

PUBLIC LANDS ROUNDTABLE MINUTES

Meeting Location: BLM Ridgecrest Office

Minutes of: May 22nd, 2025

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

Pledge of allegiance was led by George Croll.

A MOTION was made for last meeting's minutes – George led and Sam seconded

PLRT MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: George Croll, Charlie Hattendorf, Will Liebscherer, Gary Luckeroth, Jaime Lopez-Wolters, Sam Merk, Steven Rainey, Bev Hill, Mark Mason, Dana Stephenson- BLM Ridgecrest Assistant Field Manager.

GUESTS: Michelle Evans, Christie Rohdero(?), Lyle Gregory, Andrew Sound - HSUMD

GUEST SPEAKER: **Michelle Evans** who gave a detailed, and entertaining narration of the life and events surrounding Maj. Mike Adams, the first American astronaut who lost his life in an X-15 accident and whose crash site in the near-by desert Michelle has been instrumental in having memorialized. Michelle also wrote a book on the X-15 rocket plane and test aircraft, as well as has given numerous presentations on the X15 aircraft, its mission and the people involved who made it such a success. To see the presentation, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFX5yzo4OpY>

ROUND TABLE BUSINESS

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS: none

BLM UPDATES: by Dana Stephenson, Ridgecrest Assistant Field Manager.

CABINS UPDATE: The BLM wishes to do volunteer agreements with those involved in supporting public land cabins. Some sites will need to be audited by CASHE – a safety audit which is done for all federal facilities. Any existing agreements with volunteers should be updated. There is a BLM 'gatekeeper' for all volunteer agreements (Ally Rierdon?). A plan needs to be put into place, as the time and effort to get these accomplished takes funding. Phil is "pro" to get this going, Inspectors are BLM employees, other topics would also be appraised, such as archeology. Volunteer agreement and non-cultural emphasis is first focus. Gary recommended they have a cabin group meeting which he will let us know how that progresses. Dana mentioned the SRP activity list that Phil shared. There's a large event being suggested with Balsam St. start point, information is still being gathered. George asked about Panamint Valley Days event modifications to include side-by-sides in areas outside of DVNP, such as a Cerro Gordo run. Dana gave information to George about what was needed – an operational plan, a map with alternatives, numbers etc. Public comment meeting in Lone Pine on June 10, 5 to 7pm on the proposed Conglomerate Mesa mining EIS. Craig Beck letter of appreciation, motion to do so motion by Charlie, seconded by George. A burro and wild horse adoption program is being done by the BLM. Staffing is better now at the wild horse facility. Emergency water will be distributed in Needles for burros, no local water currently planned to be distributed, but it's anticipated to be needed in the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

Due to the lengthy presentation, we pushed the updating of our Bylaws out to the next meeting. Sam asked for someone to give a presentation regarding AB1466 AB1413 impact on federal and state lands. George offered his insights into the topic which are water-issue related bills in the state legislature being supported by the IWGA, and not too many other groups locally.

OLD BUSINESS:

None discussed

Meeting was adjourned at: 7:45pm

(continued)

NEXT PLR MEMBERSHIP MEETING will be 6/26/25.

Respectfully submitted, Charlie Hattendorf

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

Sam Merk can be reached by phone @: 760-793-0050