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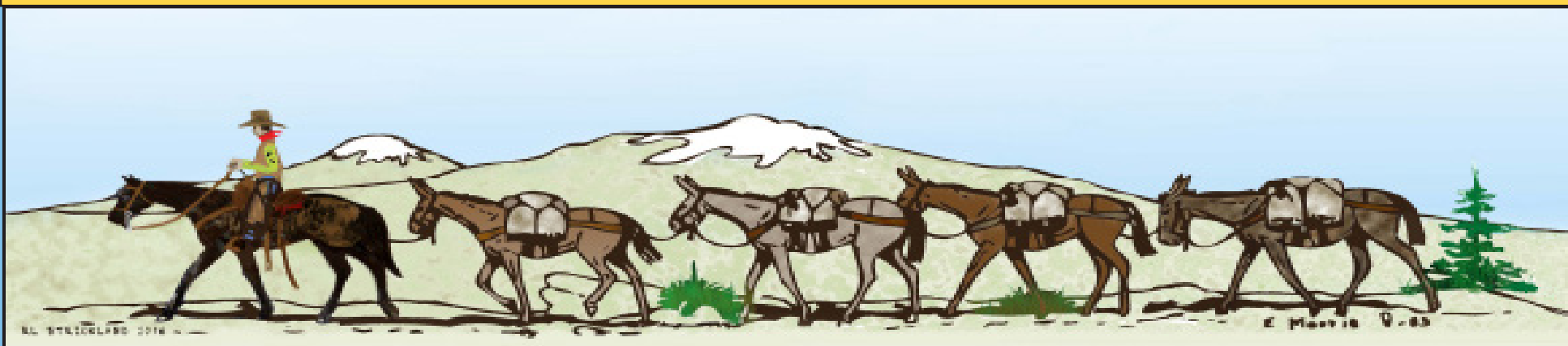
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# The Backcountry News

Volume 36, Issue 4

Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

FALL 2024



## “HELPING MULES” HAVE BCHC ROOTS

By C.J. Hargreaves with Michele Toberer

You’ve probably seen daily social media updates since late September when Hurricane Helene ravaged the southern United States. Here is what Paul Harvey would call, “The rest of the story...”

Mike and Michele Toberer joined Mid Valley Unit in around 1999-2000. At the time, they were in their mid to late 20s and had a toddler-aged son, Zack. The Toberers, originally from Modesto, California, owned a wholesale flower business and kept horses but no mules. Mike had learned packing skills as a youngster from his dad.

During their time with Mid Valley Unit, Mike was an enthusiastic Volunteer Service Projects Chair and Michele served as the unit’s Historian/talented scrapbook maker. Mike fine-tuned his packing skills and participated on the unit’s pack team, competing in BCHC’s Rendezvous Pack Scramble, AMA events and at Bishop Mule Days with mules borrowed from Mid Valley members Dave Coelho, Alvin Baptista and John Thomas. He often took home winners’ buckles.

As their son Zack got older, his dad taught him to pack and Zack, too, won buckles. When Zack was eight years old, he proudly took home two Champion buckles from the 2006 Rendezvous in Turlock. He also won Bishop Mule



Hurricane Helene ravaged the southern U.S.  
Photo credit: Mountain Mule Packers.

See **ROOTS**, continued on Page 14

# The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc.

Editor Carol Jo Hargreaves

BCHC\_Newsletter@bchcalifornia.org

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**Deadlines:** Advertising, announcements, pictures and other copy must be received at The Backcountry News by the deadlines listed below.

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Winter 2025 Edition	January 15, 2025
Spring 2025 Edition	April 15, 2025
Summer 2025 Edition	July 15, 2025
Fall 2025 Edition	October 15, 2025

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Full Page	\$150.00	\$142.50	\$135.00	\$127.50	Cost per Issue
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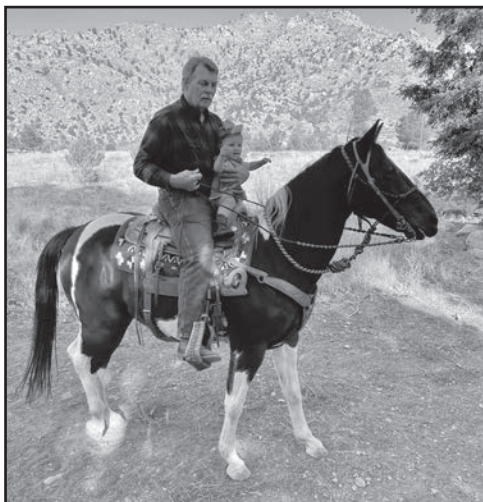
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For more BCHC information, see our website: [bchcalifornia.org](http://bchcalifornia.org)

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE



**BCHC President  
Mike Hughes**

## BITTERSWEET

Have you ever had the occasion to stand in the midst of a situation that was bittersweet, thoroughly gratifying, yet with the anticipation of great sorrow? This is where I am at this time in my third year of a four-year term as President of BCHC.

Due to medical reasons this last spring, I discovered it was necessary for a couple of months, to step away while First Vice President Jamie Wilson, DVM, took over the reins of the BCHC Presidency. Upon my return to the position, I found

her stewardship was a remarkable, professional, and smooth handling of the challenges presented to her and the Executive Committee. For that I am

deeply and profoundly grateful. BCHC reaped the benefits of Jamie's multiple talents.

It was also at the BCHC October State Board of Directors meeting at the Corning

Rolling Hills Indian Casino that this volunteer spirit to get the job done was displayed in abundance. A loud shout-out goes to Larry Shuman and his crew for procuring an excellent venue which will be home to the 2025 Rendezvous. Our contact person, Mrs. Arrowsmith, made sure everything was to our liking, with all requests promptly filled. A VIP experience.

The meeting rooms in the casino were topflight, the food delicious and the fresh baked cookies a culinary treat and a perk-me-up near the end of the meeting, adding up to very satisfied BCHC members. We did discover that the BCHC large group meeting needed a sound system after repeatedly hearing the phrase, "Speak up!" from the far corners of the room as well as from the "I hear better out of my right ear" crowd. This need will be addressed for future meetings.

Many of the attendees toured the Rolling Hills Equestrian facility and found it to be above expectations. The Rendezvous Committee presenters Larry Shuman, Michele

Machado, Cindy McMurry, and their crew, had chosen wisely. BCHC will be presented with the ultimate opportunity for a successful 2025 Rendezvous.

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES!

Every BCHC leadership person is now assigned a "generic" email address. This will allow depersonalization of addresses and simplified transition when new people are elected/appointed to positions.

Please begin using the new email addresses immediately. Thank you!

Image from Freepik

The Saturday morning BCHC Board of Directors meeting used the meeting format initiated years ago, whereby the Education meeting, chaired by Ruth Heuer and Denise Robinson, met in their own space while Public Lands, chaired by Troy Patton, met in another room. In the afternoon we came together to hold the overall State Board Meeting and share information. It was a most impressive sharing of ideas and information conducted with respect, cooperation, and compromise. A tremendous amount of work and progress was made. The various officers and directors will be sharing this information in this edition of The Backcountry News as well as at unit meetings. I am looking forward to hearing from all members.

A very important part of our annual business was the Election of Officers for the State Board. Positions were filled as follows:

1st Vice President (Insurance) - Jamie Wilson, DVM  
VP of Membership - Chip Herzig  
VP of Public Lands - Troy Patton  
BCHA National Director - Randy Hackbarth  
Secretary, no nominations, position remains open

There have been many sweet successes and interactions, but now on to the bitter part of bittersweet. Another opening became available when long time Intern Committee Member and driving force ("getting it done"), Cindy McMurry, announced she was stepping away from this position and will be focusing on the success of the 2025 Rendezvous. The Intern Program has been such a success that other organizations and other states are contacting BCHC to find out how to set up a program of their own. Cindy reminded us about the importance of forwarding the principles of BCHC with the youth who are going to be the decision makers of the future of the back country. She stated what a privilege it has been for her to interact with and assist these enthusiastic and eager young people and "to develop young adults to carry on the skills, attitude and fundamentals of packing, partnerships and LNT for the future of BCHC." Cindy is very passionate about the difference this program has made for the youth as well as for our organization.

If you are interested in or know of a capable person for either Secretary or Intern Committee, contact Susie Patton or Cindy McMurry or any member of the BCHC Executive Committee. Both remarkable women have stated that they would mentor and support their replacement. They both want the new officer to be successful and will provide a thorough training and continuing interaction.

I have benefitted from this very same altruistic guidance from the Executive Committee. They have guided me, mentored me, and tutored me throughout these last few years. There is so much to learn and that is why we are all in this together. The success we have enjoyed as the Executive Committee is BCHC's to claim and build on as we work together.

Without a doubt, the strong cable in my support network these past three years has been the BCHC Secretary, Susie Patton. Her expertise, knowledge, integrity, honesty, and "get it done" attitude has been all for the improvement of BCHC. I am proud to have been a part of the teamwork that Susie emphasizes. Susie Patton will be volunteering on various special assignments, including Rendezvous. So, it is with bittersweet regret and appreciation that I thank her for all her patience with me and help whenever I asked or needed it. She has definitely left things better than she found them.

With this group of "getting it done" Executive Committee, volunteers, and future forward-thinking members, BCHC will PRESERVE - PROTECT - MAINTAIN!

Mike Hughes  
BCHC President

# BCHC NEWS

## BCHC DUES INCREASE COMING

By Michael King, Immediate BCHC Past President

Greetings, Backcountry Horsemen of California members!

This article is to alert you of the pending dues increase, slated to become effective January 1, 2025.

BCHC's parent organization, Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA), voted last summer to increase its annual dues by \$5 per member. The funds will primarily be used to pay Randy Rasmussen, BCHA's full-time Director for Public Lands & Recreation, whose responsibilities include advancing initiatives and strengthening partnerships as well as promoting solutions to the trail maintenance crises on our national forests. Randy is an invaluable asset to BCHA and well worth the funds expended for his services.

Of course, BCHA's increase necessitates its state organizations and affiliate members to raise their dues accordingly - BCHC included.

Now, shifting gears a bit here. Two years ago, BCHC changed insurance carriers, replicating what was being done by BCH Washington. We now have a much better insurance plan and better coverage than what we had before. We were surprised when the annual premium increased to almost \$17,000 per year. This was a bit more than was expected, but still valuable and offering much better coverage than previously.

So, how to pay the premium? At the time of the premium increase, it was calculated that the cost per individual BCHC member would be \$9.04 per year. The State Board of Directors decided that that amount would be split in half. One-half (50% or \$4.52), would be paid by BCHC, and one-half would be paid by the units. The unit share would be deducted annually from the units' Membership Rebates so as not to tax the unit treasuries too severely.

