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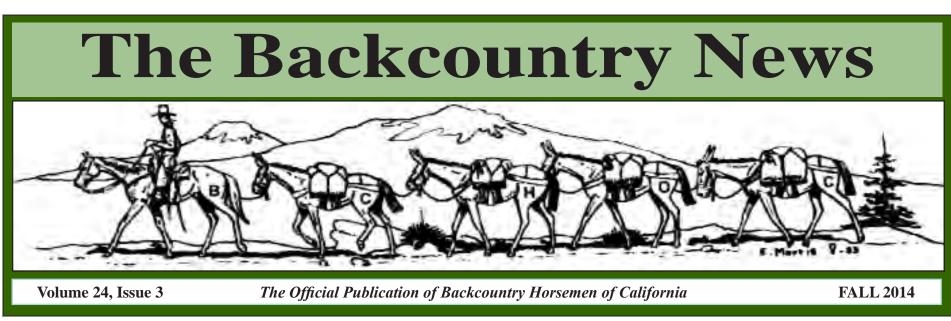
For more BCHC information, see our website: bchcalifornia.org

BCHC

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA 13061 Rosedale Hwy Suite G, Box 217 Bakersfield, CA 93314

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### 2015 BCHC Rendezvous Date & Location Announced!

The 2015 Rendezvous will be held on March 13th, 14th and 15th 2015 at the Calaveras Fair Grounds in Angels Camp, CA. Info coming to website soon: www.frogtown.org - Below are some photos from the 2013 Rendezvous which was held in Norco, CA.



2 different ways to teach packing, at the 2014 Rendezvous.

Photos by Laurie Stanton & Allison Renck



See More - Continued on Page 14-15

The Backcountry News - FALL 2014

### The **Backcountry** News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

Editor · Rhonda Strickland

Menifee, California

(951) 951-522-8757

Email: news@bchcalifornia.org or BCHC.News@gmail.com Backcountry Horsemen of California Official Website:

www.bchcalifornia.org

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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)4 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 spaceavailable 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.

<b>Deadline</b>		<u>Pul</u>	blication D	late
December 19, 2	2014	Jan	uary 2015	– Winter
April 17, 2015		Ma	y 2015 - Si	oring/Summer
August 17, 201			otember 20	
Advertising Rates per	Issue: Ra	ates effect	tive Januar	y 2012. All ads must
be paid in advance.				
Number of Issues:	1	2	3	
Full Page Half Page (h/v)	\$150.00	\$142.50		
Half Page (h/v)	\$100.00	\$95.00	\$90.00	Cost

\$76.00 \$72.00

Quarter Page (h/v) Bus. Card (h/v) \$25.00 \$23.75 \$22.50 Issue Advertising: All ads must include all fonts and images used in artwork. Ads must be at a resolution of 300 pixels per inch at the actual size used in the artwork. Mail payment to the BCHC Treasurer. Checks returned from the bank will have a \$25.00 return check fee. No advertising will be accepted from advertisers with outstanding balances. Liability by The Backcountry News shall not exceed the space occupied by the error. Never shall The Backcountry News be liable for any general, special or consequential damages. All claims for adjustments must be made within 30 days of the first publication of said ad.

\$80.00

### **2014 Executive Committee**

#### President

Richard Waller • (805) 489-8885 • homeranch@gmail.com

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lloyd Erlandson • (209) 632-6470 • Lloyd.Erlandson0@gmail.com

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Stacy Kuhns • (909) 633-1705 • stacykuhns@aol.com

Secretary

Kaye Bruns · (661) 803-5075 · kowgrl@charter.net

Treasurer

Lynn Joiner • (661) 747-6347 • lynnjoiner7@gmail.com

Vice President of Public Lands Thor Bodtker • (415) 328-4545 • thunder.t@hotmail.com

#### Vice Presidents of Education

Dan Horn · (707) 544-4543 · bearstrap@msn.com Denise Robinson • (559) 877-3532 • robnden@netptc.net

