

Great Outdoors Corporate Meeting Minutes – held on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005 @ the Pasadena Library –Washington Blvd., Pasadena , Ca (all four chapters represented.)

**Attendees:**

Mark Legassie – Corporate Chairperson  
(323)-823-3046 - [mark@legassie.com](mailto:mark@legassie.com)

Craig Courtwright – Corporate Treasurer  
[gpsgocraig@aol.com](mailto:gpsgocraig@aol.com) (acting Board Rep. PS Chapter)

Greg Papin – (acting Corporate Secretary)  
(714)-828-7645 [joeanaheim@hotmail.com](mailto:joeanaheim@hotmail.com)

Mark Acosta – Board Rep. OC/LB Chapter (Outgoing)  
(714)-315-6951 [remarcobo@aol.com](mailto:remarcobo@aol.com)

Jay Crowley – Board Rep. OC/LB Chapter (Incoming)  
(562)-537-2056 [jaycrowley@verizon.net](mailto:jaycrowley@verizon.net)

Joe Corl – Board Rep. LA Chapter  
(818)-943-3793 [joecorl@yahoo.com](mailto:joecorl@yahoo.com)

Brian Miller – President & Board Rep. SB/VC Chapter  
(805)-407-9001 [muddbilt@gte.net](mailto:muddbilt@gte.net)

Chris Fava – VP of Outings SB/VC (and incoming Board Rep.)  
(773)-230-4009 [trancefusion@mac.com](mailto:trancefusion@mac.com)

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**Call to Order @ 10:07 AM by Mark Legassie:**

Mark is pleased so many of us made showed up on a Saturday morning and reported that we would have to survive without coffee or donuts since he went up early to see how the “Wilderness Experience” instructors and students were doing getting set-up at the Monrovia cabin site. He also mentioned “that site has gotten way-too-expensive” and we probably won’t be there next year in the Spring. 16 students in attendance. The classes are led by Danny Sternstein. Mark also said that Mario Voce “is one of the instructors so he won’t be with us today.” (Mario is our Corporate Treasurer.)

Mark inquired about elections of officers for the coming year at the chapter level. Our LA Chapter has their elections scheduled for Monday-September 12<sup>th</sup>. Joe Corl is moving to Augusta, Georgia in two weeks (and is not inclined to commute) so there will be a new Board Rep. taking his place in the near future. All chapter Presidents remain unchanged-

-so we will have consistent leadership at the chapter level. Changes to the Corporate Board will be announced at Conference if they arise. Craig Courtwright plans to continue as Corporate Treasurer and Mark Legassie plans to run for Corporate Chairperson for the new 2005/2006 term. Chapters are allowed to nominate new candidates at Conference in addition to the officers that are running for re-election. Mark also mentioned he thought that Mario Voce would be continuing as Corporate Secretary but he needed to confirm Mario's intentions accordingly. Dar will continue as Board Rep for the Palm Springs Chapter and Brian mentioned the Santa Barbara chapter has had the elections and is (still) in need of a Board Rep. for their chapter. OC/LB chapter has had their election and has managed to fill all their officer's positions, now has a new Board Rep and a new Secretary. Mark thanked all of us for making time to participate in a Saturday morning Corporate meeting, he mentioned "he was grateful he has so many dedicated people working together-trying to help each other." He also requested that the chapters ask their members to consider running for Corporate Secretary "in the event that Mario decides not to run for next year."

**Secretary's Report:**

Mark read Mario's report since Mario (as noted earlier) was needed as an Instructor for the Wilderness Experience underway this very same morning in Monrovia.

Corporate bank account balance as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005 was \$ 7,200.00 with a balance in a CD account of \$ 6,200.00.

**Action item:** Further information was needed from the trip leaders of the "White Water Rafting" trip regarding income and expenses and would be acted on by Craig Courtwright as Corporate Treasurer. (That action item has been completed and a satisfactory outcome is anticipated by Craig & Mark.)

Craig requested that all financial reports be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month (at the latest). Our LA-chapter is doing really well – timely and accurate. May have had some issues with the other chapters regarding accuracy or delays in reporting such as the OC/LB chapter. Craig needs our reports in by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month so he can complete his reports (that are the basis for our corporate records) by the end of each month.

Advertising is a cost we have avoided by Joe Corl's contacts at the "gay" publications. Joe mentioned "these are magazines read by everybody" – he has four good contacts. (Further advertising expense might be offset by higher trip fees on our Corporate trips.) He will continue to do what he can to gain "more visibility for the club" in our community.

**Action item:** Brian Miller to consult with lawyers within his chapter to see if we can improve our "liability waiver". (Brian admitted he forgot about that item and indicated he would pursue it after Conference.) This item continues as an ongoing action item.

Mark concluded the reading of the minutes and asked for a vote. All four chapters voted to accept the minutes for the June 11, 2005 Corporate meeting, as written, unanimously

**“Action” item for all Board Reps of all chapters: Rosters need to be prepared for all the recently elected officers of your chapter. They are to be sent via e-mail to Mark Legassie so he can compile them and send out new rosters to all Corporate officers and committee chairpersons.**

Craig made the remark that “in addition to the need for updated rosters, the minutes need to go out sooner.” Craig suggested five days after a core group meeting and then again 5 five days before the next core group meeting. Greg suggested that since our Corporate meetings are quarterly we might allow a little more time-like 14 days after the Corporate Meeting (and 14 days prior to the next Corporate meeting). Craig indicated that this might be a good idea to strongly suggest a “reporting” time frame to the incoming secretary.

**Action item- “Variance” Report:**

(There was some discussion of a “missing report” per Marty of the LA Chapter. Mark could not recall the details of the “missing financial report” and indicated he would contact Marty to “refresh his memory.”) This item continues as an action item for Mark.

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**Financial Report by Craig Courtwright-Corporate Treasurer:**

Two report formats were given to us, a one page recap for all “income and expense” items for all the chapters and Corporate and a stapled, six page report that goes into greater detail. All expenses and income shown are as of 8-31-05.

Still have expense reports due from Kendall for the White Water Rafting trip and we know that Danny has collected checks for the Wilderness Experience since it just started this morning. These items will be reported on in next month’s report.

Please note some items are not broken down—they are reported in bulk. Membership numbers are derived from a report created by Roger Gray. “Paid” members are the only numbers that appear in the # column at the bottom of the single page report.

**Action item:** “Total Corporate Expense” varies between the two reports. Craig to review and advise reason(s) for difference. Mark noted “years” indicated needs to be changed from 03/04 to 04/05 on the “stapled” report.

Craig would prefer a consistent method for chapter reports—prefers Quicken. He also indicated that “Roger Gray’s pass-thru spread sheets might be part of the error.”

**Financial report (continues):**

Mark and Craig were able to account for the variance per the previous “action item”.

\$ 300.00 was for the cancellation of the cabin due to a lack of registration’s in the Spring. Rental fees of \$ 700.00 apply to the Monrovia cabin for this weekend’s class. “We won’t be staying in Monrovia next year” per Mark. ( **Action item cancelled accordingly.**)

Craig “needs to have the financial reports in by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month” He prefers each Chapter uses Microsoft Money or Quicken. “The balance shown at the top of the column for the Orange County chapter is false.” Craig indicated our balance was \$ 953.07 and he believes that Tom is “not balancing his statement.”

**Action item:** OC/LB Chapter is to make every effort to reconcile their bank statement prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

**Action item for all chapters:**

For a chapter to be in good standing and be able to vote-all Chapters must have their financial reports and bank statements in to Craig no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. Craig will review bank statements and financial reports, accordingly. They must also submit a listing of their members that are in good standing by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

Further discussion followed which included the suggestion that we might be able to provide \$ 350.00 for advertising by canceling one Jamboree. Mark also agreed that “since the chapters do not get any profit-sharing from the Jamborees, it is time to reinstate the \$ 200.00 reimbursement for participation by the chapter’s in festivals.”

(That is the total amount available to each chapter regardless of the number of events-festivals, pageants or parades they participate in, in a given year.) Last comment added by acting Secretary to avoid any confusion for all parties concerned.

BREAK – for 5 minutes, lunch will be ordered during the break @ 11:00 AM.

**Committee Reports:**

Conference Committee: Brian Miller said that “plans for conference are going wel”. The food costs for meals provided does help explain and justify the cost of this trip. We will be serving breakfast, Saturday night’s meal is catered and we are offer snacks on Friday night. The Outgoing Board meeting is scheduled for Friday night, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

(Conference committee remarks per Brian Miller continue.)

RV's will be on one side and the tent campers will be on the other side of the campground...there will be lots of decorations. We are camping at the very edge of the lake so boat tours are available in addition to visiting Solvang or going wine tasting."

Mark mentioned "the Great Outdoors bylaws due require current membership rosters from every chapter and current financial reports, the September reports must be in by the end of the month or the chapter cannot vote. Consequently this is an **action item for all chapters.**"

**Number of delegates available to each chapter is based on their membership.**

Our Los Angeles Chapter has 318 members so they are entitled to (8) eight delegates.  
Our Palm Springs chapter has 164 delegates so they are entitled to (5) five delegates.  
Our Orange County Chapter has 81 members so they are entitled to (3) three delegates.  
Our Santa Barbara Chapter has 78 members so they are entitled to (3) three delegates.

Board Reps are reimbursed by their respective chapters. Every chapter is encouraged to bring their Chapter's banners. Western "gear" is encouraged for the dance on Saturday night. "Square dancing, will be easy and a lot of fun"- per Brian.

**Action item: All delegates and Board Reps must arrive in time for the first meeting scheduled for 9:00 AM on Saturday. All chapters are to supply a listing of the names of their delegates as soon as possible to Mark Legassie.**

**Outings Report:**

Roger Vorst plans to attend conference. He will continue as Outings Chairperson for for the upcoming year—2005/2006. Trips tend to be fewer in number but there are some good ones coming up. "Bart & Tony's Ranch" led by the Santa Barbara/Ventura County chapter. "Thanksgiving at Lake Cuyamaca" led by the Orange County/Long Beach chapter—all chapters invited. Brian mentioned his chapter had a Big Bear Skiing trip planned for early December. Per Mark Winter "Jamboree" is planned to be at Aqua Caliente—the exact date to be announced at Conference.

Discussion about how to best offer a "Quarterly" newsletter at the lowest cost possible was brought up. Mark feels the cost of the Quarterly could be partly offset by higher trip fees for the corporate-led Jamboree event. The "Quarterly" already appears on the Corporate web page. The chapters might be able to insert a "half-page" quarterly into their regular newsletter mailings or devote a half page to highlighting Jamboree events. "A bylaw amendment is needed for next year to drop the requirement for corporate to have to publish a quarterly newsletter"-per Mark. Further discussion tabled for now.

**Publicity & Outreach:**

Mark commented on the need to fill the vacant committee chairs for Publicity & Outreach. He mentioned that “being a Board Rep. is an important task for the board and their respective chapters but they may have the time to consider doing a little more to help their club out and these two committees need new leaders.” He asked the Board Reps present to consider filling these two openings on the corporate board and get back to him at Conference.

**Website:**

Roger Vorst will continue to keep the Corporate Website updated and entertaining but he is willing to pass it on to anyone who would like to try their hand at it. “Roger has done an excellent job with the Corporate website” mentioned Mark. “We are fortunate he is willing to continue in his present capacity as Corporate Webmaster.”