Time has passed and it is now felt that the 50% share of insurance paid by the units should be paid with each year's dues, a more straightforward approach. This plan was voted on and approved at the October 2024 State Board of Directors Meeting.

So, to reiterate, with the pending dues increase, the units will now receive 100% of their per member dues rebate, and the per head cost of the insurance will be paid one-half directly by the membership through their dues. The other half will continue to be paid by BCHC.

As unpleasant as rising costs are, it should be noted that our last dues increase was in 2013, and despite continued rising costs of doing business, BCHC has been able to hold the line for 11 years without any dues increases.



**BCHC Secretary  
Susie Patton**

## STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Rolling Hills Casino and Equestrian Center, Corning, California

By BCHC Secretary Susie Patton

Our State Board Meeting was held in Corning, California, at the Rolling Hills Casino and Equestrian Center, the site of BCHC's 2025 Rendezvous, October 4 and 5, 2024.

This is a beautiful facility and they provided great service. We were able to tour the Rendezvous venue where we will hold all of our events under covered arenas.

At the request of our Co-VPs of Education, we held separate meetings in the morning for Education and Public Lands. If you have been around as long as I have, you may remember this format. Both meetings went very well and finished at about the same time. We broke up for lunch and had a taco bar with all the fixings.

The Board of Directors meeting began right after lunch.

Officers gave their reports:

Insurance – We have a new Incident Report that attendees received in their packets. Please keep this as a master at your unit and have it available at all unit events, to be completed by anyone who is injured in a BCHC event. When completed, send the form to BCHC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Jamie Wilson.

Volunteer Hours/Intern Program- Cindy McMurry spoke on the positive aspects of the Intern Program. She also stated that Volunteer Hours Reports will be due February 1, 2025. You may use the old forms (available on the BCHC website) since the new form has some issues.

Treasurer Lynn Joiner, reminded all that we are a little behind on the amount in the treasury compared to last year at this time. She also reminded the units that Rendezvous is the only State fundraiser BCHC has, and all units need to support it.

Chip Herzig reported that BCHC is 110 members ahead of last year. We currently have 1,764 members.

2025 Rendezvous General Chairman Larry Shuman reported that we had a facility tour this morning and described events planned, to include the Marine Mountain Packers, an obstacle challenge, and lots of educational classes. Raffle tickets were distributed to all units, so please be sure to purchase some and sell the rest. Prizes are a \$500 Bass Pro Gift Card or a catered pack trip. **Reminder** – all unit ticket stubs, ticket money and unsold tickets must be turned into the Rendezvous Office at the State Booth by 10 a.m., Saturday, April 12, 2025.

Education Co-VP Denise Robinson spoke about how the Gentle

# BCHC NEWS

**BCHA: Dedicated to keeping trails open  
for everyone**

**BOARD MEETING**, continued from Page 4

Use Pin Program is being brought back for those who attend Gentle Use classes at Rendezvous.

Public Lands VP Troy Patton talked about the letter BCHC has signed on to with BCHA objecting to the Tahoe Basin designating 143 miles of trail available to e-bikes.

Dan Chartier filling in for Mike Lewis, Saw Program Manager, reported on the newly approved Saw Program that makes BCHC partners with the U.S. Forest Service. The program has been changed with a whole new look but covers the same material. BCHC currently has 85 Certified Sawyers. The Board of Directors (BOD) voted to amend the wording on the "Policy on Changing the Bylaws" so that the Executive Board is not approving or denying the change but checking to make sure no other bylaws, laws or guidelines are going to be violated or duplicated by a proposed revision.

The BOD also approved a change to the C-4 Bylaws requiring all Unit Directors and State Officers to sign a Conflict-of-Interest Form prior to the February State Board meeting or their unit will need to replace them with a member willing to sign the form.

Since BCHA implemented a \$5 dues increase earlier this year, it was proposed that BCHC raise its dues. Several options were discussed. The BOD voted to raise dues to \$60 per year for an Individual membership and \$75 per year for a Family membership. Dues of other categories of membership will remain the same. This increase will cover one-half of BCHC's third party liability insurance per member. In turn, it allows units to get more money on their rebate checks.

The Election of Officers for 2025 was held. Since no names were submitted from the floor, the Nominating Committee's proposed slate of officers was accepted. We do not have a Secretary. If interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Michael Hughes, BCHC President.

Officers for 2025: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Jamie Wilson; Vice President of Membership, Chip Herzig; Vice President of Public Lands, Troy Patton; Treasurer, Lynn Joiner, and BCHA National Director, Randy Hackbarth. The Secretary position is currently vacant.

The next State Board Meeting will be February 7 and 8, 2025. We need to move the venue south and welcome suggestions of a meeting place.

## **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR WINTER 2025 EDITION**

of the Backcountry News is: **JANUARY 15, 2025**

Send submissions to:

BCHC Editor at

BCHC\_Newsletter@bchcalifornia.org



Submitted by Randy Hackbarth, BCHA National Director

**BCHA encourages all members to use the E-Bike Reporting Form and the Horse Camp Incident Form when they see problems.**

Both forms are available on the BCHC website, Public Lands page at [bchcalifornia.org/public-lands.html](http://bchcalifornia.org/public-lands.html)

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## **2025 NATIONAL BOARD MEETING**

April 13th - 16th, 2025

Prescott, Arizona

Registration opens January

**Registration Fees: \$400 Room Block Rate: \$169 plus services and tax**

For more information go to: <https://www.prescottresort.com/our-resort>

**Units, Chapters and States...**

**2024 YOUTH GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!**

Do you have an event or program to promote youth?

Check out the BCHA Youth Grant Opportunity.

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Apply online here: <https://form.jotform.com/241266506657158>

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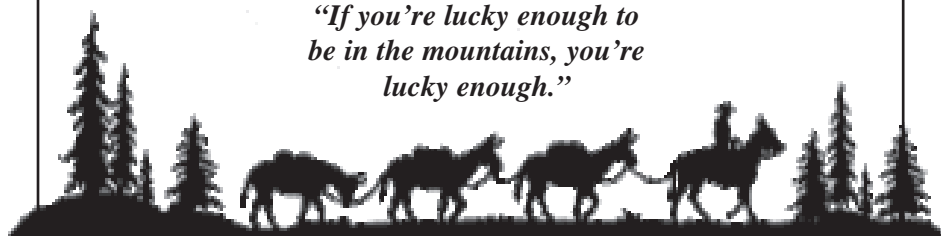
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Thank you for \$1,000 sponsorship from Terri Arington in memory of her late husband, Ron Arington. Ron was a longtime Ag teacher at Sonora High School. He was passionate about the back country, his horses and mules, his students and his wife.

*"If you're lucky enough to be in the mountains, you're lucky enough."*



# VOLUNTEER SERVICE



**BCHC 2nd Vice President  
(Service)  
Cindy McMurry**

Hello!

I am hoping you all had a safe, productive and fun year as Back Country Horsemen. Just a note to let you all know it's time to start collecting Volunteer Service hours from your members and getting them recorded.

Reports are due to me by February 1, 2025, so I can get them in to BCHA by February 15. Please use the Volunteer Hours form from the BCHC website if you do not already have one from last year. I cannot accept Excel forms that have been altered in any way - it is too labor intensive for me to extrapolate the information I need and fill out a new form for your unit. The information I need is on the Summary and Totals pages of the Excel form and you can send me just those pages or if you can't figure out how to do that, just send the whole form. I use the data from the Summary page to determine the Unit Volunteer Service Award and many units use the information

gathered through this form to make their selection for their Top Hand Award.

Most of you have heard me say before, we estimate BCHC, as an organization, under report by about 50%. I encourage you to log everything! Time reading e-mails and newsletters, drive time, prepping for a project or event goes under Admin Time or Basic Work, any time you ride out on a trail is Recon, any time you spend talking to people about BCH is Education, any time spent in clinics or classes is Education. This data is used to lobby at the local, state and national levels to leverage support for our mission and to secure funding for our projects.

Round miles and hours UP! Please do not submit fractions of hours or miles. When you are riding to an event with another person you get to log Travel Time, when you are doing the driving, you get to log Time and Miles.

I am always happy to help you trouble shoot so, don't hesitate to contact me at [mcmurrcindy@gmail.com](mailto:mcmurrcindy@gmail.com) or (530) 640-0429. You can find the most recent form I have at:

[https://www.bchcalifornia.org/public/documents/forms/2023VHR\\_master.xlsx](https://www.bchcalifornia.org/public/documents/forms/2023VHR_master.xlsx)

Please forward to me the contact information for the person in your unit who is responsible for collecting and recording Volunteer Hours so I have a complete and updated list to work from this year.

Happy trails to you all!



High Country Unit members performing Volunteer Service.  
Remember to report your hours!

## INSURANCE



Happy Fall!

Glad to see the backside of summer after some 110-degree days in the Central Valley!

We still have some time to finish those projects in the high country before snow falls.

It was great to see the State Directors at the Fall State Board Meeting last Saturday in Corning. I am really looking forward to having the Rendezvous there in April. The facility is perfect for our activities and there are plenty of RV sites.

We have a new Incident form for when an injury happens or any property damage occurs at a BCH event. Please check with your Unit President or State Director for a copy of the form to have on hand at events. If a non-member is injured or if a mule backs into a car at the trailhead, it could be very helpful to have contact information on the injured party, and witness reports with their contact info. Please email me if you have questions or need a form. ([drjamie91@gmail.com](mailto:drjamie91@gmail.com)).

Stay safe!

Jamie Wilson, DVM

1st Vice President (Insurance)

# BCHC NEWS

Continued from **INCREASE** on Page 4

So, in summary, **effective in January 2025**, both BCHA and BCHC will increase their annual dues by \$5 per Individual Membership for a total of 2 organizations x \$5 per organization = \$10. Thus, a \$50 Individual BCHC Membership will increase from \$50 to \$60 per year. If you elect to pay for a multi-year membership, a two-year membership will increase from \$90 to \$110, and a three-year membership will increase from \$125 to \$160.

Two or more people are included in a BCHC Family Membership. Those dues will increase by \$15, from \$60 to \$75 per year. A two-year membership moves from \$110 to \$140, and a three-year membership increases from \$150 to \$205. BCHC's Youth and Young Adult Memberships, unique to California, will remain unchanged at \$15 per member per year.

Here's the good news! No matter how many remaining years your membership currently has, you may sign up and extend your membership at the older/lower rates currently in effect, **through December 31, 2024**, and lock the lower rate for one to three years.

Even better, our VP of Membership tells me that you may stack on multi-year memberships. Pay for two- or three-year memberships, and lock in the reduced rate for six years (or as many as you want to afford). Apparently, the sky is the limit.

In short, no one wants to pay out more money, me included. Remember, BCHC does important work to keep public lands trails open for equestrian users and hikers alike and is very aware of the value of the money you entrust. Our fiduciary care will not change.

I hope that you can see the importance of your BCHC membership and that you will remain valued members of your local unit and the state and national organizations. We've worked very hard over the years to make BCHC membership large and strong, and we want to stay on that trajectory. I invite everyone to help continue that legacy by keeping your memberships up to date and current.

We appreciate you all tremendously and look forward to all the good BCHC will accomplish through advocacy and volunteer service in the future. If you need further clarification, feel free to call me at (209) 606-8323.



**BCHC VP of Membership  
Chip Herzig**

## MEMBERSHIP

### Weird Goings-on

We are entering the strange period for BCHC membership. Each year from October to December we lose about 100 members then in January to March we recover them. Don't ask me the why of this -I have no clue!

Compared to January 2024 we are in pretty good shape numbers wise as we are up over 110 members. This is great so a well-done to all you recruiters out there!

The National Board is raising its dues by \$5 per membership across the board. This dues increase is for a very good cause: the pay for Randy Rasmussen and secretarial help in the BCHA office. Randy is the guy who chases down all the Public Lands issues for us across the USA. There is another article in this newsletter laying out what that means for ol' BCHC.

### MEMBERSHIP TYPES BY UNIT (10/2024)

Unit	Members	Associate	Benefactor	Club	Family	Individual	Lifetime	Mt Whitney	Patron	Young Adult	Youth
Antelope Valley	34	2	1		11	10					
Eastern Sierra	53		3		14	14		2		1	
High Country	46				14	15			1		1
High Sierra	89	8	2		25	24	1		5		
Kern River Valley	23	3			10	3					
Kern Sierra	52	6	4		10	19	1	1	1		
Los Padres	125	6	5		33	46			1	1	
Manzanita Riders	55	3			16	21			1		
Mid Valley	301	16	13		90	79	1	3	1	3	4
Mother Lode	210	15	4	3	63	66		1		8	
North Bay	64	4	1		16	30					
Redshank Riders	79	3	2		22	29		1			
Redwood	148	2	2		44	54				1	1
San Joaquin Sierra	113	21	4		33	36	1			2	
Santa Ana River	54	3	2		18	12		1			
Sequoia	47	9	1		16	8			2	1	
Shasta Trinity	122	5	1		41	33	1	1	1		
Sierra Freepackers	49	3	1		19	9					
Sutter Buttes	42	1	2		11	14			1		
Top of the State	91	1			31	29					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1797</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>





# BCHC NEWS

## 2024 PACKING INTERN EXPERIENCE

By Jenna Haack, Intern

I first heard about the Backcountry Horsemen of California and Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps Packing Internship during the winter of 2021. I was closing in on my college graduation and needed to find the next step, unsure what that looked like but knowing I wanted to stick with stock,

I applied. A month or so later, Michael Morse called me offering me a spot and I had to regretfully decline and hope the next year would work as I had already secured a different summer job. This pattern repeated itself for the next few years as I worked various seasonal jobs, but always applied for the internship. Finally, I decided I would put all my eggs in one basket and decline all other seasonal job offers, because 2024 was the year I would finally tell Michael the answer we both wanted to hear. I was so excited to accept this position, move to California from Wisconsin, and take the first step in learning how to be a packer.

My summer was filled with learning curves, an endless flow of questions, and lots of laughter. I come from a strong stock background with experience in using stock in a variety of environments, but never packing. It felt like I was learning a new language in some respects, and I wanted to know why we did each thing the way we did it. Michael and my other supervisor, Lee Roeser, were both so patient and willing to answer any and all questions. We put on a lot of miles this year with a medley of projects ranging from weekly packing for two different California Conservation Corps, packing in fence posts, packing researchers and volunteer groups, packing out old wire, and packing in bridge boards. The bridge boards went up the McGee drainage to replace a bridge that had washed out a few years ago. While we were packing in the parking lot, a hiker approached me asking about our operation. I'm always thrilled to take the time to chat about the mules, government work, or the project that we are working on. The hiker was excited to hear about the bridge replacement and thanked us for the hard work, but I was more excited about skidding logs across the mountain meadow than anything. It wasn't until we dropped the boards, skidded the logs, and repacked the tools, that I realized skidding the logs wasn't the best part of the day. It was that I helped bring in boards to build a bridge that will (hopefully) last in the backcountry for many years to come. In the future, the hikers might wonder how the boards got there, but most of them won't imagine mules carrying them. I will think about the mules; I will think about the warm October sun, the chilly mornings with the crew, and how I spent my summer being a small piece of something greater.

The Intern Program is built around the goal of developing the next generation of wilderness managers, with the primary focus on packing. However, I also gained relevant experience with trail work, ranger interactions with the public, and working with volunteer groups. I have always been passionate about working outdoors and being able to share my knowledge and love for the forest with others, but this internship offered me a platform to connect with even more people. The value of this

program cannot be stressed enough. By creating an environment with an emphasis on learning, it allows for greater personal and professional growth. This position is unique as it offers an array of training opportunities such as different packing procedures, safety situations, riding different animals, and developing a leave no trace with stock mindset while preserving the integrity of the wilderness through these traditional skills. These skills can act as a way to bridge the gap between generations and sharing this knowledge can create insightful conversations to keep learning. Passing on these skills to the next generation is just one way that this program is committed to maintaining public lands with a stock-forward mindset. Simply being in Forest Service uniform, on trail, with stock is a great conversation starter about the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure the future of the lands is secure for the hikers and equine users. Not only did the Inyo packers accomplish many projects this year, but we also grew our skills and knowledge to continue this work in the future and keep working toward improving the public lands we will enjoy, with or without our favorite equine partner.

Thanks to the support of Backcountry Horsemen of California, Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps, and the U.S. Forest Service, I was able to spend my summer in the mountains with plenty of equine companions, a passionate crew, and knowledgeable people to learn from. I'm so grateful for that experience.



# EDUCATION

## WOW! WHAT A GREAT EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING!

*Big thanks to Mary Moore, Redwood Unit, for the awesome job as secretary*

### BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA STATE EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES October 5, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. at the Rolling Hills Casino in Corning, California, by Co-VP Chairpersons of Education Ruthie Heuer and Denise Robinson. They explained they were appointed by the Executive Board for a two-year term. They welcomed everyone and gave them packets\*. The unit Education Chairs/representatives introduced themselves. \*Those not in attendance were mailed their packets.

Only 10 units have elected Education Chairs and the remaining units need to select Education Chairs and send in the names. Ruthie Heuer went over the Education procedures and etiquette. For action items, a motion and second must be made and each unit representative will have up to three minutes to discuss the motion. The minutes from the February 10, 2024, Education Meeting at the Bakersfield Board of Directors Meeting were read. Michael King moved and Doug Dollarhide seconded the motion to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried.

The Education Program Overview (pink sheet) was explained. The Education Steering Committee

consists of the BCHC Co-VP(s) of Education and four members from the State Education Committee. They are responsible for education at the Rendezvous including Leave No Trace and Officer Training among many other things listed on the pink sheet. The Officer Training is scheduled biannually, but there are [Leadership Training] manuals given out as needed.

The Co-VPs went over the Application for BCHC Education Steering Committee (purple sheet).

Next in the packet was the Volunteer Project Report Explanation of Sections (blue sheet) which gives information regarding filling out the Volunteer Hours Form. There was also a blue sheet explaining what qualifies as education on the reporting form.

The BCHC Education Award (another blue sheet) is awarded to a member and to a unit deserving special recognition. There is a page explaining the criteria and a nomination form to submit by October 31 to the VP(s) of Education. Besides recognition, \$150 is allotted to the winning individual and \$150 to the winning unit. There was a question asking if a unit has a group of three people that do all the education work together, could they be nominated for the award as a group? The VP(s) will check on this. Mike Hughes suggested that when you submit your unit's annual proposed monthly work plan in January that you use it during the year to log who, what and hours that members

worked on education projects. This will help you know who to nominate. Don't forget to include hours for prep and cleanup/put away time. Dan Chartier developed a form he uses for the Forest Service (and for his taxes) that really helped him writing his hours and project down each day he works on planning, preparing and going on pack trips and saw trainings, etc. BCHC members typically understate their volunteer hours. Service/Volunteer Hours are annual (January-December) and due to the state by February 1. The Saw Program isn't technically under Education, but under BCHC's 501(c)3 Education Fund.

A Wilderness Rider Refresher was held this year. The Co-VPs thanked all who attended. They are working on getting the criteria back and next year there is a plan to have a full class as we need to train more members to become Wilderness Riders. There were several questions regarding advancing to a Master and a Master Instructor. Wilderness Rider is our state program where you represent state organizations. BCHC has a contract with Leave No Trace (LNT); it is the only equine LNT partner. After the Master Program class someone wanting to advance to a Master Instructor must do a certain number of hours and hold or assist with two three-night/two-day classes of LNT instruction. Light on the Land is a program recently started by BCHA. Train the Trainer is a national program.

Currently there are 39 members fully Youth Certified, 5 pending, and 13 units have Mandated Reporter youth representatives. All units need to appoint someone for this position. Activities where youth are involved without their parent(s) present must have a certified Youth Card holder present. For best procedures, have at least two adults present at all times. If parents are present, a Youth Card holder isn't required. Youth Card holders are needed to volunteer at the Kids Corral at Rendezvous.

The Leave No Trace Program for the Rendezvous (green sheets) was discussed. "Gentle Use" wording has been removed and replaced with LNT. At each year's Rendezvous, there are a series of seminars that qualify for the LNT Pin Program. A list of the core classes offered odd and even years is listed in the green packet. The point cards will be included in the Rendezvous Program and when attending core classes, you must have the instructor sign the card. Once you earn 50 points you turn in your card and receive a boot pin. The prototype pin was passed around. An additional pin (horseshoe) is awarded to a person attending the core classes the following year and earning an additional 50 points, thus completing the complete series of LNT classes. Additionally, there will be a 250-point (star) pin requiring completion of all 10 core classes and 15 additional classes under the point system. These are new pins as the previous ones have not been located. It was suggested that in the future a QR code may be included in the Rendezvous program and somehow it could be tracked on a smart phone? Chip Herzig, BCHC VP of Membership, will enter the points in the BCHC Membership Database.

George Archer from Shasta Trinity Unit handed out a draft of his plan for the packing competition at Rendezvous. He went over it and welcomed suggestions on logistics and how to improve. He included his phone and email information for contact. There will be team and individual Intercollegiate, High School (local) and Open categories. Discussion about Decker, Salmon River and Sawbuck pack saddles, getting the load balanced, weight distribution, time and accuracy, etc. Lynn Joiner moved and Terry Jorgensen seconded a motion that State BCHC sponsor Intercollegiate Packing Competition at the Rendezvous and appoint a coordinator. Motion carried. It was suggested that since this is such a big project a committee be setup to help coordinate and put this on. George Archer will represent the north state area, Doug Dollarhide the mid, and we need someone from the south area. George also said he is working on getting box stalls available for camping for the pack teams. He is going to send a letter to units asking them to talk with colleges and local high schools.

See **EDUCATION**, continued on Page 11

# PUBLIC LANDS

## EDUCATION, continued from Page 10

BCHC produces informational brochures/flyers for its members. The Education Co-VPs asked if, due to the presence of wolves now in California, they should develop a flyer. Ruthie Heuer will do research and meet with Department of Fish and Wildlife then take the information to the BCHC Board for approval. Lynn Joiner moved and Terry Jorgensen seconded a motion to proceed with researching wolves in California with the intent to do a public information flyer. Discussed the need for this now as there are only a few wolves in California. This process takes time - maybe a year or two - so it is best to get started. Motion carried.

BCHC has a State Booth at Bishop Mule Days with an education component. Terry Jorgensen said Bishop Mule Days wants BCHC to present LNT information. This was met with approval and it was agreed to add this to the BCHC booth. Terry Jorgensen will oversee this. Maybe add the "What Does a Horse See?" flyer.

Co-VPs of Education Ruthie Heuer and Denise Robinson put information regarding education in the BCHC newsletter but want to know what the best way would be to send out additional information to units. The representatives felt email is best.

Lynn Joiner moved, and Terry Jorgensen seconded a motion to adjourn, and the motion passed.



**BCHC VP of Public Lands  
Troy Patton**

## PUBLIC LANDS REPORT

By Troy Patton

We had a great Public Lands meeting at the State Board Meeting in Corning, California. Below are some of the newest happenings around the State.

BCHC (Michael Hughes and Troy Patton) signed onto a scoping letter with BCHA to the Tahoe National Forest objecting to a plan that would open 143 miles of additional trails to electric bikes. We have presented these objections previously and the Forest has not taken them into account.

The issue in the Inyo Forest at the Horseshoe Meadows Horse Camp is still a problem. I have been trying to set up

a second meeting with the Forest Service to get more information but have not been successful. They are letting this camp fall into disrepair and claim that we, as volunteers, cannot help since they have a contract with a concessionaire. However, I have been told they are moving forward with some new panels to fix the corrals for next year.

The Inyo Forest also is publicizing the fact that they are using helicopters in the Wilderness to remove old fencing. These were pastures and pens in the Inyo Forest that they claim have fallen into disrepair and are not being used. High Sierra Unit reported that Sequoia/Kings Canyon has been using helicopters to resupply trail crews and move trail crews. The National Park Service is required by law to "maintain wilderness character," however, they are using

helicopters, with all the noise and disturbance, rather than stock-supported options.

High Sierra Unit is working in the Modoc and Lassen forests and building relationships with the rangers. Top of the State Unit reported they are working in the Klamath Forest and cleaned up some campgrounds. Shasta Trinity Unit is meeting with several different trail groups to plan work for next year. Sierra Freepackers reported that although they had several meetings and put in many comments on Yosemite horse trails, they were pretty much ignored. They also reported up to 90-minute wait times to get in to work at specific camps. It seems the agency wants all horses out of Yosemite. Redwood Unit reported that much work needs to be done in the Marble Mountains, but the unit cannot get support from the agency. Several units offered suggestions on how to move forward.

### Legislation:

The Manure Clean Up Bill (AB 233) has once again been moved to the inactive file, which means during the next session of the California Senate we will have to watch for it to pop up again.

On September 22, 2024, California Governor Newsom signed AB 2091, an act to amend Section 21080.28 of the Public Resources Code relating to environmental quality and creating a new CEQA exemption for non-motorized public access. This exemption applies to park districts and the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA) when providing new nonmotorized public access to existing roads, trails, parking areas, and similar areas owned by the park district or GRTA. The lead agency must hold a public meeting to solicit input, consider effects on natural and tribal cultural resources, make required findings and file a notice of exemption.

### Awards:

Reminder to all units that nominations for the Ann Lange Award for a unit member doing outstanding work in Public Lands is due the first part of February. Please be as descriptive as possible about your nominee so the judges can know more about them.



# RENDEZVOUS 2025



## TRAILMEISTER COMING TO RENDEZVOUS!

Backcountry Horsemen of California is thrilled to announce that BCHC partner, TrailMeister (Robert Eversole), will be a featured clinician at our 2025 Rendezvous at Rolling Hills Equestrian Center in Corning. Highlighting TrailMeister's appearance will be his very popular mohair cinch-building class. Here are the details for this unique education opportunity:

### TRAILMEISTER MOHAIR CINCH-BUILDING CLINIC

**What:** Horse and mule enthusiasts will learn how to craft woven mohair cinches. Attendees will leave with a safe, functional custom cinch as well as the tools and knowledge to make more in the future. Participants will receive a custom loom, cinch-making tools, and all the materials they need to build their cinches during the clinic, and they will keep these tools for future use. Participants can choose between building a western style straight cinch or a packer cinch.

This introductory clinic covers a wide range of topics, including:

- Cinch Materials: Natural vs. Synthetic
- Determining Cinch Size
- How Conformation Affects Cinch Width and Length
- Essential Knots to Know
- Calculating Cordage Length
- Building the Cinch: Step-by-Step
- Design and Detailing Work
- After-Build Care for Your Cinch
- Resources for Materials and Future Projects

**Schedule:** Clinic will be split into 4- to 4.5-hour sessions over two days, Friday, April 11, and Saturday, April 12. Times are TBD.

**Cost for participants:** \$350

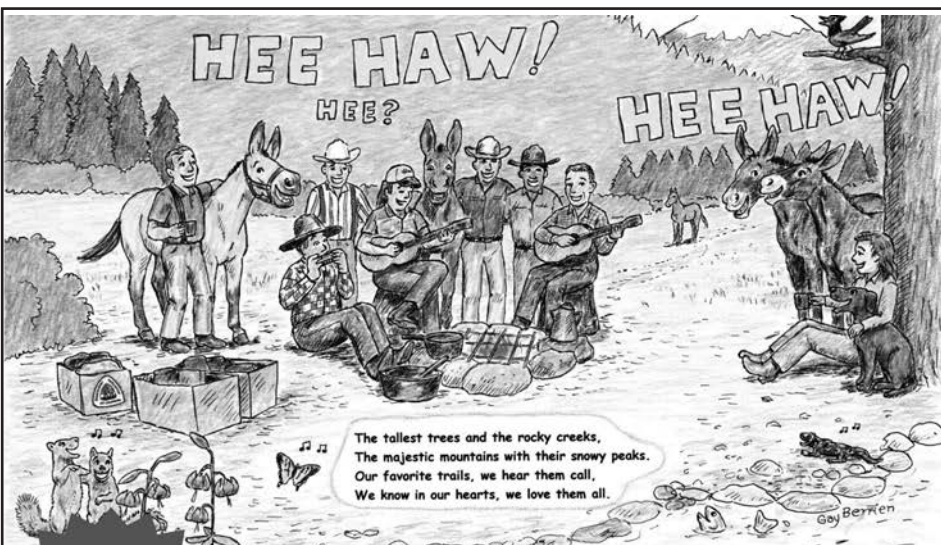
**Capacity:** Maximum 16 students

**Is this a fundraiser for BCHC?** Yes, if the class fills at 16 students, BCHC will earn \$2,100 toward our fundraising goal for Rendezvous.

For more information about TrailMeister and his clinics, go to:

<https://www.trailmeister.com/speaking/>

*TrailMeister (Robert Eversole) will be teaching other clinics at Rendezvous, but those clinic topics have not yet been determined.*



"Ode to Our Favorite Trails"

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

## Rendezvous 2025

- FREE ADMISSION
- FREE EDUCATION CLINICS
- TRAILMEISTER
- YOUTH ACTIVITIES
- PACKING COMPETITIONS
- MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE MULE PACKER DEMO
- VENDORS
- TRAIL OBSTACLE COURSE CHALLENGE
- DINNER EVENTS WITH RAFFLES & AUCTION
- COWBOY POETRY
- WILD HORSE ADOPTION
- DUTCH OVEN COOKING
- SO MUCH MORE!!

11-13 APRIL 2025 | CORNING, CA  
ROLLING HILLS CASINO EQUESTRIAN CENTER

RV spots and horse/mule stalls available at facility

Reach out for more information:

Rendezvous Chairman: Larry Shuman, (530) 526-0590, lshuman62@gmail.com

Vendor Coordinator: Cindy McMurry, (530) 640-0429, mcmurrycindy@gmail.com



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW SO YOU DON'T FORGET!**

**BCHC RENDEZVOUS 2025**

**APRIL 11-13, 2025  
AT ROLLING HILLS CASINO  
EQUESTRIAN CENTER**

**CORNING, CALIFORNIA**

# UNIT NEWS

## SHASTA TRINITY UNIT:

### FIRST TIME FISH PLANTER SHARES EXPERIENCE

By Ian Okonski-Fernandes with Albert Estrada

One of the most anticipated events the BCHC Shasta Trinity Unit is involved with each year is the yearly fish plant(s). We have partnered with the California Fish and Wildlife Department, along with the Mt. Shasta State Fish Hatchery and the BCHC High Sierra Unit to plant thousands of fingerlings in mountain lakes. This is one of those memorable events that family members of all ages, with or without stock, can join in on. We always hope that this event will leave lasting impressions on those who attend. The following letter is a good example of the importance of hosting these events.

“I left the Bay Area on a Thursday evening with excitement. My old, carbureted Toyota 4x4 was packed and ready for another long adventure. I traveled through the Central Valley and up into the mountains. Five hours later, just as the clock struck midnight, I had arrived at the Hay Meadows Trailhead in the Lassen National Forest.

As a new member of the BCH Shasta/Trinity Unit, I’ve spent this year getting acquainted with the members and participating in some of the educational events. Earlier in the year I completed my crosscut and chainsaw certification, so I felt somewhat prepared for the journey ahead.

