

Wild Recovery Business Meeting

Date: Saturday, September 25, 2004

Time: after the Wilder Ranch Wild Recovery meeting

Place: on the beach

OR-

Late-breaking news: the business meeting time conflicts with a Santa Cruz fellowship event, so it may not work out after all. Besides, the Secretary is out of town. We may have to be content with setting another time and place. The only really pressing business regards the location of the Winter Retreat

Main Topics: Locations for meetings and retreats for the 2005 season, and the budget.

It is helpful if you make a list of any items you would like the group to discuss, so they can be added to the agenda and posted in advance, so our members have a chance to think about them. E-mail or call the business chair, Victor (408) 971-3555, info@wildrecovery.org.

NA's Group-Conscience Decision-Making Process

This is a business meeting, not a book-study, but it may be as well to give some thought to our group-conscience decision-making process before we have the meeting. The chapter on the Second Tradition in *It Works--- How and Why* has a beautiful explanation that is worth reviewing. Our process is not one of top-down authoritarianism, pressure politics, or boardroom hardball (as most are), and is often not well-understood or -implemented.

Briefly, it calls on us to speak to each other in an atmosphere of respect and belief in the good intentions of our fellow members, thinking before we open our mouths, and to actively listen to each other. Everyone has a right to be heard, and the needs of everyone involved should be considered, whether they are present or not. We consult the principles of our program, and listen to the voice of fairness and right within our own hearts (the voice of our Higher Power)--- which is what a conscience is. It can pay to ask, if this is not plain to us. Doing this together, a group conscience is formed, or revealed to us. The views of those who disagree should be noted, as well as the will of the majority. Group-conscience decisions are not chiseled in granite and may be of a trial nature, revisited in the future to see if they have worked out. New circumstances, or the facts of experience, may call for adjustments. Even if the decision goes against our wishes, we know that we have been heard, and have faith that things have a way of working out for the best. Within our group, we have ample evidence that this is the case.

Since there are a lot of questions on the agenda about the use of our funds in support of our primary purpose, it would not hurt any of us to review the applicable Traditions, also in *It Works--- How and Why*. All could apply, but One, Two, Five, Seven, Ten, and Twelve make a pretty good refresher.

Agenda as of 09-14-2004

- I. 10:00 AM, meeting is called to order with the Serenity Prayer
- II. Reports
 - A. Minutes from previous meeting, Diane T.
 - B. Treasurer's report, Jennifer N. (see attached report for details)
 - C. GSR report, Keith G.
 - D. Website report, Tom L.
 - E. Meeting directory report, Diane T.
- III. Old Business

- A. Nomination of Jim P. as Alternate GSR. He was planning to investigate whether it is the right service position for him before accepting the nomination.
- B. Motions about financial policies from the Treasurer- these motions were not taken up for discussion last time. These policies are within the Treasurer's discretion but Jennifer prefers to consult the group conscience.
 - 1. New policies for retreat payments. Keeping up with all the retreats has become unmanageable (fronts, wiffle-waffling, last-minute cancelations, etc) so this should make it easier.
 - a. No refunds unless trip is cancelled or in greatly exceptional cases.
 - b. No fronts. Reservations not accepted without payment.
 - c. Treasurer may grant exceptions as necessary and prudent.
 - 2. Retreat payments are accepted in person at Wild Recovery meetings, but not at other times. (Registration by mail is accepted when appropriate.)
 - 3. The cut-off date for registrations shall be two weeks (the last Wild Recovery hike) before the event.
 - 4. Newcomers
 - a. It shall be the policy of the group not to turn away newcomers from retreats for lack of funds.
 - b. Newcomers may pay a reduced rate, and contribute to the treasury in the future.
 - c. However, it is not the policy of the group to encourage dependent or co-dependent behavior.
- C. The "L" Word: Liability
 - 1. RSO's umbrella policy for NA groups states that groups are covered only during the meeting.
 - 2. Its purpose is to protect our members and trusted servants against liability suits and protect their personal assets, such as cars, houses, businesses, etc..
 - 3. Retreats and Activities are not covered, but may be added by rider. Lynne, at NCRSO, spoke to the insurance carrier about our retreats, and says that a rider will cost \$15.00 per retreat. That will give us the same level of coverage that other NA groups have.
 - 4. Evidence of insurance is normally required by facilities that NA groups rent for meetings (a letter, or rider, from the carrier), but not parks. The legal doctrine of "assumed risk" covers most ordinary mishaps in parks.
 - 5. RSO suggests members be required to sign a waiver in order to participate. There are many problems with this, though it is understandable why it looks attractive:
 - a. Requiring people to sign is contrary to our principle of anonymity.
 - b. Are we to turn away a person from our meeting because they refuse to sign?
 - c. What about people who arrive late and catch up on the trail, without first signing?
 - 6. Informational sheet from Regional has the reminder that in case of an accident resulting in death, the people who sue are usually family members, etc., not people who are in the fellowship.
 - 7. Our best protections against mishaps and liability suits are:
 - a. To provide accurate information about the length, vertical elevation, and difficulty of our hikes.
 - b. To remind people of common hazards and prudent safety precautions
 - i. On the website
 - ii. On the meeting directory
 - iii. By the Secretary, at the beginning of each hike

