

**MOUNT SAN JACINTO NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
DATE: February 13, 2017**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** 1748, by Joe Migliore

**QUORUM (5 Board Members):** Yes

**BOARD MEMBERS/DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Joe Migliore President, Kurt Leuschner VP, Royce Jones Treasurer, Suzanne Tracy Secretary, Phyllis Keys Bookkeeper, Jim Forneris Retail, Dennis Schirmer Science, Bob Pellenbarg

**MSJ VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Vince Llacer, Carl Maple

**CA DPR REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Allison Barnes Park Interpreter

**ABSENT:** Maureen McCarty, Mark Hudgens Sector Superintendent, Todd Friedman Supervisor

**APPROVE MINUTES PRIOR MEETING November 14, 2016**

**MOTION:** Approve minutes for November 14, 2016

**BY:** Royce Jones, **SECONDED BY:** Kurt Leuschner All in Favor and Carried: Yes

**APPROVE MINUTES PRIOR MEETING January 9, 2017**

**MOTION:** Approve minutes for January 9, 2017

**BY:** Royce Jones, **SECONDED BY:** Kurt Leuschner All in Favor and Carried: Yes

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Treasurer's Report,** Royce Jones and Phyllis Keys

Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets for January 2017:

Report attached to minutes and includes following:

Total Assets Checking at US Bank: January 2017 \$36,959.27

Total Checking/Savings at US Bank: January 2017 \$154,015.31

Total Current Assets (Includes CDs, Education Grant, Cash at All Locations, Rescue Funds):

January 2017 \$153,982.59

Total Liabilities & Equity: January 2017 \$153,982.59

Net Income: January 2017 \$434.58, Budgeted: -\$87.00, Over Budget: \$521.58

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

More memberships and donations at this time; up by \$100.00 from January 2016.

Memberships: \$312.21, Donations: \$261.25.

No interpretative supplies purchased.

PSAT/Palm Springs Aerial Tramway sold \$1100.00 of old NHA inventory.

Louis Borick education donations from 2014 and 2015 discussed. Kurt Leuschner will email foundation and report on programs utilizing funds.

**State Park Report,** Park Interpreter Report, Allison Barnes

First school program with home schooled children occurred with 37 children with parents and 2 volunteers. Not many school programs scheduled for March. Anticipate more programs starting in April after standardized testing is completed.

Allison Barnes reports volunteer training programs scheduled for 2017.

**Introduction to Interpretation:** February 25 and March 11

**Nature Walk Interpretation:** April 1 and 29

Reimbursement for donuts, etc., for trainings requested through the NHA. NHA will reimburse-no motion needed.

Two new volunteers and four volunteers in process of completing required paperwork.

Contact for new volunteers is through current volunteer roster; "Friends of Friends."

Staffing for Wildflower Festival, March 4, 2017, discussed with decision to setup NHA booth and sell supplies, such as puppets and card games. Payment methods for supplies discussed and includes a credit card reader attached to a cell phone. This requires approval and a volunteer willing to use personal cell phone.

Conference in Monterrey very good.

Interpretation supplies needed include paper, patio umbrella, and an astronomical telescope.

Paper can be purchased from Staples with consideration of recycled paper.

Patio umbrella will be used for Patio Talks and needs a weighted base at a cost of approximately \$100.00.

A portable astronomical telescope can be purchased for \$500.00. This purchase would allow viewing of the night sky and solar eclipse occurring on August 11, 2017, with possibility of offering programs to the public. Discussion of involving ASOD/Astronomical Society of the Desert and using their telescopes as a possible option along with involving the PSAT/Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. Other ideas included an

**State Park Report**, Park Interpreter Report, Allison Barnes, Cont.:  
overnight campout in Round Valley with transport of the telescope by the Wilderness Patrollers. Possible use of Louis Borick education funds discussed.

MOTION: Approve \$750.00 for paper, patio umbrella, and an astronomical telescope.  
BY: Kurt Leuschner, SECONDED BY: Jim Forneris, All in Favor and Carried: Yes

**Natural Science**, Dennis Schirmer: Nothing to report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**MEMBERSHIP:** Joe Migliore

MSJ Membership Campaign included expired memberships back to 2010 without much response. A second membership drive proposed with an incentive. This incentive would be the extension of membership for a two year period-to the end of 2018. Possible themes for drive include "Getting in Touch with Nature".

MOTION: Approve a two year membership for amount chosen for lapsed members back to 2010.  
BY: Kurt Leuschner, SECONDED BY: Royce Jones, All in Favor and Carried: Yes

**WEBSITE:** Joe Migliore

Facebook updates: Royce Jones

Joe Migliore will meet with Royce Jones placing information on Facebook.

Allison Barnes will recap 2016 educational programs for Royce Jones.

**EDUCATION:** Allison Barnes, See State Park report

**RETAIL:** Jim Forneris

Sales vary widely from day to day with \$345.00 as the top sales figure in one day.

Jim Forneris is working with PSAT on transferring more NHA supplies to PSAT and will coordinate spring supplies with PSAT starting in mid March.

Price of monument pin discussed at NHA Visitor Center is \$5.95, while it is \$2.95 at Santa Rosa San Jacinto National Monument. Cost at NHA Visitor Center will remain same at \$5.95.

Will continue to sell MSJ beanies and sweatshirts. Jim formers will check pricing and continue to coordinate with PSAT doing whatever is permitted for sales by PSAT.

Locks on VC drawers very unstable. Discussion of placing a single locking bar over the drawers with Alison Barnes coordinating repairs. Receipts will be requested from repairman.

MOTION: Approve \$100.00 for repairs enabling locking of VC supplies with amendment to include purchase of donuts for volunteer train sessions.

BY: Kurt Leuschner, SECONDED BY: Robert Pellenbarg, All in Favor and Carried: Yes

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**TABLED:** STATUS INCOMPLETE: Review and revise bylaws

**POSTPONED** to 2017: Stone Creek Campground: Wood Sales, Safe, Credit Card Reader

These items will be reviewed.

Rentable gas grills for use at Stone Creek discussed with consideration for possible liability for exploding propane tanks; this is tabled for present until Sector Superintendent, Mark Hudgens, is available.

Royce Jones reports a safe was delivered to the Idyllwild Ranger Station.

Credit card reader will be discussed at the next NHA board meeting.

**POSTPONED** to 2017: Photo Contest

NHA Program Proposals for 2017: See email from Joe Migliore sent on December 31, 2016 for complete details, report from Alison Barnes, Carl Maple, and Royce Jones

Possible proposals include:

Interpretation with Allison Barnes, Astronomy with Allison Barnes on June 3, 2017. Allison Barnes is conducting Junior Ranger days every three to four weeks from May to October 2017, and will look for conflicts with previously planned programs.

Birds with Kurt Leuschner on August 5, 2017.

Geology with Robert Pellenbarg on June 17, 2017.

Back Country Essentials Series with Carl Maple and Royce Jones possibly starting on May 20, 2017, and will include The Ten Essentials, Map and Compass, Backcountry Travel, and Being Prepared. Royce Jones will place on the Facebook page and in local newspapers.

NHA Program Proposals for 2017 Cont.:

Suggestions for moving forward include anticipated program, presentation in the Nichols room followed by an interpretative walk with finalization of programs at the next NHA board meeting, biopics on each presenter, no charge for program with appreciation expressed for donations to the NHA, and scheduling of the Nichols room.

TRAFx counters: Purchase and installation. This is complete.

Logistics program: Coordination of volunteers. This is complete.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Partnership Skill Building: New ideas, remains open

Partnership with Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival 2017 discussed with plans for the NHA to have a booth and sell NHA supplies.

Weekly Digest from California State Parks: Not discussed.

Additional volunteers are needed to assist with NHA duties and projects and include the website and the Facebook page. Allison Barnes will investigate possible volunteers for these projects.

Improvement of the NHA image discussed with the possibility of purchasing a card printer at a cost of \$1100.00 to \$1200.00. The card printer would add a more professional image. Other methods discussed included an app and laminator. Dennis Schirmer will investigate Staples, Kurt Leuschner will investigate Joshua Tree, and Joe Migliore will investigate Anza-Borrego for methods used for membership cards.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** March 13, 2017

**REFRESHMENTS:** Suzanne Tracy

**ADJOURNMENT:** 1927

Transcribed from original notes on February 21, 2017

Original notes attached

Suzanne Tracy

**EMAIL NHA PROGRAM PROPOSALS for 2017 (from Joe Migliore, Sent on 12/31/2016):**

Hi Board and Liaison,

I would like NHA and the park to get programs for the public up and running. We can do it! If we agree, let's get it "up and running" by spring/summer at the latest. Please check the ideas below and think on it with comments, additions or any ideas for the next board meeting, on Jan. 9, 5:30 as usual. Mark, are there any restrictions to participation by park staff in any of these proposed programs?

Individuals named here are just for example and not exclusionary.