In the morning, Albert Estrada and Larry Shuman prepared a generous breakfast to fuel everyone before we embarked on our adventure. Today’s objective: release trout fry into the nearby lakes. Shortly after [breakfast], George Archer, Sam Burrows, and the other members prepared their stock for the last objective of their stay. Everyone had their equines tacked up and ready for California Fish and Game to deliver the fry.

Once the coolers had been filled with these precious fish, we were ready to head out on the trail. Thanks to Larry, I was able to ride Coco the mule. Coco and I became fast friends as we traversed the mountainside. This was my first time on a mule, but it was not unfamiliar territory as I have been attending horse riding lessons weekly. We made our way through the forest that had been affected by the Dixie fire. You could hear Larry reminisce about the old forest and its beauty. Even though it seemed to look lifeless, the offspring of the vegetation embraced the nutritious soil.

After successfully releasing the fish into the lakes we headed back to the trailhead. The experience was an absolute 10/10 and a stark reminder of what BCHC is all about. I am eager to join the next project, and maybe I will have a mule by then.

- Ian Okonski-Fernandes”



## BCHC UNITS:

### DON'T MISS THESE IMPORTANT DEADLINES!

#### OCTOBER 31, 2024 -

BCHC Education Award nominations for 2024 due to VPs of Education. This award recognizes both a member and a unit for their efforts in BCHC Education.

#### FEBRUARY 1, 2025 -

Volunteer Hours Report. Send to Cindy McMurry, 2nd VP (Volunteer Service)

2024 Public Lands (Ann Lange and Ben York Awards) - Send to Troy Patton, VP of Public Lands

2024 Max & Irene Cochran Journalism Award - Send hard copies of 2024 unit newsletters to Newsletter to Editor C.J. Hargreaves

Top Hand for 2024 - Send Unit President's choice to BCHC Treasurer Lynn Joiner

#### FEBRUARY 28, 2025 -

Unit Financial Statement – send to BCHC Treasurer Lynn Joiner

Unit Report of Activities – send to BCHC Secretary Susie Patton



# “HELPING MULES” HAVE BCHC ROOTS

Continued from **ROOTS**, on Front Page

Days’ World Champion Youth Packer two times as well as Reserve Champion. The year father and son competed together they took home the Reserve Champion buckle.

The Toberers, with their family of five (two sons and a baby daughter), sold their flower business and moved from Modesto to Copperopolis, California, where they started Copper Valley Trail Company, offering guided trail rides to the public. A second daughter, Faith, joined the family in 2010.

It is possible that Mike’s contact with the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Team at the Rendezvous in Turlock spawned his dream of providing mule handling and packing training to public, corporate and military groups. He moved his family to the Fort Bragg (now re-named Fort Liberty) area of North Carolina in 2012 to follow that dream. Since then, he has subcontracted the training of multiple groups, primarily special forces teams, medics, communication and weapons/ammunitions personnel. He also provides trainings required for advancement to Green Berets, Navy Seals and Marine Corps teams.

The Toberers purchased some acreage and moved to Mount Ulla, North Carolina, in 2015. This tiny township is located about 40 minutes’ drive northeast of Charlotte and about 2-1/2 hours from Fort Liberty.

Mike built his herd of pack stock to a dozen head and they named their place, “Mountain Mule Packer Ranch.” Mike and Michele’s enterprise offered mule training and mule packing training for groups, both military and civilian, youth as well as adults. Their website says they offer many things - “packing of private groups into the backcountry wilderness for a private escape, packing in camp gear for hikers to have a deluxe backpacker camp, packing in trail restoration equipment and supplies for trail repair crews, and working with the very best of the elite military groups to prepare for mission specific requirements.” Further, they “specialize in high-altitude, crew-served weapons and extreme terrain pack animal supply trains” and have “mobile training capability to meet multiple needs.”

Fast forward from 2015 to 2024. Hurricane Helene, the worst storm now on record, swept through Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee from September 24 to 29, wreaking havoc, causing devastating flooding, destroying water supply systems, cutting off power and cell service to millions, washing away homes and vehicles, separating family members, and ending more than 120 lives. Fortunately, the Toberer family and property were not directly impacted by the storm but, indirectly, their lives were changed forever.

In an interview with K-LOVE radio, Michele explained how she and Mike, even their children, were called to help others after the hurricane. Mike immediately began packing his mules, ready to help wherever he could. More than 400 roads were closed and people were cut off from assistance, even by helicopter. Mike knew he could get into places with his mules that were inaccessible to everyone else. He took his chainsaws and, joined by Bob



Above: Mike Toberer leading pack mule in Pack Scramble, 2006 Rendezvous, Turlock, CA  
Right: Zack Toberer with two Champion buckles at 2006 Rendezvous. Photos by Kathy Zumbunn.



Left: Former Mid Valley Unit members, Bob Howitz and Mike Toberer, with mules ready to take off on volunteer helping mission. Photo credit: Mountain Mule Packers.



Right: Michele Toberer (in back) and her helpers purchased quantities of necessary supplies and created their own “shopping cart mule string.” Photo credit: Mountain Mule Packers.



People generously donated. Photo credit: Mountain Mule Packers.



Mike Toberer packing donations. Photo credit: Mountain Mule Packers.



Mike's pack string NOT crossing the bridge. Photo credit: Mountain Mule Packers.

Howitz, an old BCHC friend from Mid Valley Unit who had recently moved to nearby Statesville, North Carolina, Mike took his “beloved extreme terrain pack animals” to remote areas where storm damage prohibited entry by mechanized vehicles. The Toberers purchased goods, collected donations, and packed the mules. Mike, his pack string and his helpers began transporting emergency relief supplies and equipment such as food, water, diapers, cash, medicine including insulin, warm clothing, and children’s toys to people stranded in the hard-to-reach mountain areas of rural western North Carolina. Joined by Cajun Navy 2016, a nonprofit search and rescue group from Louisiana, and many other volunteers, the mules transported tons of vital materials in the 10 to 11 days following the hurricane.

As word got out about the “Helping Mules,” multiple media outlets joined in with positive coverage of volunteer efforts. Someone donated a stack of Bibles and the Toberer’s daughter Faith wrote a personal note with reference to Psalm 46:1-3 in the front of each one. She hoped her words would help people find strength and not be afraid.

Michele Toberer, who coordinates donations and supplies, schedules packing activities and posts daily Facebook updates from home, says every day of their recent adventure has been “beautiful.” During this time of divisiveness in our country, she said seeing the goodness in other helpers and witnessing the gratefulness and happiness of those they help has been a blessing. Although they never intended to put themselves in the spotlight, Mike and Michele quickly knew that they were called to help and are committed to continue doing so in every way they can. Overwhelmed by the response to their efforts, the couple does not understand why reaction has been so large and so positive but believe a higher power is working through them with a new plan each day for what they are supposed to accomplish. They both have “real jobs” - she helps Mike with his business office duties and works as a USAA agent and he manages cattle for a local company - the Toberers are waiting to see what their “new normal” will be. The mules are now turned out in their home pasture, enjoying a well-deserved rest and waiting for the next call to duty.

The Toberers have not been members of Back Country Horsemen since they moved from California. I speculate this has something to do with Forest Service safety rules becoming increasingly stringent and helmets now being required for volunteers. (Those who knew Mike would understand his reticence about wearing this garb to work with the local BCH chapter.)

Thank you, Mike, Michele and mules for all the good you are doing!

Read more about Mike Toberer and his mules helping transport supplies to residents in North Carolina in wake of Hurricane Helene in Fox News: <https://apple.news/ArHG3VwuDTmm2ra-sMw3t0Q>

Also in online articles by People, Southern Living, Garden & Gun and other similar publications.

And listen to Michele’s interview on K-LOVE radio podcast at [www.klove.com](http://www.klove.com)

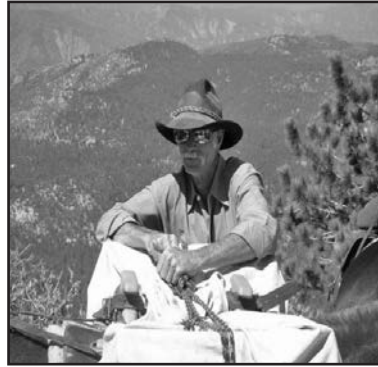
# BCHC & UNIT NEWS

## SAW PROGRAM REPORT

As of this week we have 74 sawyers entered in the Sawyer Database with 85 certifications - 58 chainsaw and 27 crosscut. Nationally there are 3,072 entries into the database with 3,330 certifications – 2,247 chainsaw and 1,083 crosscut. The ratio of chainsaw to crosscut in BCHC is the same as the national average. Our Instructors have done five classes with 32 certifications this year (2024) to date. We have been given access to all sawyer records in the country. As of now, not all forests are using the database so numbers may not be entirely accurate.

A few weeks ago, we got word that a replacement has been found for our current Region 5 Saw Program Coordinator, Mitch Hokanson, so he can concentrate on his smoke jumper duties. Mitch has been very instrumental in helping us navigate our new Saw Program and was always just a phone call or email away to answer any questions we had. Good luck to Mitch in his future endeavors. Jason Murieen will be taking over for Mitch on October 6. Jason comes with a solid background in the private industry as a timber faller. He has also been a Fire Dozer Operator and Forest Saw Coordinator on the Klamath National Forest for the past 15 years or so. We look forward to working with him in the future.

Dan Chartier is planning a saw class in Cottonwood on November 18 and 19 and plans are already in the works for some 2025 saw classes. Also, we are working on bringing in more Instructor candidates that we can, hopefully, add to our cadre.



**BCHC Saw Program Manager  
Michael Lewis**

## TOP OF THE STATE UNIT: OUTSTANDING TURNOUT FOR FALL GROUP RIDE

By Michele Machado Woods

If there are two things the Top of the State Unit is good at, it's gathering for a good visit and riding in beautiful locations. Our Deer Mountain group ride didn't disappoint for both this year.

Fourteen riders gathered on September 21 for the four-mile loop ride that included trails and seldom-used Forest Service roads and a casual sighting of summer range cattle. Deer Mountain is north of Mount Shasta in the Cascade Range. While it doesn't have any established equestrian/hiking trails, Deer Mountain is a favorite with local equestrians because there are miles and miles of seldom-used gravel roads and cow trails that are easy for young horses and mules that need wet saddle blankets and time in the mountains. It's not unusual to see black bear, deer, and turkey on our rides at Deer Mountain.

