



## Board Meeting May 23, 2006

The meeting was called to order, informally, at 8:00 pm.

Tina Maddox, Adriane Altman, Ron Cook, Gerald Davis, Mary West, Randy Brown were present.

Progress since the organizational meeting was reported; a checking account has been opened, federal tax number obtained, incorporation papers filed with the state, affiliation papers filed with BCHA (affiliation status was unanimously awarded at April Board meeting of BCH), and the notice of intent to incorporate was filed with the Eatonton Messenger.

Expenses so far are; Checks \$17.50, BCH Affiliation Fee \$150 (one time fee, covers all membership for the first year), Secretary of State Incorporation Fee \$100, Notice of Intent to Incorporate to Eatonton Messenger \$40. There is an additional deposit to be made of \$90. The initial deposit was \$1157.00 leaving a balance of \$939.50 and it is a no fee business account. Tina reminded us that we will owe BCHA in December for all members at that time, \$10 for each single member and \$13 for each family member. This will cover their membership for 2007 to BCHA. Currently we have 12 Family members and 24 Individual members which means we need to have \$296 in the bank to cover our current membership. This leaves us with \$643.50 in the account to cover newsletters, postage and other costs.

The Organizational meeting was discussed. Eighty three people attended and we got 36 memberships, 12 of which are family memberships.. counting those as two attending.. we got 48 memberships out of 83 attending or 57% attending joined. Overall the opinion was that the turnout was low and we are looking for suggestions on location/topic/marketing to create excitement for our next large meeting.

It was decided to purchase 100 Guidebooks from BCHA to include in our welcome packets along with a bumper sticker, welcome letter and information on upcoming events as well as the Leave No Trace brochure.

One of the main goals of this meeting was to formally designate a Mission Statement, Statement of Purpose and determine short-term goals as well as 2, 5 and 10-year goals. The following was decided:

Mission Statement:

The Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia is a non-profit organization dedicated to perpetuating the common sense use and enjoyment of horses on Georgia's Public Lands. We work to ensure that public lands remain open to equine use and assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of those resources.

Statement of Purpose:

Local men and women dedicated to the preservation of our right to the common sense use of and equine access on Georgia's Public Land.

Short Term Action Plan:

1. Develop a network of contacts to identify all resources of public land in Middle and South Georgia. (Locate all public lands and obtain contact information, maps, directions and other pertinent information)
2. Develop a network of contacts to identify all public land user groups in Middle and South Georgia. (Locate all user groups, equine, hikers, bikers, ATV and obtain contact information, arrange to talk to them about BCH)
3. Develop Educational Materials promoting good trail etiquette and BCH. (Leave No Trace)
4. Designate liaisons to work with Public Land Mangers to create a stable volunteer base to help with trail maintenance.

Goals:

2 Years:

Make Back Country Horsemen of Georgia the advocate for trail riders in Georgia with a strong member base. Be the voice for Georgia's equine trail riders.

5 Years:

See an increase in equine trails and facilities on Georgia's public lands.

10 Years:

Make Georgia a horse friendly state by providing adequate facilities and trail riding opportunities across the state for residents and visitors alike.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm.