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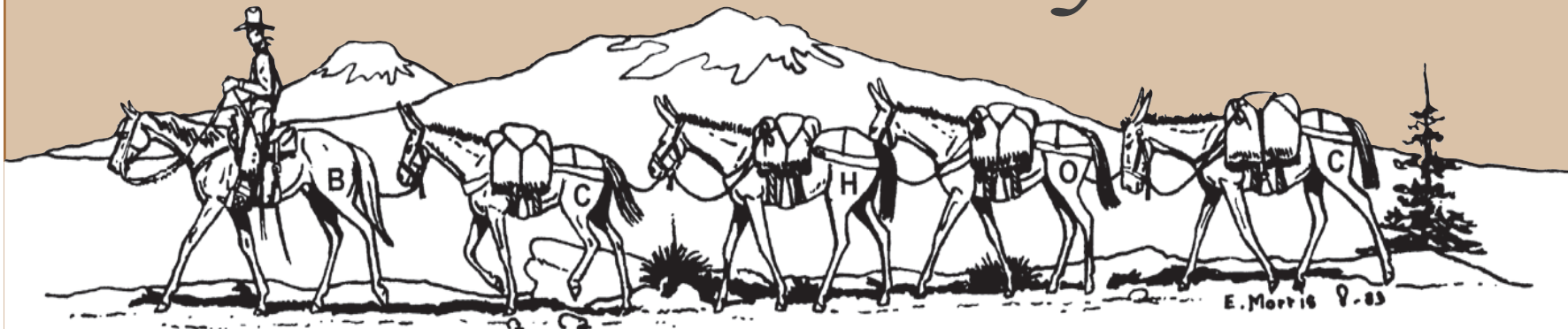
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bchcalifornia.org

BCHC

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN
OF CALIFORNIA
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The Backcountry News



Volume 17, Issue 3

The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

Fall 2010

ALL BCHC MEMBERS INVITED TO STATE BOARD MEETING, VISALIA, OCTOBER 15-16



Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference
Center in Visalia
9000 West Airport Drive, Visalia 93277
\$79/night + tax for BCHC - please use
the BCHC Travel Site
www.ytbtravel.com/bchc to make your
reservations!
Reservation phone #: 1-800-465-4329

Hotel's website is:
www.visaliaca.holiday-inn.com

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Friday, October 15: Executive Committee
Dinner Meeting, 6:00-10:00 p.m., Oak
Room

Saturday, October 16: Education
Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m.-noon,
Plaza Room

Saturday, October 16: Public Lands
Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m. - noon,
Oak Room

Saturday, October 16: Board of
Directors Meeting, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., Oak
Room

Saturday, October 16: Happy Hour/Unit
Reports after Board Meeting, Oak Room

Directions: Take Hwy 99 to the
Visalia exit. The hotel is literally
right there on the cusp of Hwy
198 and 99.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO BE HELD AT STATE BOARD MEETING

Do you have a burning desire
to run BCHC? Want to fix a
wrong? Well then, put your
name in our election hat by
sending an email to Chip
Herzig at chryvchip@msn.com
or call: 951-769-3781.

The Backcountry News

A Quarterly Publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

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Who Is BCHC? The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc. is a 501 (c) (4) non profit organization incorporated in the State of California, March 13, 1990, with a 501 (c) (3) education foundation established in 2007. The Backcountry Horsemen of California Inc., reserves the right to refuse any advertisements and/or articles that are inconsistent with the Backcountry Horsemen of California's objectives and purpose statement. Other material will be printed at the Editor's discretion.

Disclaimer: Articles and advertisements that appear in The Backcountry News do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of BCHC or its officers and members. Nor does publication of said articles and advertisements constitute an endorsement of the views or of the goods or services offered therein that they may express. Accuracy of all material is the sole responsibility of the authors. BCHC is not responsible for unsolicited material of any kind.

Reader Submission - The Backcountry News welcomes reader contributions, event and calendar dates, and Unit news. These will be printed on a space-available basis. Submissions may be sent on disk in a Microsoft Word format, emailed or sent by regular mail.

Longer articles are subject to edit for space at the discretion of the Editor. Photos will not be returned.

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

Deadline

December 17, 2010

April 15, 2011

August 19, 2011

Publication Date

January 2011 - Winter

May 2011 - Spring/Summer

September 2011 - Fall

Advertising Rates Per Issue: Rates effective January 2005. All ads must be paid for in advance. Multiple insertion discounts apply to ads placed in consecutive issues.

Number of Issues:	1	2	3	4	
Full Page	\$150.00	\$142.50	\$135.00	\$127.50	} Cost per Issue
Half Page (h/v)	\$100.00	\$95.00	\$90.00	\$85.00	
Quarter Page (h/v)	\$80.00	\$76.00	\$72.00	\$68.00	
Bus. Card (h/v)	\$25.00	\$23.75	\$22.50	\$21.25	

Advertising: All ads must include all fonts and images used in artwork. Ads must be at a resolution of 300 pixels per inch at the actual size used in the artwork. Mail payment to the BCHC Treasurer. Checks returned from the bank will have a \$25.00 return check fee. No advertising will be accepted from advertisers with outstanding balances. Liability by The Backcountry News shall not exceed the space occupied by the error. Never shall The Backcountry News be liable for any general, special or consequential damages. All claims for adjustments must be made within 30 days of the first publication of said ad.

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Contact Membership Coordinator, Karen Harper.

She will address any of your questions or concerns.

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Or by email: membership@bchcalifornia.org

President's Page



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This will be the last BCHC newsletter article I submit as the organization's President. I have served for the past three years for what I think is one of the best organizations I have ever been affiliated with. There were problems, conflicts, and other issues that sometimes made me wonder what I had gotten into but, to tell you the truth, being President of BCHC has been one of the best experiences of my life. I have made lifelong

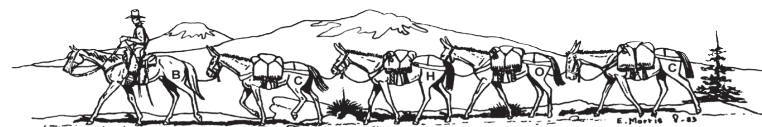
friends and collected memories that will never fade and probably be embellished with time. I especially want to thank those on the Executive Committee. It has been a pleasure working with you! You have shown a profound professionalism and have provided excellent advice over the years. I have gotten to see some fantastic parts of California going to meetings and just joining in. It has been a wonderful three years!

On to some fun stuff. This past July, Sam Burrows (Shasta Trinity Unit) and I took three of our grandsons packing into the Marble Mountains for five days. What a fantastic time we had! This was the first pack trip for my grandson Jordan who is eleven. He told me he was a little homesick the first night but after that it was great. The fishing was a little slower than we would have liked but the weather couldn't have been better, the swimming was great, and Sam cooked up some delicious meals. My grandson sang all four hours on the way out and told me afterward he wants to go again and would like to start accompanying me on some BCHC work projects. Sam's grandsons were equally as thrilled. What a great way to show three young men the outdoor experiences we in BCHC so dearly love.

It is getting close to October which means the October State Board Meeting in Visalia, like last year. You will be getting notification from Kaye Bruns, BCHC Secretary. We have some important items to discuss: budget problems, 2011 Rendezvous functions, possible future organizational changes, and most importantly, election of 2011 officers. Please think about who you would like to see as your new leaders. If you or someone you know is interested in running for one of the positions, please step up. I know you may think it is a pain to be in one of these positions but I you will find it to be very rewarding. We need people and ideas and let me tell you Kaye and Lynn are great at showing new people the ropes. Please plan to attend and participate in the October State Board Meeting.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Rendezvous 2011 in Red Bluff next April!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Fall State Board Meeting
October 15-16, 2010
Holiday Inn, Visalia



NOTICE: As a cost-saving measure, we will only publish 3 editions of The Backcountry News in 2010.

OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE of the

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA *from the BCHC Bylaws*

- To improve and promote the use, care and development of California backcountry trails, campsites, streams and meadows; to advocate good trail manners.
- To promote the conservation and utilization of our backcountry resources in concert with livestock transportation.
- To keep the backcountry trails and forage areas open to horsemen on all public lands.
- To keep current information before the Corporation membership and its local Units regarding new legislation or management plans related to government regulations of the backcountry.
- To support or oppose new proposals, plans and restrictions as related to the interest of horsemen and those persons interested in recreational stock use and enjoying the backcountry.
- To promote the interest of people who, due to health or physical factors, need transportation other than by foot on backcountry trails.
- To promote public awareness and interest in the historical aspect of horsemen and stock in the backcountry and to help educate backcountry users on ways to use the trail and forage in a manner that conserves the backcountry resources.
- To assist in keeping the public informed of the vital need for a clean backcountry.
- To promote a working relationship with and keep the work and interests of the Corporation before our local, state and federal officials.
- To assist in the formation and continuation of local Units to carry out these purposes.

Public Lands

PUBLIC LANDS

*Bruce De Mott, Co-Vice President of Public Land, with Ruth Gerson
(Originally published incompletely in the Spring/Summer 2010 edition)*

Public Lands Co-Chair carries a lot of responsibilities and opportunities for me. I am very thankful for the attendance that the Unit Public Lands Chairs demonstrated by turning out during Jeannette's and my tour each weekend in January to present the Coordination process. The first stop was Hemet. The following three weekends were in Visalia, Manteca and then Redding. It was very revealing to me to see so many of the things BCHC and BCHA have been trying to say to agencies for years, in writing, in a county comprehensive document. Dennis Dailey of BCHA and I had been saying these things to each other for years and the document looked like a vehicle to express our concerns. It looked like a big yea!

When I was invited to participate with a county in the development of their document I bought in because so much of Dennis Dailey's and my concerns were written in. This was true because it had been taken from the BCHA website and Dennis' writing was quoted extensively. My contributions were seemingly significant but relatively minor. Also I was invited to participate in BCHA's development of a public lands training document for the 25 affiliates. We had regular conference calls with BCHA advisors and I offered the county document that I was involved with along with a process called Coordination. The document was forwarded to all the BCHA advisors. Next I was asked to package it into a training module for new Public Lands Chairs. Okay, but how? A couple of folks from Texas named Dan and Margaret made a presentation in early March and they brought along a primer. Now I began to see the answer as to how to develop the training module.

We struggled with the county document due to its complexity. The BCHC and BCHA position was very good, however the document's 80-page length caused difficulty. Wading through the document with five County Supervisors and even more Planning Commissioners from the lead entity proved confusing and controversial. The document was generating its own opposition.



Fred Kelly Grant describes the Coordination process

The primer offered simplicity by a mere resolution of a tax-based entity to coordinate. A government agency qualifies as a tax-based entity. Once a resolution is adopted, a policy is developed. A policy statement can be one page or just one line. An example one liner is "All public lands, roads and trails will be kept open." Great! I could sell this.

Many, many hours were spent making arrangements to bring the leading advocate of the Coordination process, Fred Kelly Grant, to our 2010 Rendezvous. Also, many more hours were spent arranging visits to our Rendezvous by the Forest Service Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer

Resources office in Washington, D.C., and US Forest Service Region 5 representatives.

