

Directors Report March 2012

Here it is April Fools Day already. I normally end my wintertime reports by saying that I hope your woodpile and haystack are holding up; this month I'd better start it that way! My goodness, I awoke this morning to 3 inches of snow and snowing harder than it did all winter. Wasn't March 21st the first day of spring? If this is global warming I sure hope I'm not around when global cooling starts... Anyway.

March was a big month for BCHW. Of course it was Rendezvous month and Annual General Meeting Month – more about those later – but it was also the month during which the First Quarter Board of Directors meeting occurred. I'd like to share several things from that meeting that are super important to us as an organization and some other stuff of general interest. First off, the Board approved the BCHW Sawyer Certification Program. You may remember that we had previously signed a Letter of Agreement with Region 6 of the U.S. Forest Service that authorized us to conduct our own saw certification program. Well, after a whole lot of blood, sweat and tears, that is nearly a done deal. All that remains to be done is to get our Instructor/Certifiers approved by the Forest Service and we will be in business. Hopefully before the end of this year all of the bugs will be worked out and our program will be old hat. Another big step forward in my opinion was the Board's approval of a policy to permit monthly payments for lifetime memberships. I'm not quite sure how that will work out, but it will – in all likelihood – be an Internet based program that relies on monthly credit card payments. Stay tuned for implementing instructions. The Board conducted BCHA Director elections: Lori Lennox, the Grays Harbor Chapter Director, was elected BCHA Director (Position 1); Darrel Wallace, Northeast Chapter, was elected Alternate BCHA Director. Bob Gish remains BCHA Director (Position 2) for another year. Big news on the 2012 budget front – BCHW is in the black for the first time in a long time despite declining memberships. Although there are a lot of months left in the budget year, the Treasurer is optimistic that we may be able to move some funds to savings/reserves at the end of the year rather than take money out of savings to finish out the year. That will be a pleasant change!

At the Annual General Meeting Bill Lawrence, the keynote speaker entertained us. He gave a very interesting talk about his life work as a movie industry horse trainer with lots of antidotes about different movies and various movie stars and personalities. Following Bill's talk, we heard from President Bob Gish who gave a short talk on the state of BCHW. Bob reported that we had contributed over 55,000 hours valued at more than 1.7 million dollars in volunteer labor, education, goods and services to keep trails open in Washington during 2011. During the BCHW annual awards presentation three OVC members were recognized: Dave Sunde was awarded the 2011 Backbone Award, Tom Windsor was awarded the 2011 Trail Warrior Award and Dave Swanberg was awarded the Presidents Diamond Award. Congratulations to those gentlemen.

In my not so humble opinion the 2012 Rendezvous was the best I have attended since I joined BCHW in 1994. Despite the really crappy weather on Thursday and Friday there were record numbers of campers, attendees at leadership training, vendors, diners at the Saturday night banquet, folks who stuck around for the auction and the dance afterwards. Speaking of the auction and record numbers, I believe the gross and net for the live and silent auctions, "pick of the live" raffle and bucket raffles also were hugely successful. It was a whole lot of fun! I hope that you will plan to attend next year.

I'll see you out on the trails just as soon as the snow melts!