Our September 21 ride featured a fun card game where riders collected a total of six cards at two stations. Thank you to Alan Woods, Robert Robustellini and John Machado for volunteering to hand out cards.

When we completed the ride, we gathered for a potluck lunch at the snow-mobile warming cabin, however, we didn't need the stove in the cabin on this autumn Saturday because it was a beautiful sunny, 70-degree day.

We gained three new members during the ride, including Gleb from McCloud, who also was the lucky winner of a \$25 gift card to Scott Valley Feed when he had the high-point hand in the card game.

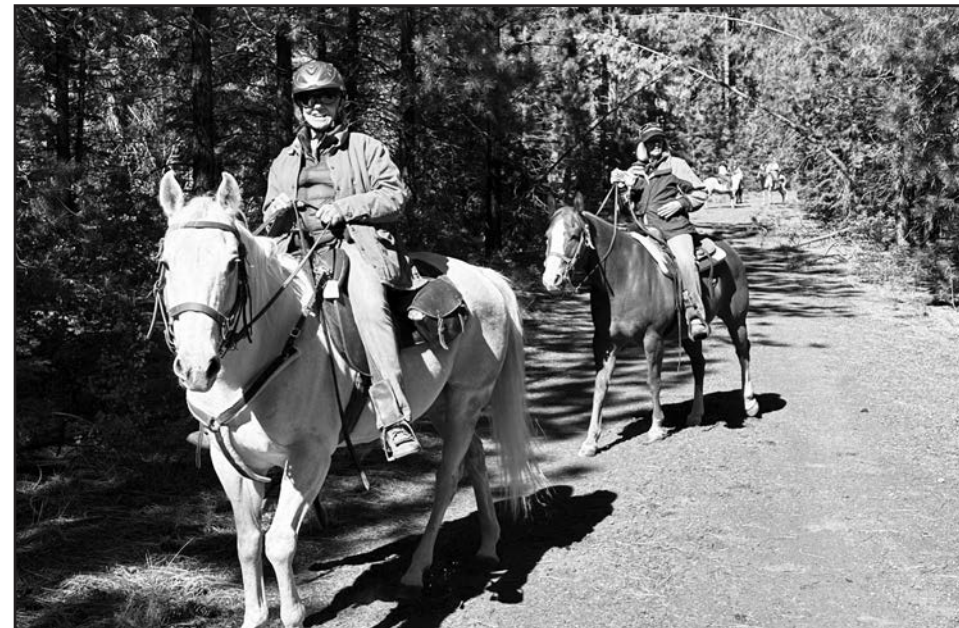
While the riding season will come to a close soon, we'll try to plan more of these rides next spring, summer and fall. This ride was filled with smiles, laughter and great visiting. A few of our newer members expressed great thanks for the opportunity to ride in a new place and meet long-time members and fellow equine enthusiasts.

This edition of The Backcountry News is chockfull of interesting information from BCHC leadership and units as well as a special report about mules used to transport supplies and equipment to those in need after Hurricane Helene's devastation. No room for a Newsletter Editor column!

Remember, if you need extra copies of The Backcountry News to distribute at upcoming events, let me know by the next deadline: January 15, 2024.

Thank you for all you do for BCHC!

--cj



# UNIT NEWS

## REDWOOD UNIT:

### TRASH COLLECTED AT MIKE THOMPSON WILDLIFE AREA

By Kim Chamberlain

In honor of Public Lands Day, September 28, the Redwood Unit participated by using our monthly conditioning ride to collect trash at the Mike Thompson Wildlife Area on the south spit of Humboldt Bay. This destination is popular for all manner of outdoor enthusiasts, and we hold stock conditioning rides there a few times a year. This unique place offers beach and dune riding from the length of the south spit to the entrance to Humboldt Bay or riding out to the mouth of the Eel River in the other direction.

Horses and mules were saddled or loaded with pack equipment and headed out in the direction of the Eel River. This group included Jeff Chase, Lori White, Penny Calvo, Marsha Bradbury, Mary Bigger, her grandson and Billie Mohr. Back at the picnic area, unmounted, Susan Combes and Kim Chamberlain picked up trash in the park area, out on the spit, into the bird preserve, along the bluff above and on the road descending from the bluff. There were a couple of trips made by the equestrians, as they returned with a total of three tires, a bunch of PVC piping and many more objects left out on the beach. We were able to haul off some of the debris, including the tires, and deposited the rest in the dumpster on-site.

Meanwhile back in the parking lot, Todd Calvo was firing up the BBQ to roast some giant hot dogs to feed the volunteers upon their return. We enjoyed Hoagie rolls, hotdogs, chips, apple crisp, watermelon, and cantaloupe. The food was a welcome sight after a few hours of work. So, we sat at the picnic area enjoying our lunch and feeling good about ourselves as we worked to improve one of the more popular areas for recreation that Humboldt County has to offer. We are hoping this becomes a regular annual item on our meeting agenda.





# UNIT NEWS

## MOTHER LODE UNIT:

### MOTHER LODE UNIT AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDENT PACKER

By Lucy Badenhoop

In 2022, the Mother Lode Unit (MLU) negotiated a scholarship program with the University of California at Davis (UCD). The only qualification requirements were financial need and participation in the Intercollegiate Pack Team Competition at Bishop Mule Days and BHC Rendezvous and attending a few local MLU events like the April Pack Clinic and June Horse Expo.

By 2024, enough funding was accumulated to make the first scholarship award to Rane Shim Clark who also won a Most Valuable Player Award for her pack team leadership during the season. In that role, Rane recruited enough student packers to send two teams to Bishop (the Gold Team and the Blue Team – UCD school colors). She also coordinated team practice schedules with the UCD barn manager and the pack team coach and organized team travel arrangements to the various BHC events.

Rane makes her home in Auburn, California, with her mule and grandfather who has been her guardian since middle school. During the 2024 summer, she worked as a packer with the Mammoth Lakes Pack Outfit to support her education goals on the foaling side of breeding.

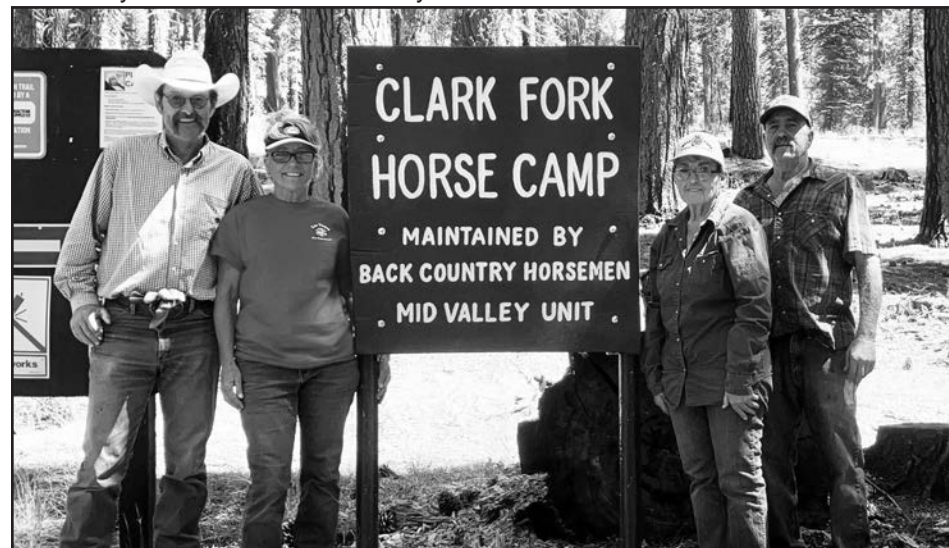


## MID VALLEY UNIT:

### CLARK FORK DONATIONS

By Vicki Morales

Mid Valley Unit has received donations from horsemen who have enjoyed camping at Clark Fork Horse Camp. Recently, new signs and hitching posts have been installed. In the past, road work, bathroom improvements, table repair and painting were done. The improvements at the camp are possible because of donations which pay for supplies. The work is happily done by our Mid Valley members on a voluntary basis.



(L to R) Mid Valley members Doug and Cathy Dollarhide, Julie and Carl Perry

### GIANELLI WORK PARTY

By Carl Perry

On July 20, a group of Mid Valley members drove up to the Gianelli Trailhead in preparation for clearing a fallen tree in the wilderness of the Stanislaus National Forest. This tree happened to be 5-1/2 miles in from the trailhead. I took about 2-1/2 hours to reach the tree's location. This tree has been blocking the trail for at least five years. There were several makeshift trails around the downed tree, one of which was an unsafe re-route. See **GIANELLI**, continued on Page 19



# UNIT NEWS

## KERN RIVER VALLEY UNIT:

### SOUTH SIERRA TRAIL PROJECT 2024

Article by Patrick V. Shreffler, KRVU Public Lands/Project Director, submitted by Mike Hughes

BCH Kern River Valley Unit (KRVU) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) conducted a cooperative trail maintenance project of the Albanita and Lost Meadow trail from Granite Knob Camp to Beck Meadow and the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) in the South Sierra Wilderness, September 16 through September 19, 2024.

KRVU Members Ken Finch, Archie Kinch and Pat Shreffler and Sequoia National Forest employees Bab Frenes and Mindy McClurg participated in the project.

KRVU provided the stock for the project and worked together to provide the camp, meals and equipment.

On Monday, September 16, we set camp and conducted three hours of trail work clearing Albanita Trail from camp to the wilderness boundary, removing two trees.

The following day, we cleared the trail from the wilderness boundary to Lost Meadow. We cleared brush and cut five trees out of the section of trail we cleared last year. We also removed two large trees near the entrance to Lost Meadow.

On Wednesday, September 18, we cleared brush and seven trees on Lost Meadow Trail from Lost Meadow toward Beck Meadow. Two trees were very large and difficult to move, which took considerable work and time. Unfortunately, these difficult logs took so long for our small crew to move that we have 2,100 feet of trail left to work before reaching Beck Meadow and the PCT. We did not have time to scout ahead, so we do not know if the trail is passable or not. As it was, we got back to camp about dark.

In all, we cleared 5.6 miles of trail and removed 12 trees plus lots of whitethorn, sage and manzanita from the trails.



Riding across Lost Meadow



Cut log on Lost Trail

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**GIANELLI**, continued from Page 18

The job took about two hours to complete. We had two crosscut saws sinking their teeth into the petrified log. We rotated sawyers quite often, but the Backcountry Horsemen eventually won the battle. Unit members who participated in this challenge were: Dennis Wetherington, Dennis and Loretta Serpa, Doug and Cathy Dollarhide, Carmen Olsen, John Schaapman, Lee Owing, Carl and Julie Perry. Thank you to everyone who helped!