**BCHA Executive Director/Chairman** Jim McGarvey • (706) 669-1015 ExecDirector@backcountryhorse.com

#### **BCHA National Directors**

Ann Lange · (760) 378-2113 · kvvet@onemain.com Pete Kriger • (909) 910-4619 • pkrigerjr@yahoo.com

#### **BCHA Alternate Director**

Dan Clifford • (619) 659-3038 • bigeasycowboy@mac.com

### **2014 State Coordinators**

#### Accounting

Weir and Associates • (661) 323-1514

#### **Annual Meeting**

Kaye Bruns · (661) 803-5075 · kowgrl@charter.net

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Rhonda Strickland • (951) 522-8757 • news@bchcalifornia.org

#### Insurance

Lloyd Erlandson · (209) 632-6470 · Lloyd.Erlandson0@gmail.com

#### Membership

per

Chip and Linda Herzig · (775) 436-3634 · membership@bchcalifornia.org

#### **Rendezvous General Chairmen**

Lloyd Erlandson • (209) 632-6470 • Lloyd.Erlandson0@gmail.com Mike Kohlbaker • (916) 214-6505 • 4horsen@sbcglobal.net

#### **BCHC Youth Coordinator**

Jacque Murphy • (707) 498-6648 • brennaluet@hotmail.com

#### Web Coordinator

Jacque Murphy • (707) 498-6648 • brennaluet@hotmail.com

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## **President's Page**



It is September now, moving onto October, Fall is coming, and as Dave Stamey tells us; "Cold high mountain wind, just like some worried friend, telling me I'd better get a move on, clouds are rolling way up high, through the trees come a lonesome sigh of the mountain wind.... Aspens are turning. "It is the season of the yellow aspen, and ice along the creek banks so it's time to get our final pack trips into

Richard Waller with mustang "Jeffers" and pack mule "Abbey"

the high mountains; time for us coastal riders to plan our fall, winter and spring trips into our snowless hills; time also for our October Board of Directors Meeting in Visalia. This is a critically important meeting, I encourage all unit delegates to attend.

We, the state directors, both the executive and state board have long wrestled with funding. It is important that our dues do not increase above the current level for the foreseeable future. To accomplish that, we need to move away from membership based funding. If we are to do that, we need to have other sources of revenue, which is why we now have a state grant writer, Nancy Kimmel Chaides.

I would like to see each unit have a grant writer to work on funding for unit projects. In the past several years on behalf of the Los Padres Unit, I have applied for and received \$10,500 in grants for trail work on the Los Padres Forest, \$5,000 of that was just a few weeks ago for a trail project that has been adopted by the our partner, The Wilderness Society, as one of their 50 trails for the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. It is a vital link on the 400 mile long Condor Trail. I am not a trained or experienced grant writer; I just jumped into the deep water. I encourage each unit to find members willing to take that jump.

The Backcountry Horsemen of America's national board meeting will be held in early 2015 in Sacramento, BCHC is hosting the meeting. Dennis Serpa has been working hard to organize the multi day conference. This is a great opportunity to showcase our state and BCHC.

There are issues throughout the state that units and BCHC are working on, from Cuyamaca State Park in the south, to the Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park management plan, to the Emigrant Wilderness, and north to Snow Mountain Berryessa, and more. The work that you and your units are doing to preserve our right to ride on our public lands is priceless. I read recently that since 1995 all the state chapters of Backcountry Horsemen of America have contributed over \$100,000,000 in volunteer work on our nation's public lands. I don't know of any other organization that comes close to that. This is something we can all be proud of. Yet, our work, our efforts must be on going. Our opposition is not the agencies, but, is very well funded and largely misguided groups that do not reflect rural or historical values as we do. Increasing our effectiveness and efficiency is so important to our mission.

A refrain I repeat often is; "we are not a riding club, we are a political action organization, with a very important mission". We are dedicated to the proposition that the mode of transportation that made the exploration and settling of this great country possible, shall not perish from our great country.

