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For more BCHC information, see our website:  
[bchcalifornia.org](http://bchcalifornia.org)

## BCHC

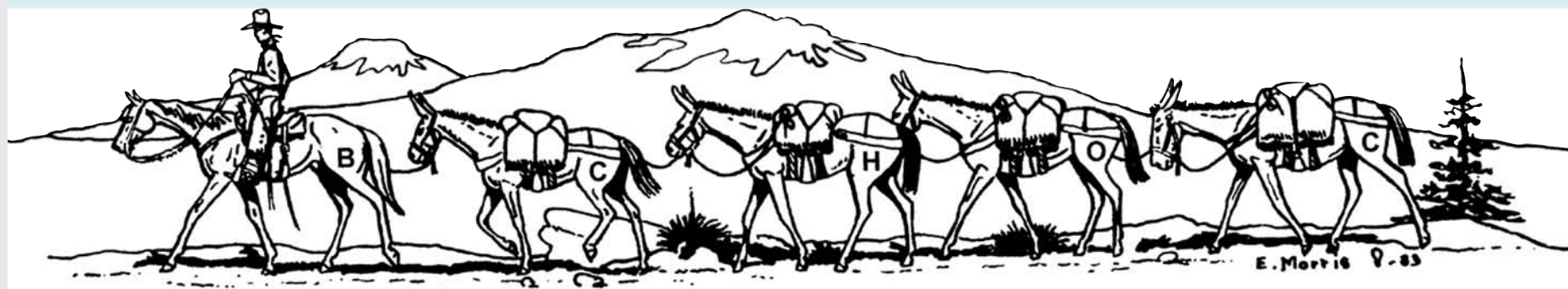
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# The Backcountry News



Volume 18, Issue 3

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Fall 2011

## THANK YOU, LARRY SHUMAN!

Backcountry Horsemen of California acknowledges and heartily thanks Larry Shuman of Cottonwood, California for his years of dedicated volunteerism to our organization. Larry is active in BCHC Shasta Trinity and Top of the State Units. At the unit level he has served as Alternate Direc-

tor, VP of Work Projects, Director, President, and Webmaster. Larry was elected Vice President of BCHC then became President in 2008 and served in that capacity for three years. Now, as Past President, Larry is General Chairman of BCHC's annual Rendezvous.

Larry became a member of BCHC in 1997, a year after getting his first horse. He had been a hiker but found that horseback riding was a way he could continue to enjoy visits to the Trinity Alps as he got older. Larry is retired from his job as an information systems analyst for the State of California but returned to work on a part-time basis in 2010.

Larry and the Rendezvous Committee organized Rendezvous 2010 (Merced) and 2011 (Red Bluff) and are currently planning Rendezvous 2012 (Red Bluff). Larry instituted new ways to involve the public in BCHC's annual event, let people know what local trails and resources are available

and what it takes to keep trails clear and open. The 2011 Rendezvous was largely successful, drawing more people and finally earning a profit after several years of not doing so. Rendezvous 2012 promises to be more efficient, include more vendors and expand educational opportunities offered to BCHC members and the general public alike.

Larry's involvement with unit Work Projects has increased significantly throughout his tenure as a BCHC member. In fact, organizing and leading volunteer service projects seems to be the area he finds most rewarding. Larry has been involved with the annual Shasta Trinity Fish Plant and takes part in the yearly Partnership Trip. He has been instrumental in developing positive, mutually supportive relationships between BCHC and the California Conservation Corps, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Lassen Park. Larry loves taking his grandson along on pack trips and finds great solace in the beauty of the backcountry.

Of course, Larry would not be able to do all he does for BCHC without the support of his wife, Rose. Rose has helped Larry in all his BCHC endeavors, organizing and conducting Dutch Oven Cooking Competition at Rendezvous, advising and assisting with Wine and Cheese Vendor Receptions and making countless containers of delicious goat cheese to serve to attendees. Behind the scenes, Rose is also a dedicated volunteer, encouraging and supporting her husband's efforts.

Thank you,  
Larry!

Larry  
Shuman  
leads the  
Invocation at  
Rendezvous  
Opening  
Ceremony



# The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

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**Who is BCHC?** The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc. is a 501c4 nonprofit 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 may not be returned.

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

Deadline	Publication Date
August 19, 2011	September 2011 - Fall
December 16, 2011	January 2012 - Winter
April 20, 2012	May 2012 – Spring/Summer

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

Number of Issues:	1	2	3	4	} Cost per Issue
Full Page	\$150.00	\$142.50	\$135.00	\$127.50	
Half Page (h/v)	\$100.00	\$95.00	\$90.00	\$85.00	
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# President's Page



Greetings fellow Backcountry Horsemen,

This season is sure one to remember. The late snows and the cold spring hindered our efforts to get into the backcountry as early as we planned. All projects were postponed one or two times due to the lingering snowpack. Although we were delayed, we hit the trails as soon as possible and accomplished a lot in a short amount of time. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to spend time in the backcountry each summer and this year was no exception.

Our summer Executive Committee meeting was held in the Sequoia National Forest at Greys Meadow. This was a very productive, albeit long meeting. We spent over eight hours going over all aspects of BCHC. A proposal was made to change our spring State Board Meeting, which is normally held at the Rendezvous, to January. In doing so, we are able to change the venue to a more central location in California. This will allow more units to participate with minimal travel. It would also give Board members the ability to fully participate in the Rendezvous activities because they would not be tied down with executive responsibilities.

I hope that all units have not forgotten about our membership contest. We will base it on the highest percentage gain on the end of the year membership roster for each unit. Newspaper articles publicizing BCH and your unit are a great way to gain new members. A newspaper article about the Mid Valley Unit gained us a new member just by listing what we do as a volunteer in the backcountry. This new member is not a horseman but he saw the value of our work and decided to join! Youth activities are also important in gaining new members. In order for our organization to grow and prosper we must engage youth and instill in them the importance of preserving the backcountry for future generations.

It is important to document all of the long hours you have spent working on trails and educating the public this year. Don't forget to track all of those hours and utilize the new dollars per hour formula that came out in the BCHA newsletter. These reports allow government agencies to see the value of our work.

Fund raising is still a high priority on my list. Your local units, as well as the state, need dollars to support your projects. We now have a 501C3 Education Fund that gives us the ability to pursue donors. The donor receives a tax deduction and BCH earns money. Everyone wins! Our goal is to build the fund so that the state can help fund special educational projects of local units. Creative ways to secure more

donations are always welcome.

Our fall State Board Meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in Visalia. All ideas, suggestions and concerns are welcome to be addressed at this meeting. Please contact me if you would like something added to the agenda. Anyone interested in running or nominating someone for an office, should contact Nominating Committee Chairman Larry Shuman. I hope you will join us and get more involved in your state organization.

One of the perks of this position is the opportunity to visit different parts of the state. I just returned from a trip to the Trinity Alps. This was my first time visiting this area and I was very impressed with this majestic country. I was privileged to be invited on the Partnership trip with the Forest Service, the California Conservation Corps and the Shasta Trinity Unit of BCHC. I was also impressed with the work that our youth in the CCC are doing, relocating and building trails along with teaching strong work ethics and character in these young people. This is a tremendous program for any young adult. For more information on this program please visit [www.ccc.ca.gov](http://www.ccc.ca.gov)

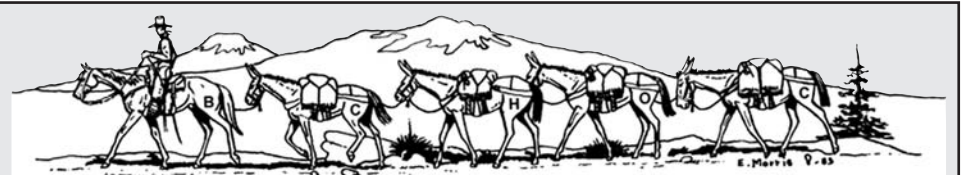
There is only a short time left for our summer activities. Make the most out of these last few weeks. Get out there and do some work, ride some trails and enjoy our wonderful backcountry. I know I will!  
~Dennis

## MY TIP OF THE SUMMER:

You can make it home on three trailer wheels!

While traveling back on Highway 4 from the PCT pack-out, I noticed my trailer wheel sticking out about three inches. Having no room to stop on a narrow steep road, I crept along until finding a safe spot to pull over. My bearings had failed and the wheel just fell off when I jacked it up. So we offloaded one mule to good friend Dave Moser's trailer and blocked the axle with a 2x4 then proceeded carefully, staying under 40 mph. We kept checking the tire, expecting it to blow carrying the weight of two, but due to the cool weather the tire made it over 100 miles home. It was a slow trip but successful. Never give up!

~Dennis



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BCHC Fall State Board Meeting  
Holiday Inn, Visalia, CA  
October 14-15, 2011

BCHC Rendezvous 2012  
Tehama District Fairgrounds, Red Bluff, CA  
March 30 - April 1, 2012

# BCHC

## YOUTH COORDINATOR REPORT

By Karen Lopes, BCHC Youth Coordinator



Hello all! I hope you have had ample opportunities to get up into the high country now that most of the snow has melted! The flowers were amazing on the last trip I was on - a work party into the Emigrant Wilderness and Yosemite National Park.

Recall that one of my goals was to share various methods to get young people involved at your local units. The

tool that I recommend for the fall is...you guessed it..."Back to School!" Some of the Wilderness Riders and other BCHC unit members already use this tactic for reaching out to the general youth public. Contact your local Junior High or High School and ask if you can give a Gentle Use/LNT presentation. These work well with Science and/or Agriculture classes. If you don't feel comfortable with that topic, give a presentation on the volunteer efforts of your local unit. Most High Schools and many Junior Highs require volunteer hours from their students. Although they would not be able to participate in our activities involving stock, it is good to open their eyes to the various volunteer organizations and what we do to preserve the backcountry. Even without involving stock, you can have an engaging presentation with pictures, tools, pack boxes, and other camp equipment. Have them balance some boxes, or set up a high-line, or even a tent. Any of these hands-on activities will make a positive impression on the students.

Next, I'd like to share with you a new incentive program to get our youth more involved at the Rendezvous in 2012. We will be giving out little awards and mementos for youth that attend the Kids' Classes. Similar to our Gentle Use Pin Program, kids (18 and under) will have the instructor of the kids' class sign off on their paper, and at the end of the day on Saturday, they can come to a booth to claim their awards. There will be various levels: A table with awards for attending 1-2 classes, another table for attending 3-4 classes, and a table with even better awards for attending 5 classes or more. (This is just the first draft of the idea; it could evolve a bit by Rendezvous!) I noticed at last year's Rendezvous there were a lot of youngsters in attendance around the vendors' booths; however the Kids' Classes had relatively low attendance. With this incentive program, the kids that come to the Rendezvous will be more motivated to attend the educational classes and earn awards for their efforts. If you have any ideas that would mesh well with this program, please send me an e-mail! At its summer meeting, the BCHC Executive Committee agreed to fund this venture, as getting youth involved is a critical element to the long-term future of our organization.

If you have any questions, please give me a call or send an e-mail! (209) 357-3055 or e-mail at: [karenlopeshorsos@att.net](mailto:karenlopeshorsos@att.net)

## BCHC CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I would like to become the next BCHC representative to BCHA. I believe that I am well qualified for this position. My BCHC membership since the early nineties has included many responsibilities, opportunities and successes. Among the things that I am most proud of include my membership in both the Redwood and San Geronio Pass Units, VP of Education 2005-2006, Unit duties have included President, VP, Chair of Education, and newsletter. I have been responsible for organization of the educational presentations at the BCHC Rendezvous for several years. I became a Wilderness Rider in 1998, and I am currently a part of the Education Steering Committee. I became a LNT Master Educator for Stock use in 2005. I have been recognized as one of the most frequent contributors to the state newsletter, and this is significant as all BCHA representatives should communicate back to the California constituents. I have been an active educational presenter; I have presented demonstrations for the local units and Sheriff Posse, the BCHC Rendezvous, Wilderness Rider Training Class, Klamath Falls Pack Clinic and Wilderness Skills Seminar, Western States Horse Expo, Equine Affair Pomona, and Shawnee National Forest (USFS) trail crew in Illinois. I have packed into the Trinity Alps, Marble Mountains, Yolla Bolly, Golden Trout, and San Jacinto Wilderness Areas.

My health is very good and extensive scans and scopes have been free and clear for over a year.

While I may have a record of getting things done and being an active member in BCHC, I believe that the Representative to BCHA should be accessible to BCHC membership and be willing to GIVE BACK to BCHC. I have heard the comment before "What do we get out of the BCHA reps?" I am willing to offer an answer to that question that I have never heard offered by any BCHC Officer before. Our state organization has at times struggled financially and so to help both challenges...I am offering to become a BCHC Mt Whitney Member once being elected as the BCHA representative for BCHC. This \$500 contribution has had very limited use in recent years, but would significantly help our financial operations.

If you have questions or concerns, I am very accessible via email,

Pete Kriger  
[pkrigerjr@yahoo.com](mailto:pkrigerjr@yahoo.com)

## THE BCHC EDUCATION FUND IS A 501(c)3 NONPROFIT 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](http://bchcalifornia.org)),**

**Scroll down to the bottom of any page,  
press the DONATE button  
and help us in our many efforts.**

**THANK YOU!**



# BCHC



## BCHC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HOLDS SUMMER MEETING AT GREY MEADOW

*By Lisa Deas, Co-VP of Education/Webmaster*

The Executive Committee of BCHC had a very successful and fun meeting at Grey Meadow/Golden Trout Wilderness at the end of July. As usual, our camp hostess Lynn Joiner fed us well and we were all delighted to enjoy the beauty of the area in the Sequoia National Forest. The first night on the trailhead was filled with ashes from the fires raging nearby. We had non-stop thunder, lightning and rain to help us on the way out! In between we conducted our business meeting and much was discussed and accomplished. We are still encouraging members to submit email addresses to Chip Herzig (BCHC Membership Coordinator) in our effort to email the BCHC News to you directly and save money and paper! We are, after all, Leave No Trace advocates. Chip's email address is: [chrychip@msn.com](mailto:chrychip@msn.com)



*A productive, 8-hour meeting was followed by the camaraderie of a group trail ride.*



## BCHC DEMONSTRATES AT BISHOP MULE DAYS

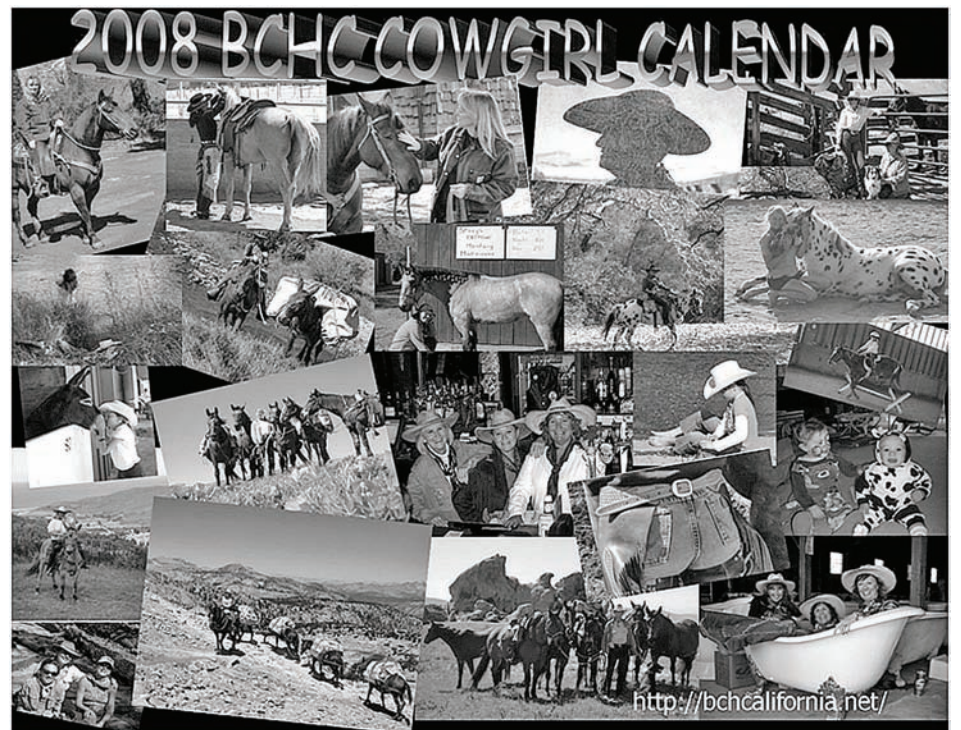
*By Chip Herzig, San Geronio Pass Unit*

Lee Roeser asked BCHC to step up to the plate two years ago and put on a "Packing" display on the Mule Days main thoroughfare. We did that and received a lot of good feedback plus mending some fences with the Eastern Sierra's pack station organization.

A lot of folks watch the competitions and then are curious as to how to tie the box hitch, single and double diamonds, etc. We gave them all a chance at perfecting these knotty skills.

Lee met with us again at Equine Affaire and asked that we expand the packing stuff with some new and more engaging ideas. We put our feeble brains together and came up with a "Gentle Use" camp set-up. Troy Patton demonstrated a packed iron mule with a complete Gentle Use camp plus duplicates of what was on the iron mule, all laid out on the grass. It was a big hit as folks thought you needed a monster string to get all your "gear" packed into the backcountry. In addition, Troy had demonstrated how to put up a highline, Doc Carter had the tool mule and Larry Shuman showed all of us how to tie on fish tanks using the double D-ring cinch.

All in all we tied a ton of hitches and had another successful year at Mule Days!



## BCHC COWGIRL CALENDAR RETURNS FOR 2012

*By Lisa Deas, Co-VP of Education/Webmaster*

I have been requested to bring back the **BCHC COWGIRL Calendar**. This was one of our most successful fund raisers so I ask and encourage you all to submit your pictures to me ASAP so that I can compile and publish an affordable, fun calendar and help BCHC in a small measure. Email your digital photos to: [muledaze@yahoo.com](mailto:muledaze@yahoo.com)



# BCHC

## FALL STATE BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 14-15, VISALIA

The upcoming Fall State Board Meeting and election of officers will be held in Visalia at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, Friday and Saturday, October 14-15, 2011.

**Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center**  
9000 West Airport Drive, Visalia 93277

\$79/night + tax. Let the hotel know it is for the Backcountry Horsemen meetings.

Reservation phone #: 1-800-465-4329

Hotel's website is: [www.visaliaca.holiday-inn.com](http://www.visaliaca.holiday-inn.com)

Directions:

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

Meeting Schedule:

Executive Committee meeting: Friday, October 14, Plaza Room  
Dinner: 6:00pm, Meeting 7:00 -10:00pm

Public Lands Meeting: Saturday, October 15, Plaza Room,  
9:00am - noon

Education Committee Meeting: Saturday, October 15, Birch  
Room, 9:00am - noon

Board of Directors Meeting: Saturday, October 15, Plaza Room,  
1:00 - 5:00pm. Unit Reports will follow.

Directors will receive more details in the 45-day notice packet.



### 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.

## RENDEZVOUS UPDATE

*By Larry Shuman, Rendezvous General Chairman*

First, I would like to thank the following for being major donors to the 2010 Rendezvous:

- Rock Creek Pack Station
- Hawes Ranch and Farm Supply
- Riverside Landscape
- Guy Rents

Without the support given to us by these businesses the Rendezvous would not have been the success it was.

Now, for an update on the 2012 Rendezvous. Some things will be changing.

- First, we will stay open until 4:00 p.m., Sunday. Last year we had people coming in after church. The vendors were selling, people were asking about seminars, etc., and we got requests to stay open. We have gotten excellent comments from the public that attended so we felt it we should expand to allow for more general public participation.
- Second, since we have additional time we will be adding more seminars and more contests. We have come up with some ideas on what we can do to make it more exciting and get more people involved.

At the August 27 Rendezvous Committee meeting we will brainstorm more ideas as to classes and contests. If you have any ideas on what you would like to see, please email them to Larry Shuman at [Lshuman62@gmail.com](mailto:Lshuman62@gmail.com). All ideas are welcome. Remember, this is your (BCHC) event and we want to make it fun for you.

# BCHC/BCHA

## WESTERN STATES HORSE EXPO

By Dan Marus; Mother Lode Unit

June 10-12, all things "horsey" could be found in Sacramento, including Backcountry Horsemen of California. For the 13<sup>th</sup> year, the Western States Horse Expo packed the Cal Expo Fair Grounds. Advertised as the largest equestrian exposition in North America, Horse Expo is certainly quite an event, worthy of a Huell Howser "That's amazing" exclamation!

Although the footprint of Horse Expo was slightly smaller than in past years and it seemed like the attendance was down, Backcountry Horsemen were there to meet, greet and treat them.

As in previous years, we made our mark (don't worry, we left no trace at the end) with the visitors to our Gentle Use Camp with demos, classes, educational tidbits and information not available anywhere else at Expo. Extremely few of our camp visitors were interested in backcountry travel however; most came for the stock management and camping information.

Unfortunately, this year our "troop" of presenters was considerably less. One of the biggest impacts was that Expo management decided to dedicate one of the arenas as a warm-up area for competitors and clinicians. This eliminated space for quite a few demos including BCHC's Jo Johnson and one of our "headliner acts", Ken Graves and the Forest Service pack strings, with Lee Roeser and Michael Morse. This was truly sad, because Ken has been at Horse Expo ever since the first year and Michael and Lee for the past six. In fact, we had a number of people stop by the camp and inquire, "Are the donkeys going to be here this year"? Now presuming that the questions came from people who knew that the pack animals were indeed MULES, we kept our answers short to preserve the dignity of Ken, Michael and Lee.

The Trail Symposium always draws big crowds from the public plus it's a place to sit in the shade. Unfortunately, two of our BCH speakers had to cancel due to family issues and illnesses; however Carolyn Gilmore and Dan Marus (Mother Lode'ers) did a presentation each day. Carolyn spoke on "Gentle Use of Stock in the Backcountry" and Dan was back with "Managing Backcountry Emergencies".

The Gentle Use Camp was spiced up with some new props and new volunteers. We had 25 Mother Lode members plus 4 from Sutter Buttes who volunteered over 190 hours, not including set-up and prep time. Bob Gilmore was there all day, every day throwing packs and hitches and teaching what "knot to do". Award winning Ron Akers and Sheila Bond filled the air with temptations of Dutch oven cooking. It was a little distressing to me, standing next to a bunch of fancy highline ropes, carabiners and halters, when visitors with a look of "serious curiosity" would boldly walk right up to me and keep going in search of those yummy smells. I even thought about rubbing some of Ron's favorite dishes on my shirt to try and get a bigger audience. Thanks to member Tom O'Ferrall of Sand Creek Saddlery who brought us his "paint" gray mule for the show. That mule stayed ground tied (actually nailed) for four days without food or water. Of course we couldn't get by without a bunch of packers saddling up one of the California State Fair golden bears as they do every year!

We don't know what next year will offer in the way of arena time for our presenters but we hope that venue will return. We are always looking for help at Horse Expo, so put it on your calendar for 2012. Thank you to everyone who helped with Expo this year! We certainly appreciate your time and effort!

## BCHA NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

APRIL 27-30, 2011 (BUTTE, MONTANA)

By BCHC National Director, Michael Murphy



The annual BCHA National Board Meeting started off with a bang. All National Directors were required to participate in a series of conference calls weeks before the meeting to become familiar with a plan to change the way BCHA is governed. Under the proposed governance plan, the annually elected Executive Committee would meet monthly by phone to make decisions and report to the National Board of Directors (NBD) at their annual meeting. Directors would still have the ability to change or correct these decisions.

A paid Executive Director, hired by the Executive Committee would, along with the BCHA Chairman, enable the NBD to fulfill its function. The Executive Director (ED) would give direction and leadership toward achieving BCHA objectives and purposes as well as annual goals and objectives. The new ED's duties would also include oversight of fundraising, planning and implementation. This includes identifying resource requirements, researching funding sources, establishing strategies to approach funders, submitting proposals and administering fundraising records and documentation. S/He would manage and oversee operation of the organization with the BCHA Chair, implement NBD directives, manage human resources of the organization including contracts, and manage financial resources. The ED would be a contract position with a negotiable salary as budgeted by BCHA and dependent upon the candidate's qualifications and pre-determined selection criteria. In addition, the ED could earn a bonus on funds raised outside of BCHA dues and BCHA-solicited funds.

**My comments** were, "that the proposed governance change was set up with the help of a professional non-profit planner and it seemed confusing. " I was the former BCHA Ways and Means Committee Chair and recommended to hire a professional to acquire funds and sponsorships for future operations. Being a volunteer organization I know it is tough for people to take the time that is needed. I felt an Executive Director would be essential and agree with the need for rapid response on issues.

Ann Lange and I talked about how we were going to vote before the motion to change the way BCHA was governed. Ann suggested we vote "No" because the wording was confusing and three states were talking about leaving BCHA if it was passed.

Ann had talked to Alan Hill (BCHA Past Chair and Public Liaison Chair from Redding, CA). Alan was involved in the year-long process of drafting the governance change and he said he would meet with the three states and work out a compromise satisfactory to all concerned. Both Ann and I believed that the proposal had merits but we did not want to see the organization divided. The vote was cast; 18 states voted NO and 16 States voted YES. So the motion was voted down. This saga continued throughout the meeting with private discussions and back room politicking continuing till the end of the meeting. The results will be revealed at the end of this article.

**A panel discussion was conducted with representatives of the USFS, BLM, National Park Service (NPS) and Fish and Wildlife.** The first guest speaker was Jim Bedwell, Director of Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources, USFS. He thanked BCHA for all the volunteer hours. The hours for 2010 were 315,442 with a dollar value of \$11,942,130. I reported that California had a total of 145,379 hours with a cash value of \$4,124,561.64. Over the past 16 years the national hours total was 2,643,804 with a cash value of \$63,250,975. Very impressive!

Jim Bedwell stated that a year ago President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative. There were 51 public listening sessions, 21 of them specifically devoted to youth. There was a powerful consensus across America that outdoor spaces remain essential to our quality of life, our economy, and our national identity. The result was a call for a grassroots approach to protecting our lands and waters and connecting all Americans to their natural and cultural heritage. The federal government must be a better partner and supporter of local conservation efforts. A 21st-Century Conservation Service

*Continued on Page 11*



# Education



Photo from Via magazine, Sept/Oct 2006

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

By Lisa Deas, BCHC Co-VP  
of Education/Webmaster

When you think of East of Eden, Cannery Row, The Grapes of Wrath, Of Mice and Men, Tortilla Flat, A Cup of Gold, The Red Pony, and The Pastures of Heaven your mind is drawn to the famous author and storyteller, John Steinbeck.

Similarly, with the rich history of the Salinas Valley, the beloved former sardine canneries on Monterey Bay, California's oldest and biggest rodeo - the Salinas Rodeo (yes, that is pronounced "ro-day-oh" in the Spanish tradition) - and the agriculture industry so vast and thriving in our valleys, you think of Monterey County. Oh sure, you also might think of Clint Eastwood who resides here and owns/operates the preserved Mission Ranch, or the world renown Monterey Bay Aquarium, the Annual Monterey Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival, Laguna Seca racetrack, and so much more!

What a perfect place to launch the newest unit of Backcountry Horsemen of California - aptly named, **Steinbeck Country**! We now hope that Backcountry Horsemen of California will prosper here like the lettuce, artichokes and strawberries! The first meeting date is set, the proposed Bylaws are ready for review, a slate of officers has been developed, agency relationships are established with the nearby 82 miles of BLM trails, an MOU is in the works with the Forest Service out of their King City office (Los Padres National Forest), a mounted patrol has been established at Arroyo Seco and the Indians (this area has had NO coverage in over 20 years), and, finally, we are beginning a relationship with National Parks on a site deeded to the City of Marina, the very historic last remaining Veterinary Hospital of the U.S. Army Cavalry at the former Ft. Ord. We have our work cut out for us!

I have upcoming speaking engagements at two very large horse groups - Monterey Bay Equestrians and Santa Cruz County Horsemen - with a combined membership of approximately 500! Many of these members have expressed a desire for a unit of Backcountry Horsemen here. Most of the equine lovers in this area are looking for something more than a social riding club. Due to a lot of proposed development of natural habitat areas locally, I got involved in an effort to save over 58 acres of aged, coastal oak trees. Through this activity, I made many valuable contacts and am so impressed with the dedication of the local hikers, bikers and equestrians working together to save our planet, one tree at a time, and our right to ride/recreate with access to our Public Lands.

One such example was the proposal of our local bus agency to build a new maintenance yard and research park. The problem: They were given the old motor pool site at the former Ft. Ord (perfect) but the site was then relocated smack in the middle of a natural habitat (with no public notice). The old cavalry trails from the stables at the former Ft. Ord traverse right through this habitat and lead to the BLM lands. With assistance of all the recreational user groups, we were able to gather

over 18,000 signatures for a referendum to be placed on the June 2012 ballot to allow the voters to decide if they want to plow down this habitat. The PEOPLE have spoken and the most current news is that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors is considering rescinding their decision or it will cost the taxpayers \$300,000 to put this issue on the ballot. We feel confident that we will win either way! This effort is now the "flag we fly" as we continue to attend all local meetings with public officials to ensure we are aware of all future development in our county and to make sure our trail access and development of new access corridors are in compliance. We, the people, have clearly spoken and want our local officials to be transparent and no longer conduct closed door sessions with no public comment!

So, please spread the good news, a new unit is "under construction"! **Steinbeck Country** - a unit of Backcountry Horsemen of California!! Please come visit us and let us show you our trails!!! Feel free to become an Associate BCHC Member as well!



## ARROYO SECO RECON

By Lisa Deas, Co-VP of Education/Webmaster

Changing the topic, I did a recon out at Arroyo Seco (Los Padres National Forest) and the old fire road leads to a horse bridge, crossing the river leading to the Ventana Wilderness. Not all trails are accessible by horse. Members of the Ventana Wilderness Society are the mainstays out here. They are as dedicated to trail work as Backcountry Horsemen are and their hard and continual efforts are obvious. I was happy to discover one of the very first Forest Service adobes back in Arroyo Seco, well preserved and NO graffiti. The adobe was built in 1908, two years after the formation of the U.S. Forest Service. Once I crossed the horse bridge, I spotted some campers blocking the river and trail access. Yep, sure enough they had a Coleman stove (no Fire Permit) and, shock of all shocks to me was these campers using tiki torches! YES, in the dead heat of the summer they had tiki torches. I can only imagine what they were doing with human waste and litter. This is another perfect reason for a mounted patrol out there for safety and education. This is my backyard, where I grew up, so I'm delighted to assist the Forest Service along with the new members of Steinbeck Country Unit!



# Education



## TAX ISSUE OF APPRECIATION IN VALUE OF FARM PROPERTY

By John Alan Cohan, Attorney at Law

Under the IRS hobby loss rule if you have losses in connection with any farming activity, horses, livestock or crops, the IRS may suspect that the activity is engaged in as a hobby rather than a business, particularly if there is a history of losses.

One of the elements in the IRS hobby loss rule is called "Expectation That Assets Will Appreciate in Value." The leading case on this point is Engdahl v. IRS. The taxpayer's horse farm appreciated from \$83,146 to \$225,000 over a several-year period. The Tax Court held that this in itself was indicative of a profit motive. There are many similar rulings in Tax Court cases.

One important Tax Court case observed: "If losses, or even repeated losses, were the only criterion by which farming is to be judged a business, then a large proportion of the farms of the country would be outside the pale. It is the expectation of gain, and not gain itself which is one of the factors which enter into the determination of the question."

The appreciation in value of farm property takes on importance particularly in situations where the taxpayer has been unable to show any profit years. Appreciation in value of your farm or ranch property can help prove that you have an honest expectation of making a profit despite a string of losses. The fact that a portion of your farm is used for a residence or other purposes does not preclude the IRS from considering overall appreciation in value.

According to tax regulations, the appreciation in the value of the land used in the activity helps to explain a taxpayer's willingness to continue the venture despite operating losses sustained during a number of years. It is strong evidence that the taxpayer conducted the activity with an honest and actual objective of making a profit.

Coupled with appreciation in value is the question of whether you have implemented improvements that enhance your property as a working farm. Pastures, fencing, barns, arenas, storage facilities, irrigation, ponds, lighting, and landscaping all fall within the type of improvements likely to fall into this category.

Sometimes the IRS will argue that the farm property is not economically tied up with the land, so that any appreciation in value is largely irrelevant. This position of the IRS, if and when taken, is contrary to many Tax Court cases on the subject.

It is recommended that taxpayers get a formal appraisal of their property every couple of years, in addition to complying with businesslike methods of operation, to help show that the value of the land has increased so that if the farm were sold, there would be a significant recoupment of past losses. In a formal appraisal, the appraiser should be able to say that the land is used exclusively for the venture, and that the highest and best usage of the land is that of a farm, whether it is a horse farm, cattle ranch, or agricultural activity.

You should also be able to prove that the land was purchased, maintained and improved with the expectation that it would appreciate in value, and that this increase would enhance the overall profitability of your venture.

You should keep documentation to prove the improvements you made to the property. In addition, appreciation in value of assets used in the activity takes into account the appreciation in value of the animals owned by the taxpayer and utilized in the venture. The fact that certain animals have increased in value because of the efforts of the taxpayer tie into this factor even though the assets were not sold. The actual or potential increase in value should be documented by an auction agent or qualified bloodstock appraiser.

[John Alan Cohan is a lawyer who has served the horse, livestock and farming industries since 1981. He serves clients in all 50 states, and can be reached at: (310) 278-0203 or via email at johnalancohan@aol.com. His website is www.JohnAlanCohan.com.]

## CORNELL INTRODUCES NEW LYME DISEASE TEST

Published in San Geronio Pass Unit *Packin' the News*, July 2011 edition  
Reprinted from [www.thehorse.com](http://www.thehorse.com), June 19, 2011 Article # 18406

Romping through summer fields seems like a harmless pleasure for dogs, horses, and humans alike. But just one bite from the wrong tick can rob an animal of that pastime. The bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* catch rides with certain tick species and can cause Lyme disease in animals the ticks bite. Catching the disease early is paramount because it becomes progressively harder to fight as the bacteria conduct guerilla warfare from hiding places in their hosts' joints, nervous tissues, and organs.

A newly released test for Lyme disease in horses and dogs, developed by researchers at the Animal Health Diagnostic Center (AHDC) at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., should help improve the understanding of the disease and pinpoint time of infection, opening possibilities for earlier intervention and more effective treatment plans.

"We've offered Lyme disease testing for years," said Bettina Wagner, DVM, PhD, Harry M. Zweig Associate Professor in Equine Health and lead developer. "But we have recently been able to improve our techniques with the multiplex testing procedure. The new test exceeds its predecessors in accuracy, specificity, and analytical sensitivity."

The multiplex procedure, which can detect three different antibodies produced in response to the bacteria associated with Lyme disease using a single test on the sample, eliminates the need for separate tests. In addition, it requires smaller samples and answers more questions about the disease.

Multiplex technology has been used for the last decade, but the AHDC is the first veterinary diagnostic laboratory to use it to test for Lyme disease. Different kinds of antibodies can be found in the body at different stages of infection. The new test can distinguish and measure these differences, providing more information about the timing of the disease. The bacteria that cause Lyme disease are particularly difficult to detect, according to Wagner, because after infection they tend to hide where they can't be found. They bury in their host's joints, causing arthritis or lameness.

Serious kidney disease has also been associated with Lyme infections in dogs. In horses, the ticks also burrow into the nervous system, in the spine or the brain, causing pain, paralysis, or behavioral changes. By the time such clinical signs appear, the bacteria are usually not in circulation anymore.

"Now we can distinguish between infection and vaccination and also between early and chronic infection stages," Wagner said. "That was not possible before. You were able to say whether an animal was infected, but not when it was infected, or how far the infection had developed."

The test and information it provides can help veterinarians make advanced decisions about treatment. After the long treatment period ends, veterinarians usually conduct follow-up testing to see if treatment was successful. More information about the test is available.

**Readers are cautioned to seek the advice of a qualified veterinarian before proceeding with any diagnosis, treatment, or therapy.**



# Public Lands

## WHY PUBLIC LANDS

By Bruce DeMott, Co-VP of Public Lands

This article ends with a puzzle in my sign off signature. By solving the puzzle you will observe one of the most famous predictions ever made affecting every American on the continent. A prediction made 17 years prior to it actually coming true; a prediction that threatened our very existence and way of life and placed the entire nation in great peril. I included the prediction's author in parentheses in between my first and last name as I, too, have a prediction. The original author was not given credit and was spoofed and treated with disdain. 17 years later the nation got sucker punched. We had the means to prepare and avoid catastrophe.

You, too, have the means to defend yourself. You have been given all the tools to prepare and operate. If you don't pay attention and utilize what has been given, you will lose many of the freedoms we have fought for.

See if you can solve, understand and relate the significance of the puzzle to our relationships with the agencies.

Public land is the picnic park, soccer field, river, fishing hole. It is a hike in the woods, scenic overlook, majestic snow covered mountain. It is the freedom to move about by foot, motorcycle, bicycle, horse or mule. For the truly fortunate it is the opportunity for a moment of solitude in an area left to operate freely; the works of man substantially unnoticeable, that has retained it's primeval character. Our public lands are uniquely American. John Muir correctly stated, "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul."

Public lands concern the people as a whole and is for the use and benefit of the community at large. Community is where we can share common ground, experiences, each other and heritage. Community is us. It is who we are as a whole.

When we "get away" from our "work a day" we can experience peace, serenity, friends, and solitude or be alone with nature and God.

Due to administration costs public places can be discontinued, usage limited or closed. The American wilderness has vastly shrunk in size since the 1800's. Administration costs may, have and probably will continue to limit their use. Our use of community places or public lands can get smaller yet.

Equestrian trails can be very costly. Administrative costs can be greatly reduced by not maintaining trails to standards necessary for pack and saddle stock.

Our country was founded on political differences. Certainly politics plays a huge part in access to our public lands. Resolving these differences makes this the country that it is. It is my personal opinion that Congress has done a very good job of giving us the country that we have. For those that have delved into the acts of Congress, I don't think it is hard to agree that this is the greatest country going.

The acts that rule this land were accomplished by those that cared and participated greatly, i.e., "Freedom of speech"; "Freedom of religion"; "Freedom of assembly".

We have not always agreed. In one instance a Congressman almost beat another to death with his cane on the congressional floor. Then, of course, there was the Civil War. The passion and participation in resolving our differences by great men and

women has made us great.

The one thing that gives away our community, freedom to move about, and ability to visit places of peace and serenity is doing nothing. Doing nothing contributes to loss. There is a long list of what loss or to lose means. I'll mention only a few to not overburden the reader. A brief few from the list are "to be deprived of"; "fail to have; loss due to negligence; waste or squander."

I've given all I have to give. I've talked to those that matter; brought them to our public lands meetings; produced informative materials and an area for all to discuss problems, strategies and experiences. I've only heard from 3 individuals representing their units.

I will say that I have been extensively involved and I will also say that involvement has been from shore to shore and at every agency level.

I believe you have all the materials and information necessary to become extremely effective.

3 out of 23 is a lot of silence. That may be a real waste and squandering.

Bruce (Billy Mitchell) De Mott

Clue: My birthday is December 7<sup>th</sup>

Clue: <http://www.visitnomealaska.com/PDF's/Billy%20Mitchell.pdf>

(you may have to use Ctrl and then click to open this link)

Clue: *The Billy Mitchell Affair* (New York: Random House, 1967). Unique detail of Mitchell's famous report of his visit to Hawaii in 1924.

Disclaimer: The use of General Billy Mitchell's name within the author's signature

is for puzzle purposes only as an emphasis on the importance of predictions from studied positions that may affect the freedoms of the American people. The honor and respect afforded General Mitchell by two Presidents of the United States and Congress stand alone for all time.

## GET WELL, RUTH

Backcountry Horsemen of California regrets to inform its membership that Ruth Gerson will no longer serve as its Co-VP of Public Lands. Unfortunately Ruth's recovery from hip replacement surgery is going extremely slowly and she is unable to travel to attend the Fall State Board Meeting. Ruth is going to physical therapy, walking, doing cardio exercises, and riding once a week on a limited basis but still has difficulty with balance. We appreciate Ruth's contributions to BCHC at both the state and local level; we all wish her a complete recovery and hope she is able to return to all of her normal activities very soon.

## NEW FOREST SUPERVISOR ANNOUNCED

Regional Forester Randy Moore announced the selection of Kevin B. Elliott, new Forest Supervisor for Sequoia/Giant Sequoia National Monument, effective September 11, 2011.



# BCHA

## BCHA NATIONAL BOARD MEETING, *continued from Page 7*

Corps will be established to engage young Americans in public lands and water restoration.

### America's Great Outdoors- Suggested Talking Points:

1. The conservation and management of America's public and private lands are extremely important to the millions of equestrians throughout the country. Riding provides Americans with a link to the past and a chance to see and experience America's great public lands from horseback just as early explorers and settlers did. Additionally, without private farmland to breed, raise, and provide feed for its horses, the equestrian community could not exist. A minimum of 36 million acres (4 acres per horse, conservatively) is needed to support the 9 million horses in the US.
2. The recreational riding community is dependent on access to public lands. Recreational riders also need well maintained trails, trail heads for horses, access routes, picnic and camping facilities, restrooms and stables to make use of our nation's public lands.

Bedwell thanked BCHA for helping train people in Trails Classification. There are 152,000 miles of trails that need good eyes to evaluate what is sustainable. Bedwell also stated that the recreation and trails program is taking a lead role to develop a certification process for cross-cut/chain-saw use.

**John Keck, NPS**, was the next speaker. This group is the most critical partner BCHA has. Their mission is to promote and regulate public land use to allow people to enjoy the land. John stated we must preserve and protect the land for the public. All National Parks are different. Oil and gas wells exist on some National Parks and some allow cattle grazing. The NPS is administering programs on trails and rivers to connect people to the outdoors. Trails can be connected to the Park through National Trails programs by partnering with other organizations when trails cross BLM and Forest Service land. Under the Management of the Water Conservation Plan, all 50 States receive money for State Outdoor Recreation Plan, receiving 50/50 matching grants (service will work).

John Jarvis is the current Director of the National Park Service. NPS goals include:

- Relevance - how do we engage people? Need to have kids come out. Desire to see people bring their kids and have them come back and bring their families.
- Stewardship - to not see Parks degraded we need to continue partnership with BCHA
- Education - you can help teach people
- Enhance workforce - How you can help find informed people to work for Park Service
- Good science - a lot of need to express values - all agencies important to use information

A question and answer session was held with the agency representatives with some great questions. Some highlights include:

- The NPS must deal with outdated parking regulations from the 1950-60's that do not accommodate today's larger trucks and trailers. BCHA was encouraged to continue applying pressure until problems are resolved. Funding is always a problem. BCHA can help by being involved in design.
- In regard to the major Pine Bark Beetle infestation in western states, it is important to encourage more readily available chainsaw permits. One trail was closed for three years because of downed trees. More money is needed to deal with the workload.

**If Congress shut down** what would happen? BLM stated that law enforcement would stay on; some areas would stay open with no services. NPS stated access would be restricted because of liability issues (in other words, no access to public land). FS said law enforcement would stay open, volunteer operations would close, nonessential services would be closed, concessionaires would not be shut down. Access would still be allowed.

BCHA accepted **East Coast Florida** as a new affiliate. **South Dakota** became our newest state.

**Dennis Dailey (Staff: Senior Advisor, Wilderness, Recreation & Trails)** mentioned several times that he will be developing a policy concerning bikes. Dennis stated that 69% of USFS trails are open to equestrians. In 2009 only 40% of trails were managed for stock use. In 2011, 43% of trails are being *managed* for pack and saddle stock. Dennis finished his presentation with the fact that in 2011 the Forest Service is only able to *maintain* 21% of the trails.

The last day of the meeting Ann and I saw that there was to be no compromise with the three states in regard to the BCHA governance proposal. Alan Hill had tried to no avail. After conferring with the Washington Directors, well versed in Roberts Rules of Order, Ann and I changed our vote to **YES!** A **new vote** was taken with some changing the vote they had made earlier. I had been talking with Alabama Directors because I have a sister in the same town they were from and to which a tornado caused major damage. My sister and her family were all okay but the friendship created through this common bond caused the Alabama Directors to change their vote. This brought the final vote to a tie with the Chairman breaking the tie in favor of the governance change. With the new governance in place, the Executive Committee was elected and includes: Ken Ausk (MT), Julie Chaney (CO), Alan Hill (CA), Jim McGarvey (GA), and Tom Thomas (NC). With the governance change approved, BCHA will be better equipped to advance into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It will also show corporate America that the organization is meeting more than once a year and that will make us more eligible for funding and corporate sponsorships.

*If you have any questions or would like more information about the National Board Meeting, feel free to ask Ann Lange or me. If you are ever interested in riding in another state, all you have to do is contact the local BCHA chapter for more information.*



## ACTION NEEDED TO SAVE TRAIL FUNDING

*From the American Morgan Horse Association  
Submitted by Jo Johnson and Mary Odell, San Joaquin Sierra Unit*

The Recreational Trail Program (RTP), a federally funded program and the primary source of trail funding in the U.S., is in jeopardy of losing federal monies. The RTP is a program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), providing funds to the states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses.

On July 7, U.S. Congressman John Mica, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, released an outline of a "Transportation Reauthorization Proposal." Key points of this proposal include:

- Consolidation or elimination of most "special" programs, including RTP, enhancements, safe routes, etc.
- States will be permitted to fund such "non-highway activities," but will no longer be required to set aside funds.
- Funding is reduced from the \$50 billion authorized in 2010 to nearly \$35 billion in annual revenue with current fuel taxes.

The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT), formed in 1992 to ensure that RTP receives adequate funding, is encouraging an amendment to the proposal, should it be introduced as a House bill. Contact your senator and congressman today if the RTP program and equestrian trails are important to you and your family.



# BCHC in the News!



## THE OLD WAYS FOR THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS.

By ANDREA WAGNER –Red Bluff Daily News, 8/11/2011

Sometimes the old ways are the only ways of doing things when it comes to maintaining our country's wilderness.

In a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, the Backcountry Horsemen of California, and the California Conservation Corps., crews keep the use of pack mules alive while sustaining the wilderness trails of the state.

Deep evergreen canyons and peaks more than 8,000 feet above sea level standing in every direction, with steady streams of clear mountain water seeping through feeding lakes below, the Trinity Alps of the Shasta Trinity National Forest are teeming with wildlife. With the Trinity area alone having more than a half million acres of wilderness, America has some big backyards. Countless trails, many made by cattle herds or other stock animals crisscross and weave through it all.

That's where the partnerships come into play. Many of these trails are available only by hiking on foot or riding on horseback, but each year trails get bombarded by fallen trees and branches and overgrowth through winter and spring.

Mike McFadin is the Wilderness & Trails Manager for the U.S. Forest Service in Weaverville. He manages a stock barn and supply unit for the area. Currently, McFadin and his team load up pack mules every weekend to deliver food, mail and other supplies to a crew of about 20 people camped out in the wilderness. Then, the same mules that packed in the supplies, pack out the garbage and other items needing to come out, such as broken tools, unused food items or return mail.

This is just one of several projects the groups are involved with. With the overall decline in stock programs, the local group can be called all over the state by fire crews. The animals can carry in necessary tools and gear that air support and motor vehicles cannot.

Last spring, McFadin's crew got an infusion of support in the form of 13 new mules. The stock was shipped in from Nashville, Tennessee, and made their debut at the Backcountry Horsemen's annual Rendezvous in Red Bluff in April 2011. "They were the big shot of blood we needed," McFadin said. In partnership with the California Conservation Corps, they work together to help the crew clean and repair trails while helping to control erosion. They work to maintain and restore the areas so the trails are still usable.

The local vice president of the Shasta-Trinity Backcountry Horsemen chapter is Kim Gardner of Red Bluff. She brings her daughter, Shelby, 8, out on packing trips. It's important for people to know what is being done in a cooperative effort between the different organizations, she said. With a little input from each group, they can keep the program alive. The Conservation Corps. maintains the trails. The horsemen club helps provide extra mules and support for the Forest Service for weekly trips to feed and supply the needed items to the Corps. crews. Without the program, many of the trails that exist would become obsolete and nobody would get to use them, Gardner said. "Everybody loses if we don't cooperate," she said.

The other plus is what the young adults who participate in the Conservation Corps. program gain through the experience, she said. "These kids leave here with a whole new appreciation and outlook on life," she said. The participants learn to work together and get along for up to five months while learning discipline and appreciation of natural resources.

Sam Burrows, the Backcountry Horsemen chapter president, has seen the changes that occur in the Corps. members, he said. "It's incredible to see the change in them from the beginning of summer to the end," he said. "You sit around the campfire with them and hear their stories ð It'll bend ya."

The Forest Service now recruits heavily from the Corps crews for staffing. The training they get in the backcountry program is ideal for the packing program, McFadin said. "They come in whole-hearted, trained, sharp and ready to work," he said.

Tracy McClelland, 27, from Red Bluff was working in a glass machine manufacturing company that went under when he heard about the Conservation Corps' backcountry program. "I already went backpacking every weekend," McClelland said. "I thought, well, I might as well get paid for it."

The program pays young adults, up to age 26, minimum wage while they learn survival

skills and wilderness maintenance skills for up to five months in the state's wilderness areas. At the end of the program, participants earn college scholarships toward the schools of their choice.

After spending a year with the backcountry program, McClelland got hired on to help McFadin at the stock barn in Weaverville. He lives in a Corps. dormitory nearby. McClelland's parents and grandparents still live in the Red Bluff area, but he is pleased with all he's learned in the Alps, he said. One of his jobs is to help load the packs that the mules carry into the camps. The weight must be evenly balanced on both sides of the animal so the load doesn't shift and fall or injure the mule. Mules carry up to 200 pounds each. "Packing the load is kind of an art," McFadin said. Between a Forest Service ranger station in Hayfork and McFadin's stock in Weaverville, there are about 20 animals in use for the nearest packing program. In addition, McFadin's crew has saddle and tool repair stations inside the stock barn.

Consistent with the Back Country Horsemen's philosophy of connecting the past with the future, McFadin still works with tools and saddle gear that dates back as far as the 1930s. The quality of materials used, as well as the care in craftsmanship, mean the tools and gear outlast generations of use. He often buys antique items on eBay for discounted prices to help keep up the supply, he said.

The stock program started in the early 1900s after big fires prompted the creation of the U.S. Forest Service and the building of lookout towers. Packers were a big part of the program and the only way to get into the wilderness. New saddle styles were developed just for use by the Forest Service. They are still in use today.

McFadin salvages and re-uses all the tools, leather and equipment they have, and even uses a 1933 Singer sewing machine that will punch through a half-inch of leather. As side projects for the crew, they use the machine to build harnesses, bridles and other items.

Aside from the equipment and the camp supplies and food, McFadin also stores veterinary supplies for minor problems the animals might have, to save on vet bills. Erik Corditz, a ferrier, or someone who puts shoes on the horses, has been working contracts with the Forest Service for many years. Most recently, he got hired on full time with the forest service to work with the new mules and packing crew. It is not uncommon to put in a 12 to 14 hour day packing with the mules, Corditz said.

Sometimes, the packing crew will have to stay overnight and can head up to 20 or more miles into the back country, he said. Caring for the animals is a crucial component of the program.

Sam and Theresa Burrows of the Anderson area have been packing with mules and riding in wilderness areas since they were married more than 30 years ago, they said. Sam Burrows is the new president of the local Shasta-Trinity chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of California, and a vice president at the state level. He has been making trips with McFadin's crew many times. He got involved with the Back Country Horsemen because the club involved children more than other horse organizations, Burrows said. He wants his grandchildren to have the opportunity to learn about packing.

The collaboration between the club and the Forest Service has been a "win-win" for everyone, Burrows said. The club gives logistical support for forest projects planned years in advance that can sometimes add up to four or five mule loads a week. "We're fortunate to have these type of areas in our backyard and we do our best to make sure they stay available for everyone," he said.

For more information about the programs listed contact the following: California Conservation Corps., [www.ccc.ca.gov](http://www.ccc.ca.gov); the U.S. Forest Service ranger station in Weaverville, (530) 623-2121; and the Backcountry Horsemen of California, [www.bchcalifornia.org](http://www.bchcalifornia.org).



## MULE TRAIN SUPPLIES FIREFIGHTERS, KEEPS GENERATIONS-LONG TRADITION ALIVE

By Rebecca Brooke, US Forest Service, Published in the Kern Valley Sun, Wednesday, August 3, 2011

Sequoia National Forest – A pack train of 30 horses and mules is helping to supply firefighters who are working to contain the three-week old Lion Fire in the Golden Trout Wilderness. The animals are hauling food and supplies into the Lion

Continued on Page 13

# BCHC in the News!

**MULE TRAIN**, *continued from Page 12*

Meadow area where 55 firefighters are based.

Animals from seven national forests in California are part of the packing effort, which is being coordinated by the US Forest Service's regional pack stock program.

"Pack animals have been used in remote parts of the Sierra Nevada for generations," said Michael Morse, wilderness and pack stock program manager for the Inyo National Forest. "By supplying the firefighters with horses and mules, we are able to both minimize the use of motorized equipment in the wilderness and pass on packing skills to the next generation of wilderness managers."

Hauling approximately 1,200 pounds per trip, the pack train can supply a crew of 20 people for three days. The trip takes approximately nine hours round-trip, making for a long day in the saddle. "This is not easy work," said Pat Bailly, wilderness manager for Los Padres National Forest. "You have to have a passion for it."

The horses are based at the Lewis Camp trailhead, a popular destination for Back Country Horsemen [sic], which is set up with corrals and hitching posts.

"Keeping the pack animals supplied with food and water isn't difficult," said Paul Gibbs, Lion Fire Incident Commander. "Additionally, it's good to have horsemen on the ground, updating wilderness visitors on the status of the fire." The pack train is also able to make deliveries when it is too smoky for helicopters to supply crews.

The southern and eastern portion of the Golden Trout Wilderness is open for use, but does receive smoke daily. An area closure is in effect for all backcountry trails northeast of Shake Camp Trailhead to trail 32E06 north of Round Meadow.

A detailed map of trail closures in the Golden Trout Wilderness can be found on Inciweb: <http://inciweb.org/incident/2400/>. Fire information lines are established at Kernville 760-379-5646 ext. 515, or Springville 559-539-2607 ext. 214.



*Hauling about 1,200 pounds per trip, the pack train can supply a crew of 20 people for three days. The animals are hauling food and supplies into the Lion Meadow area where 55 firefighters are based.*

## ADAM BLAUERT: HORSEMEN KEEP TRAIL SAFE

*Reprinted from the Tuesday, June 14, 2011 Merced Sun-Star*

Despite the short-lived return of winter, Highway 4 and Kaiser Pass both opened last week. Plowing continues on Highway 120, but there isn't any estimated opening date yet.

For the most updated information, check the National Park Service's Yosemite website: [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/tioga.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/tioga.htm).

In addition to clearing snow, the road crew is making repairs necessitated by extreme winter conditions.

### Trouble on the trail

Winter weather does a lot of damage to trails. If you've ever been on a hike before a trail crew has had the chance to clear fallen trees, repair landslides and deal with erosion problems, you know what I am talking about. Major trails get some maintenance every year, but others may go for many seasons without any improvements.

This year on an early season hike to Yosemite's Wapama Falls, my hiking group encountered a large boulder that had fallen and damaged a small bridge. The trail was closed a bit beyond that point because the bridges that cross in front of the falls had been rendered unsafe to cross. The trail crew was at work on the repairs and they have since been completed.

Recently I learned a lot about wilderness trail maintenance. In addition to the work done by employees of the National Park Service, California State Parks and the California Conservation Corps, a great deal of work is also done by volunteers.

This week I want to applaud one of the volunteer organizations that does a lot of this work in our state -- the Backcountry Horsemen of California.

Locally, the Mid Valley Unit has assisted the Forest Service by maintaining and improving trails along the Highway 108 corridor in the Stanislaus National Forest, the Emigrant Wilderness, and the Bureau of Land Management's Red Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

The BCHC's primary objective is "to improve and promote the use, care and development of California backcountry trails, campsites, streams and meadows; to advocate good trail manners." Every year this includes three to four major trail cleanups. Last August they cleared 6.5 miles of trail between Cherry Lake and Huckleberry Lake. This month they will be working on trails in the Cherry Lake and Clark Fork areas.

### 'It takes a team'

I've participated in a number of volunteer organizations over the past few years and the best ones have been those that mix service with social events; building camaraderie as the work is completed. According to Karen Lopes, a friend who has been involved in BCHC trail work for years: "BCHC members have a lot of fun working together. It takes a team to remove many of the larger trees and rocks and members enjoy meals and campfires together at the end of every work day.

"Lifelong friendships are formed during the work and members often ride together and participate in Dutch oven cook-offs when they aren't working on trails. Some of the 365 members of the Mid Valley Unit have been involved for over 30 years."

As part of making the backcountry more accessible to stock users, the Mid Valley Unit developed the Pine Valley Horse Camp east of Pinecrest. Members work closely with the Forest Service and are trained in trail construction techniques. Chainsaws, cross-cut saws and other tools used in these projects have been purchased with grant money from various foundations.

*Continued on Page 24*



# Ann Lange

## BCHC MEMBER RECEIVES AWARD AT 2011 BISHOP MULE DAYS

Multiple authors, including Jennifer Rosier of McGee Creek Pack Station, contributed to this article.

For long time Kern Valley resident Ann Lange, the annual Mule Days celebration held in Bishop, California over the Memorial Day weekend is always a much anticipated event. But this year, the experience was even more meaningful as she was presented with the prestigious "Best Friend of the Packers Award".

Lange, who was raised on the historic Rankin Ranch in Walker Basin, California, has dedicated more than two decades to riding and documenting trails in the mountainous areas surrounding the Kern River Valley. Collaborating extensively with the Forest Service, she has worked unceasingly to assure trails remain open for public access per the Wilderness Act, which was signed into law in 1964 by President Lyndon Johnson.

Lange has not done all the work alone though. Her husband of nearly 50 years, veterinarian Detlev Lange, has supported her every step of the way. "It is a very prestigious award that she

won," he said proudly. "It was presented to her in recognition of all the work she has done over the past 20 plus years for trying to preserve the trail system for backpackers, as well as for equestrian use."

Ann was first introduced to packing in the mid 1950's as a high school



student traveling into the Kern Plateau Wilderness out of Roads End Pack Station near the North Fork of the Kern River, owned and operated by Earl Pascoe, an early advocate for a Commercial Packers Association. Of course, in the 1950's there was no such thing as designated wilderness, but the whole Kern Plateau was roadless and wild.

Lange, modest about her accomplishments, was tickled to be featured in the official 2011 Mule Days

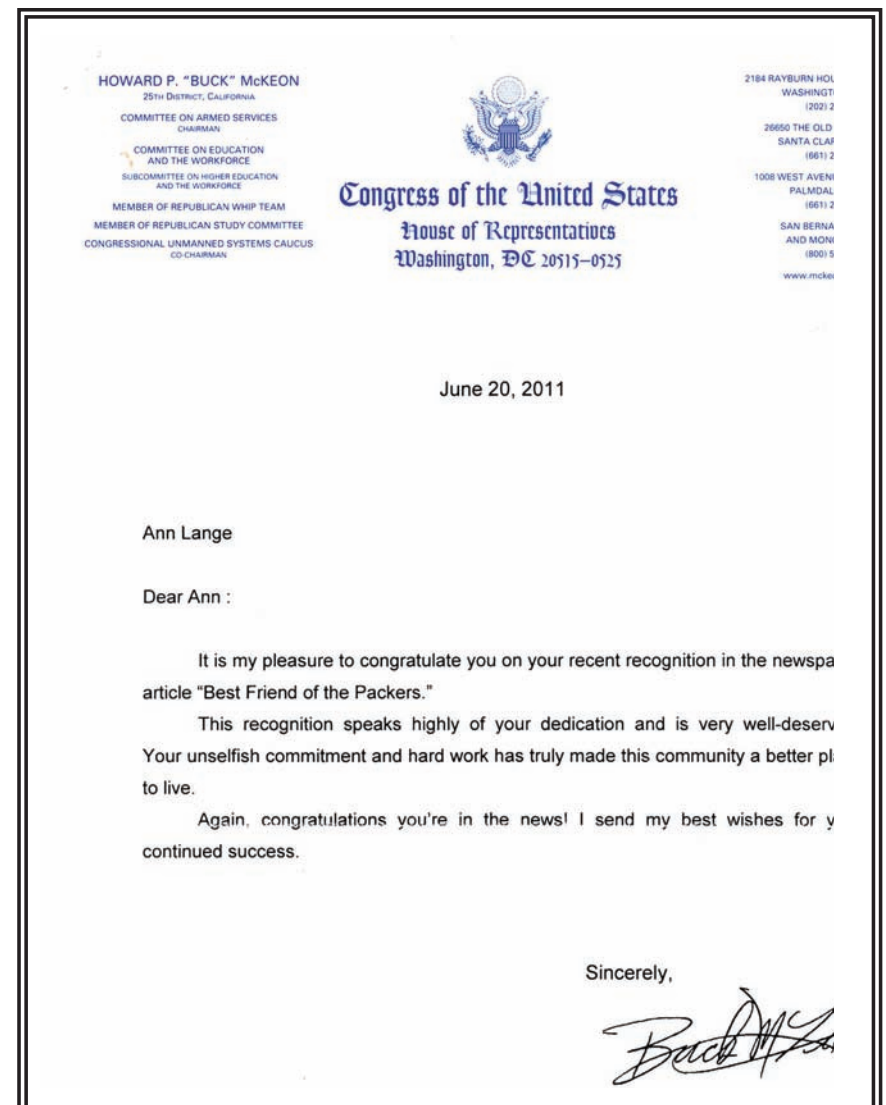
program and had no idea that she had been chosen for the honor. In the article, the comment was made that, "Both the Back Country Horsemen of America and the Sierra Packers Association owe Ann a debt of gratitude for all her hard work." Dr. Lange recalled how his wife has spent hours-upon-hours attending meetings and going through multitudes of documents, becoming all-too-familiar with the Wilderness Act, which, as he stated, was a huge undertaking in itself. "She has half a room dedicated to the plethora of files that she has accumulated over the years," Lange added, "and she knows every bit of it."

The couple, who lives in Southlake, Kern River Valley, has eight mules and two horses between them. "We do a lot of volunteer work for the Forest Service," Dr. Lange said. "Last year Ann and I alone cut out 169 trees to keep the trails open." He explained that with fires, trees burn and ultimately die, falling across the trail. When you

can't get around them, you have to cut them out of the trail. "We use bucksaws, and that entails a lot of manual labor." The bulk of their efforts are devoted to the Domeland Wilderness, where a devastating fire burned over 68,000 acres in 2000.

Summarizing the motivating force behind his wife's commitment, Dr. Lange stated, "She is a purist. She wants to keep wilderness available and open to all appropriate users as it is set out in the Wilderness Act." After a moment, he added simply, "I'm very proud of her."

**Congratulations, Ann!  
Backcountry Horsemen of California appreciates your tireless efforts to keep trails available and open!**





# Best Friend of the Packers



## VALLEY RESIDENT RECEIVES AWARD AT BISHOP MULE DAYS CELEBRATION

*Originally published July 2011 in the Fence Post Country Reader, Kernville*

Ann Lange was surprised and excited when notified she was chosen as “The Best Friend of the Packers” at Bishop Mule Days, 2011. When told of the honor, she stated that her representation for continued pack and saddle stock use on public lands is not generally visible – “most people would rather be out riding and clearing wilderness trails, not sitting around the table with other interest groups for months and years advocating for equine use on federal lands. Clearly, it is not a glamorous job but somebody has to be involved or the whole equine community is in danger of losing access to the back country.” For the past twenty plus years, Ann has worked with US Forest Service and National Park Service to document their changing Trail Inventories and lobbying to keep

trails open to horses and mules – where there is a history of that use.

Jennifer Roeser and husband Lee who own and operate McGee Creek Pack Station located north of Mammoth in the Eastern Sierra offered the following thoughts. “Best Friend of the Packers award is voted on by the commercial packers, and they could think of no one more deserving of the award than Ann Lange. She has worked tirelessly on behalf of back country stock users to maintain their access to historic and traditional trails and destinations in Wilderness, spending countless hours poring over planning documents, researching trails, clearing trails, and participating in lengthy Public Land Agency planning efforts in order to convince planners to do what is right and recognize the appropriateness of horse and mule travel in the back country.” Jennifer concludes by stating, “Back Country Horsemen of America, the Packers Association, and those they represent, owe Ann a debt of gratitude

for all of her hard work. (And of course, also her husband Dr. Detlev Lange for providing exceptional “back up”).

Ann Charlton Lange and twin brother Andy “Biff” Charlton were raised on Rankin Ranch in Walker Basin, California. They were introduced to horses and mules at a very early age. By the time they were 6-7 years old, they regularly participated in ranching activities of gathering and sorting cattle and branding calves. After college, she convinced her husband “Doc L” to move to the Kern River Valley, just over the hill from Walker Basin. There they established a veterinary practice 46 years ago and still own and operate Kern Valley Veterinary Clinic in Southlake. They are long time members of Back Country Horsemen of America and Backcountry Horsemen of California, Kern Sierra Unit. Now in their 70’s, they continue to work as a team packing in supplies for summer trail crews, and for Kern Sierra Volunteer efforts to maintain trails. Ann states nothing is more rewarding than watching a string of five or six mules working together as they are trained to do. It is an expression of our American Heritage, representing our historic and cultural past, and deserves protection as living history. That kind of protection can only be perpetuated on Wilderness lands.



## “MISS WILDERNESS” YEARS OF DEDICATION TO BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN

*By C. J. Hargreaves, BCHC Editor*

Ann currently serves as Kern Sierra Unit’s Public Lands Liaison and State Director. In addition to her unit responsibilities, Ann serves as one of two BCHC National Directors to our parent organization, Back Country Horsemen of America. Ann represents California at annual BCHA national meetings and actively participates on the Public Lands Committee.

Ann has been involved with BCHA since its formative days. She was among the first California representatives to the national organization. In 1999 BCHA approved formation of its Wilderness Committee which Ann chaired until the committee was moved under the BCHA Public Lands Committee in 2008. The committee’s official name was “Wilderness Issues and Management Plan Review Committee” and its purpose was to deal with wilderness issues at the national level and to provide expertise and knowledge to assist all BCHA states and chapters in their management planning efforts.

In 2002 Ann received an award from the Equestrian Land and Conservation Resource for her wilderness knowledge and in 2004 Ann was commended and a donation made in her name to the Legal Fund by BCHA for her dedication to the Kern Sierra Lawsuit.

Over the years Ann has also served as Vice Chair of BCHA and on a variety of BCHA committees including but not limited to Budget, Vision, Legal Fund, and the Incident Response Team.

Now you understand why Ann’s BCHA cohorts fondly refer to her as “Miss Wilderness”!

*Ann Lange and husband, Dr. Detlev “Dud” Lange, pose for a photo beneath the sign dedicating a high country campground to them. The dedication was in gratitude for 20 plus years of hard work on the trails. Photo published in the Kern Valley Sun, 6/22/2011.*



# Unit News

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## MID VALLEY UNIT CLEARS KIBBIE RIDGE TRAIL

Part One by Dennis Serpa, Mid Valley Unit Volunteer Service Coordinator:

After rescheduling several times due to snow, nine Mid Valley members packed up 13 head and started up the Kibbie Ridge trail on Friday, July 8. We made camp about a half mile into the Emigrant Wilderness. We had camp set up by 2pm so we decided to go back and clear up to the wilderness boundary with the chainsaw, which was about 20 trees. On Saturday we started up the trail with three crosscut saws and the help of three of the Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers. The 12 of us made for quite a trail crew, sawing, brushing and tossing off logs that didn't need sawing. What we were up against is what I would like to call "pickup sticks" - it reminded me of the toys we used to play with but these sticks were anywhere from 6 to 30 inches in diameter! There had been a fire in this area many years ago and the logs were really piled up. I was amazed by how our two crews sawed through those logs and made sawdust out of them. By the end of the day we had cleared nearly 70 logs. Then back to camp and the cool creek baths. Our dinner was Dutch oven tamale pie and apple cobbler. On Sunday morning, after giving thanks for being able to get out of bed, we were off to continue up the trail. This day was a lot easier as the terrain changed to a more typical trail work - the logs were more scattered but the brush was thick. We were planning to knock off early and ride up to Sache Springs cabin to survey the trail and find a campsite for the August project but we came across a huge log blocking the trail with large rocks on either side and nowhere to roll it. So out came the grip hoist and we cut the log into two pieces and were able to pull them up on top of the rocks. The grip hoist again proved to be invaluable at a place where nothing else would work! We were still able to make the cabin and survey the area but we didn't get back to camp until 6pm. Our Dutch oven dinner (country spare ribs and potatoes with berry cobbler) was served by lantern and enjoyed by all including our SWV partners. The full crew included Carl and Julie Perry, Dan Prine, Gary Cain, Ernie Warzyca, Dennis Wetherington, Bob Cooper, my wife Loretta and me. Those coming to help for the day were Devin Nelson, Don Butler, Vicki Morales, Steve Tucker, and Doug Decker. The Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers were Jim McCabe, Ron Davenport, and Dick Chimenti. Four of our crew were new to the trail clearing project and were also new BCHC members and I believe they have proven to be true assets to Mid Valley. A big thanks to all involved!

Part Two By: Michael King, Mid Valley Unit President

Following the first assault in early July to clear the Kibbie Ridge trail of downed trees, a second crew returned in early August to complete the job. This new crew included Dennis Serpa (project leader), Loretta Serpa, Justin Serpa, Dr. Craig Brooks, Bob Cooper, Dan Prine, Tony Moules, Don Butler, Vicki Morales, Dennis Wetherington, Karen Lopes, Ernie Warzyca, Doug Dollarhide, Garrett Dollarhide, and me.

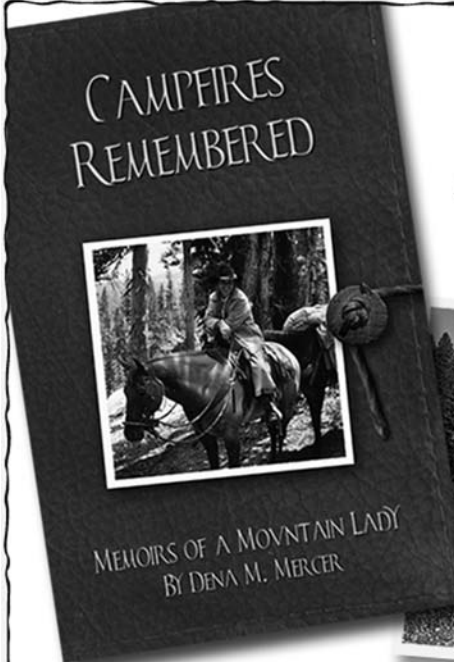
Dennis Serpa and Tony Moules arrived at the trailhead the afternoon of Wednesday, August 3, joining Dr Craig Brooks and Bob Cooper. The gear was sorted out and loads were soon made up. Before long everyone was loaded, saddled and ready to head out. The ride in was uneventful for most of us, however Dan Prine's white pack horse decided to provide some entertainment for his group. The horse pulled back on its lead rope and ended up doing a backwards summersault, ending up on its back in the middle of the trail. Not to worry. Dr. Brooks was there and pronounced the horse fine and fit to continue. After an approximate 2 ½ to 3 hour ride we arrived at Sache Springs where we established camp near the snow cabin. After dinner and some campfire visiting we turned in for the night.

The next morning we broke into two work groups. One group had the traditional hand-saws and proceeded into the Emigrant Wilderness (administered by the US Forest Service) where no power equipment is allowed. The other group, armed with Mid Valley's newly purchased chainsaw, headed into the Yosemite Wilderness (administered by the National Park Service) where power equipment is permitted. Starting at Sache Springs the Yosemite group headed toward Styx Pass while the Emigrant group went back down the trail, clearing downed trees as they went. The Yosemite group completed clearing their section of the trail that day, while the Emigrant group cleared about 75% of their section including one massive tree that fell right across the trail. One cut made on this trunk was 30 inches in diameter.

*Continued on Page 24*

# Unit News

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## SEQUOIA UNIT SUMMER

*By Jamie Wilson, DVM, Sequoia Unit President*

There's a lot going on in the mountains this summer and the Sequoia Unit is lending a hand (and a hoof) where it can.

The unit is packing in supplies for a group that is working to control the velvetgrass infestation in the Sequoia National Park. Every two weeks, packers take 300-500 lbs of food and supplies to workers with American Conservation Experience (ACE), a non-profit group that has been working in the Park for three summers. They pick, cover, and sometimes spray the velvetgrass, a non-native annual normally found in low-altitude pastures. Their efforts have reduced the infestation by more than 50%.

The regular pack trips have made it possible to bring some novice packers along and give them valuable experience. After three seasons packing the 17 miles in along the Kern River to the ranger station, some of them aren't novices anymore!

Sequoia Unit members are also maintaining and staffing the Trout Meadow Guard Station, a cabin and public pasture built in the 1920's and now part of the Sequoia National Forest in the Golden Trout Wilderness. This year they had to repair most of the fencing around the pasture due to heavy snow and tree damage. Having trained Backcountry Horsemen at the station has helped make the wilderness safer; they have been instrumental in coordinating rescues and evacuations of injured hikers and horsemen, and have kept a lot of people from getting lost on poorly signed and maintained trails.

Speaking of trails, the Sequoia Unit is also collaborating on a huge trail rehab and maintenance project with the Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia Monument. Along with members of the Kern Sierra and High Sierra Units, plans are being made to restore several historic trails to their original routes, by removing downed trees, trimming brush, and replacing signs.

So if it seems like the summer packing season is getting busier every year, it might be because there's a lot to do in the backcountry. Keeping trails open and preserving historic landmarks and resources is a big part of BCHC's purpose, and the Sequoia Unit is proud to contribute!



*Sequoia Trip to Trout*





# Unit News



## TOP OF THE STATE CONDUCTS TRAIL TRIAL

By Penny Wells-Thomas

On July 23, 2011 the Top of the State Backcountry Horseman put on a Trail Trial at Deer Mountain Snowmobile Park. We had 15 riders negotiating 11 obstacles. Following the Trail Trial we had a barbeque lunch of chicken and beans cooked by Terry and Lynda Beverlin, along with salads and desserts provided by members. We had two categories of riders - schooling and competitors. Janice Rushton won 1st Place in the competition, Shirley Tickner won 2nd Place in the same category and Ken Snider won 3rd. In the schooling division, Lillis Sieck won 1st, Jordyn Ellorin won 2nd and Mariah Goodrich-Jones won 3rd.

We also put on a Jingo ride which is much like doing bingo on horseback but using animals instead of numbers and letters. Shirley Tickner won half the Jingo pot by getting a blackout.

I'd like to thank all the volunteers who helped, especially Pam Wells-Boughton who not only rode Deer Mountain a half dozen times, devised the whole Jingo ride and was a judge, she also donated a ton of hay for 1st prize in the competition. The other judges were Jennifer Bull, Joe Croteau, Nancy Ballard, Pat Snider and me. Other volunteers were Carol Smith, Linda and Virgil Hardy, Gail and John Lyons, Lynda and Terry Beverlin, Kathryn Matthews, Lee Carbah, Keith Thomas, and Chuck Knight who did the advertising for the Trail Trial. Sorry if I missed anyone but you were appreciated. It was a fun and challenging day for horse and rider!



## HIGH COUNTRY UNIT NEWS

by Valerie Lantz, Newsletter Editor

### Stan Sylva, 1948-2011

Stan Sylva, the High Country Unit President for 2011, went home to be with his Heavenly Father on July 21, 2011. HCU members Alan Cain, Valerie Lantz and Cindy McMurry were honored to provide a mounted escort at his memorial service on July 27. Stan enjoyed serving as HCU President. His leadership in preparing RAC applications for additional horse camp and trail improvements will live on as those projects are completed later this year and during the next year. The HCU members send heartfelt condolences to Stan's wife, LuRena, and his other family members. Contributions in Stan's honor may be made to the Backcountry Horsemen of California, High Country Unit, PO Box 271, Alturas, CA 96101

### Owl Creek Trail

Edie Asrow, HCU member, camped with and then led the CCC and FS crews into Owl Creek to find the trail and first campsite on June 21-22. She then went to Owl Creek and camped with the CCCs and worked with them on the trail on July 5-6. The Modoc National Forest project on the Owl Creek Trail in the South Warner Wilderness started on July 13. The Redding CCC crew began repairing and rebuilding the Owl Creek Trail by digging through 4- to 8-foot deep snow drifts that blocked the first mile of the Owl Creek Trail. USFS packers, Ken and Matt, with their eight USFS mules packed in the trail crew tools, camp gear and food. The trail crew began trail tread reconstruction during their first week of work. The work started on the south end of the trail and proceeds north from the Emerson Trail. Cindy McMurry, Walt and Kerry Davis packed in to the trail crew camp on August 3 to move items for the trail crew. The trail crew plans to work on the Owl Creek Trail every other week until October 26. Additional help from HCU members is welcome. HCU volunteers can check the trail crew campsite during their absence and help move camps by packing camp gear, food and garbage.

### 1st PLACE and BEST OF SHOW in community organization category at Modoc District Fair!

A dedicated HCU committee planned and assembled a display depicting a backcountry camp illustrating gentle use principles. The display utilized the Fair Theme, "200 Years-200 Reasons" by including a large map of Modoc County with 200 places to ride trails or cross country by horseback. We used the iron mule and a saddle, a tent and a fire pit. We put a head stall on the mule then hobbled and staked him out with a feed bag labeled "weed-free feed". We put a "camper" in a sleeping bag in the tent. We set up cooking gear; Dutch ovens, a graniteware plate and cup, a coffee pot and dried food. A fishing rod and creel, folding shovel and hatchet were set up in camp. We emphasized Leave No Trace and Gentle Use techniques throughout the camp. We made up a pack of trash and a sign reading "Pack it in--Pack it out". We used juniper and sage for natural decorations. We posted photos of unit activities and displayed a memoriam for Stan Sylva.





# Unit News



## LOS PADRES FAMILY BOAT & RIDE

*By Bill Chaides, President, Los Padres Unit*

June 24-26 was Los Padres Unit's annual "Family Boat & Ride" campout at San Antonio Lake. WOW! What a campout! The equestrian facility is spacious with easy to moderate trails, a fully enclosed kitchen and bathroom facility, a large sand arena with adjacent pipe corrals, a few campsites with power outlets and plenty of water spigots at every campsite, plus three wash racks throughout the camping area. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all those who helped to make this a fantastic outing! A special thanks to Bill and Sandy Obermeyer for providing some of their easy obstacles. Many of our group took advantage throughout the entire weekend of introducing their equine to the arena challenges. The youth and adults really enjoyed the obstacles and some continued into the night in the lighted arena. What a great venue.

Gerry and Lisa Morrison brought their 25' pontoon boat operated by Lisa's son Mark, and Dave Rigoli brought a power boat provided by Paul and Maureen Lemos. Bill Chaides provided a regatta of assorted floating craft (two 12' dive paddle boats, a 12' wind-surfer, a 6' surf board and a 9' rubber Avon inflatable boat) for enjoyment by all. The entire regatta was set up on a sandy beach with a gradual slope into the water for everyone's easy access. Two pop-up shade covers were also set up for those who needed to stay out of the sun. What a wonderful weekend of water play and hot (85-90 degree) weather with an occasional slight breeze this was. Absolute enjoyment by all!

A number of our group went up on Thursday to set up camp and get things ready for the weekend. Friday arrivals were able to enjoy the water and do some trail riding along with arena work. We had the treat of a SPECIAL visitor from the past, Mary Littlefield, who flew in just for this event. Mary was the originator of our first Boat & Ride. It was a pleasure to see her. The evening BBQ-Chicken was prepared mainly by Mark Martella and Mike Fremon under the direction of yours truly. The potluck dishes, as always, were super and not much left. Our evening concluded with a campfire gathering, camaraderie and tales of untruths.



Saturday morning commenced at 9:30 a.m. with "Horsemanship" by Dave Rigoli. Twenty-three youth attended Dave's class to receive their completion prizes of lead rope with halter and brush (What nice gifts!) Ellie Livingston followed Dave with her "Trail Safety" indoctrination in the arena area. Youth on their own enjoyed the arena obstacles.

At noon, everyone enjoyed swimming or riding on their own. Due to the hot weather, we delayed the BBQ from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. This was a good idea. BBQ was again prepared by Mark Martella and Mike Fremon, assisted by our newly appointed "Junior Chef" Cole Cargill. Chicken, flank steak and pulled pork along with potluck dishes from our members were enjoyed. What a great meal! In addition, Nancy Kimmell, with the assistance of Patty Mensing provided instruction and assistance to youth in "Dutch Oven" cooking. The youth were to individually prepare oven dishes of assorted COBBLERS. Ovens were also provided by Fred Mensing and Jack Cargill. Thank all you guys again. Participation is an essential key to a successful outcome of our group outings. The evening drew to a close with campfire, camaraderie, and guitar playing with song. We got talent! Leading off the evening with song was Gerry Morrison followed by (Jr. Chef) Cole Cargill, Dave Heuer and Shelly Cargill. Some attempted group song and dancing followed. Firewood pile walking, in the dark, wearing flip flops was also attempted. Not a good idea! This turned out to be a late evening (or early morning) for some who didn't get to bed until 3:00 a.m.!

Sunday morning, rise and shine. Sunshine came through about 6:30 a.m. Some ate Dutch oven breakfast at Jack Cargill's wall tent. Mountain elk, deer and pork meat-egg burritos were delicious. Thank you, Jack.

Our first clinic of the day was lead by Everette Lambert dressed in pioneer attire complete with leather pants, loose-fitting cotton shirt, adorned with a bear cap, claw necklace and a throwing hatchet on his waist. Light to multi-day backcountry packing was addressed. Impromptu assisting was Emery Johnston providing some additional insight from his lifelong experience. Some of our members were directed in hands-on practice. Great job, Everette and Emery! The information was very educational. This clinic was attended by more adults than kids. The youth were getting ready to participate in the scheduled morning trail ride.



10:30 a.m. Lead off the "Park Forest Trail" by Clayton Rigoli, a short morning ride of about 3-4 miles before returning to camp for a "hot dog" lunch. We, somehow, came up short on the hot dogs and substituted with some delicious pulled pork sandwiches. Hot dogs were prepared by Lynn Rausch, assisted by Jr. Chef. Cole Cargill. After lunch, free trail riding, arena work or swimming and boating. Believe it or not, all three activities were enjoyed by many youth and adults into the late afternoon. Clean up of the grounds and kitchen were completed and repacking the unit kitchen trailer. Thank you to Emery Johnston for transporting the unit trailer to the Wellsona Truck Stop for pick up.

This venue was enjoyed by all and nobody was cold! 55 adults in attendance and 23 youth made it a fun time!

Get ready to start planning for "Fall Camp & Ride" at Cachuma, Live Oak, October 21-23.



# Unit News



Front row: Joe, Randy and Bob  
Back row: Carol, Muriel, Sandy, Mary, Ted

## EDISON WORK PARTY—SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA UNIT

Submitted by Randy Witt, San Joaquin Sierra Unit

The Edison Lake Work Party, July 23-29, was a fun adventure in the great outdoors. Our Public Lands Liaison, Ted Fischer, had a week-worth of work planned out for us. Mary Odell, Sandy LaSpada, Muriel Holland and Randy Witt were working participants from our unit. Bob Skinner from the San Luis Obispo Unit area brought his special skills and experience to help us out. The whole crew was kept well fed with delicious breakfasts of eggs, bacon, pancakes, biscuits and gravy and sides of fresh fruits. Each work day ended with wonderful warm mountain meals such as roast beef gravy over noodles, burgers, steak and potatoes, great garlic bread, fresh salads.....mmmmm! These meals were planned and prepared by our very special friends, Carol and Joe Kaminski. THANK YOU, CAROL AND JOE!!!

