

PUBLIC LANDS ROUNDTABLE MINUTES

Meeting Location: BLM Ridgecrest Office

Minutes of: March 27, 2025

Called to order at: 6:00pm by Chairman George Croll

Pledge of allegiance was led by George Croll.

A MOTION was made to approve the February 27, 2025 minutes by John Auburn, 2nd by Charlie Hattendorf. The MOTION was approved as sent.

PLRT MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Auburn, Barbara Bane, George Croll, Skip Gorman, Mary Grimsley, Arzell Hale, Charlie Hattendorf, Bev Hill, Will Liebscher, Gary Luckeroth, Mark Mason, Steven Rainey, Karen Sanders, Hector Villalobos, Phil Desenze, Ridgecrest Field Manager.

GUESTS: Bonnie Snyder, John Kersey, China Lake; and others that I could not understand. I did not get a copy of the sign-in sheet.

Mary announced the passing of Ron Schiller on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. Mary asked that if you knew Ron to please sign the card that is going around.

GUEST SPEAKER: Sean Tucker, Manager of Gold Discovery LLC

+ Mr. Tucker gave a biography of himself, which included amateur/professional bicycling and prior businesses he started or was involved in.

+ He gave a slide show along with his talk of the exploratory drilling around the Atolia area, just south of Red Mountain. I believe Charlie has a copy of the slide show if you want to see it.

GUEST SPEAKER: Karen Sanders, Field rep for District 2, Kern County Board of Supervisors

+ Talked to us about the Yellow Bag (trash) Program. Seven years ago, Kern County decided to start this program where the yellow bags were given to people who were recreating in the desert, so that when they see trash out in the back country, they could pick it up, put it in the yellow bag, and the bags could be dropped off at any Kern County dump facility. If it is large amount of trash illegally dumped, you can call Code Compliance, or call Cody Chriswell at 760-549-9380, who is the field rep for District 1, Bill Peters, or find Code Compliance on the Kern County website. There is also an app where you can self-report.

+ Karen also reported that there is a steel mill, the first in California, being built between Mojave & Rosamond, and they will be manufacturing rebar, and they will be using scrap metal to make the rebar.

Jawbone OHV news - Moose Anderson Days, a large clean-up of the Jawbone area will be held on April 26. If you register for this event, you'll get a t-shirt & lunch.

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS: Will Liebscher mentioned that we need a small miner representative. We may also have a representative from the R/C Film Commission. She wanted to be here tonight.

BLM UPDATES: by Phil Desenze, Ridgecrest Field Manager.

Next month I would like to talk to you about our Special Recreation Permit Program. Mostly competitive racing permits for OHV's, which could also include equestrian events.

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Jim Watson, our Chief Law Enforcement officer just got back yesterday (could not understand a word said, between Phil speaking softly and the paper passing). One of our officers rescued 2 people who were stranded out at the Trona Pinnacles for 3 days, and gave them a ride back to Trona, then assisted them in recovering their vehicle.

+ Papers still be passed around and people talking in the background, makes this difficult.

+ Phil needed to figure out what was going on in the office since he had been out of the office. The papers being passed around are a list of projects being worked on. Not everything will be accomplished on this list.

MISCELLANEOUS: Will L. related the story of a vehicle with motorcycles and a family of about 6 pulling into the gas station in Joburg, talking about a Desert Tortoise. Will L. engaged them in conversation and discovered they had picked up the Tortoise and had it in their vehicle. He told them what they should do with it (take it back to where they found it), but heaven knows if they did or not.

+ Barbara Bain asked about repatriation and has our visiting archeologist come up with a revised plan to repatriate remains? There is a plan being worked on. It is being treated as a priority.

+ George filled Phil in on the Top 10 Priorities regarding Public Lands that we are working on to perfect.

5-minute break!

NEW BUSINESS:

+ **George** suggested that we not have a guest speaker at the next meeting so that we can take the time to go over the Draft By-Laws and discuss them, and hopefully finalize them. Everyone agreed that would be a good idea. So we tabled the By-Laws until the April meeting. A **MOTION** was made

It was suggested that if we could ask our speakers in the future to limit their presentations to 30 to 40 minutes max. Arzell hit the nail on the head ... everyone was asking questions. My opinion (Mary): we need to be more **courteous** and let the speaker give their presentation before opening up to questions. You might be surprised to hear your question answered in their presentation. Disrupting the speaker's train of thought and flow of their presentation is not helpful. Write your question down and ask at the end of the presentation. George finished up that as chair, he would ask that the presentation be 20 minutes and 20 minutes for questions.

+ Mary reminded George that there was still a **MOTION** on the floor. Motion was made to not have a speaker next month so that we could concentrate on the By-Laws by John Auburn 2nd by Charlie Hattendorf. Motion passed.

+ Charlie asked that everyone give some feedback on the By-Laws.

+ Mary announced that she will not be at the next meeting, so you all be good!

+ Hector made the suggestion that a plaque be made up for Ron Schiller. Mary brought up that we had also talked about a plaque for Marie Brashear. Mary made the suggestion that instead of making up a plaque for each person, that possibly a large plaque that each name could be added, and then hung somewhere here in the office. We originally wanted to have the plaque for Marie down at the District office when we first started discussing this. Then the names started coming out: Earl _____, Ed Waldheim, Don Joe McKiernan, Dave Mathews, Bill Maddux, Marie, and Ron who was a founding member of this Round Table. We could also have a memorial page on the website that you could click on the name and see a photo and all that they contributed to this organization over the years.

+ Steve Rainey also mentioned that he & Doug Leuke had been talking about a memorial put up in Petroglyph Park with the same idea of remembering those who have done so much. Mick Gleason had \$2.3 million in the Kern County Fund over there that he had donated money to build a dedication memorial. He also said there is some extra land that we could use to build a memorial for our city, like Mike Cash have gone and done things for our city and to contribute to our community. Mary mentioned Little Deer Durvin, for one. Skip mentioned that he would help in any way he can.

OLD BUSINESS:

Field Trip to the Trona Pinnacle: Mark is again, not present. We will again table this field trip.

Meeting was adjourned at: 8:07pm

NEXT PLR MEMBERSHIP MEETING will be 4/24/25.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Grimsley

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

George Croll, Chairman, can be reached by phone @:

Steven Rainey, Co-Chair, can be reached by:

Mary Grimsley, Secretary, can be reached by email at: maranjer@gmail.com

Charlie Hattendorf can be reached at: hidesert@gmail.com

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