Richard Waller BCHC President

### **End of Year Unit Reports**

It is that time again....our state meeting will be October 4<sup>th</sup> (45-day notice was emailed on August 15<sup>th</sup>) at the Holiday Inn in Visalia. On Saturday night, after the dinner prepared for us by the High Sierra Unit, unit reports will be given. Presidents are to give a brief synopsis of the activities that were held in their unit for the year (including any upcoming events through December 2014).

Each unit is responsible for giving a hard copy to

the Secretary for the State Notebook.

A copy of your report can be emailed to:

kowgrl@charter.net or bring to the meeting.

Thank you!

Kaye Bruns ~ BCHC Secretary



BCHC Membership Mailing Address & Phone No.

1280 State Rt. 208, Yerington NV 89447

Email: membership@bchcalifornia.org

By phone: (775) 463-3634

## BCHA

#### Backcountry Horsemen of America Old Spanish Trail Trek Autumn of 2014 and Summer of 2015

Ride will consist of 1200 miles of riding with pack stock from Cajon Pass, CA to Santa Fe, New Mexico

The Old Spanish Trail as it is known is neither old nor Spanish. While old by American standards, dating from 1829, it is far from old compared to the length of Spanish settlement in the Southwest. The trail was named the Old Spanish trail by Captain John C. Fremont, who, as with so many things got it wrong.

The Backcountry Horsemen of America's Old Spanish Trail Trek's mission is to educate and promote the public knowledge of and interest in both the Backcountry Horsemen and the Old Spanish Trail.

The Backcountry Horsemen work to preserve and protect the public's right to ride on our public lands.

The Old Spanish Trail is part of our American cultural heritage bringing this trail to the attention of the nation will serve to protect it for the generations to come.

This ride will replicate and commemorate the Old Spanish Trail trading route that linked New Mexico with California during the years 1829 to 1848.

The team will consist of about 10 men and women, who will both ride, and drive the needed vehicles. Members of Backcountry Horsemen of California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico are invited to ride with us on sections. We plan to ride 600 miles to the Cedar City Utah area starting in October, and the final 600 from there to Santa Fe, starting Spring or Summer 2015

Trail Boss: Richard Waller

homeranch@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed: Riders, logistics, fundraising, film makers and more.

To view updates on Facebook search Backcountry-Horsemen-Old-Spanish-Trail-Trek See their website here: http://wanderingthewest.com/oldspanish-trail/ost.html

## BCHA

#### Back Country Horsemen of America Expands Their Reach to Benefit Equestrians Across the US

By Sarah Wynne Jackson

Back Country Horsemen of America, the organization that works hard to protect our right to ride horses on public lands, is bigger than ever. Membership now totals over 13,300 members nationwide, with chapters in 27 states. In 2013 alone, those members contributed 368,000 volunteer hours valued at \$14 million aimed directly at keeping trails open for horses and other users. Over 30,247 miles of trails were maintained. They've welcomed several new State Organizations that carry their benefits to equestrians across the country, and even re-designed their popular website.

#### BCH in "The Natural State"

Arkansas Back Country Horsemen, previously an Affiliate Organization, has met the requirements and was recently accepted as a BCH State Organization. Equestrians in Arkansas enjoy many miles of trails that meander through the state's wild landscapes.

The 6,911 acre Village Creek State Park is its second largest state park and includes Crowley's Ridge, a landform of rolling hills in eastern Arkansas' Mississippi Alluvial Plain with unique geology, topography, and unusual plant communities. Riders also return frequently to the 75 photogenic miles of trails along the running rapids and quiet pools of the Buffalo National River, which passes decades-old farmsteads and other historic structures.

#### **BCH from Coast to Coast**

For the first time in history, Back Country Horsemen of America now has a state presence from the Pacific to the Atlantic since Back Country Horsemen of Kansas became a State Organization. Equestrians in the Sunflower State ride across the plains, prairies, hills, and forests in a variety of public lands.

