Sunflower Chapter BCHKS Board Meeting
El Ranchito, Auburn, KS
August 14, 2026

ATTENDEES - Jamie & Lexi Studebaker, Gary & Sandy Pope, Dewayne & Jo Turner Burgess, Diana Skinner, Sheila Watkins and Jim & Cheryl Thomas.

CALL TO ORDER – by President Jamie Studebaker at 6:32 pm.

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING – Moved approved as amended to add the word "Board" before "Meeting" in heading.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Sheila Watkins

Beginning balance = $6,296.42
Deposited State Dues = $510
Ending balance = $6,806.42
$1,000 BCHA Grant has been deposited and paid out to Diana Skinner to reestablish the Orange Trail.

TRAIL/CAMPGROUND UPDATES

CLINTON/ROCKHAVEN (Diana Skinner)

Have done almost nothing since the end of May–too hot and humid. Trails are overgrown as expected but still getting quite a few riders. Will kick into gear whenever weather cools down.

AERC ride was rescheduled from Memorial weekend to Labor Day weekend. AERC people will be working on the trails before then.

Change in COE horse camp policy so Rockhaven, and all their horse campground sites, are now open to all campers. So, anyone can camp in any site! Also changed length of stay policy–can camp for 2 weeks out of 4. Rockhaven has had two different campers all year. These people live out of their campers year-round and rotate campgrounds.

Have 2 out of 11 miles of orange trail re-established. New goal is to get it done towards the dam by Jan. 1. Riders are really enjoying it. Hope to get a lot of new volunteers to help this fall! Plan on applying for the BCHA Double Diamond award if we get that much done. I have purchased a safety helmet and chainsaw chaps with BCHA grant money. I plan on encouraging our BCHKS members to start wearing safety gear by showing off gear at events.

I heard the Corps is going to leave the campground open into Dec. so maintenance crew can come in and clear some overhanging trees around the campground.

EISENHOWER (Cheryl Thomas)

Funds raised by Eisenhower State Park annual benefit rides have been put to good use this summer:

- A new tractor mower was purchased that will be used for trails.
- New heavy duty pipe gates have been purchased for six pens in West Point. Equestrian Campground to replace lightweight gates. The new gates were built by Long Fencing in Osage City. The old gates will be used for the temp pens that are set up for the benefit ride and other events.
- Shades are in place on three pens in the West Point Campground. They are working well, and an additional 12 shades have been ordered for the remaining pens. We are getting quotes for a metal cover for the 4-pen complex in the middle of the campground.
- Trail work is ongoing this summer with frequent mowing due to rain and clearing due to windstorms.
- Added sand to round pen.
- Added lime screenings to horse pens by yurts.
- This fall's benefit ride is Oct. 16-18.

PERRY (Jo Turner)

2026 Volunteer Perry State Park Equestrian Trail Projects Completed March - August:

3/11/26 - Workday to trim trees in WH Campground.

4/17/26 - New Arena Grand Opening.

Primitive Sites – Numbers are up but are not reservable at this time.

8/3/26 - Two new “Extra Pens” put up in Wild Horse Campground.

4/29- 8/3/26 - Liz and Jay Jolley completed putting up new signage for Rocky Top Trails.

7/14/26 - Put up 5 historical educational signage for Fish Ponds, Ole Nate’s, Rocky Top Honor Camp & Thompsonville.

Trimmed trees and mowed Rocky Top Day Use Area.

Keith Fayle built & delivered steel frame for wash rack. Waiting for cement truck to be scheduled to pour slab for wash rack and new kiosk.

Ron Dehaven and Dewayne Burgess both have done bobcat work on the trails to cut and push back the honeysuckle. Dewayne removed lake debris at watering site off Dickinson Road.

John Prohuska and son have added belting around the inside of the round pen to keep the sand from sifting out and refreshed it. He also sprayed the weeds in the arena and worked it. Dewayne borrowed a bigger arena tool and worked the arena a couple of times.

The Perry State Park staff added a gravel road to the north of the Arena to provide better access and parking for it.

Dray Podlena has been promoted to Perry State Park Manager.

To Do and Projects in Process:

Get ready for Sept 5th Annual Fundraiser. Apparel

Invasive Bush Honeysuckle – remove or spray to continue to widen trails for emergency access. Mow sericea lespedeza. Trim and mow trails.