- c. To look out for each other and help people who are in difficulties.
 - d. To remind members that going off-trail and climbing cliffs (for example) is not part of the event.
8. Motion: That the Treasurer purchase the insurance rider from RSO for our retreats and overnight events, in a timely way. It takes two weeks to process a request for a rider.
- D. Hikes and retreats for 2005, continued
- 1. Where we are: Last time, we blocked out hikes and retreats as far as the end of July. There were several oversights, partly because some people who wanted to participate couldn't attend. Since our meeting, we've gotten more information about proposed retreats (such as cost, reservation deadlines, weather, and facilities). Some retreats would work better if they were moved to a different date (for example, Mt. Lassen still has snow and is closed on Memorial Day). The schedule also has a problem of balance, with a number of day trips or long trips occurring one after another, instead of being spread out through the season. Hopefully, we can adjust these problems at this meeting. We don't need to decide of every trip for the rest of the year, but it would be good to decide on the dates and location of all the retreats. Some associated issues, such as the cost of retreats and kinds of trips (for example, backpack trips or retreats at walk-in campsites) will be taken up under new business.
 - 2. 2005 schedule:
 - a. 1/1/05 Mission Peak Susan D.
a short drive; a very stiff Level 4 hike, only for the hardy
 - b. 1/15/05 Monterey, day trip, Joe K.
to coincide with the Monterey Convention, waterfront hike already arranged
 - c. 1/29/05 Almaden-Quicksilver, Hicks Road Keith
close to town, a moderate and very pretty hike on a newly opened trail
 - d. 2/12/05 Whale Watching boat trip, Monterey Tom L.
 - i. \$200 deposit already paid, balance due is \$1060. Tom L. negotiated less than half-price for us; our cost per head is \$18, the usual price is \$40. We're charging \$20, so our break-even point is 63 people. We make \$140 if it sells out, plus 7th Tradition, but we could also lose money.
 - ii. No bad weather fall-back date is possible because the Winter Retreat is the following weekend--- unless we cancel the Winter Retreat, which has some difficulties. See below. A fall-back date would be very desirable, given winter weather conditions.
 - iii. No refunds unless the trip is cancelled by the charter boat company because of bad weather (high winds; the trip will go on rain or shine).
 - e. 2/18 - 2/-21/05
(Presidents Day Weekend) Winter Retreat Robin D., Jennifer
Channel Islands National Park N., Nicole K.
 - i. Camping reservations at Scorpion Camp on East Santa Cruz Island cost \$341.55 (for 50 people), and they are walk-in sites .5 to 1 mile from the boat dock. Campsites, water, and toilets, but no showers; excellent hiking; winter weather is chancy.
 - ii. Boat fares from Island Packers cost \$49 for adults, \$40 for kids when a party of at least 20 is booked (slightly more after Dec. 1), \$2650 for 50 people, but we don't have to pay for 50 tickets upfront; only for actual sign-ups.