In the southwest corner of Kansas, the Cimarron National Grasslands encompass 108,175 acres, the largest area of public land in the state. These wide open plains showcase rock cliffs, cottonwood groves, yucca, and sage, along with native grasses and riparian vegetation along the Cimarron River. Eisenhower State Park, located 30 miles south of Topeka, includes 1,785 acres of tall grass prairie and woodland in addition to the 6,930-acre Melvern Lake. Horse trails offer a variety of terrain and scenic lake views.

#### **BCH in the East**

Although Back Country Horsemen of America was founded in the west, their vision has caught fire and is steadily spreading across the country. BCHA is pleased to welcome Florida Forever Back Country Horsemen, previously an Affiliate Organization, as a new State Organization. FFBCH has always had the characteristic "get it done" attitude of all Back Country Horsemen.

Over 30 members logged a total of more than 300 volunteer hours clearing 10 miles of the Withlacoochee State Trail for equestrian use near the town of Nobleton. Previously, this stretch of trail was badly overgrown and nearly impassable. They also worked with a number of other equestrian groups to perform trail maintenance on the Bear Head Hammock Horse Trail in the Two Mile Prairie Tract, part of Withlacoochee State Forest.

#### **Stay Informed**

Back Country Horsemen of America recently unveiled a new website at www.backcountryhorse.com. This is your one stop spot to keep up with BCHA's many projects, learn more about responsible equestrian recreation, and find out how you can get involved with protecting our right to ride horses on public lands. You'll find their updated brand, front and center on the home page. Their virtual storefront makes it easy to purchase books, bumper stickers, CDs, patches, and more while supporting a cause you stand behind.

#### **Get Involved!**

The folks at Back Country Horsemen of America are humbled and thrilled to have experienced such growth in recent years. This is an exciting time to be a part of BCHA! Don't miss out – join now! Go to www.backcountryhorse.com to find a chapter near you, or contact BCHA directly and they'll tell you how to start one. Every new member makes a difference in their efforts to preserve this historical use of public lands. **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** 

June 30, 2014

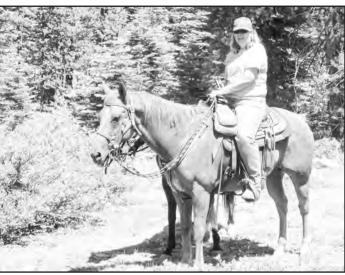
Submitted by Peg Greiwe



Richard Waller



BCHC Executive Committee Board Meeting High Sierra Horse Camp Kingvale, CA July 18-20, 2014 Submitted by Kaye Bruns



Stacy Kuhns



Lunch stop with Dan Horn, Richard Waller, Denise Robinson

Chip Herzig





Lloyd Erlandson



The board hard at work

### BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

### **Black Bear Sense**

A COMMON SENSE GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING BEARS

ALT

A leaf fell in the woods. The eagle saw it.

The deer heard ít. And the bear smelled ít.

You humans have me figured to be just like Yogi, BooBoo or your cuddly stuffed Teddy Bear. Please remember; I am a wild animal. Statistically, you are quite safe from us bears. We do add a risk to you visiting the backcountry but you take a much greater risk driving to the trailhead. Even if you should die in the wilderness, you are much more likely to fall off a cliff, drown, suffer heart failure or succumb to hypothermia than you are to be attacked by one of us bears.

My eyesight is not perfect but my sense of smell and hearing are very keen. I can smell you humans coming for quite some distance and I'll usually be gone at the first whiff of human intrusion. There are some of us bears you have invited in for milk and cookies. To some of my fellow bears, the smell of humans in the woods works like a dinner bell. All of us bears remember where our meals come from. We aren't dumb and our stomachs rule. We have a road map sketched in our minds. All the best restaurants (campsites, berry patches, cars, oak groves, etc.) are located on this map and we will visit them again in a couple of days.

