

SUMMARY PLTA MEETING MINUTES

Introduction

Date:	March 20, 2018
Type of Meeting:	Board of Directors Monthly
Location of Meeting:	Conference Call
Time Called to Order:	6:06 pm PDT
Time Adjourned:	7:05 pm PDT
Board Members in Attendance:	Lisa Wolf, President Tom Seifert, Secretary Gina O'Brien, Treasurer Susan Gawarecki, Director at Large John Fant, Director at Large
Other Attendees:	None
Recorder:	Tom Seifert
Date of last month's meeting:	February
Last month's minutes approved:	As they stand, or, As corrected
Texts included as attachments:	Certifier Escort Proposal
Next scheduled meeting:	April 17, 2018

President's Update Topics:

- Facebook Account Transferred to Becky Cunningham
- Website Update
- Forms Update
- Treasurer's Annual Reports
- Mileage Program Update

Treasurer's Report:

Initial Balance for the PLTA U.S. Bank account on February 1, 2018 was **\$5,502.12**.

Deposits (including interest): \$693.18

Expenditures: \$700.00

Membership Fees: \$442.98

Donations: \$250.00

No llama registration or sanctioning fees the month of February.

The 2018 **annual net income** is \$ 6.82

Ending Balance for the PLTA U.S. Bank account on February 28, 2018 was **\$5,495.30**

Secretary's Update Topics:

- People Searching For Pack Llamas
- Publicity Posters

Old Business

Accountant Bill

Ripley, Doorn, and Company (accountants) have sent us a bill for their background work for gaining non-profit status for the PLTA. That bill has been sent to Gina. This remains an on-going concern, but the question remains, do we risk loss of our brand through name change, all materials filed yearly by our Treasurer has continued, is this a 'real' priority?

Motion: I move that the PLTA board of directors table the effort to reestablish non-profit status for the foreseeable future.

Vote Record: Vote conducted by roll call

Lisa Wolf	Yes
Tom Seifert	Yes
Gina Obrien	Yes
Susan Gawarecki	Yes
John Fant	Yes

Alaska Ban Letter Status

The secretary has talked to his veterinarian concerning diseases 'supposedly' caused by llamas to animals in the back country. (wild sheep) No such diseases have been found to detrimentally affect the wild sheep. Tom is working on getting this information in writing. The Idaho Outfitters and Guide Association has been contacted regarding llamas in the backcountry or on BLM land and the detrimental effects they are having on other wild animals. They have no knowledge of anything like this nor do they have any concerns with llamas in the backcountry causing diseases.

Motion: exact text not clear. Vote in favor of letter writing

Vote Record: Vote conducted by roll call

Lisa Wolf	Yes
Tom Seifert	Yes
Gina Obrien	Yes
Susan Gawarecki	Yes
John Fant	Yes

Niki Kuklenski Nomination

Niki has been provided with PLTA administrative documentation including bylaws, Standing Rules and the Nominating Process. This is a time for an update on her status and discussion of support and concerns about accepting her as a board member.

Motion: Discussion ensued. No motion was made. Further discussion will continue via email

New Business

Certifier Escort concept for Pack Trials

The Certifier Escort Proposal has been sent to all Pack Trial Committee members and the PLTA Board. It is supported by all concerned with Susan asking that Advanced Pack Trials be included in proposal.

Motion: No motion was formulated. Proposal will move forward based on unanimous email consensus

Actions Going Forward

A “to do” list for board members and volunteers

Person	Assignment	Date for Completion
Lisa Wolf & Tom Seifert	Test Certifier Escort Proposal at BLT pack trials	5/15/18

Attachments: Certifier Escort Proposal

February 25, 2018

To the PLTA Board members and PLTA Pack Trial Committee,

In the course of our discussions, as individual PLTA members, we are always looking for ways to improve and enhance the PLTA. Please consider the new idea described here for identifying pack trial courses and obstacles. We are anxious to hear your opinion. Feedback received within the next 10 days (by March 10, 2018) is most useful.

Background

PLTA pack trials were originally set up using dog and horse trials as a model. There were two formats. One (referred to as ‘Stationary Steward’) required having a different steward staffing each obstacle and evaluating llamas as they and their handler negotiated the course unescorted. The other (known as ‘Roving Steward’) assigned groups of participants to a steward who escorted them through the course and evaluated each member of the group on the obstacles as the obstacles were encountered.

We have found over the years that it is very difficult to find adequate staff for a pack trial. Hence, the Stationary Steward scenario has seldom if ever been used. We have also noted that on longer courses in particular, flagging the course and marking obstacles can take days.

Proposal

We propose replacing the Stationary Steward format with a **Certifier Escort** model. In this case a certifier would accompany the steward and the group, or possibly do double duty as steward and certifier. The certifier would identify obstacles ‘on the fly’, thus reducing the pretrial effort of identification and marking. The course would be mapped but not necessarily flagged. The Certifier Escort would be applied only to the Master and Elite trials.

Requirements

In a Certifier Escort scenario all elevation, distance, and obstacle requirements as well as other pack trial rules and procedures would remain unchanged. In practice, if the event has with multiple trials going on at the same time, the certifier would have to be available by phone or other means to deal with any administrative or emergency issues. Having a second certifier present for this purpose would be advisable. The format we have discussed so far requires the following:

1. Mileage and elevation gain will remain the same, unless otherwise altered according to PLTA guidelines.
2. The certifier will certify course length and elevation gain. This can be done by using a pre-existing course or developing a new course prior to the actual Trial.
3. A pre-trial walk through by the Certifier is strongly recommended but not required. Obstacles would not be pre-marked.
4. PLTA obstacle guidelines will be adhered to. As in current practice, the certifier would have the final say as to design of the course and obstacles.
5. A special set of forms would be created to allow the steward and certifier to record obstacle information on the go.
6. If the group is supervised by a steward with the certifier accompanying them, the certifier will be allowed to lead their own llama through the course and have its performance evaluated and scored. If the certifier is doing double duty as both course certifier and steward, this will not be the case.

Application

This model is not intended to change the responsibilities of a certifier or steward. The high standards the PLTA demands of its owners and llamas remain, but more options will be opened up for event planners with limited time to set the intricacies of a specific course. The scenario removes burden from the trial marshal and places it on the certifier who would need to be very familiar with the landscape and potential obstacles.

What We Need Now

When your ideas and concerns are accumulated and we see something workable, we would like to use the BLT Trial in May as a test case where bugs could be worked out. Your input is vital and most useful in the form of comments and discussion. What pros or cons do you see with the Certifier Escort concept? Would it improve the efficiency of running pack trials or open a can of worms we have yet to notice? Can we improve on it in some way? Please let us know what you think.

Excited to hear your ideas,

Lisa Wolf, PLTA president
Tom Seifert, PLTA secretary