# UNIT NEWS

## MANZANITA RIDERS UNIT:

### SNAKES ON A PLANE THE TRAIL Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinic for Dogs

Every unit spends a good bit of time on fundraising activities to boost the bottom line of their treasury to cover expenses for their own unit and to contribute toward BCHC state sponsored projects. We all have done a variety of poker rides, raffles, tack sales, camp outs and such. Many have been very successful, and some ... well, not so much ... and others were so volunteer intensive that it was hard to get enough volunteers.

Manzanita Riders Unit is no different, so we started thinking of something different that we could try, the old "thinking outside the box" idea. Well, we came up with something we had never done before or even heard of anyone doing.

In August 2024, we sponsored a Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinic for dogs. Yes, you read that correctly. It all started as some of us were discussing all the rattlesnakes we've run into on the trails this year; then it was about places we can take our dogs on-trail with us, and then someone mentioned there is rattlesnake avoidance training available for dogs, especially hunting dogs.

One thing led to another and we contacted a local trainer who helped us set up a clinic day. When it was all done, we had 22 dogs go through the training, so 22 dogs are now a little safer on-trail. We told 22 dog owners about BCHC and what we do, and we were able to tap into a group of people who were outside our usual circle of participants who support our activities.

In addition to all that good karma, we also generated \$1,045 in funds for our unit. It was a good day for everyone. (The snakes did well, too.)



Dog and their owners were pleased with the Rattlesnake Avoidance Clinic



Plenty of room to conduct training for dogs and their owners



Registration and information booth

# UNIT NEWS

## SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA UNIT:

### CALIFORNIA RIDING AND HIKING TRAIL

#### (Badger Flat)

By Marcee Hansen and Doug Laber

San Joaquin Sierra Unit was able to find the time to hit the California Riding and Hiking Trail this year. It has been severely neglected for about eight years. The local cattlemen have worked enough on this trail to get their cattle to land in which they have grazing rights, yet they often just find a path of least resistance. So, it is up to the Forest Service and volunteers to clear the mapped trails. If these trails don't get cleared, we are going to lose them! Some have said that is not so, but I have already come across a few respectable and educated people that have proof that valued trails have disappeared from current maps. Food for thought!

Lois Patten and I took a recon ride to see exactly what was going to be on our upcoming agenda. We did not get very far before we ran into an area that was so convoluted that going around was also very difficult. We decided that was the first area that needed our attention. As we continued farther down the trail, we came upon quite a few other areas that were going to take up another day of our planned weekend. All the work that we found was not only going to take up the entire weekend, but it also wasn't even close to the Wilderness boundary.

As our dates became closer, we were informed by local riders the trail had been cleared through to Rock Meadow. It is seven miles to Rock Meadow from the trailhead near Badger Campground. Karen Daugherty, Bethany Smith and I saddled up a few days before our Work Party Weekend and rode all the way to Rock Meadow. During that ride we found that the convoluted area I mentioned above had indeed been cleared. There were still many trees covering the trail so plenty of the trail still needed to be cleared. In addition, some of the work arounds were just off the trail. Those areas would need the original trail reestablished. I took pictures of eight sites that required work before the Wilderness Boundary. Some of the sites had multiple trees. The worst areas were in the Wilderness. Fortunately, only two of the five areas were going to take a lot of work.

When I arrived, Brian Jones, Lois Patten, and Jim and Doug Laber had already set up camp. We all tacked up and rode out to get started. The plan was to get all the front forest cleaned up on Friday. By 4 o'clock in the afternoon we were done clearing the trail all the way out to the Wilderness boundary. We accomplished our task and made it back to camp with quite a bit of energy left in the tank, which we will all need for the long ride into the Wilderness on Saturday morning.

On Friday evening, Steve Naylor arrived. He was going to help prepare food for all of us. That night we were having carne asada tacos, with all the trimmings. The evening fellowship was very enjoyable and by 8:30 we all said good night. We turned in early knowing Saturday was going to be a long day. As expected, the next day was long. We were in the saddle longer than an hour before we came to our first hard site. In the Wilderness we are not allowed to use motorized equipment. By 10:30 a.m. we were all in the saddle and packed with all the hand tools, silky saws and safety gear we were going to use in the Wilderness. Our first major dead fall was a challenging obstacle. It was the

first of the two large jobs and took us an hour and 40 minutes to complete. Not bad for the huge mess it was. There were three logs in a six-foot area that had to be removed. It was already 2:30 p.m. We elected to keep going given there was only one other job to do. Although it was large and a big mess, it was only one tree. We finished in about an hour. We still had the ride back. When Bethany, Karen, and I rode back from Rock Meadow it took a solid two hours with horses that moved out nicely, rested riders, and no pack animals. Our ride back to camp was going to be long. We made it by 6:40 p.m. Steve had dinner just about ready. We were so thankful. All the work that everyone did was extremely impressive. A special thanks to Brian Jones, first year member and new to work parties. The night ended early again. We all felt super good about the work we had accomplished. I suggested a ride to Twin Lakes the next day.

Sunday came too fast for me. I enjoyed the morning snuggled in my camper. They had to call me to breakfast this time. After a wonderful morning meal, we packed up our camp and readied our horses for a fun ride to Upper Twin. My aunt, Lois Patten, did not go with us this time. The lake was spectacular, as usual. The horses drank well and enjoyed the green grass while we ate lunch and took pictures. It was a great work weekend and ended with a beautiful ride to Upper Twin Lake.



Before



After

# UNIT NEWS

## SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA UNIT:

### THOMAS A. EDISON LAKE – HIGH SIERRA PACK STATION WORK PARTY

By Jim Laber, San Joaquin Sierra Unit

On a warm morning in the Valley, it was time to load up and head up to Edison. We all met at the Visitor Center just above Huntington Lake at 9:30 and had nine people in six rigs heading up Kaiser with Muriel Holland and a friend piloting us into the pack station. We got into the pack Station around 2:30 and got our stock settled in and went about visiting with John and Janice and staff catching up as it had been two years.

Our first two days we spent on the Lake trail and Graveyard cutoff to the Wilderness sign. We cut quite a few trees from 4 to 36 inches and repaired a creek crossing and culvert crossing.

On arriving back in camp Monday, it was good to see Steve Naylor had made it safely into camp. The third day we sent one team up the Bathtub Trail and one team out the shortcut to Bathtub out of the back of the pack station. Again, a lot of trees down (burned and dead) or leaning over the trail from the heavy snow fall.

Both teams were at it the whole day and the heat from the valley was not helpful, producing afternoon heat of 92 to 94 degrees and hot breezes coming off the lake instead of the cool refreshing ones we usually get a little earlier in the season. It was a challenge all week to keep hydration up.

On our last day of work, we split into two teams after our first clearing work and leap-frogged up the Bathtub Trail using silky saws. We put in a full day's work but didn't make it all the way up to the lake. Guaranteed there will be more to do next year but we left the trails better than we found them, removing 77 trees with 133 cuts. The pack station was thankful and very helpful during our entire stay.

The Fourth of July was our off day and most took rides to points of interest and then settled in at the station for an awesome dinner and homemade ice cream and cobbler for dessert. Steve led us out the next morning and it was a good thing we started down as early as we did and had him as pilot, because the holiday traffic started early as well. Can't wait for next year!



#### REMEMBER

**Send your membership renewals to VP of Membership Chip Herzig. DO NOT SEND THEM TO BCHA. Sending to the wrong place will delay payment and cause your membership to show as expired so you cannot participate in unit events.**

# UNIT NEWS

## SANTA ANA RIVER UNIT:

### INSPIRATION POINT TRAIL DESTROYED BY BRIDGE FIRE

Article and photos submitted by Amy Gibson

The Santa Ana River Unit held its monthly ride at Inspiration Point near Wrightwood, California, on August 18. This is a popular summer ride for Southern California equestrians wishing to escape the heat and enjoy the stunning mountain views. This trail has a saddle from which you can overlook the vast desert on one side and the beautiful mountains on the other. We had four members and a guest join us for an eight-mile loop that took us part of the way on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). We also spent some time scouting out a drop-off location for PCT hikers, as our unit plans to contribute supplies during the next hiking season.

Sadly, just 21 days after our ride, the Bridge Fire started and continued to burn out of control for several weeks. 54,878 acres had been burned as of October 8, along with 81 structures and the fire was only 98% contained. The beautiful mountain trails that we had just enjoyed are now burned. Inspiration Point and several area campgrounds and scout camps are closed until further notice. Part of the Inspiration Point ride goes through Mountain High Resort, a winter ski area, to pick up the PCT. Mountain High survived by turning on its snow-making machines which helped saturate the area as you can see in the photos. Santa Ana River Unit plans to help in the trail recovery once the area is open to volunteers again.



Bob Vitti



# WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

**We look forward  
to meeting you!**

**The following new members joined BCHC from  
7/13/2024 through 10/15/2024**

High Country	Veronica Franck Lorene Guffey Samantha Yaeger
High Sierra	Emilio & Christina Alvarez Cezanne & Cheryl Beets
Manzanita Riders	Laura Precoda
Mid Valley	Cody Andrews Andy & Brenda Thomas Corrie & Jon Whitesitt
Mother Lode	Mary Vielleux Laura Warner West Sacramento Trail Riders Assoc.
North Bay	Robin Everett
Redshank Riders	Kevin Cadieux Zachary & Summer Krause Melisa Lang & Andrew Moon Cindy Magill Monica Parsons
Redwood	Diane & Stacy Brown Joan Clark Cindi Drey Ruth Hoke Amber Klingosmith
Joedy Lange	Rick Levos Kacey Luster AJ Melvin
San Joaquin Sierra	Kaitlen & Nick Betchel Sheila Emery Morgan Wukadinovich
Santa Ana River	Holly Jarvis
Sequoia	Adrienne & Nathan Ostly
Shasta Trinity	John Hayes Sara & Frank Medina
Sierra Freepackers	Kristoffer Von Bonsdorff & Adriane DeWolfe
Sutter Buttes	Robert Waddell
Top of the State	Lorraine & Brian Joling Glen Nikitenko

## WHY JOIN BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA?

As a member, you'll:

- Get to participate in state and unit activities
- Learn valuable backcountry skills and outdoor ethics
- Gain new friends from among our wonderful members
- Receive the BCHC newsletter
- Be kept up to date on public lands issues  
...and more!

Even if you don't ride or aren't an active member, your dues contribute to our cause! You'll be helping pay for work projects, educational materials, training and insurances. Help support our efforts to keep trails open to stock users on public lands!