We bears are intelligent and opportunistic critters and when we become accustomed to the idea that humans share our space, we readily take advantage of everything that association has to offer — such as helping ourselves to your delicious pork and beans, granola bars, bacon, toothpaste, soap. Some of us have even cultivated a taste for chocolate. We will also eat chapstick and deodorant. With noses like ours, it is impossible to hide the fact that you are keeping all that good stuff in your tent, your car, or your camper! Our noses lead us to the food and our incredible strength gets us past almost any obstacle. We are able to open the side of your trailer as though we had can openers for claws. We will open cans of spaghetti sauce and ravioli. The fact is, when we bears are offered the choice, we will almost always opt for the easiest meal at hand; we have discovered that beef stew with milk and cookies tastes better than grubs!

If we gain access to your food, we become habituated. That means we become dependent on human food sources and are less afraid of humans. Therefore, it is critical that we never gain access to human food. You humans need to mind your manners while you are visiting the forests and parks. Take time to store your food properly at the campground and in the backcountry. It is your moral and legal responsibility. Proper food storage makes the difference between a wild bear and a dead bear because problem bears are often destroyed. The following suggestions may make the difference of having a good time during your visit or going home angry and upset. Please help us both stay alive.

Continued on Page 9

### REMINDER FALL STATE BOARD MEETING October 3-4, 2014, 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 3-4, 2014.

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

Let the hotel know you are attending the Backcountry Horsemen meetings.

Reservation phone #: 1-800-465-4329

\*Education and Public Lands will be meeting together again this year

#### 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 Dinner Meeting: Friday, October 3, 2014, 6 p.m.

Joint Education and Public Lands Committee Meeting: Saturday: October 4, 2014, 9 a.m. to noon

State Board of Directors Meeting: Saturday, October 4, 2014, 1 to 5 p.m., followed by BBQ dinner by the High Sierra Unit with unit reports after dinner

Unit presidents and directors will receive more details in the 45-day notice packet which will be mailed by September 20, 2014.



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

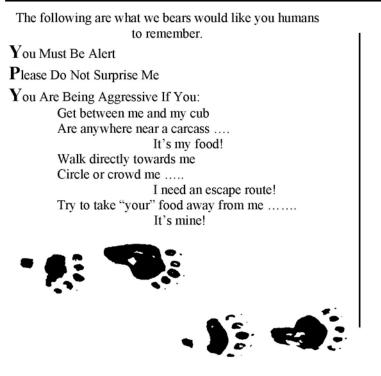
#### **OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE** of the **BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA** (from the BCHC Bylaws)

- 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

#### GET INVOLVED, DO YOUR PART

DON'T FORGET: The BCHC Executive Committee will no longer send out membership renewal verification "green slips" via regular mail. Instead, each unit president and membership chair will get a personal email from the BCHC Membership Chair (Chip Herzig) with each units' data AND it will be put on the web page in the password protected section.

### **Black Bear Essentials to Remember**



The following are some helpful hints to remember while visiting the forests and parks. Avoid a Confrontation Separate cooking and sleeping areas Store food and garbage properly Keep a clean camp site Avoid a Confrontation: Watch for these Signs Large areas of torn up ground Rocks or boulders turned over Logs or stumps torn apart Fish or dead animals Berries Claw marks on trees Bear scat Remember: Wild Animals Can Be Dangerous Bears habituated to food are dangerous Do not run

Try to look larger than you are

Do not bend down Each situation is different

#### REMEMBER

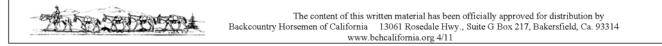
Bears have an extraordinary sense of smell. Bears are attracted to and will eat anything with an odor. While not normally aggressive towards humans, bears are possessive of their food and will defend it. They are very quick and powerful. DO NOT TRY TO RETRIEVE YOUR FOOD FROM A BEAR. If a bear gets into your food, stay a safe distance away and then be sure to clean up the mess afterwards. Report incidents to a ranger. You can keep bears wild and alive by storing your food properly. Just use some thought and preparation.