The High Sierra Pack Station owners, John and Jennice Cunningham, offered the great hospitality of letting us set up our base camp there. Some of our party members had a great opportunity to help John bring up to the station about 10 head of his stock from the High Sierra Ranger station where his stock truck had broken down. It was an opportunity to ride very experienced mountain equines over some pretty tough territory, including crossing a rather treacherous looking Mono Creek at the Mono Creek Hot Springs Resort. Maybe it was just the experience of that professional stock and the leadership of John Cunningham, but I was pretty astonished the way Mary, Ted and Bob didn't even slow down as their horses and the stock they were leading, went right into that rushing white water looking like, "This is what we do every day y'all..." The exceptional crossing of Mono Creek (30 yards of rushing white water three to four feet deep) was witnessed by Sandy, Muriel, and Randy who were hot-springs-hopping at the Mono Hot Springs that day off, soothing tired, sore muscles after having ridden about 60 miles the previous 3 days. (We could have added another 10 miles that day.) Oh, yes! I almost forgot to mention this was a work party after all.

Our "work" was to survey/reconnoiter, and clear downed trees, if possible, out to the Rock Creek Trail, along the String Meadow Trail, and the Bear Meadow Trail going out to the Heitz Meadow Cabin. None of that could be

done though until we had ridden out 5-6 miles along the Onion Springs jeep trail. To the Northeast of base camp we were asked to remove a couple of trees close to the Devil's Bathtub Lake (where we found no downed trees left to be removed.)

Late in Ted's discussions with U.S. Forest Service officials, Ted was asked to make locating and assessing repair work of the ancient Heitz Meadow Cabin and associated (water) spring boxes, a top work priority. This job proved to be considerably more difficult than we had anticipated. First off, said cabin and spring box were about 12 miles out from camp, making it a 24-mile round trip. Secondly, the last 2 miles of the trip (Bear Meadow Trail) had been practically obliterated from neglect and disuse. The junction was obscured by a huge fallen tree and was only to be found by diligent use



Mary and Randy at Heitz Meadow cabin

of a GPS.



The infamous spring box

Once the search party located the cabin, the task of locating and assessing the condition of the spring box was only half done. We were depending upon the recollection and description of the spring's location from the former Heitz Cabin resident, absent for many years. The description as remembered by Dee Douglas went "...from the front porch it's located about as far as you

can throw a baseball. You locate an old road that's just a flat area. Turn right, you cover an easy turn (kind of like a banana) go less than 2 blocks..." Well, as one might imagine, this description pretty much left us perplexed except we knew water runs downhill so we needed to look uphill from the cabin. We had nearly given up when I spotted some greenery...that might mean water! There it was. Sandy and Mary meanwhile had found a second spring box downhill in the meadow. EUREKA!

After assessing the condition of the spring box and the necessary tools and material needed to repair it, we took very careful measurements with compass strides, and GPS coordinates so the next party will hopefully immediately find that spring box (exactly 200 yards at 10 degrees north from, not the cabin but the shed!) After all that, we only had to ride the 12 miles back to camp.

This work party was more riding and recon than anything else because most of the work areas were at least 8 miles out from base camp. Next trip we may make base camp somewhat closer to the actual work areas. Regardless of all that, Ted and I took many lessons from our very experienced teachers, our older (new to us) mules Beth, Festus, Jake and Rosie. These sweet, patient mules (who knew much more about packing than their new owners, were given to Ted and me by the Cunninghams, last fall.



# Unit News



## REDSHANK RIDERS CROSSCUT SAW TRAINING COURSE

*By Michael Lewis, Redshank Riders Unit*

In the middle of May this year, myself and I joined four members of the Redshank Riders Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of California, along with three others, and got the rare opportunity to attend a forest service crosscut saw certification course held by PCTA volunteer Kim Owen in Idyllwild, CA. This class was made possible through the hard work and perseverance of Associate Regional PCTA Representative Sam Commarto with help from Representative Greg Baxter.

At first I thought it would fun to learn to cut timber the way it was done a century ago, but after a few minutes in class I realized it's much more than just learning to cut a log. It involved safety, situational awareness, communication, handling members of a team, along with analyzing the best way to remove an obstacle (tree) from across a trail, what it would do when cut, (binds, tensions, spring poles), and knowing when to walk away.

Day one found us at the local Forest Service Station for four hours of classroom. I thought this would be pretty tough to sit through when all you want to do is go out and cut something, but in the end I realized how important it really was and Kim managed to keep it interesting. Afternoon found us in our local forest in a meadow with several downed trees. I thought "At last, we get to saw."



Kim split us into two groups of four, Sam with one group and Kim with the other. I ended up with Kim's group and approaching the first log he looked at

me and said, "Tell me how you would approach this situation". This set me back a moment and when my brain began to function once more I did look around and assess the tree and its surroundings, safety, obstacles, jobs for the crew, and finally how best to make the cut with consideration of what the tree would do when cut. I didn't fail too badly this first time and over the next day and a half it became easier and more natural.

We learned about top bind, bottom bind, side bind, end bind and root bind, along with compression, tension, widow makers and escape routes. Through it all Kim was helpful, understanding, and saw potential in us all. In the end we all got our "A" or "B" certification and appreciated the time and effort it took Kim to travel all the way down from Washington to our neck of the woods to teach this class.

As a packer, I see this as an opportunity to do more than just move tools and supplies, but also help clear trails for others. Most of what we ride in down here is wilderness so this is the only option to clear trees from our trails. I also look forward to the day that I may be able to teach what I learn to others. Thanks again to Kim Owen. I hope we cross paths again in the future. Thanks also to Sam Commarto and Greg Baxter for all their help.



*Tim Turpin, Kim Owen, Don Salazar, Bob Jones, Michael Lewis, Pete Spencer*

The deadline for submissions for the  
Winter 2012 edition  
of The Backcountry News is:  
**FRIDAY,, DECEMBER 16, 2011**  
Send submissions to [news@bchcalifornia.org](mailto:news@bchcalifornia.org) OR  
[cjohargreaves@verizon.net](mailto:cjohargreaves@verizon.net)  
OR mail to  
1229 Maple Hill Ct., Manteca, CA 95336-5125



# Unit News

## SHASTA TRINITY UNIT NEWS

*Submitted by Kim Gardner, VP/Newsletter Editor*

The Shasta-Trinity Unit started off very slow this summer, our Memorial Day camp move in for the Backcountry Crew of California Conservation Corp (BCCC) was delayed until June 25th due to all the late spring snows. Since then we have provided stock help every Saturday for food resupplies and two camp moves on July 9 and August 6. Even on August 6, we were dealing with six-foot snow drifts which kept us from getting over the summit. We had to leave the camp supplies 500 feet from the summit and the BCCC crews packed the entire camp on their backs over the summit.

This year has been less demanding on our unit in terms of the number of stock needed as the US Forest Service purchased 13 new mules this spring from Tennessee and they are working out great. The USFS could not have asked for better stock. I can't tell you how great it was to see the USFS invest in new, young stock that work well and will serve for many years to come. I was able to witness first hand a string of eight new mules moving the camp in to Boulder on July 9 and what a sight to see them work so well. It put a new life into a packing program that was headed for extinction.

On July 28, the Shasta Trinity Unit held its annual fish plant program in Trinity Center. The Department of Fish & Game worked hard with the USFS and Shasta Trinity Unit to make this year's program a success. We planted over 650 "catchable" eagle lake trout into three mountain lakes: Big Bear, Little Boulder and Granite. We had 100 percent success/survival rate at each lake. The eagle lake trout were 1/2 -1 pound and 10-14" long. Due to their size, we were only able to put 12-14 in each ice chest pannier so a large number of stock was required to complete the project. Our membership stepped up to the plate and responded with over 60 people for dinner and 28 pack animals provided.

On August 15-18, the Shasta Trinity Unit hosted the Trinity Alps Wilderness Partnership Trip into Long Canyon. Over 35 people showed up for dinner on Monday and 16 people rode into Long Canyon for two nights in the wilderness with the BCCC. We had four representatives from the CCC; one from PCTA; two from Trinity County RAC; six from BCHC and twelve from the USFS (both the Shasta-Trinity Forest and the Klamath Forest). The partnership between the three entities (CCC, USFS, and BCHC) was discussed at length and the benefits of this partnership were evident to all. The government employees that rode into Long Canyon got to hear first hand from the BCCC kids how their experience in the wilderness has changed their lives and they also got to see the extreme hard work the BCCC crews do to maintain/repair the trail systems.

There have been some recent newspaper articles in our area that may interest you:

- 1) Red Bluff Daily News, August 10 --The old ways--on the front page. [http://www.redbluffdailynews.com/news/ci\\_18653066](http://www.redbluffdailynews.com/news/ci_18653066)
- 2) Record Searchlight, June 30--Mules moving to Redding—video <http://www.redding.com/news/2011/jun/30/group-to-pasture-mules/>
- 3) Trinity Journal, August 3 - <http://www.trinityjournal.com/news/2011-08-03/outdoors/NORTH-STATE-OUTDOOR-NEWS.html>



Photos by Susie Blackburn,  
Shasta Trinity Unit



# Unit News

## LAKE-MENDO GUYS PACK TO KLAMATH

By Paul Villanueva, President, Lake-Mendo Unit



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Don Bone and Paul Villanueva set out on the PCT

The first week of August 2011 turned out to be the perfect weather for a pack trip on the Pacific Crest Trail from Seiad Valley, California to Mt. Ashland in Oregon. On Saturday, August 6, BCHC Lake-Mendo President Paul Villanueva and member Don Bone left the Grider Creek trailhead on a four-day pack trip, heading north to the PCT off Highway 96. On the steady climb out of the Seiad Valley the two encountered a number of fallen trees to cut and clear. Don and Paul logged volunteer work hours for trail clearing on this trip!

The trip was planned with water and feed in mind. The 22-mile first day was a hard pull on fully packed stock to the beautiful Spongy Meadow camp filled with lush grass and pools of running spring water. The view of the red rock mountain to the west of the meadow was breathtaking. The second day's leg of the trip was also a workout for the animals, traveling 17 miles and encountering a number of downed trees to remove or go around to arrive the second night Alex Hole Camp just off the PCT. In the morning, after a short grazing before graining, the animals took off following the lead horse that broke a hobble. Don and Paul gave chase to no avail as the stock headed down the PCT 17 miles to the first night's camp. Don, who gave out after five miles, returned to camp and Paul tracked the animals all day, getting input about the critters' location from hikers he passed. With no food or water and only a knife, lighter, sweatshirt, grain bag and two lead ropes, Paul continued the chase. Catching up with the stock grazing in the Spongy Meadow camp some ten hours later, Paul ran into a hiker who gave him a mixture of trail mix and an empty water bottle. The return trip, riding bare back four miles, leading one horse and the other two animals following to the trailhead off Road 40S01, was tough. Spending the night on the ground tending a camp fire to stay warm under a full moon was tiring. Starting at first light, the 13-mile return trip to camp was painful riding bareback. Reaching camp at 10:00 a.m., Don was relieved to see Paul and their stock all in one piece. After a small breakfast of oatmeal Don and Paul decided to continue on with the additional 13 miles to the final night's camp at Sheep Camp in Oregon. Completing this leg made a 26 mile day for Paul with no sleep the night before and little food. A good night's sleep and hot food were well appreciated!

The final leg of the trip was not uneventful. Don and Paul ran into a hiking group that informed them of an impassable snow drift and a very large downed tree on steep terrain. Detours were planned; the final 13 miles to the Ashland Mt. Shelter was underway. Taking the planned detours seemed to be working fine until the large tree was encountered and it did seem impassable. Checking the upper hillside, Paul and Don decided to walk the lead horse off the trail and above the log on a very steep side hill with 3-foot vertical cuts off the trail. Planning to take one animal at a time did not work when all the animals took off after Paul. Trying to keep them in the right order was tough. Getting past this final obstacle left an easy ride to the final destination and stock trailer waiting at the end.

There is a moral to this story. **BE PREPARED AT ALL TIMES AND KEEP ESSENTIAL ITEMS FOR SURVIVAL ON YOUR PERSON, EVEN IN CAMP.** You never know when you might need to leave in a hurry. When hobbling, keep a continuous visual on your animals and make sure your lead animal is well restrained with hobbles *and* picket line. A 34-mile round trip retrieving your stock can be a real physical test on a tired body!



# Unit News

## MID VALLEY UNIT'S CLARK FORK TRAIL PROJECT

Photos and article by Karen Lopes, Mid Valley Unit

WOW! What an awesome trip we had at Clark Fork, July 18-22! There were great people, super food, and lots of trail clearing accomplished! We had a great turnout as well! Here are the folks who showed up to help: Rudy Dezzani, Karen Barindelli, Katherine Reeves, Richard Hodgson, Doug, Cathy, & Garrett Dolarhide, Bob Magee, Sam Flippins, Jerrie & Bob Thomas, Joan Wilkinson, Isabel Suoja & granddaughter, Makayla, Katherine Kellogg, Johnny Leal, and Ron & Diane Stearns! What a wonderful group of people! We were able to clear the entire stretch of overgrown manzanita and buck brush about three quarters of a mile's worth! We also cleared the trail up the river to the Iceberg Meadow crossing, and down the river for about 3-4 miles.

Thanks to the financial support of Mid Valley, we had wonderful dinners every night! And thank you to everyone who helped with the dinners that was one job that I am just not too good at! Some folks had previously signed up to take on dinner for a specific night; but once we were there, everyone just pitched in and really helped make the dinners wonderful! We were all very fortunate that Makayla was celebrating a birthday while we were up there, because Isabel had birthday cake and ice cream for everyone to enjoy!

American Land & Leisure was very accommodating! They had a 'Reserved' sign up for us at the group horse camp, as well as a 'Welcome' sign on the way in! Once I arrived Sunday evening, they even brought over a 'Thank-You' card thanking me as well as the entire Mid Valley Unit for taking on this endeavor to clear the horse trails. They said we could plan on doing this again next year and we could even start our work on the weekend to offer more folks a chance to come up and participate! It is nice when other people appreciate the work and effort our volunteers put forth for the benefit of all trail users!

