



**Bonita Valley Horsemen
General Membership Meeting
September 2, 2009
Minutes**

Members present:

Amalfitano, Barbara	Gove, DJ
Bowen, Emily	Johnson, Tony
Carter, Diane	Kukuchek, Mark
Carter, Keith	Pennington, Sherry
Cruger, Doug	Severn, Dwayne
Fiedler, Judy	Shaffer, Sandy
Gonzales, Sandy	

Old Business:

Poker Beach ride (August 22, 2009) -- cost and lessons learned. The club earned \$526.77 from this event.

- Revenues -- \$1000
 - \$125 for membership renewals and five new memberships
 - \$875 in entry fees and raffle tickets, extra poker hands and extra meals.
- Expenses -- \$348.23
 - \$178.19 for lunch, drinks, ice and envelopes
 - \$116.60 for buffet food
 - \$46.68 for campfire snacks
 - \$6.76 for labels
- Profit -- \$526.77

Lessons Learned:

What was good?

- Karaoke was good but needed to start earlier.
- Campfire went very well (23 people attended)
- We knew we had at least a handful of people and planned to conduct the ride even if only members attended.
- Internet is good advertising, and posting flyers at the feed stores. However, we need to find additional ways to get the word out.
- Back Country Horseman cancelled an event to allow people to attend our event and sent out a nice email advertising our ride.
- Mexican carne asada was served by going to the Northgate Market after final count at registration. It worked out well.
- Hors d'oeuvres were good to have while waiting for the main dish to cook.
- Being at the park was good. There was enough going on to entertain those who weren't riders.
- Everyone got to ride that wanted to, including the person doing registration.
- Those that couldn't ride came by and helped.

What is in need of improvement?

- Didn't have a good count of how many participants until the date of the ride.--Very hit or miss.
- Was too expensive. People had to pay for camping and the ride. Other clubs have the poker ride at a more reasonable cost.

- Should offer a chicken dish as well for those that don't eat beef.
- Need someone dedicated to just registration.

President's report:

State of Bonita Address -- 9th, 6 p.m. at the Library, Community Room. All members are encouraged to attend and ask questions about trails and other equestrian issues. The State of Bonita Address is given by our County Supervisor, Greg Cox of the first district.

Board Nomination Month -- October is nomination's month for next years Board. Mark will ask each of the Board members if they are interested in continuing. If there is anyone interested in holding a position on the Board or maybe just being more involved, please let Mark know. Everyone is encouraged to become involved.

2010 Calendar – Discussion was held on what people wanted to do this upcoming year. The calendar will be published as soon as it is finalized. The following suggestions were made:

- Trail Trials
- Poker ride
- Emerald Ranch Ride and picnic
- Western Gateway BBQ
- Borrego State Park Camping Trip
- Tour of Bonita
- Fireworks ride
- Bonitafest
- Halloween contest ride
- Santa Margarita ride

A draft calendar is attached to these minutes with proposed events and dates for next year.

Trail Priorities – Mark is part of the Sweetwater Community Planning Group and has been asked about trail priorities again. There is park money they want to spend so if you have any suggestions, please let Mark know. The current priority is the Sweetwater Park Betterment where most of it will be paid for from the freeway mitigation. They are putting in a new playground, a pavilion, exercise course, 30 new campsites and a new restroom at the summit. They also have money for the planning and environmental impact for the Sweetwater Loop trail which includes the trail from Western Gateway to Willow Street and the trail that goes all the way around the lake. Final funding for these trails is still yet to be established.

Discussion was held regarding the gates still being locked at the County water Authority property at Proctor Valley Road and difficulties getting through to the Highlands across the Bonita Meadows water crossing.

Discussion was held around a grant that is available. Various suggestions were made. Nothing was decided. Mark will research if our tax exempt status as a 501 c 4 organization will allow us to receive a grant.

Treasurer's report:

- Balance at \$3,910.93. The insurance is due in October and the approximate obligation is \$800.
- Motion was made and seconded to donate \$100 to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.
- Discussion was held on other things we want to spend our money on. No motion was brought forward or approved at this time.

Trail report:

- County brought in a jail crew to clean up. They left the cuttings along the trail. Most of the trimming except for the palm fronds have been chipped at this time.

Membership report:

- Renewal letters were sent out. It was agreed that Sandy S. would pass the forms to Diane once the income has been recorded.
- We have five new members.
- A membership or renewal form must accompany any payment.
- Membership and renewal forms need to have an expiration date included. People have paid forward and need to know when their membership expires.

New Business:

- Rice Canyon Moonlight Ride, September 5 at 7 p.m. Main course will be provided by the club. Bring a dish to share. Trailer-pooling is advised since there is limited parking. This is a good opportunity to get together.
- Bonitafest is September 26. BVH and Chula Vista Mounted Patrol are sharing a booth again. Trail patrol members are encouraged to wear their uniforms. Diane is doing a “paint a pony” plaster casting for children to paint for \$2 each. Volunteers are needed to work the booth. The schedule is as follows:

10:00 – 12:00	Diane and Sandy S.
12:00 – 2:00	Sherry & Sandy G.
2:00 – 4:00	Doug

Mark will set up and tear down. If you are able to help, please come down any time between 10:00 and 4:00.

- Survey – Doug will be putting together an on-line survey form to find out what people events people would like, etc.

Upcoming Events:

- September 26 Bonitafest
- October 17 Bonita Highlands Ride

**Next BVH meeting:
Wednesday, October 7, Bonita Museum, 7:00 p.m.
ALL members welcome.**