

**Prickly Pear Sportsmen's Association  
Association Meeting  
Tuesday, April 11, 2017  
VFW, East Helena  
7:00pm**

Jason Swant, Chair  
Neil Horne, President  
Rick Yearry, Vice-President  
Marcia Snyder, Secretary  
Jim Manning, Treasurer  
Greg Guthrie, Director **AB**

Keaton Santos, Director  
Larry Cole, Director  
Tim Snyder, Director  
George Schiller, Director  
Darrell Harris, Director **AB**

The April meeting of PPSA was called to order at 7:00pm by President Neil Horne.

Including Board members, 32 members were in attendance.

Secretary Marcia Snyder read the minutes from the March meeting. George Schiller moved and Tim Snyder seconded a motion to approve. Motion passed.

Treasurer Jim Manning reported a balance of \$28,921.01 in our checking account. George Schiller moved and Keaton Santos seconded a motion to accept the report. Motion passed.

**OFFICERS/DIRECTORS REPORTS**

Range Officer report – Jason reported for RMO Jordan Alexander. Work this month is “backboards.” Replacing all the backboards with the new, rubberized material is complete. The material has exceeded expectations for durability. The plow for the truck has been serviced and is ready to go for next year.

Ruger Days – Keaton Santos said that the PPSA/Capital Sports Ruger Day is all set for April 29<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that 4 bays in the pistol range and 2 in the long range and rim fire area will be used for the event. Capital sports will provide the firearms, ammo and range safety. The event is free and open to the public. In his comments, Keaton emphasized that members outside the program will not be affected.

Semper Fi Shoot – The Semper Fi Shoot is sponsored by the Last Chance Handgunners at the High Ore Range and supports wounded warriors according to Tim Snyder. PPSA has donated \$250 to sponsor a shooting “bay,” and pistol shooters can participate for a \$55 entry fee. The dates are June 2 – 3, 2017. For more information or to sign up: [lastchancehandgunners.com](http://lastchancehandgunners.com)

Forest Service Report – Larry Cole reported that the 2017 Operating Plan has been submitted and should be signed by the Forest Service by the end of the month and we should receive our statement for the year by that time. Bill Covey asked what that bill would be and Larry said it should be around \$1400, with the addition of \$73

for 6 events, where fees will be charged to participants, that we are co-sponsoring for the year. Bill wondered if this reflects the 2-3% incremental increase from the previous year and Larry said that this was still the practice. Regarding the \$73 per 3<sup>rd</sup> party event, Larry said that we would be reimbursed by the group presenting the program. The Forest Service will adjust our statement for 2018 if all 6 of the slots are not used.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Guest Passes – Neil said that the new guest pass policy should be implemented on/or before May 1<sup>st</sup>. Signage is in place and a mail deposit box will be placed on the existing storage shed with the sign and a metal container to hold the deposit envelopes on the shed. Envelopes will be available to deposit the \$10 fee to be filled out with a stub to be detached for the guest. The fee of \$10 was approved due to the general discussion at last month's association meeting. Once implemented, there will be no more guest passes sold through our store partners. Members are responsible for the guests – they are to be with them at all times. Bill Covey asked if the \$10 covered a son with the guest; the answer was yes... as with our regular membership, family members are covered. Shane Yearry asked if checks would be accepted; yes was the answer. Chairman Jason Swant will send an email out.

Budget & Audit Committee – still on hold for elections.

Association meals – Jason Swant reported that the Board voted to begin our fall meetings with no meals, September through November. The meals have cost the Association around \$300 per month and the attendance at the meetings has not grown significantly; the majority of the members are not receiving any benefit from it. Our Christmas party will still be the second Tuesday of December and this policy will be reviewed for 2018. Tim Wheel asked if we still had to pay to use the facility and the answer was yes, but there is a break in the fee if there is a VFW sponsor in the group.

Golf Cart – Neil reported that the Board looked at 4 options to replace our golf cart: 1) by the old one back as it had been repaired; 2) buy another older used one; 3) buy a 2010 refurbished model; or 4) buy a brand new one with a 3 year warranty for \$4500. Because of the conditions of the range and the warranty, the Board decided on a new golf cart. The new "Range Cadi" is on order!

Special Events – Rick Yearry presented 4 areas of programs at the range this year. The co-sponsored ones, such as the Ruger Day, kick off that type of Program April 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be 3 Appleseed programs beginning April 22-23. Five people have signed up so far for this – interested people should sign up at [appleseedinfo.org](http://appleseedinfo.org). Rick Davis will offer three concealed carry classes; sign up for them by contacting Rick at [rtdavis@bresnan.net](mailto:rtdavis@bresnan.net). And our Open to the Public programs begins May 13<sup>th</sup> with our Open House. The Open House will have vendors, demonstrations and a free lunch. Demonstrations will include black powder shooting, a black powder cannon, long range shooting, and potentially a machine gun demonstration.

## **ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

The April meeting is designated as the Annual meeting for the Association. As long as 25 members are present, the election can proceed. Bill Covey conducted the business of new Board Members and verified that 25 members were present.

Bill presented the slate of officers/board directors as follows:

Treasurer – Annette Rinehart  
Secretary – Maddie Tormey  
2 Board seats – Kerry Bartlett, Greg Guthrie, Cory Olsen

Bill asked for nominations from the floor 3 times each position. There being none, he asked the president for a unanimous vote for the Secretary and Treasurer positions. Both were accepted unanimously.

Because of 3 members running for 2 seats, secret ballots were distributed to those present. Kerry Bartlett and Cory Olsen are the new Directors.

During the counting of ballots, Chairman Jason Swant gave “State of the Association” comments citing outstanding progress for the Association during the past year. Areas of progress included participation of membership, a growing membership, successful events, addressing issues, best-ever communication with the Forest Service, and strong financials. Outgoing directors Darrell Harris and Marcia Snyder were given certificates of appreciation; in addition to his certificate, Jim Manning was given a Life-time membership to PPSA for his many years of service.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Membership checks – Jason stated that we have not had consistent membership checks during the past year and the Board has been discussing this need. One member has come forward offering to assist the Association in this manner and the Board is checking on how to manage a consistent program. He asked if there were others who were interested in doing this to let him know; Justin Covey raised his hand.

Skid Steer – Neil presented to the group that in light of maintenance of the Range, during all seasons, the Board has been considering purchasing a Skid Steer. A bid from P&E for a CAT skid steer with all attachments for moving snow to mowing came in higher than expected. The Board will continue to discuss this and check out more bids. The question is also do we want to spend this kind of money or do we need to save it. Thoughts from the membership came from Tim Wheel who asked the cost and was told about \$60,000; Kerry Bartlett suggested leasing a year at a time as an option; Tim Wheel added leasing with an option to buy; and **Ralph** Rinehart concurring that \$60K was a good buy for a new skid steer with all attachments. More to come on this.

Work Party – Jason let the membership know that there will be several work parties coming up where help will be requested. When a work party is needed, word will be put out via email and posting on Facebook. Perimeter signage must be done so as soon as a date is set, help would be appreciated.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Jason and George Schiller will be participating in an Event sponsored by Americorps April 29<sup>th</sup> in East Helena, helping to distribute cable locks for firearms. Anyone interested in helping should contact one of them.

Paul Rinehart asked about obtaining a new card if he lost his. Neil explained the treasurer or he had them.

Jason told the membership that the Board had voted to give the VFW Auxiliary \$250 for their Easter Egg hunt, which takes place each Easter in East Helena.

There being no further business, Keaton Santos moved and George Schiller seconded a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia Snyder