nd Marie Colbert; Vote of property owners: vast majority (over 25 by recorder's estimate) yes, 2 no.

Call for nominations for coordinator: Lynette Powell nominated by Robin Reese, 2nd Ken Brady. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Weekend Hike Coordinator

Need a motion from the floor to eliminate the Weekend Coordinator Position from the Hiking Club Board with appropriate changes to the by-laws to follow.

So moved by Marty Anderson, 2nd Ken Brady. Motion passed.

Discussion: Ken Brady asked why not just leave the position on the books and not fill it. Responses included that each current hike subgroup with a coordinator takes responsibility for offering one or two weekend hikes during the season and that an official weekend hiking group had not been successful. Because hikes are offered by subgroups of the hiking club there is no need for a coordinator position. If in the future there was more interest in a weekend group, a coordinator position could be retendered.

4. Assistant Coordinators.

A request to formalize having assistant coordinators for hiking subgroups was made.

These persons would primarily be responsible for covering for the coordinator when he/she was unavailable and help with communications as needed.

Long hikes: Butch noted that John McGregor has been serving in this capacity and assumed he would be willing to continue, but will confirm.

Intermediate hikes: Charlene Simmons volunteered to be assistant coordinator.

Short hikes: No one present volunteered; Marie will send out an invitation to all short hikers.

5. Update on communications system – Marie Colbert

Marie reported that the email system the club has been using can't handle the current volume.

Jayne Hahin and Bob Mahoney volunteered to help Marie come up with a new communication system.

6. Member Questions? Comments?

Joan O'Leary– noted the incredible hiking opportunities provided by the club, the time and effort contributed by coordinators and hike leaders and strongly encouraged hiker participants to step up and lead hikes

Jayne Hahin– suggested instituting hike leader assistants; they would gain experience with organizing and leading hikes and this could help hikers work into a leadership position.

Gary Kerwood – noted he is one of people who, with other obligations, can only hike 1-2 hikes per season. He noted he and others like him could be given a job on a hike or hikes in which they participate; he would definitely be willing to do this, but couldn't take on a longer term or more broad responsibility.

Announcements: (None)

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.