Fred Grant's presentation on Thursday, March 18, was videotaped for the presentation I was asked to make in April at the BCHA national meeting in Branson, Missouri. BCHA paid for the training DVD. Fred had forgotten of the existence of the simplified primer. At my urging, Fred contacted Dan and Margaret (mentioned above) and they shipped the primer from Texas to our Rendezvous in Merced in a day. Whew! Now a much-simplified version of Coordination could be presented at the Public Lands Committee meeting Thursday. The chairperson of a local County Planning Commission attended Fred Grant's presentation. He was very impressed and bought several copies of the primer. The Commissioner talked about presenting the Coordination process to his county Board of Supervisors, saying, "This is good stuff." Also attending Fred Grant's presentation was Tuolumne County Supervisor Teri Murrison. Teri is a strong advocate of the Coordination process.

At the Friday, March 19, Public Lands Committee meeting Ken Graves and Jo Johnson spoke of the significance of involving and being involved with the California Conservation Corps (CCC's). Their presentation spoke of the importance of the CCC's in trail maintenance and getting our youth into the outdoors. Before anything started though, Dan Clifford snuck in a bouquet of flowers. We presented Ruth Gerson, my wonderful Public Lands Co-VP, with the bouquet and a card signed by many, many admirers. We wished the much-surprised Ruth a happy 75th birthday. She glowed radiantly.



Art Jeffers bestows a "Happy Birthday" hug on Ruth Gerson

Following Ken Graves and Jo Johnson, I presented a brochure I had developed to solicit funds for hiring the CCC's for trail maintenance. The brochure had been presented to the Executive Committee and is available upon request. Seeking public funds was a follow up to the commitment I made to the USFS Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources office in Washington, D.C., regarding the necessity of public involvement. I was in total agreement with Director Joel Holtrop and of Jim Bedwell's statement, "Let's stop suing each other and put the money (USFS) into trail maintenance."

The Public Lands Committee held a short discussion on the necessity of developing a mission statement for Public Lands. Input was requested from the Unit Public Lands Liaisons. Some responses have been received. Follow up discussion ensued about the differences in a philosophy and a mission.

Ann Lange and Jerry Ledbetter made a two-hour presentation on the necessity of trail monitoring and offered training on how it is to be

Continued on Page 5

Public Lands

PUBLIC LANDS, *continued from Page 4*

accomplished. Volunteers from BCHC Units are needed to perform this important work for the eighteen Forests in California.



Friday at the beginning of the State Board Meeting we had the pleasure of a brief presentation on how the Forest Service works from Art Jeffers of the USFS Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources office in Washington, D.C. Marlene Finley of USFS Region 5 presented after Art. Anything relating to trail work, access and so on goes across Marlene's desk. Marlene hit all the talking points we had discussed. For example, what kind of employees USFS should be hiring due to the great influx of retirees; the "nature deficit disorder" of our youth

caused by young people not getting outdoors; soliciting public funds, and being responsible to Jim Bedwell's statement of putting our money into trail work and not suing each other. Many thanks to the USFS for their great showing!

Friday night at the annual awards dinner, Dan Clifford was presented the first perpetual Public Lands Award. Dan performed outstanding work and dug deep into his own pockets to bring important presenters to BCHC. Nothing was too big and Dan dug in again to attend a meeting with Jeannette and me with the USFS Chief Deputy and his staff in Washington, D.C. Dan was a well-deserving recipient of this new award.

On Saturday Jeannette and I hosted a parade from downtown Merced into the Fairgrounds. Over forty horsemen participated. All merchants on Main Street were given 72-hour notice of street closure prior to the parade. A BCHC Rendezvous flyer was attached to the notice and also posted along Main Street in downtown Merced. My thanks to Richard Hodgson and Kathryn Reeves, Mid Valley Unit, for helping distribute and post the flyers.



Terry Murrison, Tuolumne County Supervisor



Anitra Kass, Southern CA Regional Representative, Pacific Crest Trail Association

Thanks to all for your support of Public Lands and your attendance at our Rendezvous presentations. Let's keep up the momentum for perpetual access to OUR Public Lands!

Comment from Elizabeth May, Sutter Buttes Unit, after Fred Kelly Grant's presentation on the Coordination process:

"I think learning the ability to use our local "small" government to fight "big" government was very exciting. It gave me hope for the goals that we have, and the struggles that we may face in the future. It was an amazing presentation. I wish everyone had attended, and I sincerely hope that BCHA will have him do a similar one for them."



HUNTING SEASON HORSE SAFETY TIPS

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff, from: <http://www.drsofostersmith.com>

Fall means hunting season in many areas, and horse owners should be aware, especially if their horse has colors similar to a deer or other large game animal. Here are some helpful tips that may protect your horse.

When trail riding

It's best to avoid trail riding during hunting season, especially during the opening weekend. If you feel safe enough in your area to hit the trails, take these steps to help keep you safe.

- Wear bright clothing and avoid earth tones; white or any color a hunter might mistake for a wild animal
- Wear a blaze orange vest or jacket while riding
- Avoid riding on public lands during hunting season
- Braid some colorful ribbon (or strips of Vetrap) into your horse's tail
- Put vivid bandaging or Vetrap on the bottom of your horse's legs - you can even wrap pieces onto the bridle where it won't interfere with your horse's vision

In the pasture

- Keep your horse in, if possible, during times of poor visibility like early in the morning or evening
- If you can, house horses near your home during hunting season
- Paint fence posts in back pastures a bright orange, so hunters will be extra careful
- Tie strips of brightly colored Vetrap to fence lines
- If state law requires it, post "No Hunting Allowed" signs if you think hunters may unintentionally wander onto your property
- If the weather is cool and your horse needs a blanket, make sure it is brightly colored
- Put an orange hunting sock or a colorful tail bag on your horse's tail
- If your horse wears a halter when pastured, make sure it is vividly colored
- Foals, small ponies, and minis can wear human hunting vests

During hunting season, do whatever you can to ensure that your horses (and other pets) are easily identifiable as domestic animals. Remember, during autumn, "the brighter, the better!"

Education

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Lisa Deas, Co-Vice President of Education

I wanted to take a moment to thank each and every person who attended the Rendezvous 2010 in Merced.

A big **THANK YOU** to the volunteers on the Education Committee and Rendezvous Committee, each Wilderness Rider that taught Gentle Use classes, each Public Land person for their amazing information and ideas, each person who conducted a clinic or workshop, our awesome Leadership Training group, each vendor, everyone who participated in the Parade and Opening Ceremony, the folks who tend the bar, those who set up the Wine and Cheese Vendor Reception, the Western Art show coordinators, all the great Dutch Oven cooks/judges, and finally, to every Backcountry Horsemen of California member. Special thanks to C.J. Hargreaves, who does the most professional job of providing us with a top notch newspaper. This is a very useful tool in marketing and outreach. Thanks to all the State Officers, too. Without your help, our goals would be unattainable. We are no longer wee but we are still very mighty!

I think we can all agree on this: we need to continue to bring young people into our organization and this last Rendezvous was a perfect opportunity to do just that!

Please forgive me if I forgot someone, you are all so valuable and appreciated. Some volunteers are more visible and transparent to all of us while there are thousands who are quietly working behind the scenes. I thank you!

Here is a bit of what is going on in the State:

- BCHC State Executive Board Meeting held at Lake Sonoma State Recreation Area, August 12-15th.
- A Wilderness Rider Refresher course will be held in early November. Location and dates to be confirmed and notification will be mailed and emailed to each Wilderness Rider.
- Wilderness Rider interviews will be held this year at Rendezvous 2011 in Red Bluff.
- New flyers were posted on the State website: Equine First Aid and What's the Buzz.
- New flyer recommendations: Animal Evacuation/Backcountry First Aid/PCT Training-Wilderness First Aid – work in progress. The Rattlesnake flyer is being amended for approval at the October State Board Meeting.

- New Volunteer Hour Report form is now online. Our gratitude to Carrie Johnen for her great job at simplifying the form. THANKS, Carrie!

A bit of news from the Central Coast. I am in the midst of starting a new unit here. I have developed an agency relationship with the Lead Ranger-Land Manager of Ft. Ord/BLM who, incidentally, just received the "Take Pride in America" Award. Congrats to our very own Eric Morgan. http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/newsroom/2010/july/NR_07_16_2010.html%20

I joined the BETA (Bike, Equestrian and Trail Assistance) to help with Mounted Patrols on the 83 miles of trails at Ft Ord/BLM. This group also does Mounted Patrols at Garland Ranch, Monterey Regional Parks. Monterey is a huge bike community and I'm trying to work in conjunction with bike groups to help educate on sharing trails with equestrians and safety. Monterey County is also a huge horse/ranching/agriculture community, which can benefit from having a BCHC unit here.

I have also joined the Ventana Wilderness Alliance and met with the Trail Crew Chief and head of volunteers. This group is interested in Backcountry Horsemen doing Mounted Patrols deep in their area as well as doing a recon of a trail that has not seen stock in over 20 years. YES, I do think a unit is needed here; please contact me if you are interested in helping. muledaze@yahoo.com

Another group, which is approximately 200 strong and very interested in developing relationships with Backcountry Horsemen of California, is the Monterey Bay Equestrians. I will speak at their next meeting and get commitments from folks who already indicated they would like to join BCHC and start a unit here.

And, finally, representing Wilderness Riders, I rode in the 100th Salinas Rodeo Parade, Saturday and Sunday, July 17th and 18th. This was an all-horse parade in downtown Salinas (over 200 horses!) We rode into the Rodeo Grounds then entered the arena for the Grand Opening. I ran into another BCHC couple from the North Bay Unit riding in the parade. I handed out copies of the Backcountry Newsletter in an effort to get our name out here locally.

If you haven't had the chance, check out our BCHC Facebook page. I post some interesting information, others post events in their areas and, in general, this is a perfect format for sharing ideas. Other Backcountry Horsemen units also have their information posted on Facebook along with other state affiliates. "Backcountry Horsemen Everywhere" is full of tidbits, too. Here is how some of our members are spending the summer:

Education

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT, *continued from Page 6*

Backcountry Horsemen of California, how is your summer going? What are you doing?

- I just got off my horse.. I loooooove these long summer days
 - Off to Point Reyes to camp with the SRDRC.
 - Packing CCC trail crews into the San Jacinto Mountains.
 - Campground Host at Granite Creek. Ansel Adams Wilderness is our playground. Find Bass Lake Ranger District on your maps, east of Mammoth Pool Lake on Scenic Byway 81. Public pipe corrals and the creek is running good! Check out my Facebook photos.
 - Moving to Palo Alto - horse already in Cali. Planning to ride with you all...
 - Riding in Tahoe National Forest 5-6 days a week and looking forward to pack season in Sept.!
 - Point Reyes camping!
 - Going horsecamping with my unit for four days, starting on my birthday!
 - Hoover Wilderness pack trip- Sister Lakes, Tower Lake....see ya!
 - Pony Express Reride (Strawberry leg), Highway 50 Wagon Train and next month the Sierra Ghost Rider Wagon Train (BorderTown to Truckee). That adds up to a lot of horse camping :-)
- For info on the Aug wagon train see <http://www.bighorseworks.com/SGRHC.html>
- @ Cowpony's Corral-yay! right on. All you BCH er's come on by and say hi as you leave the real world for the REAL WORLD!