### PROPER FOOD STORAGE FOR BACKCOUNTRY USERS

On some trails you may be visited by bears every night. On others, you may not see bears your entire trip; however, that does not mean that bears do not live in that area. In all cases, the best way to store your food properly is in a portable, BEAR -RESISTANT CANISTER OR PANNIER. Safe food storage is as simple as placing the locked canister or pannier on the ground 50 feet from your camp. THIS METHOD OF FOOD STORAGE IS THE ONLY PROVEN, EFFECTIVE WAY TO STORE YOUR FOOD. It is required in some areas of the backcountry that you store your food in bear-resistant containers. Please check with the agencies about requirements before starting your trip. Canisters are for sale and rent at sporting goods stores and some ranger stations. Panniers are available through some saddle shops. Using a bear-resistant container allows for maximum freedom and safety while traveling and when choosing a camp location. The counter-balance method should be your last resort. This method is hard to do well, requires trees and rope, and bears often thwart it. In fact, bears will probably get your food if you do not get out of your warm bed and make some mighty loud noise and keep a sentinel on watch after the first visit.

### **PROPER FOOD STORAGE AT CAMPGROUNDS AND TRAIL-HEADS**

Food storage is just as important at campgrounds and trailheads. Having more people and vehicles around doesn't mean there is less danger of losing your food. To a bear, more people means more food. STORE ALL FOOD IN FOOD STORAGE LOCKERS IF THEY ARE AVAILABLE. If there are no lockers, then store the food and ice chest in your vehicle (better in the trunk), keep them covered and out of sight. Leaving food in your vehicle at the trailhead while you are in the



## **BCHC Education**



Dan Horn

### Education Fall 2014

By Dan Horn/ Denise Robinson, BCHC Vice Presidents of Education

### October 4, 2014 State Meeting in Visalia

Again we will be splitting the morning with Public Lands. The first half will be the Education Meeting from 9 am to 10:25 am. 10 minute break and Public Lands meeting will run from 10:35 until noon.

Agenda for the Education meeting:

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Membership Data-Chip Herzig
- Volunteer Hours-Stacy Kuhns
- Web Site-Facebook-Jacque Murphy
- Youth Education-Jacque Murphy
- Sawyer Certification Policy--Chip
- "LNT" Masters Course Provider:- Dan

#### New Business:

- Leadership (Officers)Training: Winter of 2015
- Rendezvous 2014: Mike Kohlbaker, Lloyd Erlandson
- Wilderness Celebration- Red Bluff-Kim Gardner
- "LNT" Masters Course Provider: Dan Horn
- Wilderness Rider Training- Summer 2015

If you have any additions to the Agenda, please contact Dan Horn

#### 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act

Wilderness Treasures – Celebrating 50 Golden Years will be at the Tehama District Fairground in Oct. 10-12.

This world-class event will feature the wide range of recreational opportunities, ecological diversity, conservation, perspectives, views and values associated with these unique public landscapes. It's being organized by federal agencies that manage land from the Bay Area and Sacramento north to the Oregon border and east to the Nevada border, and numerous recreational, nonprofit and land ethic organizations.

The celebration is free and open to the public and will include displays, demonstrations, workshops, speakers, live music and camping.

#### Rendezvous 2015

We will be discussing Rendezvous 2015 in Angels Camp at the Calaveras County Fair Grounds at the October meeting in Visalia. The Co-chairs Lloyd Erlandson and Mike Kohlbaker will be giving us an update. With this location being more centrally located in our long state, participation by all Units should be a lot easier.

Co-chairs Lloyd Erlandson 209-632-6470 Mike Kohlbaker 916-214-6505

#### "LNT" Masters Course

There will be a Wilderness Rider training in 2015. Interviews for this training will be conducted at Rendezvous 2015 in Angels Camp. We had

to cancel the last Wilderness Rider training because there were not enough students who applied, so this time we are starting early and would ask you all to spread the word.



Denise Robinson

#### Wilderness Rider Training 2015

There will be a Wilderness Rider training in 2015, interviews for this training will be at Rendezvous 2015 in Angels Camp. We will also be doing interviews at the Wilderness Celebration in Red Bluff Oct. 10-12. Our plan is that starting with the Wilderness Rider Class of 2015, all our graduates will be both Wilderness Riders and "LNT Masters upon graduating.