## TO JOIN OR RENEW BY MAIL

1. Fill out the MEMBERSHIP FORM, make a copy for your records. **IMPORTANT:** Youth Memberships **MUST** also print, sign, and mail these forms. Youth memberships will **NOT** be valid until the forms are received.

2. Mail the completed form(s) and check\* to:

Chip Herzig  
BCHC Membership  
1280 State Rte 208  
Yerington, NV 89447

\*Please make checks payable to Backcountry Horsemen of California.

## TO JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE

1. Fill out the ONLINE MEMBERSHIP FORM, save it and print a copy for your records.

2. Submit the online form. A copy will be sent to Chip Herzig, VP of Membership. **IMPORTANT:** Youth Memberships **MUST** also print, sign, and mail these forms. Youth memberships will **NOT** be valid until the forms are received.

3. Pay with your Paypal

# Recognition of Special Individuals

Benefactor funds are used in a variety of ways to support BCHC's Public Lands activities. Uses of Benefactor funds may include but are not limited to hiring consultants to perform in-depth reviews, financing special studies and reports, and reducing out-of-pocket travel expenses for those who testify at state and federal hearings.

## SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS

7/13/2024 through 10/15/2024

### BENEFACTOR (\$100)

Antelope Valley	Marge Biehl
Eastern Sierra	Greg Allen
	Bill Carter
	Troy Patton
High Sierra	Ruth Gerson
	Nancy Hamill
Kern Sierra	Mylon Filkins, DVM
	Craig Gunderson
	Lynn Joiner
	Larry Mumford
Los Padres	Kaye Bruns
	Robin Cederlof
	William Chaides
	Eve Devine
	Laurie Henry
Mid Valley	Tony Alamo
	Karen Barindelli
	Jay Barnes
	Gary A. Cain
	Carol Jo Hargreaves
	Rian Hudson
	Bob Magee
	Jennifer Marshall
	John V. Marshall
	MID VALLEY UNIT
	Randy Powell
	John Schaapman
	Valerie Sterling
Mother Lode	Tom Cooper
	Donna Jones Furlow
	Annabelle Toothaker
	Stephanie Williams
North Bay	Lynn Cominsky
Redshank Riders	Kathy A. Burleson
Redwood	James Biteman
	Carole & Darrel Polasek
San Joaquin Sierra	Larry Nishma, Knapp-Yosemite Trls Pk Sta
	James Laber
	Stephen Naylor
	Cathie Walker
Santa Ana River	Doris Bartholomew
	Pat Wolff
Sequoia	Jamie Wilson, DVM

### BENEFACTOR (\$100)

Shasta Trinity	Lori Henderson
Sierra Freepackers	Ann Bates
Sutter Buttes	Tim Holliday
	Richard Knox
High Country	Lynn Saunders

### PATRON (\$250)

High Sierra	Richard Cochran
	Jacob Hamstra
	Trish Pendegraft
	Karl Pendegraft
	Sonia Shepard McLellan
	Willi Coeler
Kern Sierra	Otis Calef
Los Padres	Lynda & Michael Sterns
Manzanita Riders	Dennis M. Serpa
Mid Valley	Kathryn C. Bennett
Sequoia	Jan Walker
	Bruce McGowan
Shasta Trinity	Kay Walters
Sutter Buttes	Pamela Bartley
Eastern Sierra	Sarah C. Sheehan

### MT. WHITNEY (\$500)

Kern Sierra	Roger Whitaker
Mid Valley	Terri Arington
	Lloyd Erlandson
	John Young
Mother Lode	Catherine McArthur
Redshank Riders	Allison Renck
Santa Ana River	Craig Bugajski
Shasta Trinity	Dean Angelides

### **REMINDER:**

If you are using PayPal to pay for a membership that is not your own, notify the VP of Membership at time of payment. (PayPal does not have an option to attach a message when units or individuals pay for someone else's membership.)



# BCHC Units Around the State

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(817) 308-0258  
meechele418@gmail.com

## **REMEMBER!**

The BCHC Executive Committee no longer sends out membership renewal verification "green slips" via regular mail. Each unit president and membership chair will get their unit's data AND it will be put on the BCHC web page in the password protected section.

## **Questions? Membership Matters**

BCHC VP of Membership is

Chip Herzig.

He will be happy to address your questions or concerns. Chip may be reached Monday through Friday.

By mail: BCHC Membership

1280 State Rt 208

Yerington, NV 89447

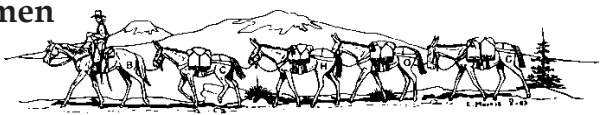
Email: BCHC\_Membership@

bchcalifornia.org

Phone: (775)463-3634

# Membership (App revised 7/2024)

**Backcountry Horsemen of California**



**MAIL TO: BCHC MEMBERSHIP  
1280 State Rt. 208  
Yerington, NV 89447**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

A Family & Youth oriented organization  
 New  Renewal  
  
 Change

**PARENT UNIT AFFILIATION: (Select and CHECK a Unit as your Affiliation)**

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antelope Valley   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake-Mendo       | <input type="checkbox"/> Redshank Riders    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Freepackers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Sierra    | <input type="checkbox"/> Los Padres       | <input type="checkbox"/> Redwood            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sutter Buttes      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Country      | <input type="checkbox"/> Manzanita Riders | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin Sierra | <input type="checkbox"/> Top of the State   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Sierra       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mid Valley       | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Ana River    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kern River Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> Motherlode       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sequoia            |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kern Sierra       | <input type="checkbox"/> North Bay        | <input type="checkbox"/> Shasta Trinity     |   |

DCTR (Your Membership Number): \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER'S NAME - No Business Names, Print Clearly \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE/CO-MEMBER'S NAME - MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code (full 9 digits if known) \_\_\_\_\_ Area Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to BCHC Education Fund (Tax deductible) \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Unit Membership Types (Check One)**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family \$110	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (12-17 years old) \$15*	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family \$150	*Youth members MUST fill out BOTH Youth Membership forms (available online)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Whitney \$500			

**Associate Memberships: An Additional \$15 PER UNIT is added to your Parent Unit Dues**  
Associate Memberships Unit Affiliations MAY NOT BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT

Associate Membership for: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/Unit  
Unit Name (from above list)

Associate Membership for: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/Unit  
Unit Name (from above list)

\_\_\_\_\_ Add additional choices here

**Please clip form along dashed line and keep the below portion for your records.**

**Parent BCHC Membership Types**  
Individual, Family, (Shared\*\*), Benefactor, Patron, and Mt. Whitney  
A Parent Membership is affiliated with a single Local Unit.  
BCHC Members may NOT hold more than ONE active Parent Membership.  
\*\*A SHARED Membership if for two adults with differing last names who share a common address.

**Associate Memberships**  
These special Memberships are only available to persons already holding Parent BCHC Membership. No one may sign up for an Associate Membership without 1) having registered one of the Parent Membership types, and 2) having selected Parent Unit affiliation.

**Youth Memberships**  
Youth Memberships MUST be accompanied by a signed Youth Membership Permission Release and Youth Parent Permission Form. A Youth Membership is NOT valid until BCHC or the Parent Unit has received signed copies of these forms.

**Complete information regarding BCHC Membership is available on the MEMBERSHIP TAB at bchcalifornia.org or call (775) 463-3634**

**KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS**

I submitted an Application Form for a new -

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual	\$125
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family	\$110
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old)	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (12-17 years old)	\$15*
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Whitney	\$500

On that form, I also requested:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Associate Memberships \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
My Total Remittance: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
My Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Verification of BCHC Membership**

Verification of BCHC Membership is available via:

- 1) BCHC Unit President's reports
- 2) BCHC Membership Chair reports
- 3) a self addressed stamped envelope submitted with this form
- 4) a valid email address



## 2025 BCHC Catered Pack Trip



Tickets are \$10 each or 10 Tickets for \$90

Catered Pack Trip for 2 4 Days and 3 Nights

### Choice of a Trinity Alps Wilderness or a South Warner Wilderness experience

Everything Provided except personal gear.

Estimated value \$10,000

2 More people can be added for \$200/per day per person

Drawing to be held April 12<sup>th</sup> at the 2025 Rendezvous

Must be used between June 1 – August 31, 2025

You do not need to be present to win.

For more information contact Larry Shuman

530-526-0590 or Email [Lshuman62@gmail.com](mailto:Lshuman62@gmail.com)

May be purchased through your local BCHC Unit also.



## BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

### ANNUAL RENDEZVOUS



**US FOREST SERVICE**  
WILD HORSE & BURRO PROGRAM



## Satellite Adoption Event

April 11-13, 2025

Rolling Hills Casino Equestrian Center in Corning, CA

For more information call 530.233.8738 or visit <https://go.usa.gov/xQ3r3>

## RENDEZVOUS EVENT LIST

(As of 10/14/2024 – May change as we get closer to Rendezvous)

### Packing Classes & Demos - Sam Burrows & George Archer

Packing 101 – Iron Mules

Advanced Packing – Live Animals

USFS Demonstrations – Shasta Trinity & Klamath National Forests

US Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Division

Youth Demos – Hands on

Adult Demonstrations

Kids Packing Clinic

Mule Trainer – Jeff Gleason

Horse Trainer – Brian Newbert

TrailMeister (Robert Eversole)

### Veterinary & Equine Care Classes

Back Country Emergency First Aid - Christine

Russel, Modoc Veterinary Center

Hoof Care – Justin Morris

TBD – Karen Shaw, DVM

TBD – Kate Shaw, DVM

Equine Nutrition

Saddle Fitting – Susan Hartje

### Trail Classes

Saw Maintenance & Sharpening – Bailey's & FS Sawyers

Volunteering for Trail Work and Trail

Maintenance - Ascend, Bigfoot Trail Crew,

Wilderness Experience, Sierra Butte Trail

Coalition

### Competitions

Trail Obstacle Challenge – Vicki Nims - CSHA-

Odd Load Packing – Sam/Kip

College Age Packing – George Archer (Live Animals)

HS Age – George Archer (Iron Mules)

Art Show – Mike & Norma Kohlbaker

Unit Table Decoration – 2024 winning unit

Dutch Oven Cooking – Annie Jennings

### Other

Cowboy Church – Pastor Justin Morris

LNT Classes – Wilderness Riders

BCHC RENDEZVOUS, APRIL 11-13, 2025 AT ROLLING HILLS CASINO EQUESTRIAN CENTER

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW SO YOU DON'T FORGET!