- iii. Total cost: \$3006.55 for 50. Income (based on 85% of 50 at \$60 a person) is \$2618.44, for a worst-case loss of \$388.11. Probably we would end up breaking even.
 - iv. There is a problem with getting reservations in time for the meeting directory deadline of Nov. 6, since boat reservations don't open until late Nov. or early Dec., and NPS requires we first have a boat reservation before they will make a campground reservation.
 - v. Robin D. has decided she does not want to be in charge of this retreat, after all. Other people have expressed interest in working on it.
 - vi. Some members have complained that two long and fairly expensive trips have been scheduled one week apart. Others have complained that we didn't have a Winter Retreat last year. Something's got to give. If the Whale Boat trip could be moved to a new date, that might work out to make the Winter Retreat possible. The problems of timely reservations and the cost still exist. Some members have stated that \$60 is reasonable for a special trip; it is the same price as the Yosemite trip.
 - vii. Motion: to cancel the Channel Islands Winter Retreat.
- f. 2/26/05 Calero County Park, new trail Tom D.
Kaisha would like to lead a hike at Pinnacles on this date. Tom D. thinks the trails would be too muddy at Calero, though it is a nice hike for the cool season, and close to town. Doing Pinnacles and Mt. Tam would make two long trips close together, not so good for balance, though one or the other has a fair chance of being rained out. This date is two days after Kaisha's birthday, and she has never been to Pinnacles. Nice birthday present. David has dibs on the date, but he is a gracious man, and Kaisha is a persuasive woman. An acceptable exchange date is not obvious, unless it's put up until the nice weather in fall.
- g. 3/12-05 Mt. Tamalpais State Park David R.
Maybe March is just a tad early for this trip, with the rain and cool temps. This is a nice time of year to do something in East Bay Regional Parks (which we overlooked when making the schedule). Mt. Tam is a great hike, though, and we didn't go last year. Good time to see waterfalls.
- h. 3/26/05 Russian Ridge Open Space Jim
Great hike, moderate difficulty, good time of year, close to town. Possibly a bit early for the wildflowers.
- i. 4/9/05 Fremont Peak State Park Richard C.
San Juan Bautista. An astronomy hike, a one-night overnight offering drive-up camping. Cost for two sites is \$38.00 (assuming camping for twelve is enough; maybe we need more room if there is a campfire meeting), insurance rider is \$15.00, total cost \$53.00. Close to a break-even outing if we charge \$5 for camping. Could be a big hit, though. Springtime, campfire, new moon and bright stars, good for the kids.
- j. 4/23/05 Full Moon Hike, Henry Coe State Park Victor B.
Are we not getting jaded with this one? But spring at Coe is nice; green hills, wildflowers, and this is the only Saturday in the year with a full moon. Group campsite is \$30, insurance rider is \$15, we break even on camping but do well with the 7th Tradition. This is a high-demand season for group sites, and the reservation must be secured well in advance.

- k. 5/7/05 UCSC TJ
no information, except that the trailhead is fairly close, and is especially convenient for our Santa Cruz buddies
- l. 5/21/05 Marin Headlands Day Trip Susan D., Rick B.
Again we have a long trip adjacent to another long trip, with no obvious alternative unless it's put over until the good weather in the fall.
- m. 5/27/05 - 5/30/05
Memorial Day Retreat, Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite National Park, John & Diane
Turns out Tuolumne will be closed, because of snow. Same story with Mt. Lassen. Suggested alternate location: Minarets National Monument, near Mono Lake and Mammoth, drive-up camping at Red's Meadow, fabulous hiking, maybe a boat ride on the Sunday on Mono Lake, in one of those glass-bottomed boats that let you see the tufa formations underwater. See the worksheet for details (and all the information is not gathered yet), but at \$35 for adults, \$20 for kids (including boat) we end up putting \$245.00 in the treasury. Lower elevation, snow free, not too far for a 3-day weekend, the east side of the Sierra scarp is a different world from everything on the west side of it.
- n. 6/4/05 Stevens Creek County Park Anna J.
A little rest from our travels, someplace close that we haven't visited for a few years.
- o. 6/18/05 Henry Coe State Park- Flat Frog Trail Victor B.
See the web page. Moderate hike, a new location for us.
- p. 7/2/05 Sam McDonald County Park, San Mateo Jennifer N.
Redwoods. Option of overnight camping at Memorial (not a scheduled event, so no budget or reservations).
- q. 7/16/05 Butano State Park Susan D.
Far enough away to call it a day trip, but a reprise of Susan's very successful hike last season, without the cold wind. Very nice drive by the ocean and the famous bakery. Could be a good place for an easy retreat.
- r. 7/30/05 Portola State Park Janet
Close, cool, good escape from the gritty and blistering Valley air of August
- s. 8/12/05 - 8/14/05
Sierra Backpack Retreat (Perseid meteor shower) Mark
Not a peep out of Mark about this--- does no one have this man's phone number? No information, except that it's a nice time to be in the Sierra. Suggest we cancel this and schedule a hike instead
- t. 8/27/05 not assigned
9/2 - 5/05 Mt. Lassen Volcanics National Park, Labor Day Weekend 9/2-5.
Excellent time to go, weather-wise, three-day weekend. Bad traffic but not excessively far away, busy time at the parks but you need a holiday weekend for this one. A very special place, unlike any other we've visited so far. Tom D. wants to host this one.
- u. 9/10/05 not assigned (or 9/17)
if we do Mt. Lassen at Labor Day, we should either adjust the remaining hikes so they're a week later, or do something local and easy on the dates before and after. Adjusting the dates would avoid having a hike on New Year's Eve day.