#### **Officers Training**

Officers training will go back to a traveling rode show with Classes in the North, Central and Southern Areas. So for January 2015 we are looking for Units in each area to host this event. We will be discussing this at the Oct meeting, bring your Ideas.



## LOCAL & NATIONWIDE



News Release Wilderness Treasures – Celebrating 50 Golden Years! Contacts: Tamara Schmidt, 530-934-1137 Heidi Perry-McCourt, 530-252-6604 Date: August 25, 2014 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Northern California 50<sup>th</sup> Wilderness Celebration planned for Red Bluff

RED BLUFF, Calif. –Northern California is hosting the premier Wilderness celebration in the West this fall.

To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act, "Wilderness Treasures Rendezvous – Celebrating 50 Golden Years" will be at the Tehama District Fairgrounds in Red Bluff October 10-12.

Free and open to the public, this world-class event features the wide range of opportunities and perspectives on wilderness, including recreation, ecological diversity, conservation, history and culture. It celebrates the rugged and breathtaking federally managed wilderness areas from Sacramento to the Oregon border.

This once-in-a-lifetime celebration provides a one-stop shop to gather wilderness information, learn new or enhance existing recreation skills, experience culture inspired by the breathtaking beauty of these treasured landscapes, swap stories, discover the unique bio-regions that set these areas apart, and meet both experienced wilderness enthusiasts and those interested in their first adventure.

Even for visitors that may not be able to personally travel to a wilderness, there will be a wealth of resources available showcasing the uniqueness of these wild public lands and their many benefits – not only through conserving wild spaces, but also contributing to clean water, air and wildlife habitat.

With displays, demonstrations, workshops, speakers, live music, great food, art fair, camping and more, this is a great family event!

Tickets are being sold in advance for dinner and a concert by Dave Stamey being held Saturday, October 11. Cowboys and Indians Magazine has called him "the Charley Russell of Western Music." Western Horseman Magazine has declared his "Vaquero Song" to be one of the greatest Western songs of all time. In 2010, 2011 and 2013 True West Magazine named him Best Living Western Solo Musician. Stamey has been a cowboy, a mule packer, a dude wrangler, and is now one of the most popular Western entertainers working today. He has been voted six times Entertainer of the Year, six times Male Performer of the Year and five times Songwriter of the Year by the Western Music Association, and received the Will Rogers Award from the Academy of Western Artists. He's delighted audiences in twenty three states, and finds that he prefers playing music to being stomped by angry horses.

For more information on the Northern California 50<sup>th</sup> Wilderness Celebration, including registration for dinner, concert, camping or stalls, and vendor interest forms, please visit the event's page at

https://www.facebook.com/NorCalWilderness50thCelebration.

### LUCKY CALENDAR UPDATE

### 2015 BCHC Lucky Calendar

Michael W. King

#### Hello, BCHC members!

I am pleased to report that sales of our BCHC 2015 Lucky Calendar are going well! A recent conversation with state BCHC treasurer Lynn Joiner revealed that, according to the money remitted to her so far, we are now past the break-even point with our calendar sales. Hooray! Good job, everyone!

Lynn reports that all units are making sales. Some got off to an early and enthusiastic start and are seeing brisk sales. A few units are coming close to selling out their allotted supply of calendars. Other units are a bit behind in their sales to date, but there is still time to ramp up and get their calendars sold. As the old saw goes, "Many hands make light work." If every BCHC member sells a couple of calendars, they would all be sold in no time.

Our real position is probably even better than we currently know, as there are calendars sold for which money has been collected but not yet remitted to Lynn. This is a reminder to send in your calendar sales money to Lynn on a timely and regular basis. It helps her to keep abreast of our progress as well as to avoid a last minute flood of money and information to process.

I must say, it's a great relief to reach the break-even point. It takes the pressure off a bit, but just a little bit! As longtime Mid Valley member Carol Jo Hargreaves so aptly put it, "We did not go to all of this effort just to break even; we are doing it to make money!" To make money we need to sell all of the calendars we had printed.