Happy 4th of July! What are you all doing out there? Parades, BBQs???

- Kennedy Meadows - tractor parade!
- BBQ with the family and good friends and watch the fireworks from the good friend's back yard here in Ramona :)... HAPPY 4TH OF JULY To all out there ~
- BBQ with the extended family and 2 nights of fireworks!
- Relaxing & family time.
- Annual BBQ party at the ranch! Woohoo!
- High Country Unit - participating in the Fandango Parade in Alturas (Modoc Cty) on Saturday....I'll post a photo!

And, finally, see the article in the most recent BCHA newsletter. GoodSearch - Web search, coupons, discounts & deals for charity! If we start using this link as our search engine www.goodsearch.com and type in BCHA every time we use it, BCHA will earn a penny. Heck, I search all day long. Here come some pennies from BCHC!!



Lisa Deas rode for BCHC in the 100th Salinas Rodeo Parade



Lisa Deas with Tina, new BCHC member, at Salinas Rodeo Parade

Riding in parades is an excellent way to get the word out about BCHC!

Education

RENDEZVOUS APRIL 1-3, 2011

(Check the BCHC website often for breaking news!)

Backcountry Horsemen of California is proud to present the **2011 Rendezvous in Red Bluff, California, Friday through Sunday, April 1-3, 2011, at:**

Tehama District Fairgrounds

650 Antelope Boulevard
Red Bluff, CA 96080-2470
(530) 527-5920 or (530) 527-5920

www.tehamadistrictfair.com

With 110 acres of fairground space and a wide selection of buildings, halls, pavilions, lawn areas, there is a venue to match any event. The fairgrounds is situated in the Antelope Valley near the Sacramento River and historic downtown Red Bluff - The Victorian West. Homes, stores and livery stables built in 1600 to 1900 still survive to this day. At the bend in the river is the reconstructed adobe of William B. Ide, the only President of California Bear Flag Republic. It is a state historical monument.

Red Bluff has been a well-kept secret. The Sacramento River has some of the most beautiful and relaxing waters found anywhere, besides being recognized as the "Inland Salmon Fishing Capital of the West." The lakes and streams in the area provide just about any type of fishing and hunting a sportsman would like to do. There is no limit to the adventure with Mt. Lassen to the east and Mt. Shasta to the north.

Jerry Tindell and Matt Sheridan will make encore appearances at Rendezvous 2011!! BCHC will continue to have kids' events during the 3-day event. There will be much more vendor participation, BLM Wild Horse and Burro Adoptions, BCHC's famous Wine and Cheese Vendor Reception, Western Art Show, Gentle Use classes, Trail Trials, Pack Scramble, Dutch Oven Cook-Off, and so much more!!

We welcome your comments/suggestions to continue to improve our event and make it a worthwhile trip for all equine-loving families. Please email Lisa Deas, BCHC Webmaster at muledaze@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer, offer suggestions on the events or classes you would like to see presented, or make any comments in general. We want to hear from you!

New BCHC members, we encourage you to visit our website (www.bchcalifornia.org) often and consider joining us in Red Bluff and/or contact a local unit to see how you can contribute to the mission of Backcountry Horsemen of California!

VENDORS: please contact BCHC President Larry Shuman for Vendor Package and Pricing: lshuman62@gmail.com

RENDEZVOUS JOBS AND YEAR-END DEADLINES

By C.J. Hargreaves, BCHC Editor

Units will be volunteering for Rendezvous 2011 job duties at the October State Board Meeting. There are many, many tasks associated with putting on a high-quality event. A more detailed description of each job will be distributed at the meeting. Following is a list of the larger jobs (please note that some may already be "taken"). Please come prepared to take on one or more of them. You may partner with other Units, if desired, to accomplish these large tasks.

- Alcohol Sales
- Live and/or Silent Auction
- BLM Adoption Coordination
- Contests, including Pack Scramble and Dutch Oven Cook-Off
- Friday Night Social
- Gate, RV and Walk-In
- Kids' Activities
- Raffle, Small and/or Large
- State Booth
- Volunteer Coordination
- Wine and Cheese Vendor Reception

In addition to the above jobs, each Unit is responsible for a variety of year-end reports. A list of tasks and their deadlines will be distributed at the State Board Meeting. Here's a reminder of what's coming up:

VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS - Members turn Volunteer Service and Education Hours in to the Unit Education Chair. Wilderness Riders submit Volunteer Service Hours through the Unit Education Chair as well as to Ken Graves. Due by: January 20, 2011. Unit Education Chairs (only) turn aggregated Unit Volunteer Service Hours in to BCHC 2nd VP.

TOP HAND AWARD - Unit Presidents select the individual(s) who provided the greatest service to the President and his/her Unit. Turn names in to Lynn Joiner by February 1, 2011.

MAX & IRENE COCHRAN JOURNALISM AWARD - Mail paper copies of your Unit newsletters, *as they were mailed to your Unit members*, to: Carol Jo Hargreaves, Editor, no later than February 1, 2011.

INDIVIDUAL and UNIT EDUCATION AWARDS - Submit nomination forms to Education Co-VPs, Lisa Deas and Dan Horn by February 1, 2011.

BEN YORK TRAILBLAZER AWARD - Any member may nominate, by letter, anyone he/she feels has demonstrated qualities of a "trail blazer" (blazed new trails in some facet of the operations of the organization). Submit nominations to Lynn Joiner no later than February 1, 2011.

RENDEZVOUS AUCTION ITEMS - Each Unit is responsible for contributing \$1.00 per member or the equivalent value in high quality goods to be auctioned. Deliver to the Auction Chairperson at the Rendezvous Auction venue by Saturday, April 2, at noon.

Education

The deadline for submissions for the
 Winter 2011 edition
 of The Backcountry News is:
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2010
 Send submissions to
news@bchcalifornia.org/ OR
cjohargreaves@clearwire.net
 or mail to
1229 Maple Hill Ct.
Manteca, CA 95336-5125

MORE STORIES FROM BILL BALFREY, TOP OF THE STATE UNIT

Bill's goal in writing Trail Memories of the Northfork of the Salmon River and More was to share some 30+ pages of stories that have shaped or touched his life. He hopes the stories hold some interest for you. Here are a couple you might enjoy...

BRADLEY

Bradley comes to dinner: Bradley has an attitude. Bradley has a reputation. Bradley is a black bear weighing in at some 245 lbs. It was said that he was a bad bear that had been dropped off by the Park Service, but that is rumor. It was also said that one day three government rigs with horse trailers and two hunters per rig, with rifles, went up river and that the bear population dropped off, but that also is rumor. I didn't see their rigs or the hunters anyway. I left Bradley alone because backpackers would leave notes telling other backpackers to not camp on the river because of a bad bear that would rob your camp or worse, chase you until you dropped your pack for him to rip open and eat backpacker food. So allow me to set the scene. Willo and I had invited guests to the cabin. That evening the 100+ year old table was set out under an apple tree and covered with a red and white checkered table cloth. The menu was filet, fried potatoes and onions with green salad and a red wine. As we sat down to eat I could hear yelling and pots being hit at the backpacker's camp site at the head of the meadow. Here comes Bradley! Seems he had given up backpacker's food for filet. The yelling gave us ample time to fetch some bear repellent in the form of a .30-30. Bradley arrived and our dog Griz put the bear up a fir tree. He "flew" up the tree for about 25 feet. He came back down about as fast, chased the dog for ten feet, turned and headed to the table. Now I kind of liked Bradley – but not that much. The bear repellent spoke louder than words. Bradley now dreams of filets with red wine. Dinner went on as if nothing had happened. The filets were cooked to perfection. And yes, we had a bear tag.

SPARKY PUTS ON A SHOW

I was riding Sparky, which was a beautiful mare I broke as a colt. She was very jealous of me. She once ran my mother out of the corral and came racing back to me as if to say, "Boy, I did a good job". She would put on quite a show when meeting a walker on the trail, especially if I would touch her with my spurs. Well I carried up a new broom over my shoulder to the cabin and we met this woman hiker coming down the trail, so I giggered my mare a little and the show was on. The woman asked as she was trying to find a safe space, "Why the broom?" and as we pranced by I replied that, "I was making a clean sweep of the trail". I also carried a large coil of plastic pipe up to the cabin, on Sparky, by slipping the coil over my head and sitting in the middle of it. The pipe was used to pipe the spring water down to the newer cabin. We didn't meet any hikers on that ride up the river.



YOU ARE INVITED
 to
RENDEZVOUS 2011
 to be held at
Tehama Fairgrounds
(Red Bluff)
Friday-Sunday,
April 1-3, 2011

Mark your calendars & plan to attend

Education

HISTORY OF BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN

By Michael King, President, Mid Valley Unit

Following is a brief history of the Backcountry Horsemen for both the new member and the old timer as well. It is presented based on the belief that you cannot know where you are going unless you know where you have been. So mount up and let's all go take a look!

The initial formation of the Back Country Horsemen took place in Montana's Flathead Valley in January of 1973. Growth of the new organization continued in Montana with the subsequent formation of the Missoula and Bitterroot chapters.

Five years later, in early 1978, the three Montana chapters (Flathead, Missoula and Bitterroot) aided the formation of a new chapter in Salmon River, Idaho. With an underlying belief that BCH was going to grow and would need a central body to coordinate activities, the Montana and Idaho chapters met in early 1979 to form an umbrella organization to meet this future need. Thus, Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA), the national organization, was born.

At the time the Montana and Idaho units and state organizations were forming, the Back Country Horsemen of Washington was formed and incorporated in 1977. They then developed an informal liaison with Montana BCH and the newly formed Idaho Back Country Horsemen.

California entered the picture in early 1981 with the formation of the "High Sierra Stock Users Association" (HSSUA). The idea of forming the HSSUA came about in the fall of 1980 by Max Cochran while on a back country trip with three other experienced packers, Francis White, Howard Glover and Rudy Redholm. One evening the four men were sitting around their campfire at Lion Meadow on the Little Kern River with camp guests David and Diane House. Max Cochran proposed the idea of forming a horse association to represent the interests and concerns of stock users in the Sierra. This association, as perceived, would meet with Forest Service and National Park officials regarding Land Management and User Policy. On the trip out of the mountains, the four packers met Don Beddell, of the Mineral King Pack Station, at Grey Meadow and asked his opinion of such an organization, one that would represent the interests of both the private and commercial packers.

Apparently all, or enough, thought this was a good idea. Right after the first of the year 1981, Max and Richard Cochran, Francis White, Don and Phyllis Beddell, Ray Banks, Bill Wylie, and Ray and Eugene Kellog met at the Beddell's home in Three Rivers to explore the idea further. Max had prepared a written list of objectives for this new organization which were reviewed by the group. Given the continued interest and enthusiasm, another meeting was then scheduled with each person charged with inviting four to five other interested parties. This second meeting which was held at the State Foresters office, was chaired by Ray Banks with Max Cochran secretary, and gathered over 60 attendees.

Within a few weeks, the first official meeting was held in Tulare with over 200 attending. Officers were selected as follows: Ray Banks - President,

Ray Longley - Vice President, Everett Welch - Treasurer and Max Cochran - Executive Secretary. The Bylaws were drafted by Dick Cochran. At this time the name "High Sierra Stock Users Association" was chosen.

While still operating as individual organizations, after several years of discussion, the four state groups finally decided to merge. A constitution was drafted in 1985 and accepted in 1986. A board of directors, elected from each of the four charter unit-states, became the governing body of the new organization, thus uniting the Montana, Idaho, California, and Washington Back Country Horsemen into one organization, named the Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA).

Since that time, there has been steady growth within the four founding state organizations, and nationwide as well. Beside the original four, as of March 31, 2010 there were state Back Country Horsemen organizations in Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming.

The growth continues. On April 15, 2010, three new states were added to the roster: Tennessee, West Virginia and Georgia. This makes an even twenty state members of BCHA. When combined with affiliate units in other states, there is currently a BCH presence in 47 of the 50 states. (Affiliate units are local units within a state that presently has no state organization).

Continuing regulation and attacks on the use of horses and livestock on public lands has equestrian users in the remaining states looking to join Back Country Horsemen of America for support. Thus, the BCHA brings together people with like interests, allows for group participation in many functions and provides the vehicle to work towards common goals in a constructive manner.

BCHA has declared that their purpose shall be:

- 1) To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness.
- 2) To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- 3) To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- 4) To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
- 5) To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen's organizations.

Education

HISTORY OF BCHC, *continued from Page 10*

And this now brings us to the Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC). Our own BCHC has approximately 3,000 members in 23 separate units within the state. (It should be noted here for clarification that California uses the name "unit" for their individual member groups, while other states usually use the word "chapter". Also for clarification, in California our organization is incorporated as "Backcountry Horsemen", not "Back Country Horsemen" like other states' organizational names).

The Objectives and Purpose of the Backcountry Horsemen of California, while supporting the national organization, are further enumerated in the BCHC Bylaws:

- 1) To improve and promote the use, care and development of California backcountry trails, campsites, streams and meadows; to advocate good trail manners.
- 2) To promote the conservation and utilization of our backcountry resources in concert with livestock transportation.
- 3) To keep the backcountry trails and forage areas open to horsemen on all public lands.
- 4) To keep current information before the Corporation membership and its local units regarding new legislation or management plans related to government regulations of the backcountry.
- 5) To support or oppose new proposals, plans and restrictions as related to the interest of horsemen and those persons interested in recreational stock use and enjoying the backcountry.
- 6) To promote the interest of people who, due to health or physical factors, need transportation other than by foot on backcountry trails.
- 7) To assist in keeping the public informed of the vital need for a clean backcountry.
- 8) To promote a working relationship with and keep the work and interests of the Corporation before our local, state and federal officials.
- 9) To assist in the formation and continuation of local Units to carry out these purposes.
- 10) To promote public awareness and interest in the historical aspect of horsemen and stock in the backcountry and to help educate backcountry users on ways to use the trail and forage in a manner that conserves the backcountry resources.

It was the original assumption that Backcountry Horsemen would be a different type of organization, not the usual special interest one, normally operating as a protest group. It was felt that a service organization, doing work in the back country, would lend credibility to the group when it became involved in criticisms of agency management. This is the reason that we should not refer to ourselves as a "club" but rather as a service organization.

It was also recognized that some of the complaints against backcountry horse use were justified. Consequently, it was determined that an educational program should be a fundamental principle of the group.

So, service and education joined a determination to protect our heritage of backcountry stock use. Our name was chosen because it signified an interest in much more than just wilderness. Backcountry Horsemen are interested in perpetuating recreational stock use on virtually all public lands.

We try to limit our interests to the stated purpose. Many worthwhile organizations already exist to provide action programs in other fields, so anyone interested in those has adequate opportunities to become active.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF OUR ORGANIZATION

Visit

BCHC Website

<http://www.bchcalifornia.org/>

BCHA Website

<http://www.backcountryhorse.com/>

Education



GUINNESS WORLD BOOK OF RECORDS

by Lisa Deas, Co-VP of Education, BCHC Webmaster

Horseback riders gathered at Fort Ord on Sunday, June 13, to participate in a nationwide effort to set the first Guinness World Record for horseback trail competition.

There was a six-mile trail competition ride benefiting horse rescue organizations, which drew 45 riders and horses from throughout the Central Coast to Fort Ord.

SFC Allan MacDonald appeared at the ride wearing a vintage 1940s horse cavalry sergeant's uniform. MacDonald owned the last ceremonial cavalry horse on Fort Ord. The horse named Comanche is buried on Fort Ord.

SFC Alan MacDonald and Comanche II



Sergeant MacDonald, at 87 ½ years of age, was among the riders who visited the gravesite. He spent a few moments talking with fellow riders about the events that occurred at this site,

generations ago. He described Fort Ord as it was back then and he spoke of his partnership with Comanche and the duties they performed together.

The following is from the original document that was once affixed to the monument at Comanche's gravesite...

Comanche was truly a Cavalry horse as she participated in many

parades here on Fort Ord as well as throughout the states of California, Arizona and Oregon.

She started in the late 1960s for the last graduating class of basic trainees then in 1970 on the Main Parade Field, Drill Sergeant Field, and Fritsche Airfield for every commanding general incoming and outgoing - the 9th Cavalry, the 10th Cavalry, Basic Combat Support Brigade, Cook and Bakers School, and Air Brigade.

She paraded in the city of Marina, Seaside, Pacific Grove, Salinas, Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Castroville, San Jose, King City, Paso Robles, Redding, Palm Springs, Reno, Redwood City, San Juan Bautista, Soledad, Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Walnut Creek, Ashland and Medford Oregon, and Yuma Arizona.

She won 1st place in most all off-post parades, and paraded in the Army Birthday Parade in 1976 on the Main Parade Field.

See: www.waymarking.com/waymarks/

[WM2ARD Gravce of Comanche the Horse Fort Ord California](#) for photos of the gravesite and nearby area

The BCHC Education Fund is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

A donation in the amount of your choice is tax deductible.

You can now donate easily and quickly, using a major credit card or PayPal.

Simply go to the BCHC website (bchcalifornia.org), scroll down to the bottom of any page, press the DONATE button and help us in our many efforts.

THANK YOU!

Education



NEWS RELEASE

Sequoia National Forest and the Giant Sequoia National Monument

1839 S. Newcomb Street, Porterville, CA 93257

Date: April 29, 2010

Contacts: Mary Chislock, Public Affairs Officer

Op-Ed – *Monumental Outlook Over the Horizon*

Phone: 559-784-1500

By Tina Terrell, Forest Supervisor

Submitted by John Keyes, Sequoia Unit

Backcountry Horsemen of California

The Back Country [*sic*] Horsemen (BCHC), a service organization was formed here in Tulare County in 1986, with several volunteer units on the Sequoia National Forest. There are several organizations that are active in the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument. They split their service between “on-the-ground” projects, and educational outreach efforts focused on the next generation. With a passion and love for the backcountry, they continue the tradition of packing stock into the backcountry and teach safe and ethical use of our public lands.

Teaching a stewardship message.

The BCHC members teach a stewardship message highlighting the ***Leave No Trace*** wilderness ethics donating time, equipment, and animal stock. Members present “Gentle Use” packing workshops to Boys [*sic*] and Girl Scouts, 4-H groups, schools and community groups. They conduct horse and mule packing and camping demonstrations, at Butterfield School Days, the MyForest Summit, and many other civic events. At Frontier High School in Bakersfield, the BCHC unit offers a back country animal packing curriculum to Future Farmers of America students.

Members also pack-in supplies for backcountry experiences for ***At Risk*** youth, provide ***Leave No Trace*** education for Pyles Boys Camp Leadership Training, along with training for Boys [*sic*] Scout Horsemanship Merit Badges. They assist the Southern California Sportsman Association, and the Safari Club with youth programs including the Porterville Fair *Hug-a-Tree* program on Farm Day. Wilderness Riders is another educational outreach program for trained back country stock users. These activities all drive home a simple message, protect our wildlands through *Gentle Use* skills.

Here is where our imaginations of the west take form.

Many BCHC units travel into the six wilderness areas in the Sequoia to maintain several historic Forest Service guard stations which once housed the early forest ranger fire patrolmen. Trout Meadow and Grey Meadow

cabins are in the Golden Trout Wilderness, and Manter Meadow cabin is in the Domelands Wilderness. The volunteers perform basic maintenance on the cabins, provide visitor information during the summer, maintain the administrative and public grass pastures around the cabins, work on trails, and pack out trash. At the public pastures of Big Meadow and Paloma Meadow on the Kern Plateau, they remove the fence for winter recreation when the snowpack arrives, and replace it yearly for the summer recreation season.

This organization also provides support for wilderness restoration projects. Last year, they packed in supplies on horses and mules to the Fungston Meadow restoration project to remove velvet grass, an invasive species that threatens high elevation native grasses. They made eight round trips through the Golden Trout Wilderness delivering approximately 3,500 pounds of supplies, and then, turned around and packed out trash and personal items for volunteers.

One unit teamed up with Los Angeles kids and cleared the Old Hockett Trail of travel hazards and trash throughout the summer.

Another unit worked in the Domeland Wilderness, to restore and maintain trails to Manter Meadow. Since the Manter Fire (2000), many trails throughout the fire area are plagued with falling dead trees. Last season, four different work parties, maintained 12-15 miles of trails, removed 86 fallen trees, and cut down overgrown thorny whitethorn along trails. Members also installed and maintained facilities at wilderness trailheads that include visitor information stations, horse hitching posts, corrals and restrooms.

Our thanks, and our cowboy hats are off to these dedicated mounted volunteers! They deliver many services that help access and protect the “*wildness*” of our national forests.

If you would like to volunteer, schedule a workshop or presentation, please contact: Bonnie Searcy - Sequoia Unit, (559) 798-1913, or Anne Lang - Kernville [*sic*] Sierra Unit, (760) 378-2486.

“Our thanks, and our cowboy hats are off to these dedicated mounted volunteers!”

DON'T FORGET
Fall State Board Meeting
Visalia Holiday Inn
October 15 - EC Mtg
October 16 - Public
Lands, Education, State
Board Mtgs, Unit Reports

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR

BCHC
RENDEZVOUS
Tehama Fairgrounds
April 1-3, 2011
(Red Bluff)

Horse Expo 2010



HORSE EXPO 2010

by Dan Marus, Mother Lode Unit Education Coordinator

As W.C. Fields once said, “Location, location, location”. Oh? Well, he *should* have said it! Anyway, June 11, 12 and 13 found the BCHC Gentle Use Camp in a new location at Horse Expo in Sacramento. In today’s environment, “re-location” of public service groups typically means a down-sizing in space. Whoa thar, pilgrim...NOT FOR BCHC!!! Expo moved us to a beautiful site with grass and tall redwoods that was almost FOUR TIMES the size of the area we previously occupied!!!! This new space gave us plenty of room for new, creative ideas for future displays, a large Gentle Use/LNT camp, stock management and packing demos and Dutch Oven cooking.

Soooo, just what does BCHC do at Horse Expo? Our display was centered around a Gentle Use camp with a large canvas wall tent (graciously donated by Ben DuBose, Sutter Buttes Unit), surrounded by several large tables covered in literally dozens of various BCHC handouts and two television sets playing different educational videos.

We had wooden signs next to different camping venues describing proper Gentle Use techniques used in



common activities such as showering, cooking, bathroom needs, stock management, etc. Three different highlines demonstrated various ways to set them up and how to tie up stock. A camp kitchen was set up to show back country cooking skills and low impact techniques. And, of course, there was a herd of metal mules to demonstrate packing and tack skills. It happened there was one of the State Fair Golden Bear statues next to our site...yep, couldn't help

it...the bear got a pack saddle and boxes, too! We must have built a pretty good camp because I saw several people taking pictures of it.

After being a “fixture” in the same spot for the past eleven years, moving caused some stress issues. Some of our members even had to use a little map and compass work to find us. However, it was very satisfying to hear a number of visitors say that when they didn't find us at the old location they were concerned we were not at Expo and others were worried they would miss the presentations and demos while trying to find us.

As I have boasted before...BCHC has been establishing itself as a very unique entity at Horse Expo. We offer information, demonstrations and skills not available anywhere else at the event. (Where else could you find BEAR PACKING?) Being that Horse Expo is advertised as the largest equestrian show **in North America**, with all the top name clinicians, trainers and educators...it's obvious BCHC scores very high on the list. Apparently becoming a noted attraction has gained us respect and recognition and very nice benefits at Expo.



The Trail Symposium speakers' area was new, too. A large grass and tree area able to seat a couple of hundred attendees, it's just across the walkway from our camp - far enough that the two venues don't compete but close enough to share visitors. Thanks again to our five BCHC speakers and four arena presenters. Bruce DeMott (Co-VP of Public Lands) and Michael Murphy (BCHA Delegate) were our regular returnee lecturers on Saturday. In addition, 2010 brought two new speakers to the symposium: Carolyn Gilmore (Mother Lode) spoke on Stock Management in the Back Country and Ruthie Heuer (San Joaquin Sierra) talked about Wildlife Awareness...(which I believe was about how to throw a great party). Carolyn, Ruthie and I spoke all three days.

Jo Johnson (San Joaquin Sierra) was back in the arena for the weekend with Desensitizing Pack Stock. Ken Graves has been...(please note, “has been” in this case is not used to describe Ken, it is to indicate

*Cc*ntinued on Page 15

Horse Expo 2010

HORSE EXPO, continued from Page 14



“previously”)...an arena headliner every year at Expo and, along with Michael Morse and Lee Roeser, their Forest Service pack strings always gather crowds before, during and after their presentations.

One of the biggest attractions at the Gentle Use Camp was the Dutch oven cooking. Mother Lode’s champion, first place winning cooks Ron Akers and Sheila Bond taunted guests with the smells and tastes of their award winning flap-jackery. That Dutch oven stuff really brought in the visitors and once they were inside the camp...well...“you hook ‘em and we’ll clean and fry ‘em”. I’d like to offer Ron and Sheila a “BIG THANK YOU” - they worked hard every day from opening to closing.

Of course, the Horse Expo BCH Camp could not happen without our terrific camp volunteers...ALL MOTHER LODE MEMBERS!! It started on Thursday with six of us spending six hours setting up the camp. Then, in addition to the chef’s hours, 21 members put in 121 hours over the three days attending to the camp and visitors...a number of people doing multiple shifts. The “rock” docent was Bob Gilmore who was there **all day, every day, for 30.5 hours** doing packing demos, tying knots and stringing highlines. Thank you very much, Bob!

Looking back over twelve years of Expo, it strikes me that this event is one of the HIGHEST IMPACT demonstrations of GENTLE USE information that BCH sponsors. Although it is a tremendous amount of work and commitment, I think BCHC really makes a mark on the equestrian community and I thank the State Education Committee for its support. Next year? Whew...

BCHC thanks Mother Lode Unit and all who helped at Horse Expo! GREAT JOB!



PUBLICITY IDEAS

Adapted for BCHC from www.cals.uidaho.edu website by C.J. Hargreaves

1. Know your organization inside and out, so you can “sell it” on a moment’s notice.
2. Develop & use a distinctive business card that promotes your organization.
3. Cultivate the art of talking to people; advertise by word-of-mouth.
4. Take a genuine interest in former members—call them or send postcards about your events/activities.
5. Give away specialty items that include your name & a program invitation—pens, calendars, etc.
6. Develop an informational brochure/booklet.
7. Make a video production for cable TV.
8. Write a newspaper column or a magazine or journal article on your unit; Make liberal use of news releases and public service announcements.
9. Make reprints of the article and use them as handouts.
10. Use banners to promote BCHC and/or your unit.
11. When someone asks for your help, say “yes.”
12. Give a free demonstration.
13. Give speeches to organizations in your community.
14. Send thank-you notes to those who have included your organization in their events.
15. Ask to appear on local radio or TV.
16. Do a survey of past members to get feedback and hear their ideas.
17. Sponsor a community event – for example, a pack clinic or other educational event - and invite the press.
18. Get a booth at an information fair or trade show. Create an interesting display and distribute brochures.
19. Buy personalized license plates that say what you do.
20. Get listed in service and trade directories; subscribe to and advertise in specialized newsletters, journals and magazines.

Education

AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM BASED ON MONTHLY THEMES

*From the BCHA website
(www.backcountryhorse.com)*

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA



Planning an educational program based on monthly themes can be an interesting idea for your organization.

Planning themes according to the seasonal conditions would be a place to start. During the winter months, indoor topics and activities could take place while outdoor activities would dominate during the rest of the year.

Make sure that somewhere you spend time on the mission of the BCHA. Who we are and why we are Back Country Horsemen. There is a presentation that Mylon Filkins did with overheads that is excellent about our history, what we do and where we are. These are available from the National office.

You might have an open house and try to do a membership drive in conjunction with your topic for the month. A speaker may interest non-members or a slide show covering your Chapter activities.

Topics for winter might include:

Talking about animal care and maintenance needs: basic nutrition, foot care, new equine dentistry, worming, vaccinations and diseases to be aware of, brand inspections and health certificates needed for out of state travel with horses.

Speakers on resource related issues could be interesting. We had a hydrologist talk about improving streams with different grazing strategies.

Somewhere in there you can talk about local concerns affecting your riding opportunities and what to do. Your public lands people can bring everyone up to speed on what is happening and perhaps get help in making contacts or helping with the agency planning process. Find out how much money is actually hitting the ground on your Forests for trail work.

Knot tying sessions can be good practice. Learn a new way to tie up your horse or how to splice a rope. Hands-on activities are popular.

As the season warms up other opportunities exist:

Cover Leave No Trace ethics. Different skill levels and activities can happen here as you build an outdoor ethic. Sessions can start with short presentations covering a topic at meetings. Then you can go to a day of activities or an overnight. It can progress into a several day pack trip.

A spring potluck with a vet vaccinating and worming, a farrier shoeing, and a brand inspector on hand for chapter horses can be a fun way to get ready for the season.

Teaching basic horse handling is good for beginners. A spring horse tune-up and training session for trail riding can be done. Teaching packing skills or putting on clinics is possible for those a little more advanced.

Trail maintenance skills could be taught. Someone could teach crosscut saw use or perhaps get members certified. The agency folks are good at this. Then do some volunteer trail maintenance. Help construct horse related facilities at trailheads or camps.

See if opportunities exist to pack fish into high lakes.

And of course, ride and have fun.



THANK YOU!!

Backcountry Horsemen of California thanks the following people for using the BCH Getaway Travel Site from 2/28 to 8/30/2010:

TERRIE GARRETSEN
JOHN BLACK
KATHRYN MATTHEWS
CAROL JO HARGREAVES
MICHAEL MURPHY
KAREN HARPER
JOAN LEWIS
NANCY KIMMELL

Thanks to the support by these people and previous site users, the BCHC Treasury is earning almost \$80 each year!! WE COULD BE EARNING MORE! Remember to use the travel site every time you take a trip, send a gift, or shop!

BCHC now earns up to 60% of the commission on hotels, flights, rental cars, even flowers and golf and spa packages. We all travel – even if it is only to go to Visalia for the State Board Meeting. **USE THE BCHC TRAVEL SITE and TURN YOUR VACATIONS INTO DONATIONS!!**

Unit News



BOAT & RIDE AT LOPEZ LAKE A SUCCESS!

By Nancy Poole and Susan Tuttle, BCH-Los Padres Unit

Under sunny skies and light breezes, Black Bear Camp at Lopez Lake was aflutter with activities for both young and old. Equestrians were everywhere, taking advantage of the great trails, fresh air and lake views that the area is known for. All in all, we had approximately 36 equine, 39 adults and over 20 youth! We also had 7 new members join our unit! HURRAY!

Saturday morning, Dave Rigoli and Ellie Livingston led our youth group with clinics on horsemanship and trail safety, with quizzes and prizes afterwards. Then it was time to get in the saddle, go for a boat ride, or just hang at camp and relax. On the lake, it was cold and windy, but that didn't stop Captain Wiley from taking several of the youngsters out on the boat for a chance to waterski and drive the boat! For some it was their first time attempting to ski.

Afterwards, back at camp, we had a visit from the US Forest Service. Helen Tarbet, Alicia Sanchez and Darrell Scott gave an informative and fun presentation on the wild life found in the Los Padres National Forest. Helen kept the kids mesmerized with a scorpion, a snake, snake skin and pictures of rattle snakes she had encountered during her duties with the Forest Service. Both Helen and Alicia reminded us all that fire season was here. With the help of Darrell, out of the forest came Smokey Bear to remind us, young and old, not to play with fire. Santa Lucia Ranger District, thank you once again for the wonderful, educational and entertaining presentation you gave. It will be long remembered!

On Sunday we all rode to Encinal camp for hot dogs and chips, with over 20 horses and two boats bringing nearly 35 people. Young and old swam at the meeting place after lunch. After play we got back on horses or on boats and headed back to base camp.

After each day of hard work and play, it was time for dinner. Amazing food was prepared by our favorite chefs, with all of our members contributing a side dish. You never go hungry with this crowd! Then Bill Chaides and Nancy Kimmel prepared desserts in the Dutch ovens for everyone! Everyone is looking forward to next year's Boat & Ride!



REDSHANK RIDERS UNIT HAS BEEN BUSY!

Series of three articles submitted by Teri Baron, Unit Newsletter Editor

APACHE PEAK

On May 20th, Redshank Riders in conjunction with our neighboring San Geronio Unit President, Chip Herzig and his wife Linda packed in a small PCTA crew with our combined 5 pack animals. The trail up from Fobes Ranch Rd. was super. Great views and an easy grade. Sure, there were a couple of pucker spots up on the ridge between Spitler Peak and Apache Peak, but what fun would it be without a couple of good spine tingling drop-offs. We also had to handle a couple of rather large trees blocking the trail, but our animals were cooperative and the trees were just manageable enough to move them so we could get around. Very lucky indeed!

In addition, on July 8, we packed in (on our own backs) support for the Forest Service. We took tarps and equip up for the Admin. Camp and supplies for the Tahquitz Fire Lookout Station. During the summer we plan to do some repair work on the Administrative camp tent cabins and horse corrals as well as lend pack support for the CCC crews working on the trails.