- v. 9/24/05 not assigned (or 10/1)
- w. 10/8/05 not assigned (or 10/15)
- x. 10/21/05 - 10/23/05 (or 10/29)
fall retreat, Orionids meteor shower not assigned

This could be Point Reyes. All the campsites are backpacks sites, but the nearest is only 1.5 miles, so it is easy. People who wanted could stay at motels in Marin, or go home for the night. Meteor shower makes a good argument for not adjusting the dates after the Labor Day retreat. This is a close, easy location for a retreat, good weather, a really big park, and quite wonderful. A little far for a day trip. It would be a low-cost retreat for the budget-minded.

- y. 11/5/05 not assigned (or 11/12)
- z. 11/19/05 not assigned (or 11/26)
- aa. 12/03/05 not assigned (or 12/09)
- bb. 12/17/05 not assigned (or 12/24)
- cc. 12/31/05 not assigned (out of range, worry about it next year)

IV. New Business

- A. Additional agenda items for New Business from the floor
- B. (from Jennifer)
 - 1. Whether or not budget projections should include the entire cost of the retreats, or only the down payment. (see # 4)
 - 2. Whether or not the group wants to spend money on insurance, and on printing tickets.
 - 3. Whether or not we want to base our prudent reserve on a quarterly projection. The Treasurers' hand book mentions that a meeting should be cautious about "hoarding" money, and it also suggests that a prudent reserve be the cost of one months expenses, but since Wild Recovery is different, we need to go beyond one month.
 - 4. Once we put a down on a retreat, we collect the money from members for that retreat. The collection should then pay for the remainder of the money we owe the park, or other agency. It is up to the group as to how much MORE than the cost of the actual retreat we want to charge. It is true that we need to charge a little more so we can meet our expenses, but the calculations being performed by this servant seem to show that we can be pretty conservative about how much over we go. In terms of the budget, the collection that pays the park or other entity is even, that is, across the board, and cancels itself out. The large chunks of money that go in and out are FLOWS, not a part of the budget. (does that make sense? I hope so) For example, the Whale boat will cost 1,060.00 and if we collect that much, it is not a group expense, and the collection is not group income. It is simply members paying their way for a Wild Recovery event. The treasurers role is to organize and keep track of the money and pay the park or entity the money we owe them. If we collect MORE than what what we owe the park, THAT becomes income. If we don't get enough, and have to use group prudent reserve to pay the diff, THAT becomes an expense. Hope this makes sense. It simplifies the groups budget, so we can focus more on our primary purpose.
- C. (from Tom L.)- I am not really comfortable with a business meeting at a members home. I don't think it is a level playing field for the group conscience process. For instance if I were eating a delicious piece of fruit our host had provided for our group sitting on their couch it would be hard to make a decision that involved that member.
- D. (from Tom L.)- I have not received anything to post on the website. I do feel responsible for anything posted on the site because I am the webservant for this group. If there is information that is not correct or inaccuracies being posted I think we need to discuss at our busi

ness meeting a policy of who can post and what should be posted on the site. Please send any information that needs posting on our website to me directly.

E. Further New Business Agenda Items

V. Self-Inventory

A. Is the group is working well structurally as it is?

1. Are the tasks well-divided, is too much falling on any one person?
2. Are new people being encouraged to learn and become ready to serve?
3. Are our hike leaders and officers serving effectively?
 - a. Is the necessary work of the group being carried out?
 - b. How can our members better support the group's work?

B. How could the primary purpose of the group be carried out more effectively?

1. Is the message of recovery strong at our meetings and in our members' example?
2. Is the atmosphere of recovery strong within our group?

VI. 12:00 noon: the meeting will adjourn with the "We version" of the Third Step Prayer.

