

TAHOE DONNER HIKING CLUB
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, September 25, 2016

MINUTES

Robin welcomed everyone and thanked those who helped set up and those who planned to help clean up.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Membership/Communications/Financial Coordinator, Robin Reese

Long Hike Coordinator, Butch Rohrback - Gave a short summary of the long hike season and recognized each of the long hike leaders:

Robin Reese
Nan Carnal
Sharon and Stuart Mikel
Carol & Don Morris
Sharon Fong
Barbara Futran & Ursula Hirsbrunner
Judi Cuffney
Sue Kelso
Joyce Scardina Becker and Dana Becker
John McGregor
Bob Moore

Short Hike Coordinator, Marie Colbert - Gave a short summary of the short hike season and recognized each of the short hike leaders:

Hike Leaders:

Judi & Ned Roberts
John Stubbs & Nan Carnal
Nancy & Jim Cline
Martha Cirata
Mary & Fred Zapponi
Sharon & Stuart Mikel
Lois Ermak
Patty Lomanto
Karolyn & Dick Gander
Jayne Hahin & Janis Leyshock
Philippa & Dudley Nigg
Michael Sullivam
Joan O'Lear
Julie & Craig Wyreman
Sue & John Sorensen
Marie & Jim Colbert
Lynette Powell

Jennifer Jennings & Michael Bledsoe
Joyce Scardina Becker and Dana Becker
Sharon Fong
Patti & Tom Conk
Pat Callahan

Short Hike Coordination Support: This is the team of people who help coordinate the weekly hikes via the internet:

Jennifer Jennings
Owens Wallis
Katharine Veni
Lynette Powell

Backpack Trip Coordinator: Nan Carnal

Summary of Season – 5 trips:

April: Ohlone Wilderness – lead by Robin
July: Desolation Wilderness – lead by Joyce Scardina Becker and Dana Becker
August: Benson Lake Loop – lead by Robin
August: JMT Onion Valley to Whitney Portal – lead by Nan Carnal
October: Grand Canyon – Butch Rohrback

Away Trip Coordinator: Susan Kelso

April: Santa Cruz Mountains – Sue Kelso & Cindy Olander
April: Ridge to Bridge – Robin
June: Marin Hiking and Mountain Play – Joyce Scardina Becker and Dana Becker
September: Carson Iceberg Wilderness – Sue Kelso & Robin Reese
October: Zion & Bryce National Parks – Philippa & Dudley Nigg

Introduced new members in attendance and asked them to tell those in attendance something about themselves: Bill & Debi Phelps; Fred & Barbara Ilfeld; Nancy Wallis; Mary Knab

NEXT SEASON

The planning meeting for Backpack Trips and Away Trips will be held in January. Planning meetings for Short and Long Hikes will be held in April. 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, 2016

Checking = \$1,148.79

Savings = \$1,606.46

Expenses: paper/plastic products for potlucks, walkie-talkies, first aid supplies, name badges and a satellite messenger

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

Membership/Communications/Financial Coordinator

Robin will serve the 2nd year of her term

Long Hike Coordinator

Butch will serve the 2nd year of his term

Short Hike Coordinator

Motion was made by Merle Fajans and seconded by Lois Ermak to nominate Marie Colbert. *Vote was unanimous in favor.*

Backpack Trip Coordinator

Nan will serve the 2nd year of her term

Away Trip Coordinator

Motion was made by Marie Colbert and seconded by Don Morris to nominate Susan Kelso. *Vote was unanimous in favor.*

Weekend Hike Coordinator

The short hikers had several successful weekend hikes and plan to offer one a month in 2017. However, it should be noted that the Club's bylaws still allow for a weekend hike coordinator if anyone would like to volunteer for the position. You could offer one a week, or one a month. It would be totally up to you. Anyone interested in the position or do you want the short hikers to continue as they have been? *No one volunteered, so the short hikers will continue to offer one weekend hike each month.*

3. Reminders of important things in the bylaws:

ARTICLE V — MEMBERSHIP

Section 4: Full Members shall be entitled to make motions and vote at Club membership meetings; Associate members may not make or second motions and shall have no voting rights. . .