Refresh lime in horse pens, handicap site and 3 step at Obstacle course.

QR Code signage at trail heads, kiosks, and major intersections – Liz Jolley.

Clean out Ole Nate's barn foundation, clean up around well and trail to homestead on WH.

Reopen WH trail along Holman's property line. Put up signage.

Open NW WH trail to old bathrooms. Replace "No Horses" sign with new sign to Jackalope and Wild Horse.

Wash racks in WH and install new kiosk.

Shade Pen Covers for WH utility sites.

POMONA (Susan Johnson via FB Messenger)

Cheryl asked Susan for a count of Trailhead signs for Blackhawk to supplement the BCHKS $100 grant. Susan's response: I know we discussed this once before but I can't find that message. It depends on the goal and purpose but 18 if I had a choice and no limits. Wheatfield entrance 110 mile x2 each entrance Berryton intersection Plummers x2 each entrance Dirt road back to camp across from Plummers? Sycamore x2 each entrance? Cedar park x2 where trail leaves the park Trail below Blackhawk x4 2 blue 2 orange? Charlie's checkpoint x2? Trailhead where trails meet old road x2 Trailhead itself? just got home. I think we will sit this one out but should be available for phone call if questions. We have not been on the trails since end of June. Have had some campers but no complaints,

though I don't think they went far. As soon as it cools to a reasonable degree I'll see what we can do. The needs for Pomona as far as large ones is I think : getting 110 completely open and marked. Sycamore open and marked. Some trail moved where its sliding into the creek. And just general help needed in getting the rest trimmed up and maintained.

June 20-21 – Lexi's Camping 101 Clinic, Blackhawk Horse Camp, Pomona rescheduled due to weather to October 10, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS

- Trail clean-up with DCTR successful at Rockhaven. Excellent showing/conversation with Corp Rangers. Diana Skinner was presented the Superior Stewardmanship Award.
- Weekly rotating guided rides – any further interest? No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

- BCHKS $101.60 grant given for signage at Pomona – Sunflower match? No action taken.
- Pruners with Sunflower BCHA logo
    - Approximately $15 on Amazon – purchase 10 per year and use for auctions, door prizes.
    - Traveling pruners – Start by gifting a pair to a new person to clear trails. Then when they get their own, they gift them to another trail rider in need. Idea is to create a story on social media for people to "follow the story" of the traveling pruners and get involved in trail maintenance. Take a photo with the pruners on the first trail work and post, then pass them on. Like the "Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" or the "Flat Stanley" posts and stories to create interest and to keep them moving forward.
    - Cheryl moved to purchase as proposed, five pruners for Perry and five for Eisenhower plus signage and a wrist strap to be used at each Park's desecration. Sandy seconded the motion. Motion passed. Cheryl to order and get QR tags to share on BCHKS web site.
- Diana's Big Foot Ride will become a migration ride so watch for Big Foot to be sitting around the Annual Meeting.
- Promoting BCHA –
    - Equestrian Legacy Radio – Lexi – National Youth committee chair with Randy Rasmussen aired on August 8, 2026. It was suggested that this interview be played at the State Meeting and put on the web site.

    - Sunflower Foundations' Trail Exchange Day – Oct 29th (Thursday) in Topeka – Kansas BCHA has a table. Sunflower attendees are encouraged to sign up.
    - Invited to Chanute Ag Days, August 22 from 10-2 pm.
    - Topeka Outdoor Show, DCTR meeting, Outdoor Communicators of KS meeting. Freelance writers are talking about featuring more trails in BC Hunters and Anglers of KS magazine. Cheryl asked to proof the articles before publishing.
    - Partnering with KDWP and several Flint Hill trail groups for a Flint Hills trail workday – Ben Hutchinson KDWP Naturalist. November 14 between Miller and Osage City will be a cedar removal workday on the Flint Hills Trail. Jamie is spearheading getting volunteers. More details to follow.
    - Ideas to grow membership?
    - Double Diamond Award Ideas – BCHA gives this to one project per year.
        - Clinton Lake Orange Trail East from Camp to Dam headed by Diana.
- Reports –
    - National Issues
        - National Meeting in KC date is April 11-14, 2027.
            - National BCHA Grant – to purchase safety gear for trail volunteers. Diana has two sets of safety equipment. She encouraged State and Corp volunteers to wear it when working and needs to be worn to be covered by insurance.
            - America The Beautiful Foundation is providing $12.5 million for US Forest Land grants. Kansas only has Cimarron National Grasslands in the SW corner of the state. Kansas ranks 50th in the amount of Public Lands available.
            - REI has grants available for National Scenic Trails. Maybe part of the Flints Hills trails would qualify?
            - Travel Management Trails maybe be revised for e-bikes.
            - BCHA is working with AQHA and KHC on trail riding initiatives.
            - Volunteers in Forest Act provides insurance coverage if you are working in a National Forest.
    - State Issues
        - Insurance coverage – held meeting with current insurance agent and reviewed current policy. Shelia is composing findings to present to KS BCHA BOD. Jamie is looking into this and will present at State BOD meeting.
    - Kansas Horse Council