Unit News

REDSHANK RIDERS, *continued from Page 17*



All delivered safely

TRAIL BUILDING CLASS

Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks?! Our trail building class held at the Tule Peak Trailhead on May 9th turned out to be a real winner. Our instructor, Sam Commarto from the PCTA, certainly made our day a well-spent one. We learned how to get a trail to drain properly, how to build switchbacks, proper trail alignment techniques and more. It is information we will certainly put to good use and we thank Sam for donating his time to show us old dogs a few new tricks.



Working on a proper switchback

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY PACK EXPEDITION

Sunday, June 20th a few of the Red Shank Riders got down off their horses and mules, donned backpacks and headed into the San Jacinto mountains. Ron and Sandy Korman, Allison Renck, Bob Jones, Julie, and Mike Lewis along with a number of others embarked on a trip to take food and equipment the two and a half miles into Round Valley for a research group from the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM). They are in the middle of a three year study to compare information to a study of plants and animals that was done in the early 1900's. Two of the group is actually descendants of the original research crew. It was a beautiful day for a tram ride to the top of the mountain, a hike up and down hills, over rocks, and through water, even a little snow.



Packers gathered for a briefing

Got a different view of the trail from the ground instead of from the back of a mule. Makes me appreciate my pack mules. We are looking forward to helping them out again in the future.

FUN WITH FRIENDS AND MULES

By Pete Kriger, San Gorgonio Pass Unit

The weekend of June 12-13 was filled with fun with friends and mules. After Saturday's Treasure Hunt Ride where I met up with old friends, it was just a short haul to our first real packing job of the season in Idyllwild, CA. Several of us with Backcountry Horsemen (BCHC) joined with Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), State Parks and the Civilian Conservation Corps (12-man crew) to work on the Pacific Crest Trail. Some packers started Saturday and others continued on and finished up on Wednesday. All together we were responsible for hauling a couple of TONS of gear up the mountain.

The GPS told us that we started out at around 5500 feet elevation and we dropped the gear off at the CCC base camp at 8800 feet elevation. Sunday saw the biggest group of mules and horses packed; approximately 3,000 pounds of gear was packed by 12 equines (9 mules and 3 horses) up to the destination. Some of the 3000 pounds had been hauled half way up a couple weeks ago but had to stop and drop loads due to heavy snow on the trail. I am a little unsure of the total amount for the entire five-day project but it was big haul. This huge effort is possible due in large part to the teamwork and volunteer efforts of BCHC and their pack stock. I'm happy and proud to be part of the team. While I don't have as many head of stock as some, my mules and skills were all part of the effort that made this project a success. Sam-mule worked out well as a saddle mule and led Miss Kitty, who did an awesome job of packing all manner of heavy and bulky items. She packed a 3-burner stove and 2 fold-up 3'x6'

Continued on Page 19

Unit News

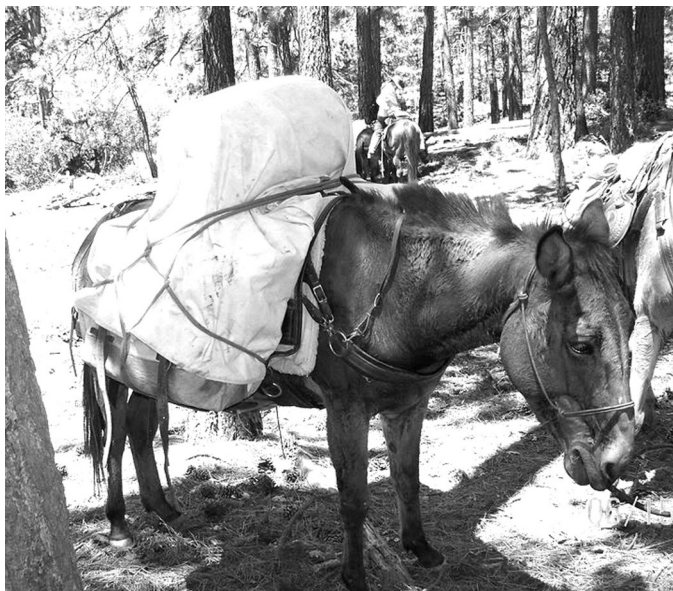
FUN WITH FRIENDS AND MULES, *continued from Page 18*



Author Pete Kriger on Sam-mule, leading Miss Kitty

tables on Sunday. I had to return to town on Monday for a doctor appointment and boring errands but returned on Tuesday to load Kitty up with gasoline, cooking oil, an enormous water cooler, and dozens of rolls of toilet paper. Getting all this stuff loaded and secured safely on the back of a mule is a fading art. Most of time I (and most local packers) use a box hitch, but I felt these loads were better secured with the Double Diamond Hitch. This hitch looks a little better when finished but the real test is reaching your destination without a wreck. We passed! A few of the best pictures are printed here but if you want to see more, I have posted more to photobucket site. Here is a link and further commentary:

<http://s77.photobucket.com/albums/j45/pkrigerjr/2010%20SJ%20Deer%20Springs%20PCT/>



Miss Kitty packed with heavy duty equipment

TOP OF THE STATE CLEARS 1000 TREES FROM PCT

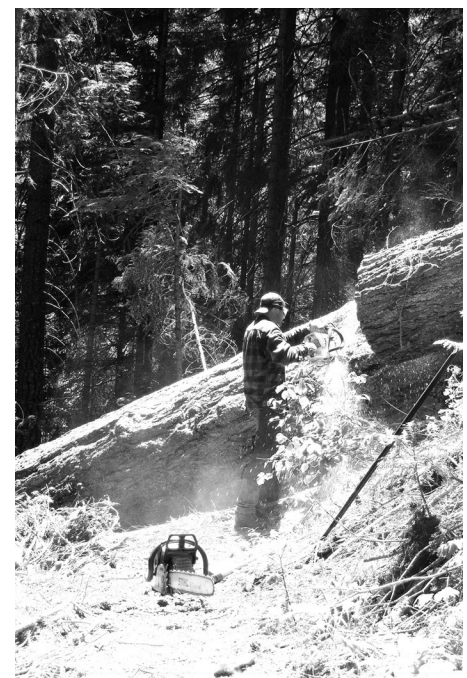
Submitted by John Lyons, TOS Unit Director

This picture tells it all about BCHC members Larry Sturman, Doug Kaufner, Ivan Kaufner, and crew leader Bill Kleaver. This tree was reported to the Forest Service early in June and after many trips to clear the trail to work on this large tree, BCHC members successfully opened the Pacific Crest Trail on July 15th. That is only part of the story! More than 1000 trees were removed in the section referred to as "Section O," from Grizzly to I-5, as part of our grant for Shasta County. Fourteen day trips were required and the section is now passable to hikers, however one part is not recommended for stock (at Fall Creek).



At right is a picture of Ivan starting to cut on the big tree. The cut off tree on the right was one of two 32" trees that were on top of the big tree when Bill and I came across it June 10th.

Big thanks to Bill Kleaver and all who helped in this effort! Doug Kufner, Larry Sturman, Big Saw Ivan, Steve Naser and Chris, the trail crew, who opened parts to make access for BCHC crews possible.



Unit News



2010 EDISON WORK PARTY

Written by Katie Horst, San Joaquin Sierra Unit

We must say every year is different!! This year with all of the heavy snows our planned trip for Edison Lake, June 23 thru 26, was cancelled as there would have been no areas available to even work. After giving notice to all of the participants that we were unable to go to Edison, the Forest Service changed our work description to Recon work and asked us to try and get a group together to recon the trees down on all of the various trails around Edison area for their tree cutting crew. This worked out very well with lots of saddle time and GPS work.

We went to Edison, June 23 thru 30 and, as usual, caravanned into Edison area. We are so grateful that the High Sierra Pack Station lets us use their facility, even with the snow they had their water going for us with corrals open for our horses. With the change of schedule our group size decreased from 18 to 8 people. USFS Trail Supervisor Mike Ketcher gave Toby Horst a list of trails to be covered and every morning one of his crew would come by and take all the information that the riders had collected the previous day and then proceed to go out and cut and clear the trees that our group had located. This saved the cutting crew many miles of hiking. Details of work done are as follows:

- Wednesday, June 23, the Crew of 8 with 4 horse trailers caravanned into Edison Lake staying at the High Sierra Pack Station Compound.
- The crew set up the camp and cook area that same day and started training on how to use Garmin GPS units.
- On Thursday, June 24, a crew of 5 riders rode the Graveyard Cutoff and Goodale Pass trail, approximately 7 miles and found 10 trees needing removal. The Group GPS'ed each tree(s) location and recorded the distance from the trail beginning.
- Friday, June 25, a crew of 4 hauled our stock to the Bear Ridge Trail Head (about 6 miles) and rode the Bear Ridge Trail to the PCT, finding 5 trees needing removal. We then rode the PCT down the north side of Bear Ridge (78 switch backs) to the Mono Creek bridge junction with the Edison Lake trail and returned via this trail to the High Sierra Pack Station, a total of 17 miles. The group encountered serious snow blockage on the north slope

switchbacks and had to lead our stock over the snow to get through. Harrowing experience, new to most of the group. We found 4 large trees in that section of trail.

- Saturday, June 26, a crew of 4 rode the Bear Creek Cutoff Trail, hauling our stock via trailer to the trail head (9 miles), and rode 6 miles over and back, locating 5 trees blocking the trail for removal.
- Sunday, June 27, a crew of 4 rode the Devils Bathtub Trail to remove an old Forest Service table that had deteriorated and was in need of removal. Took two pack animals and loaded them (180 lbs each). It took most of the day, plus the dismantling, to pack out to the Forest Service horse camp area.



Toby Horst removing deteriorated tables

- Monday, June 28, a group of 3 rode the Mono Creek Trail to Mono Hot Springs, locating 11 trees that needed removal. The Cook Crew drove a trailer (9 miles) to Mono Hot Springs and hauled the stock and crew back to the pack station. The trail is 5 miles long with a very bad Mono Creek water crossing.
- Tuesday, June 29, a group of 4 riders rode the High Sierra Pack Station Trail to the Mono Creek Trail (Edison Lake Trail) (3 miles) finding 9 trees that needed removal. A portion of this trail is out of the wilderness so could use chain saws to remove several of the larger trees. The BCHC crew did this tree removal.
- Wednesday, June 30, packed up and drove out of the backcountry to Huntington Lake and home.

We all enjoyed our trip, celebrated two birthdays, and accomplished a lot of work.

BCHC thanks all Benefactor, Patron and Mt. Whitney members who support the organization through their payment of additional dues!

Take a look at the list of these special members on Page 26

Unit News

NEWS FROM THE HIGH COUNTRY UNIT

By Jeanne Goldman, Unit Newsletter Editor

The weather here, like most of the State, was SLOW to warm up and dry out enough to be able to get out and pack and ride and participate in our Unit's activities.

Winter did keep us busy though and honorable mention must be made to the retirement of our well liked Modoc Forest Supervisor, Stan Sylva. It was standing room only at Stan's retirement party on January 16 of this year. Our Unit, headed by our President, Valerie Lantz, made our presence known with our own separate table, speech and comments by all and certificate of appreciation for all Stan has done to support our Unit's activities. Stan and his wife, LuRena are active members of our Unit and regularly participate in all Unit activities.