Remember, the chain saw, additional safety equipment, and the loppers were purchased with money from an American Quarter Horse Association STEP program grant. This equipment will, of course, be used for other projects as well. It is a great addition to our trail clearing tool box. An additional "Thank You" to Bob Magee who purchased all of this equipment haggling for a great price, and donating the chain cover/scabbard as well!

*Continued at top of next column*



BEFORE



AFTER

For those that were still around on the final day, we drove to the end of the Clark Fork road and took the Clark Fork Trail up the river, past Boulder Creek, to my favorite waterfall! Joan was our fearless leader what a great trail horse she has! We cleared one small log that was in the trail, using my small handsaw. Rudy was such a gentleman. I only got a few cuts in before he took over and completed the job! We had a nice stop at the waterfalls and took lots of pictures. What a perfect end to a wonderful, productive, and fun week!

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## MID VALLEY UNIT CLEARS KIBBIE RIDGE TRAIL, *continued from Page 16*

The next day, Saturday, with nothing left to do on the Kibbie Ridge Trail, the power guys headed down to clear the Kibbie Lake Trail of trees. After a long day, this group cleaned up 35 additional trees and made the lake accessible to hikers and stock alike. The Emigrant group cleaned up the remainder of their section in the morning. After this was completed and a lunch break, we reversed direction to ride over Styx Pass and down into Lords Meadow. Other than needing some rock work and minor repair, that section of the trail is passable. We had hoped to clear the section of Lords Meadow from the west side, where we were, to the trail cleared by last year's crew on the east side, but we ran out of time.

While we were doing our trail work, there was a steady stream of people coming up the trail carrying kayaks heading to their put-in spot at Lords Meadow. From there they would run that fork of "world class" Cherry Creek down to Cherry Lake, a 2-day trip. There were at least two dozen kayakers who went by, all laboring greatly, carrying their boats and gear which must have weighed up to 90 pounds or so. Every one of them was quite pleasant and most appreciative of the trail being cleared.

Sunday was an exploring/go fishing day. Monday we broke down our camp, loaded the gear and departed for an uneventful trip out. All in all a very successful trip with a couple of major trails cleared and the weak places in two trucks identified as well!

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## ADAM BLAUERT: HORSEMEN KEEP TRAIL SAFE, *continued from Page 13*

In a recent conversation, Lopes described the connection between the work of the BCHC and the heritage of the Sierra Nevada: "Pack animals are an important part of the history of California's mountains. One of the BCHC's objectives is to keep alive the traditions of this way of life."

In addition to being a part of the BCHC, one of the best resources available for those who want to learn more about these traditions is Louise Jackson's "The Mule Men."

### Get involved

While the government agencies responsible for our parklands keep the primary trails open, it is thanks to folks like the BCHC that many of the secondary routes remain usable. The BCHC welcomes new members and is eager to increase youth involvement. If you are interested in helping to keep trails open, the BCHC would love to have you join them. For more information you can visit the website: [www.bchcmidvalley.org](http://www.bchcmidvalley.org) or contact Michael King, the unit's president, at (209) 606-8323.

If you are a member of any other group that helps to maintain trails in Central California, send me an e-mail and I'd be glad to feature your work in a future column.

*Outdoor columnist Adam Blauert is an avid outdoorsman and local historian who enjoys fishing, backpacking and exploring the western states. He can be reached at [adamblauert@yahoo.com](mailto:adamblauert@yahoo.com).*

# Announcements

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

The following 79 new members joined BCHC since 4/29/2011.

Antelope Valley	Hillery Pullinger
Eastern Sierra	Laura Roberts
High Sierra	Nick Knitson
	Beth Lasswell
	Pat Plume
Kern River Valley	Jess, Ben & Katie Donoho
Los Padres	Ryan Brookshier and Ryann Starcher
	Richard Cabrera
	Jack and Shelly Cargill
	Karen and Tim Cornelius
	Thomas Desfosses
	Dan DeVaul
	Fred and Kathy Forgnone
	Alexis Forgnone
	Patty and Fred Gaunt
	Joe Gomez
	Elizabeth Higgason
	Ernest Kleiboe
	Deborah LaSala
	Allene Martinez
	Helen Merenda
	Joel Miller & Nicole Wiggin Miller
	Chris Sean Moriarty
	Launa and David Morton
	Steven and Irene Munguia
	Beth and Tom Pfeiler
	Mike and Hilde Romelfanger
	Stanley Ruskow
	Cali Tanguay
	Denny and Bob Thomas
	Tom and Maureen Truxler
Mid Valley	Joyce Barber
	Tiffany Blackwell & Jeff Devore
	Cindy and Hal Denton
	Priscilla Hauschildt
	Craig and Susan Lee
	Devin Nelson
	Al and Kelli O'Brien
	Raul and Linda Perez
	Jeanna Santa Lucia
	Ernie and Maria Warzyca
North Bay	Mariah Hanson
	Mardi and Bob Moore
	Marianne Skinner
Ohlone Riders	Donald and Nicki Kerns
	Sara Leslie
Redshank Riders	Greg and Susan Bruce
	Paul and Sue Geer
Redshank Riders	Kathleen and John McFadden
	Connie Natratowski
	Patricia A. and Jenna A. Nelson
	Nancy O'Brien
	Gretchen and Jack Peckham
Redwood	Gary Alves
	Deanna Beeler
	Carol and Neal Notaro
	Ron and Joy Simson

## NEW MEMBERS, *continued*

San Joaquin Sierra	Sara Barlow
	Jim and Debby Dixon
	Scott Johnson
	Barbara and Doane Stewart
Santa Ana River	Meggin and Renell Robinson
Sequoia	Wilbur D. Brown, Jr. & Linda Brown
	Cheryl and Todd Coons
	Barbara Calkins-Faggart & Ted Faggart
	Marlana Garcia
	Russell Gavel
	Robert Hernandez
	Donald and Mary Ann Penwell
	David Prado
	Susan Shelton
Shasta Trinity	Michelle McFall
	Marilyn McIntosh
	Lori Richards
	Ken and Pat Snider
Sierra Freepackers	Jimmie L. Jameson
	Barbara and Doane Stewart
Top Of The State	Erin, Jeff & Kyle Fowle

## USEFUL WEBSITES



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

TrailMeister is "The Rider's Resource" with free trail maps, clear and accurate camp, trailhead, and driving directions. All trail information is validated by "hoof on the trail" and by land managers and trail user groups. TrailMeister also provides horse trail previews with great trail photos and video, gear reviews, and "how to's" for horseback riders, horse campers, and trail riders across the U.S.A. including Washington, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Louisiana, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, California, New Mexico, Indiana, Florida, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Kentucky, Utah, Montana, Oklahoma, Michigan, New York, Maine, Kansas, Tennessee and Missouri.



<http://www.elcr.org/index.php>

### EQUESTRIAN LAND CONSERVATION RESOURCE

The Equine Land Conservation (ELCR) is an educational and networking resource for horsemen and communities. ELCR works with the broad array of recreational and competitive horse owners such as riders, drivers, race horse owners and breeders, and the back yard pasture pal. ELCR regularly produces educational publications. Recently, they produced *Horses Make Good Neighbors* and a *Guide to Equestrian Friendly Conservation Easements* to assist horse farm owners with land conservation and a *White Paper* on equine access to Fish & Wildlife lands to assist trail riders when seeking additional riding miles on state and national fish and wildlife lands.



# The "Round Up"

## THANK YOU!!

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.

### BENEFACTORS

Antelope Valley	Carlos and Laurie Cabeza De Vaca Heidi Furer & Latha Hylton
Eastern Sierra	John D. Brown, III & Susan L. Harms Bill Carter Michelle Layne Vince and Doreen Patrizio James B. and Judy L. Waggoner
High Sierra	Richard and Dena Cochran Ruth and Grant Gerson Dennis and Cathlyn A. Keller
Kern River Valley Kern Sierra	Ken and Betty Finch Boyce 'Buzz' R. & Joann F. Caffee Mylon and Pat Filkins Edith Frick Don and Donna James
Los Padres	Robert E. Acquistapace Otis Calef William Chaides and Nancy Kimmell Eve, Sean, Sarah & Jacob Devine Mike and Mary Ann Mallory Richard Renck Glenn and Karen Teixeira Michael Vaughan
Mid Valley	Karen Barindelli Jay and Elizabeth Barnes Gary A. and Michelle L. Cain Jackie Conner Dennise A. Davis Rien and Lieske Doornenbal Lloyd and Susan Erlandson Carol Jo Hargreaves & Larry Schneider Jim Huffman David and Kristine Kraft MID VALLEY UNIT - BCHC Janice D., Kelly & Lars Paulsen Dennis M. and Loretta Serpa Kathy Zumbrunn & Jon Caudill
Mother Lode North Bay	Ken and Gerry Bourn Victoria Harris Alan and Carolyn Mahoney
Ohlone Riders	Robert Ferrand Sarah and David Schoen
Redshank Riders	Elaine E. Hill & John H. Schoettler Gregory and Deborah Long Michelle Nicolaidis/Nicolaidis Enterprises, Inc. Ken and Allison Renck John H. Schoettler & Elaine E. Hill

### BENEFACTORS, continued

Redwood San Diego	Maris Hawkins Susanne Holenstein Holly and Dan Salzman Ben York
San Gorgonio Pass	Paul "Chip" and Linda Herzig Susanne Holenstein Ron and Korky Robertson
San Joaquin Sierra	Ernest C. Burroughs John and Jenise Cunningham Kenneth and Diane Dalby Toby and Katie Horst Larry and Nishma Knapp-Yosemite Trls Pk Sta Linda Steiner Jamie Throgmorton
Santa Ana River Sequoia	Pat and Maia Wolff Charles and Dahne Airoza Jamie Wilson, DVM
Shasta Trinity Sutter Buttes	Douglas and Shawna Powell Corky Layne Shirley Sherwood

### PATRONS

Antelope Valley High Sierra	Stephen and Mary Ann Colf Stan Barnes Jeff and Alice Kampen Marty Morehart Karl and Trish Pendegraft
Kern Sierra Los Padres Mid Valley North Bay Sequoia	Vincent and Donna Zaninovich Si and Karen Jenkins Terri Arington Barbara Weitz/Bay Area Barns & Trails Trust Jim and Pat Holly Larry and Jody Young



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Becky Wolk  
(530) 622-1907  
[rwzbzbranch@localnet.com](mailto:rwzbzbranch@localnet.com)

## **North Bay**

1055 W College Ave  
PMB 153  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401-5036  
Thor Bodtker  
(415) 328-4545  
[Thunder.t@hotmail.com](mailto:Thunder.t@hotmail.com)

## **Ohlone Riders**

PO Box 5262  
San Jose, CA 95150-5262  
Kathy Woods  
(408) 266-9828  
[ksmithwoods@yahoo.com](mailto:ksmithwoods@yahoo.com)

## **Redshank Riders**

PO Box 383  
Aguanga, CA 92536-0383  
Stacy Kuhns  
(909) 633-1705  
[stacykuhns@aol.com](mailto:stacykuhns@aol.com)

## **Redwood**

PO Box 6023  
Eureka, CA 95502-6023  
Carole Polasek  
(707) 786-9637  
[muleride@frontiernet.net](mailto:muleride@frontiernet.net)

## **San Diego**

236 Oak St  
Ramona, CA 92065-1952  
Cheryl Wegner  
(760) 788-0354  
[president@bchcsd.com](mailto:president@bchcsd.com)

## **San Gorgonio Pass**

PO Box 535  
Beaumont, CA 92223  
Paul "Chip" Herzig  
(951) 769-3781  
[chryvchip@msn.com](mailto:chryvchip@msn.com)

## **San Joaquin Sierra**

PO Box 25693  
Fresno, CA 93729-5693  
John Mikkelson  
(559) 289-4911  
[jessecowboy@comcast.net](mailto:jessecowboy@comcast.net)

## **Santa Ana River**

PO Box 6871  
Norco, CA 92860-8062  
Thad Chodakauskas  
(951) 735-2746

## **Sequoia**

PO Box 456  
Springville, CA 93265-0579  
Jamie Wilson, DVM  
(559) 202-7216  
[Drjamie91@earthlink.net](mailto:Drjamie91@earthlink.net)

## **Shasta Trinity**

10855 Beaver Rd  
Oak Run, CA 96069-9602  
Sam Burrows  
(530) 547-5975  
[sburrows@frontiernet.net](mailto:sburrows@frontiernet.net)

## **Sierra Freepackers**

PO Box 64  
Oakhurst, CA 93644-0064  
Mike Esra  
(559) 325-0292  
[mgebk@osbacces.com](mailto:mgebk@osbacces.com)

## **Sutter Buttes**

4265 Markley Rd  
Yuba City, CA 95993-9659  
Ben DuBose  
(530) 573-1053  
[dubosefarm@yahoo.com](mailto:dubosefarm@yahoo.com)

## **Top of the State**

PO Box 461  
Etna, CA 96027-0461  
Joe Croteau  
(530) 468-2339  
[jjcroteau@sisqtel.net](mailto:jjcroteau@sisqtel.net)



## 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

## Membership Matters

Contact Membership Coordinators, **Chip & Linda Herzig**. Chip or Linda will be happy to address your questions or concerns.

Chip & Linda may be reached Monday through Friday.

By mail: **BCHC Membership PO Box 535, Beaumont, CA 92223**

By email: [membership@bchcalifornia.org](mailto:membership@bchcalifornia.org)

By toll free phone: **(866) 748-2033. In 951 area code: 769-3781**

## BCHC STATE BOOTH

The BCHC State Booth is badly out of date and no longer reflects what BCHC units really do.


We need new photos showing current events and activities. Every unit should be represented in the traveling BCHC display.

Please send photos to Lynn Joiner. You may email digital photos to Lynn at [lynnjoiner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lynnjoiner@sbcglobal.net) or snail mail paper photos to her at 16347 Stephenie Road, Bakersfield, CA 93314-9669. Your photos will be returned only if you send a stamped, self-addressed envelope when you submit photos to Lynn.

Thank you for your help with this important project!



# BCHC 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 Geronio     |                    |

**MAIL TO:**  
 BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN  
 OF CALIFORNIA  
 PO Box 535  
 Beaumont CA 92223

## 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 Back Country 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](mailto:membership@bchcalifornia.org)