Section 3: At least sixty percent (60%) of the Club's membership shall at all times be Full Members

4. Currently 62.8% of the Club's membership consists of full members (439 Total Members, 276 Full). Very soon, Robin will have to deny membership to non-property owners. The only way to prevent this is a motion from a full member to change Article V, Section 3 of the bylaws. Given that we currently have 439 total members in the club and we don't know how low the ratio of members to non-members can go, Robin suggested we table this issue, continue with the current By-Laws and revisit this issue at next year's annual member's meeting. *There was no discussion.*
5. Dogs on hikes – large dogs that run back and forth to their owners continue to pose safety issues for the short hikers. Robin recommended that the short hike coordinator and short hike leaders address this at their April planning meeting.
6. Thanks to Jennifer Jennings for coordinating a successful Emergency First Aid Workshop this year and to David Stepner for conducting it. It received very favorable reviews.
7. GAIA Workshops? Anyone interested in organizing one should contact Robin.

8. Name badges were available at the meeting and then returned to member services for pick-up by members. Pins are there for those joining in the last two months. Please pick yours up.
9. The short hike coordinator is willing to post photos from the short hikes on the website. However, this is not in her job description. Michael Sullivan is willing to show someone how to do this. It's not hard. It only makes sense to have someone in charge of this. Lots of us take great photos we'd like to share. We need a volunteer for this position. *No one at the meeting volunteered.* If interested, please contact Robin.
10. There continues to be a lot of interest in snowshoeing. Any member can volunteer to organize one. Marie has volunteered to create a list of interested members for this.

NEW BUSINESS

1. There are 2 new files on our website (thanks to Marie Colbert) that specifically address guidelines for short hike leaders and the responsibilities of the short hike coordinator.
2. The Long Hike Coordinator needs someone to volunteer as his "Assistant" to coordinate the long hikes when he's gone. *John McGregor volunteered.*
3. A suggestion has been made to limit the number of hikers that can sign up for the weekly Monday Short Hikes and the weekly Thursday Long Hikes. Discussion?
 - *(Butch) Club is successful, consequently club membership has grown, on some hikes there are too many people. In general, a good number is 12, maybe 15 maximum. 30 is a parade and also not manageable. Butch proposed that the club not pursue additional members (at least not aggressively), thereby curtailing oversubscribed hikes by not adding more members who will increase demand for spots on hikes. In other words, not further exacerbate the current problem.*
 - *(Merle) Supports limiting number on hikes. Large hiking group has 1) impact on trail 2) impact on experience of hikers and 3) hikers take up the whole parking area excluding other people's (not associated with the club) access to the trail. Merle proposed number on hikes be limited. 15 a good number, but often there are some cancelations and no-shows, so to cover this probability she suggests limiting sign-ups to 20.*
 - *(Angela) Regarding long hikes - number isn't so much of a problem, but more of a safety issue. Some don't stay with the group, resulting sometimes with people getting hurt or lost. This negatively impacts others on the hike, aside from danger for the lost/hurt hiker.*
 - *(Joan) Mostly regarding short hikes - people hike at different speeds, you can have 30 on a hike and they spread out along trail into smaller groups, so the issue of large number on the hike is of less concern to her.*
 - *(Marie) has tried to split the group into subgroups; suggests the club establish another hiking day, perhaps Wednesday, to take pressure off the current Monday and Thursday hikes.*
 - *(Pat Callahan) Short hikers hike on highly impacted trails in general. So she has less concern for impact of larger hiker group on the trail. Her concern is hike*

management and asks what the process will be, if hiker number is limited, to turn people away?