Alan Cain (left, Past President of HC Unit, with Stan Sylva at retirement gathering

Still waiting for warmer weather, we were able to have a couple of membership meetings to talk about the long list of activities we have planned...the most memorable meetings are when business is done and we dig into the Dutch ovens that have been on the fire. Valerie Lantz is our Dutch oven expert and other members have started picking up on that habit...the location, Cindy McMurry's (Public Lands Chair) back yard at their ranch proved a wonderful site for meeting locations. Thanks to Cindy and husband Sam for hosting this gathering.

May – the weather turns. President, Valerie Lantz provides a description of our first Unit Activity at a historic ranch in Nevada.

BLM Invites BCHC HCU to Explore Bitner Ranch

"Bitner Ranch, a historic ranch now under BLM ownership, exemplifies early ranching in Great Basin country. Located in a remote northwest corner of Nevada near the California and Oregon state lines, visiting Bitner Ranch offers an opportunity to step back in time a hundred years or so. BLM is beginning a process to determine long-term management for Bitner Ranch. BLM staff invited the High Country Unit of BCHC to visit and comment on Bitner Ranch. Seven members of the High Country Unit (HCU) camped, explored and rode horseback



at the site during the Memorial Day weekend. The site adjoins the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge with high desert terrain of sage brush, meadow, rock formations, springs and plenty of wide open space. The ranch building and corrals provide a peek into remote ranching life that endured for over a hundred years by a few hardy and tough people. HCU members completed installing a fence around a hazard area during a

quick 'all hands' work party. The visit resulted in as many opinions formed as there were people present about how the site should be managed. Everyone visiting agreed that the interesting historical site offers the visitor a 'living history' opportunity that all enjoyed. We want to know more about the people who lived and worked there. The difference in opinion comes from how best to provide for public visits at the site while at the same time preserving historical and archeological values. High Country Unit members look forward to participating with BLM in the upcoming management planning process for Bitner Ranch. We developed consensus that additional trips to the site will be in order."

HCU Public Lands Chair, Cindy McMurry, offers the following about our Unit's activities with the Modoc Forest Service staff.

"Wednesday morning, July 23, dawned clear and cool at East Creek Equestrian Camp in the South Warner Wilderness in Modoc County. My nephew Russell and I fed our horses, saddled up and rode over the East Creek – Summit Trail connector trail to Patterson Guard Station to meet Wilderness Ranger Josh Mefford and his trail crew.

The trail crew was hosting the Modoc Wildlife Refuge Youth Conservation Corp, a group of 15- to 18-year-olds for three days of trail maintenance and wilderness etiquette education. The High Country Unit of BCHC was asked to join them for a pancake breakfast and to introduce the kids to our Gentle Use philosophy. Ray Torres, the new Warner Mountain/Devil's Garden District Ranger and GCHC member, and Jesse Berner, the district Recreation Officer also joined us for breakfast in the aspens.

After a great pancake breakfast cooked by the trail crew, we met in the shade of the pines to talk about using horses in the wilderness. The kids were introduced to Sophie and Harley, our two mustangs and Russell and I put up a high line to demonstrate the proper way to tie a horse without damaging trees or tree roots. We talked about the benefits of using weed free hay in the wilderness, pack it in, pack

Unit News

NEWS FROM HIGH COUNTRY UNIT, *continued from Page 21*

it out and other Leave No Trace guidelines. The kids were very interested in learning how they could improve the trails and minimize hazards for horse users. We demonstrated how to approach horses on the trail to avoid accidents for trail workers, back packers and other trail users as well as the horses and pack stock. After a short

introduction to the Wild Horse and Burro Program, the kids visited with the horses and some jumped at the chance to a ride on a 'wild horse'.



Cindy McMurry, HC Public Lands Chair, enjoys pancake breakfast with nephew and like-minded back country folks

Thank you to Josh and his crew for giving us the opportunity to visit with these great kids. One day we may see some of them on the trail.

High Country Unit Member, Kerry Davis, is our Unit's leader for maintaining a National Recreation Trail in the North Warner Mountains of Modoc County. Kerry made the application and has received first round funding for work projects on the trail. Her introduction:

High Grade National Recreation Trail

"Located in the remote northeastern portion of California is a segment of Modoc County's Gold Rush past. The High Grade National Recreation Trail, dedicated in 1980, wanders through a historic mining district where evidence of mining activity is still visible today. BCHC High Country Unit, is working in partnership with the USFS, local clubs/agencies and community members to restore sections of the trail which will include the addition of interpretive information in order to allow better access and enjoyment for a multiple of users."



Stamp Mill - remains of one of the many mining sites

Working in partnership with other groups and agencies is a good way to showcase BCHC's strong commitment to volunteer service!

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ABOUT AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

Submitted by Kathleen Hayden. Go to <http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/Join-the-Conversation.cfm> for more information

Americans have a proud tradition of working together - from the ground-up - to conserve farmland and open space for future generations, restore rivers and streams, protect areas for hiking and biking, preserve beaches and coastlines, conserve wildlife habitat for fishing and hunting, and restore the cultural and historic sites that tell America's story. In fact, community-driven efforts to conserve America's land, water, and wildlife are a major reason why we are blessed with the parks, refuges, forests, and open spaces that we enjoy today.

Starting with the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors on April 16, President Obama has launched a national dialogue about conservation in America. As part of this dialogue, we are bringing together ranchers, farmers and forest landowners, sportsmen and women, state and local government leaders, tribal leaders, public-lands experts, conservationists, youth leaders, business representatives, and others to learn about some of the smart, creative ways communities are conserving outdoor spaces.

President Obama has launched a national dialogue about conservation in America to learn about some of the smart, creative ways communities are conserving outdoor spaces.

The voting tool is available to encourage interaction among those interested in America's Great Outdoors. All comments submitted will be considered.

What are your ideas on the following topics:

Challenges - What obstacles exist to achieving your goals for conservation, recreation, or reconnecting people to the outdoors?

What Works - Please share your thoughts and ideas on effective strategies for conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors.

Federal Government Role - How can the federal government be a more effective partner in helping to achieve conservation, recreation or reconnecting people to the outdoors?

Tools - What additional tools and resources would help your efforts be even more successful?

Your ideas and comments will be archived and delivered to the America's Great Outdoors team for inclusion in the report to the President. The topics match those on comment cards provided at AGO Listening Sessions, in order to optimize the organization of ideas and comments.

Submit Your Ideas and Join the Conversation!



Unit News

935 POUNDS OF EXPLOSIVES! UPPER BEAR CREEK GOES BANG!

*Excerpts from an article submitted by Terry Haider, Santa Ana River Unit
Article written by Fred Rice; project conducted in January 2009*

I love being a forest volunteer! Today was an exciting day with horses, mules, and 935 pounds of gelatin explosive, all brought up to Upper Bear Creek Trail in the Angeles National Forest of the San Gabriel Mountains.

Today began early with some of the San Gabriel Mountains Trailbuilder volunteers and High Country Riders volunteers getting their equipment and materials collected and on the road by five o'clock. The day was also a fairly long one with volunteers and professional crews getting back down to the bottom of the mountain around six o'clock — and it was fun!

We met at the Rincon Fire Station to collect tools and check in with our radio dispatch and then we drove up to the Valley of the Moon where the upper trailhead is for Bear Creek Trail. Upon driving up to the large parking lot at the trailhead the Trailbuilders joined the Riders who had already assembled and organized their non-human volunteers and had gotten their teams ready to carry the explosive materials, tools, and other equipment that would be needed for the project today.

The explosive materials were transported up to the Valley of the Moon staging site about an hour later, passing through the locked gate about five miles down the road after the Riders were ready to receive the packages and start them up the trail. There were 17 packages, each weighing 55 pounds. The packs consisted of a long line of tubular gelatin packed in a thin plastic tube with a line of detonation cord running down its full length, terminated in a plastic end cap. The detcord itself was not very fast stuff, only around 6000 feet a second! The Blast Master described the equipment to us all, saying that a line of the cord laid from New York to San Diego would take only 5 minutes to burn from end to end. Wow!

All of the Bear Split Hot Shot crews, the Riders, the USFS people, and the Trailbuilders received a detailed and very informative review of what we would be doing today and how the project was going to take place with the professional Blast Master literally (and figuratively) calling the shots.

The Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) report had been read and understood so that all expected and possible safety hazards had been accounted for with details about mitigation of those safety hazards along with response plans in the event any of those hazards were encountered today. The JHA is a blueprint for outlining things that can go wrong, what will be done to mitigate things going wrong, and what we would do if anything went wrong, and the Analysis is always explained, read, and understood before the project.

Upon arriving at the cliff face we took a look at the rock once again, some of us to re-acquaint ourselves with the job, and the Hot Shot crew to examine the trail problem for the first time. Two volunteers had gone on ahead of us and positioned themselves within line-of-sight of the project area at least 1000 feet away, far up the trail past the gap in the trail. They were "Safety Team 1" making sure that no hikers came down from Smith Mountain Saddle.

"Safety Team 2" stayed at the trailhead below to make sure that no hikers walked up to Valley of the Moon and entered on to the hiking trail.

All subgroups of the effort were on an assigned radio channel with multiple radios added in to monitor the region's Dispatch. The Safety Teams, Hot Shot crews, the USFS crews, the Horseman Team and I had radios, all configured and set for Tactical Three and all tested before we set foot on the trail. All of us had hard hats, eye protection, and some of us wore ear protectors.

The horses were unpacked while the Blast Master and the Hot Shot crews taking the training lesson today went over the expected placement of explosives and the placement of the blasting caps which would be used to direct the initial force of the explosion. After the animals were unpacked the Riders returned back down the mountain with their horses to await the end of the project.

For the two Safety Teams there wasn't much to do but continually scan the trail up and down the mountain, constantly on the watch for any sign of hikers. For the professional crews there was much to do, not only with digging out rock and dirt for the placement of the explosives but also the examination of the rock fissures and the general lay of the rock. Most of the other volunteers were basically observers with only an occasional task to do — handing up rocks, moving rocks off of the trail and the project site, digging in to the cliff face a bit.

There were four and a half packs of explosives set against the bulging cliff overhang, all with trailing detonation cord that were tied together with butterfly knots to another length of detcord. The end of the detcord was tied to a blasting cap that was electrically tied to a safely positioned radio



receiving control box. The other control box and the blasting crews moved up the mountain and joined "Guard 1," the Hot Shot crew who was near Safety Team 1. George and I joined Safety Team 1 at their point which had line-of-sight to the blast site, and when the Blast Master was satisfied, the radio called out the safety progression. The Hot Shot taking the first shot stepped through the sequence on the second radio box which sent a digitally encrypted set of session handshake messages to the box down below.

Down below a huge spray of rock and dirt sprang up followed a second later by a tremendous shock wave rolling over us from over 1000 feet away followed a fraction of a second later by a huge bang and a ground quake under our feet. The dust and smoke above the blast collected in to a plume and roiled around itself in to a ball at the top of a growing pillar of dust. Around us the echoes rumbled on and on and on through the canyons.

Continued on Page 24

Unit News

935 POUNDS OF EXPLOSIVES, *continued from Page 23*

The Blast Master called out a reaffirmation for all personnel to hold their positions followed up by radio calls from Guard 1 and Guard 2 confirming they had heard the order (after assuring that all people under their sight were still stationary, I expect.) After a while the Blast Master called “all clear” and we were allowed to come look at the results.