        - American Discovery 250 Relay, September 22. KHC was approached by KTI to participate. Must be a KHC member to ride. It is a 6,800-mile relay from California to Delaware carrying a copy of Declaration of Independence. Our portion will be 11 miles from Allegawaho Park, Council Grove across the Flint Hills Trail to Bushong. Riders can stay at Allegawaho Park and ride their 4-mile trail around the monument. They now have a bathhouse and showers.
- **Other New Business**
    - Next Sunflower BOD meeting will be in conjunction with Eisenhower's fundraiser Oct 16-18. Time and date TBD.
    - Diane requested that we hold bi-monthly Sunflower BOD meetings in person or by zoom.
    - Sunflower BOD will meet in Dec (TBD) to prepare for the January State meeting. BOD members were encouraged to push out to members to attend and see if anyone was interested in running for office.
    - Diana would like BOD to think about changing Bylaws to include online voting.
    - Cheryl is doing an awesome job with the web site and recording work hours.
    - Cheryl reported that 3 people in the room have reported over 100 hours of volunteer trail work already amounting to over $150k: Diana, Dewayne and Jim. Send BCHA, Michelle, any information or article on your BCHA workdays for publication in the BHCA Newsletter.
    - Jim reported that the Public Lands committee were impressed with what we are doing in the Midwest Region.

ADJOURNED at 8:50 pm - Shelia moved to adjourn and Diana seconded it.

• 2026 Calendar of BCHAKS Sunflower Chapter Events includes (flyers available soon at Kansashorsecouncil.com/Events):

July 2 Saddle Ridge BCHKS 1st Thursday trail rides will move to a 10 am departure time thru August.

July 18 Saddle Ridge BCHKS 3rd Saturday trail rides will move to a 10am departure thru August.

August 29 Chuck Waggoner Memorial Trail Ride, Big Hill Lake (Meet at North Dennis Campground. Sponsored by Big Hall BCHKS. Flyer in Comments.

Sept 3 Saddle Ridge BCHKS 1st Thursday trail rides return to 1 pm departure times thru November.

Sept 5 Perry State Park Annual Benefit Ride & Auction. See flyer at Let's Ride -- Perry Lake.

Sept 18-20 Tuttle Creek BCHKS Annual Benefit Weekend, Randolph Campground. Make your camping reservations. More info to come.

Sept 19-20 – 3rd Annual Women's Weekend at Wild Horse, Perry State Park. See flyer at Let's Ride—Perry Lake.

Sept 19 Saddle Ridge BCHKS 3rd Saturday trail rides return to 1pm departure time thru November.

Sept 22 Kansas equestrian segment of the American Discovery Trails 250th coast to coast relay. Morning ride on the Flint Hills Trail from Allegawaho (Council Grove) to Bushong.

Sept 25-27 Saddle Ridge BCHKS Annual Fundraiser Weekend, Hillsdale State Park. Make your camping reservations early. Stay tuned for details.

Oct 10 Lexi's Camping 101 Clinic, Blackhawk Horse Camp, Pomona

Oct 16-18 Annual Eisenhower State Park - Kansas Wildlife & Parks Benefit Trail Ride Weekend, Melvern Lake. Sunflower Chapter BOD Meeting during this event - TBD.

Oct 24 – Annual Perry State Park Moonlight Ride and Chili/Pie Supper. See flyer at Let's Ride—Perry Lake.

Oct 24 BCHKS State BOD Meeting, Milford State Park