- (Martha) Martha noted that for well-known trails she has few management problems, but she has tried to recruit a secondary leader so that person could help with managing the large number of people on a hike. She suggests staggering hike start times for subgroups of hikers and the hike leader lead pre-hikes with designated leaders of subgroups so they would be familiar with the trail.
- (Michael Fajans) perhaps a compromise that we should try for the coming year is (depending on # hikers and # leaders needed) have hike leaders determine how to manage the hike (i.e. limit number of hikers, use staggered starts, determine number of leaders and groups needed).
- Robin summarized Michael's idea: the hike leader makes a decision on the number of hikers, takes that number (from order of those who sign up for the hike)
- (John McGregor) A problem on some hikes (especially popular hikes that attract many) is that these hikers hike at different speeds. He suggests that when the hike is advertised, we publicize the expected time frame for completing the hike and if hikers don't believe they can hike it in this time frame they should be encouraged not to join the TD hiking group (they can establish their own group for the hike if they want). e.g. Sugarbowl to Squaw hike, most hikers finished in 6 hours; other hikers lagged for whatever reason and finished in 9 hours; as trip leader he had to wait 3 hours for these hikers.
- Butch reiterates he believes we should slow down membership growth because increasing the size of the club will exacerbate already too many on hikes.
- (Stuart) many of these suggestions (limiting hike number and managing a list, informing wait listed people of cancelations, etc., training secondary hike leaders with pre-hikes etc.) pose an extra burden on the few people who are willing to contribute time and effort to be leaders and coordinators. Their efforts on behalf of the club are already substantial. Imposing additional work and effort will decrease volunteers' willingness to take on these leadership roles. Thus, he cautioned people about voting in new rules and regulations that mandate and impose additional work on volunteers.

Robin summarized the feedback into a motion regarding limiting hiker numbers:

1) Motion made by Merle, 2nd Pat G Johnson: For one year, on trial basis, the hike leaders, working in conjunction with the hiking coordinator, may choose to limit the number of hikers at their discretion. *17 for; 13 against; Motion passed*

4. A question has been asked by a hike leader: How can we discourage sign-ups by those not fit enough, fast enough or acclimatized enough for Thursday's strenuous long hikes? Since this is a long hike issue, Robin asked the Long Hike Coordinator and the long hike leaders to discuss it at their April planning meeting. Meanwhile, if anyone in the group has a suggestion, please e-mail it to Butch or Robin. Thanks.

5. Philippa raised the idea of having hikes of 8-10 miles close to home on Wednesdays. Until such time as the short hikers are willing to limit their hikes to less than 8 miles, Robin can't support another coordinator position. However, Philippa agreed to offer such hikes on an informal basis in 2017, see how it goes, and re-visit the idea at next year's annual member's meeting.
6. Some have asked how we can better encourage new members to volunteer to become hike leaders and help them do so. Any ideas?

(Sue Sorenson) Utilize a Leader in Training program- person interested in gaining skill to be a hike leader tags along on hike; learns what to do.

(Marie) Dwight Walker sent her information from a new hiking group he is involved with on a Hike Leader Mentorship program that group uses. (She has the info)

(Butch) – get an assistant hike leader for each hike, they learn mechanics of organizing, know the trail and know what needs to be done.

Member Questions or Comments?

Naomi commented that in other hiking groups with which she is affiliated, leaders are required to have first aid training. Should this be done? (Robin told her this item could not be discussed since it wasn't on the agenda and told her submit this item for the agenda next year.)

Merle, following up on the topic introduced by Naomi, asked if the club could subsidize and offer another first aid training workshop. (Robin noted, yes; asked Merle if she would organize it; Merle indicated she was so inclined, but needed input on how to proceed.)

Angela noted first aid training programs provide a card that certifies you as first aid qualified and noted leaders on hiking trips affiliated with other organizations are required to have this. Nan commented that the workshop Dave Stepner provides for TD Hiking Club apparently doesn't meet criteria for a certificate (time, abbreviated (but TD hiker relevant) content). There are other training programs that do. A show of hands indicated better than 50% of people in attendance have had first aid training. At present, hike leaders and/or participants don't need certification per se, but should be aware of potential first aid needs and, as responsible hikers, hopefully prepare to be of assistance.

John McGregor asked if the club should canvas club members for those who no longer want to participate. Robin responded that she does send out a message asking if any want their names removed from the mailing lists. She also noted she wasn't in favor of canvassing since she felt many people join just to get information on area hikes and this was a useful function for the club, i.e to provide information to others wanting to identify area hikes.

Announcements? None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 P.M.