The first blast had removed the bulge and overhang but had not entirely carved out a shelf upon which the trail could be restored. It was a good first blast that gave the crews a better idea of how the rock was behaving. Up and down the trail on both sides of the blast there were rocks and boulders on the trail that had been dislodged and down below the blast site there were huge boulders that had been wrenched out of the cliff, including the large block of dense granite that had formed the bulge (it was still recognizable, largely intact but 40 feet down the mountain.)

The Blast Master, Hot Shots, and USFS worked the first blast remains to see what had been accomplished, digging through the remains and looking at the rock. Eventually the decision was made to use the rest of the explosives (12 and a half packs!) to cut further back in to the rock face to see if a shelf could be created.

This time the placement of the explosives took a lot longer with two Hot Shots climbing up the cliff to place hanging cord from which bundles of explosives would be suspended. Six bundles were suspended and the rest were placed at strategic points near the base of the cliff face.

There was a brief security alert that sprang up when Safety Team 1 reported three hikers climbing up the trail. Radio calls to Safety Team 2 to find out whether they were sending volunteers up the mountain were not returned despite numerous calls (the radio failure was later fixed, caused by a dead USFS vehicle battery.)

George and I grabbed our packs and worked our way down the trail toward the three people double time though about a half mile down we paused while I called down for the Riders to ask for one of their volunteers to head up to check out the people. The Riders volunteers dispatched someone on horseback but George and I continued to work down the mountain double time just in case. Eventually the Riders reported that the three were our own volunteers who had left some time ago and that they were heading down, not up. Because of the lay of Upper Bear Creek Trail, there are switchbacks and perspectives that look like people going down are heading up and people heading up are going down.

Since we had assumed that our volunteers had had enough time to make it all the way down the mountain, any report of people on the trail was treated as recreational hikers and — safety always first! — it was good to take zero chances. Our Safety Teams did a great job being alert and making sure.

All of the hanging and emplaced explosive packs were eventually placed with knots of detonation cord secured inside of them trailing down vertically,

all of the packages tied together with a horizontal line of detcord. This time the Blast Master and Guard 1 joined Safety Team 1.

The Hot Shot taking the shot this time called out the safety progression and got us to “fire in the hole” after which about 18 seconds passed. The spray of dirt, rock, and smoke this time was much larger and the heavy shock wave rippled across the distance and slammed in to us a second later, followed by an even bigger bang that shook the rocks we were standing on. The rumble and the echoes ringing back and forth through the canyons was terrific and while that was going on, further noise and excitement were coming from the rock still sliding down the mountain at the blast site.

This time there was almost no breeze working North so the cloud of debris rose up and up and up, forming a ball on a long, two thousand foot column where it hung for a time before being picked apart by wind coming across the mountain top.



Once again the Master Blaster called for Guards to hold while he went down the mountain to ensure that all of the explosives had been detonated and that it was safe to proceed. The Blast Master also had the task of examining the surrounding region for any fires that might have resulted from the blast yet each time all explosives had detonated safely.


Once the second “all clear” was given we headed down the mountain to examine the blast site once again. This time a whole lot more of the granite rock face had been removed and on the upper side of the trail a large number of boulders and rocks had come to rest on the trail, all of which will need to be removed by the Trailbuilders.

Examining the results at first looked like we had blasting that resulted in even more work for the Trailbuilders than would have resulted had we come up with rock hammers, bentonite, chisel and picks and stuff instead of explosives, however once the Hot Shots and Freddie (USFS) got to work on the debris, we could see a shelf start to form under their shovels.

What we have now at the end of today is a slightly sloped vertical cliff face containing fractured granite below which there is extensive dirt and rock and a slight shelf which can be shaped into a safe trail, perhaps one with a retaining wall tied into the side of the mountain. If the Trailbuilders do it right (and we will!) the new set of wall, baskets, and trail work should last a long time.

Everyone headed back down the mountain to the Valley of the Moon stage-up area, got our equipment sorted through, and started to drive away one by one. We were completely happy with another successful day in the Angeles National Forest.

Membership Application

- NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION **Backcountry Horsemen of California**
- RENEWAL APPLICATION 
- CHANGE - () PARENT UNIT () ADDRESS/PHONE/EMAIL () MEMBERSHIP TYPE

DCTR (YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER) _____

***NEW MEMBERS WILL BE ASSIGNED NUMBER BY MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR*

PARENT Unit Affiliation): (Select and CIRCLE ONE Unit as your Primary Unit Affiliation)

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Antelope Valley | Mid Valley | San Joaquin Sierra |
| Eastern Sierra | Mother Lode | Santa Ana River |
| High Country | North Bay | Sequoia |
| High Sierra | Ohlone Riders | Shasta Trinity |
| Kern River Valley | Redshank Riders | Sierra Freepackers |
| Kern Sierra | Redwood | Sutter Buttes |
| Lake-Mendo | San Diego | Top of the State |
| Los Padres | San Gorgonio | |

MAIL TO:
 BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN
 OF CALIFORNIA
 PO Box 1610
 OAKDALE, CA 95361-1610
<http://www.bchcalifornia.org>

**Donate to BCHC
 Education Fund?**
Tax Deductible

Packer	\$10.00
Mule Skinner	\$25.00
You're the Greatest	\$50.00

MEMBER'S NAME –No Business Names; Please Print Clearly		SPOUSE/MEMBER'S NAME –MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS	
ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE () _____
EMAIL ADDRESS			

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____ **CHECK #** _____ **DATE SUBMITTED:** _____

BUSINESS NAME – DONATIONS ONLY:

PARENT UNIT MEMBERSHIP TYPES: (CIRCLE ONE)
 Individual \$40.00* Family \$50.00* Benefactor \$100.00 Patron \$250.00 Mt Whitney \$500.00
**=BCHC shares portion of dues with Backcountry Horsemen of America*

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS: AN ADDITIONAL \$15.00 PER UNIT IS ADDED TO YOUR PARENT UNIT DUES.
 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP UNIT AFFILIATIONS **MAY NOT** BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT.

Associate Membership for: _____	\$15.00/unit (Unit Name (from above list))
Associate Membership for: _____	\$15.00/unit (Unit Name (from above list))

Please write additional choices on back

Please clip form along dashed line – KEEP BELOW INFORMATION 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 is for two adults with differing last names, each sharing 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.

- You may sign-up for as many Associate Memberships as you like.
- Associate Memberships may also be initiated at any time during the term of your Parent Membership.
- Associate Memberships must expire concurrently with the Parent Membership, and are renewable only at the time of renewal of the Parent Membership.

Complete information regarding BCHC Membership is available on the MEMBERSHIP page at: <http://www.bchcalifornia.org>

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS
 I SUBMITTED AN Application Form for:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$ 40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (Shared) Membership	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Membership	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mt Whitney Membership	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation – Packer	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mule Skinner	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> You're the Greatest!	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership	\$ _____

Total Remittance \$ _____
 Check Number _____
 Date Mailed _____

Questions: Contact membership@bchcalifornia.org

The "Round Up"

THANK YOU!!

The following members have contributed extra to BCHC through their dues. We thank each one for their support!

From 3/31 through 8/31/2010, these are our Benefactor and Patron members:

BENEFACTORS:

Antelope Valley	Furer	Heidi and Latha Hylton
Eastern Sierra	Brown, III	John D. and Susie Harms-Brown
	Layne	Michelle
High Sierra	Allemang	Dan and Joyce
	Cochran	Richard and Dena
	Gerson	Ruth and Grant
	Keller	Dennis and Cathlyn A.
	Mitchell	John H. and Wendy A.
Kern River Valley	Finch	Ken and Betty
Kern Sierra	Caffee	Boyce 'Buzz' R. and Joann F
	Filkins, DVM	Mylon and Pat
	Frick	Edith
	James	Don and Donna
	McGee	Jack
	Rogers	Scott and Grant
Los Padres	Acquistapace	Robert E.
	Calef	Otis
	Cederlof	Robin
	Devine	Eve, Sean, Sarah & Jacob
	Jenkins	Si and Karen
	Teixeira	Glenn and Karen
Mid Valley	Barindelli	Karen
	Barnes	Jay and Elizabeth
	Butler	Don and Vicki Morales
	Caudill	Jon and Kathy Zumbunn
	Davis	Dennise A.
	Doornenbal	Rien and Lieske
	Erlandson	Lloyd and Susan
	Hargreaves	Carol Jo and Larry Schneider
	Huffman	Jim
	Kraft	David and Kristine
	MID VALLEY UNIT - BCHC	
	Paulsen	Janice D., Kelly & Lars
	Serpa	Dennis M. and Loretta
Mother Lode	Bourn	Ken and Gerry
North Bay	Altes	Matt and Ruth
	Estabrook	Lora and Carl J. Schlageter
	Mahoney	Alan and Carolyn
	McCombs	Rano and Bobetta
	Bay Area Barns	Trails Trust (Barbara Weitz)
Ohlone Riders	Pugh	Don
	Schoen	Sarah and David
Redshank Riders	Hill	Elaine E. and John H. Schoettler
	Long	Gregory and Deborah
	Michelle Nicolaides	Enterprises, Inc.
	Renck	Ken and Allison
Redwood	Hawkins	Maris
	Polasek	Darrel and Carole
	Gebhart	Al and Donna

BENEFACTORS:

Redwood	Jeffries	Jim and Cynthia
	Kirkwood	Walt J. and Suzie
	LaDow	Peter R. and Dede
	Salzman	Holly and Dan
	York	Ben
San Gorgonio Pass	Herzig	Paul and Linda
	Robertson	Ron and Korky
San Joaquin Sierra	Burroughs	Ernest C.
	Cunningham	John and Jenise
	Dalby	Kenneth and Diane
	Durando	Sylvia
	Horst	Toby and Katie
	Yosemite Trls Pk	Sta Larry and Nishma Knapp
Santa Ana River	Golts	Debora and Chuck Mills
	Wolff	Pat
Sequoia	Airoza	Charles and Dahne
	Wilson, DVM	Jamie
Shasta Trinity	Henderson	Lori and Gary W.
Sutter Buttes	Layne	Corky
	Sherwood	Shirley
Top Of The State	Mohr	Bruce and Blanche

PATRONS:

Antelope Valley	Colf	Stephen and Mary Ann
Eastern Sierra	Reginatto	Leon
High Sierra	Barnes	Stan
	Kampen	Jeff and Alice
	Morehart	Marty
	Pendegraft	Karl and Trish
Kern Sierra	Zaninovich	Vincent and Donna
Mid Valley	Arlington	Terri
Sequoia	Holly	Jim and Pat
	Young	Larry

MT. WHITNEY:

None at this time.

WELCOME!!

A heartfelt welcome to the 150 new members who have joined BCHC since 3/31/2010. We are pleased to have you among us!

Benefactor Funds are used in a variety of ways to support BCHC's Public Lands activities. Uses of Benefactor Funds 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.

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BCHC Membership Application on Page 25. Also available with detailed membership information on BCHC website: www.bchcalifornia.org/

WANT TO START A NEW UNIT?

If there is no unit in your area and you are interested in starting one, contact BCHC Secretary Kaye Bruns for more information, (661) 944-4927

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