

Revised Minutes of the Ouachita Mountain Hikers Members Meeting
September 10, 2015

Executive Board members present: Debbie Van Veghel, Marilyn Hall, Jeannie Eichler, Ralph Butler, Tom Calhoun

Call to Order: 12:30 p.m., Lake Ouachita State Park picnic area. 62 members in attendance

President's Remarks

Debbie Van Veghel called the meeting to order following the Welcome Back Hike & Picnic. She commented on the great turnout for the club season opener with 59 hikers hitting the trails. She thanked all who stayed to attend the membership meeting and commented that this meeting might be the biggest attendance ever. She explained that the board decided to incorporate the September meeting into the Welcome Back Hike & Picnic since there was a conflict with the date at the regular meeting location at Garland County Library.

Old Business

Debbie mentioned that Marilyn Hall was this year's Club Nominating Committee Chair and still was in need of finding volunteers to fill a few positions and anyone that would like to step up should contact Marilyn, Debbie or any board member.

New Business:

Treasurer/Membership

Jeannie Eichler reported the following:

Current balance of OMH Checking Account: \$4,239.08

Current Membership: 347 paid members**, of which 39 are hike leaders, 90 are Lifetime members, and 39 have completed the Ouachita National Recreation Trail.

**This number includes prior year members who have not yet paid this season's dues.

Number may change after the October dues deadline.

Secretary/Historian – No report.

Publicity Chairperson – No report

Trail Maintenance – No report

Hike Chairperson

Anita Moore, prior Hike Chair, reported for current Hike Chair, David Tedrahn in his absence. Anita thanked all the hike leaders and Jim Gifford for all of their help, support and cooperation during her past two years as Hike Chair. She gave a brief overview of upcoming hike highlights of the fall hiking season stating that there was something for everyone. This upcoming Saturday, Sept. 12th, will be the club's trail maintenance in Hot Springs National Park and the following Saturday the club will travel to Little Rock to hike the Two Rivers trail. She explained that for the fall hiking season, the club has moved the OT trail maintenance days to Saturday in hopes that it allows more people to volunteer in the club's trail maintenance. Looking ahead to the fall overnights, Bo & Brenda Lea will lead the October overnight over in Albert Pike Rec Area hiking the Eagle Rock Loop Trail. Sam Swann will lead and Marilyn Hall will coordinate the November overnight at Devil's Den State Park in NW Arkansas. Jim Gifford will lead the December overnight up north in the Sylamore area.

VP/Program Chair – Marilyn Hall

Marilyn organized short presentations to be given by fellow hikers.

Debbie Van Veghel was first with “Are You Prepared?”

Debbie spoke about being prepared for hikes in various ways, reviewing some of the club’s standard procedures including: new members participating in two Saturday hikes before attempting longer, harder Thursday hikes; carpool information; hike flashes; and choosing your hikes. She included some hiking tips for new members that may help them starting out. She also went over the importance of carrying some sort of 1st aid kit, whether it was something basic or a more substantial kit in the event an unexpected “incident” should occur. Two of the standard items she carries, that have a multitude of uses, are a bandana and duct tape.

Jim Gifford was next with “Trail Stewardship”

Jim talked about the importance of giving back by helping with trail maintenance and trail building whenever possible. At any given time, Mother Nature can leave devastation behind rendering trails unusable. It takes dedicated volunteers to help clean up our forest, wilderness and park areas when events like these occur, and to put the trails back in order for all of us to enjoy. Besides our club obligation in Flatside Wilderness, volunteers can help maintain the LOViT trail and HSV trails, or participate with Friends of the OT in maintaining other sections of the National Rec (OT) Trail. And, if you are unable to physically volunteer, you can also support organizations with monetary donations to state or national organizations.

Susan Holick was last with “The Best Places to Eat after Hiking”

Susan presented a fun topic of places hikers have found to eat before heading home after a hike. She gathered information from various hikers and covered the areas our hikes take us to around Hot Springs. It was such an interesting topic to the group that many asked to have the list published on the club website. Some of the following were places Susan included on her list:

“Bluebell” a little old gas station turned restaurant that is privately owned in Story at the junction of Hwy 298 & Hwy 27; off Hwy 270 near Crystal Springs, *“Patty’s Down the Road”*, *“Burl’s Smokehouse”*, *“Mountain Harbor on Lake Ouachita”*; around Jasper up in the Buffalo River area, *“Low Gap Café”* a little hole in the wall, in the middle of nowhere but has a real chef with fabulous food, *“Ozark Café”* in downtown Jasper, and, *“The Cliff House”* with great food and fantastic views of the Arkansas Grand Canyon; *“Burger Barn”* in Ozone; *“Jones Family Restaurant”* Hwy 9 in Perryville; *“Petit Jean State Park Lodge”*; *“Mt. Magazine State Park Lodge”*; *“Rocky Mountain Grill”* Hwy 70 by Pearcy; *“Burgers & More”* just off Mtn. Pine Rd & Albert Pike; *“Mickey’s BBQ”* off Hwy 7 & Hwy 7S by DeSoto Park and many places in Hot Springs such as *“The Colorado Grill”*, *“Taco Mamas”*, *“The Pancake House”*, *“The Colonial”*, *“Trejo’s Mexican Grill”*. Suggestions came from the audience to have added to the list *“The Dairiette”* in Mt. Ida, *“The Shack”* on Hwy 7 N and *“DeWayne’s”* in Dover.

Jim Gifford announced the sad news that the much frequented *“Cody’s”* in Fifty-Six has closed its doors.

Following the meeting presentations, 6 items were donated to be given out as door prizes to those in attendance.

Conclusion

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,*

Rick Ericson, Secretary

*Thanks to Debbie Van Veghel, Marilyn Hall and Jeannie Eichler for drafting the above minutes