

Revised Minutes of the Ouachita Mountain Hikers Members Meeting
May 21, 2015

Executive Board members present: Debbie Van Veghel, Rick Ericson, Ralph Butler.

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m., Garland County Library, Hot Springs. 16 attending

President's Remarks

Debbie Van Veghel convened the meeting by welcoming guests and new members. She highlighted some of the club's recent activities, including support of the Ouachita Challenge mountain bike race, a well-attended recent trip to the Buffalo National River, and member support for construction of OT shelter #8 (of 12) under the auspice of Friends of the Ouachita Trail (FoOT).

Treasurer/Membership

Debbie read Jeannie Eichler's report:

- Current balance of the OMH Checking Account: \$3868.37
- Current Membership: 324 paid members, of which 39 are hike leaders, 83 are lifetime members, and 39 have completed the Ouachita National Recreation Trail.

Secretary/Historian - No report.

Publicity Chairperson – No report

Trail Maintenance

Ralph summarized the repair done on the club's adopted section of the OT during April and May, which included tree removal, water bar service and repair, and lopping from mile markers 177.2 through 179.2.

Hike Chairperson

Debbie read Anita Moore's report summarizing upcoming hikes and a float:

- Hike and Swim on the Little Missouri, led by Jim Gifford
- A long hike in the Hot Springs National Park, led by Jackie Dawson
- Club float on the Caddo River, led by Jerry Harris
- Short hikes in the Mount Ida area behind Joe Breashears
- National Trails Day celebrations on June 6 at several state parks
- End of the Hiking Year Picnic in June
- Club trip to Glacier National Park in August

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Evening Program

Debbie introduced Susan Adkins and Dan Cooper. Susan is Park Interpreter for Lake Ouachita State Park, and familiar to most members who have hiked there. They presented the fundamentals of the *Leave No Trace* program, and then used an exercise to generate discussion of what it means to act in accordance with those principals. The main topics included:

- Plan ahead when hiking or camping
- Hike and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly, especially with respect to nearby water sources
- Leave behind any artifacts or collectibles for others to enjoy
- Minimize the environmental impact of campfires
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of others

Conclusion

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Ericson
Secretary/Historian