Joe

**NHA PROGRAM PROPOSALS:**

Many people in the public are not comfortable hiking alone. Nature walks are scheduled but not publicly promoted outside of the park in advance. Tram is not a deterrent if the programs are special and in demand and offered in advance (seasonally) and require sign-up, perhaps with tram discount incentive or whatever we can arrange.

Fees: free (guest pays tram fare)

Fee plus (including tram fare)

Fee, program only (guest pays tram fare)

Free with discounted tram fare (arranged with tram)

any other options proposals..... (this requires careful planning so that it's simple for the guest and us, and modestly profitable, or not. Tram fare could make the difference.)

Guided hikes:

Guides: volunteers, rangers, guest specialists like birding, geology, botany. Like Ali, Kurt, Katie, and other guests, etc.

Interpretive hikes:

botanical (seasonal for wildflowers)

botanical (primarily perennial, trees and shrubs)

Birding

Geology

Comprehensive (ecology)

Any topic preceded by short visual presentation in the Nichols room

Hiking and interpretive destinations:

Hidden Lake

Hidden Divide

Shangri- la cross country w/or without Cornell or Cornell Saddle

The peak

Day long loop hike via Little Round Valley and Strawberry Jct., Wellman's divide.

Round Valley loop

Miller Ridge cross country from Cornell Saddle ?

Desert View.

Mountain Sta. to Idyllwild via Wellman Strawberry Jct. and

either Dear Springs/Suicide Rock or Saddle Jct. (shuttle)

Tahquitz Peak Lookout from Saddle Jct. or South Ridge (with Lookout visit?).

Ranger led mystery hikes (now only volunteers)

The Summits, over 10,000 ft.: S.J., Jean, Marion, Miller, Drury (all at once or not, for peak baggers who can't do it all at once, very strenuous and cross country)

Education: possibly combined with walk/hike

Photography: Winter and Spring/summer

Geology

Birds/wildlife

Botany

Wilderness Travel, Ranger led. This could be a prerequisite for some of the all day hikes, subject to past experience.

(GUIDED HIKES AT THE MON. VC HAVE BEEN VERY POPULAR FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, ESPECIALLY DURING WILDFLOWERS.)

POSSIBLE HIKE LEADERS: ALI BARNES, CARL MAPLE, ROYCE JONES, BILL SOLYLO, JED REGHANTI, SANDY JONES, ETC.

**EMAIL re COACHELLA VALLEY WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL:**

Hi Suzanne, let's put this on the agenda for the next meeting. also Weekly Digest from State Parks, Renewal Campaign email, and of course continue planning for scheduled programs for the public. Joe  
Joe Migliore jayseem@dc.rr.com 760-202-3705 cell 760-641-1040

Yes Allison, let's partner. NHA has done this in the past but partnering makes sense. I have put it on the agenda for the 13th. Joe  
Joe Migliore jayseem@dc.rr.com 760-202-3705 cell 760-641-1040

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Barnes, Allison@Parks" <[Allison.Barnes@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Allison.Barnes@parks.ca.gov)>

**Subject: FW: Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival March 4, 2017**

**Date:** January 27, 2017 at 10:35:59 AM PST

**To:** "[jayseem@dc.rr.com](mailto:jayseem@dc.rr.com)" <[jayseem@dc.rr.com](mailto:jayseem@dc.rr.com)>, "[kleuschner@collegeofthedesert.edu](mailto:kleuschner@collegeofthedesert.edu)" <[kleuschner@collegeofthedesert.edu](mailto:kleuschner@collegeofthedesert.edu)>

I'm sure you two have already seen this in your other circles, but would the NHA like to partner up on the same application I plan to submit or perhaps spread out and have their own booth?

Reason I ask now is because the application is due February 10<sup>th</sup> just before our NHA meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

I plan on working on the application sometime next week while at training. I should be somewhat responsive to my work emails throughout my absence though.

Cheers, Ali

**From:** Ada Nuckels [<mailto:adanuckels@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2017 10:15 AM

**Subject:** Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival March 4, 2017

Our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival 2017 is fast approaching and we would like you to participate again this year. Attached is our application packet to be an exhibitor. If you wish to participate please complete the attached application and email it to [friends@desertmountains.org](mailto:friends@desertmountains.org) or [adanuckels@gmail.com](mailto:adanuckels@gmail.com) or fax it to [760-568-9908](tel:760-568-9908) no later than February 15, 2017.