**Archives:**

Our storage space charge will be split with the LA Chapter since they are sharing the space with the Corporate archives. Mark mentioned their our a lot of newsletters from years gone by and by reading them (two examples) you get a better idea how much bigger we used to be. (Chapters in San Francisco and Fresno to name a few.) “Our storage space is in the Silverlake area and the cost is more reasonable there than anywhere in the cities surrounding Silverlake.” –per Mark.

**Awards:**

Mark has given the “roving” plaque to Craig so he can have it updated and present it to Mark @ Conference. We also will vote on the Lifetime Achievement award and the Mack Gerighty award later today and they will also be presented at Conference.

**Wilderness Experience:**

Sixteen students in-attendance in Monrovia this very morning, Phase I is underway. Mark noted that “some of the students are not even members of any chapter”. Looks like a good group and Phase II is scheduled just two weekends from now.

**Action item: Mark is to book the room for our next Corporate meeting to be held on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005.** He also mentioned he has t-shirts to give away at Conference. Ditto hats, license plate frames and other donated items from the chapters.

**Round Robin:**

**Santa Barbara/Ventura County Chapter of Great Outdoors**

Brian is “pleased” that Conference is coming together. Doing well financially. Eleven people went on the Santa Cruz Islands trip. King Tut day trip was also successful. They have a new VP of Outings—Chris Fava. Registrations are coming in steadily, about one per day right now, sure to pick-up shortly.

“Core” group appreciation dinner is scheduled for Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Los Angeles Chapter of Great Outdoors**

Joe Corl said his chapter is “looking for new leaders”. They have enjoyed a “surge in membership – now over 300 members so they are financially well-off”. OK to donate to other non-profit organizations as long as the Core group publishes an article indicating their intent to do so and then vote on it the following month at their General Membership meeting. (“Joe is moving to Augusta, Georgia for a new job assignment—we wish him all the best and hope he returns often. He already has found a gay camping group in Georgia”.—Secretary comments added.) **Thanks for all you have done for G.O. !**

**Palm Springs Chapter of Great Outdoors**

Craig stated: “We are doing well, we schedule guest speakers every other month which lends a lot of interest to our meetings. We have some unique programs in-progress— we adopted an apple tree and we will be sharing our apples with our members very soon.

We also agreed to help clean up some hiking trails on BLM land. In exchange we are getting to take some Wild Bird Trail tours on land where the public isn’t allowed to go.

We have funds in-reserve but we also feel it is important to give something back to the members. We have an end-of-Summer bar-b-que coming up. We also charge \$ 100.00 for a business card-sized ad for an entire year—which is a bargain at the rate of \$ 8.50 per month.(approximately.) Photo contest coming up and already getting plenty of photos submitted, so things are going well in Palm Springs.

**Orange County/Long Beach Chapter of Great Outdoors**

Marco mentioned we have held membership steady @ 98 members pretty consistently. We had a great trip to see Natalie Cole at the Hollywood Bowl—13 people joined us for the picnic before and the great music in the bowl after the picnic. 14 people at Bonita Ranch on the banks of Lytle Creek.

(Marco's comments continue—OC/LB chapter)

Attendance at the General membership meeting down from past years—in the 20's or 30's most months. New leaders on-board and all "core" group positions are filled for the upcoming year.

**Awards Nominations**—"Any members or chapters can nominate an individual but you can only win each of these awards once." –per Mark. "This is not the only year these individuals can be nominated, there is always next year to try again." Just being nominated is an honor in itself.

**Lifetime Achievement Award:**

The nominees are: LA Chapter (2) Danny Sternstein and Timothy Stirton.

PS Chapter: (1) Danny Sternstein

OC Chapter (1) Mike Roth

Discussion & vote—Craig to announce results @ Conference.

**Mack Gerighty Award:**

The nominees are: SB Chapter (1) Jean Guy Dube

LA Chapter (1) Bob King

OC chapter (1) Greg Papin

PS Chapter (2) Patrick Henderson and Ed Emond

Discussion & vote—Craig to announce results @ Conference

**Adjourned @ 1:17 PM**