Looking forward to having you with us again,

Ada Nuckels Lead Volunteer Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918

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Dear Friend,

*The Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival is coming and it won't be the same without you!*

For the 10<sup>th</sup> year running, Friends of the Desert Mountains, the non-profit support organization for the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Mounument, will be hosting the Wildflower Festival. Vendors and artists participating in the 2017 event *must apply in advance* for a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The SRP authorizes vendors to sell goods or services on public lands in conjunction with the Festival and includes the collection of associated fees. If you are a food/beverage vendor, there are specific regulations that you will need to comply with that are best addressed individually. If you are interested in vending at the Wildflower Festival, please contact Daniel Kasang, Park Ranger, at (760) 833-7106 or email [dkasang@blm.gov](mailto:dkasang@blm.gov) in order to apply for an SRP.

Items offered for sale by vendors should relate to the event's wildflower theme or outdoor recreation activities (such as hiking, biking or running), convey a tie to the natural world through the use of natural or simulated natural materials, or represent the natural world through art. Please submit a description of your merchandise; Friends and the BLM will determine whether your item(s) for sale are appropriate for this event. The sale of cigarettes, fireworks or any type of weaponry (knives, guns, ammo, swords, etc.) is not allowed.

The use of temporary structures commensurate with your vending operation are allowed, but must be approved in advance. Such temporary structures include pop-up tents, display racks, and tables. The location of your vending operation on the Visitor Center grounds will be assigned by Friends of the Desert Mountains. The location may depend on the type and size of temporary structures approved for the event

The 2017 Wildflower Festival is shaping up to be our largest event to date. The day will feature guided hikes, live animals, music, artists, vendors, exhibitors, wine and beer garden, a 5k trail fun run/walk, kids activities and much more. Best of all, the event including transportation from the parking lot at St. Margarets' Church is all free to the public.

The details for the event are as follows:

What: Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival 2017  
When: Saturday, March 4, 2017, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Set-up: Friday, March 3, 2017, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (overnight security will be provided)  
Where: Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Mounument Visitor Center, located at 51-500 Highway 74 (4-miles south of Highway 111), in Palm Desert.  
Cost: Free – donations recommended to Friends of the Desert Mountains

Exhibitors may not take up collections for their own or other organizations. Any donations received by exhibitors must be given to Friends of the Desert Mountains.

In order to plan the site to give vendors and exhibitors the best exposure, we will need to receive your organization's application no later than end of day, Friday, February 10, 2017. Please contact Friends office at (760) 568-9918 or [friends@desertmountains.org](mailto:friends@desertmountains.org) for more information.

We're really looking forward to this year's Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival and are hoping that you'll be our partner as we work together to make this year's event the best one yet! We hope to be hearing from and working with you soon.

Sincerely,

"The Friends"

Friends of the Desert Mountains

**National Monument Visitor Center 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260; (760) 862-9984  
Participant Application Form**

Contact Name:  
Organization/Business Name:

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Cell:

Email:  
**Please describe your display:**  
Exhibit:

Non-Profit:

Author:

Artist:

Display/Set up Requirements:

**SET-UP AND DISPLAY AREAS: You will be assigned your display space or area.** We will be providing ONE 6' table/linen and TWO chairs. Additional 6' tables with linen will be at a cost of \$50 each. If you have your own set-up please identify size of area needed under Set-up Requirements above. Note that 10x12 is the largest set-up we allow. Set up will be on Friday, March 3, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Set up must be completed by 4 p.m. The event takes place on Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Overnight security will be provided. Displays must remain up and cannot be torn down until 4 p.m. on March 4.

**EXHIBITOR/ARTIST / VENDOR SALES:** Please see application fees below.

Exhibitor:

No Charge – donation recommended.

Artist/Vendor:

The artist/vendor is responsible for all sales transactions. Artist/Vendor must apply in advance for a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Please contact Daniel Kasang, Park Ranger, at [\(760\) 833-7106](tel:7608337106) or [dkasang@blm.gov](mailto:dkasang@blm.gov) as soon as possible in order to apply for an SRP. This form must be turned in at the same time as the application.

**Please return this application by February 10, 2017 to the attention of Tammy Martin, Friends of the Desert Mountains, P.O. Box 1281, Palm Desert, CA 92261.**

**RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT:** The undersigned agrees to hold harmless the Bureau of Land Management, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, Friends of the Desert Mountains, and US Forest Service staff, officers and volunteers working on their behalf, against any and all liability for damage to persons or property from any source while participating in the Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival or using any facilities in connection with the event.

Also, you give your consent for photos, which you may be pictured in, to be used for Friends / National Monument publicity.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Friends of the Desert Mountains Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_