BCHC members' chosen recreational activity is constantly under attack in one way or another. BCHC and its individual units have many challenges ahead to protect packing and trail riding activities. Meeting these challenges unfortunately requires money, and money is always in short supply. No one is going to help us accumulate the funds we need. We must do it ourselves. We can make a big step forward with a successful calendar project. BCHC and the individual units stand to earn just under \$40,000 from this venture when all calendars are sold.

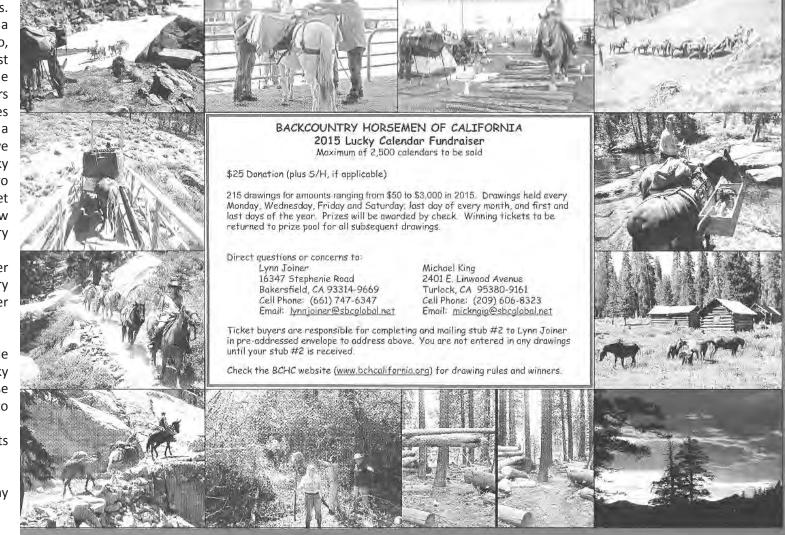
I sincerely believe in this project and its possibilities. That is why I am such a cheerleader for it. So, as we head into the last months of 2014 - the prime selling season for calendars - let's all lean into the traces and make this project a success. I know that I have had great fun selling Lucky Calendars the past two years, especially when I get an opportunity to tell a new person about Backcountry Horsemen!

I know we can do it. After all, we ARE Backcountry Horsemen. Let's git 'er done!

BCHC is now selling raffle tickets for our 2015 lucky calendar drawings. Please contact your local unit to purchase

your raffle ticket! Tickets are \$25 each.

Units please direct any questions to Lynn Joiner!



#### Excerpted from Palm Springs Life Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the Coachella Valley continues to protect its pristine land for future generations by ANN JAPENGA

The Coachella Valley can claim at least six designated wildernesses within easy reach of the valley's hotels and resorts, and many more if you expand the region out along the I-10 freeway to the Colorado River. There are larger natural areas all around us — the San Jacintos, Santa Rosas, Joshua Tree — and the wilderness areas within are the purest hearts of these places.

**Joshua Tree Wilderness** - Nearly 80 percent of the land within Joshua Tree National Park is designated wilderness. Step away from the major roads and you'll easily find that wilderness feeling (no roads, trails, or kiosks, and no risk of future development).

**San Gorgonio Wilderness** - The high peaks here were in danger of development prior to the passage of the Wilderness Act. You can jump into this wilderness via the Whitewater Preserve or Mission Creek Preserve, both managed in high style by the Wildlands Conservancy

**San Jacinto Wilderness** - You don't have to drive all the way to the Sierras to see granite spires, subalpine forests, and fern-laden meadows. We have it here in the San Jacinto wilderness.

**Santa Rosa Wilderness** - You can get a view of this ancient wilderness area by driving up Highway 74 and walking the paved walkway at the Cahuilla Tewanet Scenic Overlook.

**Mecca Hills Wilderness** - This folded, multicolored wilderness looks like no other place on earth and is a favorite of artists who come here to paint the smoke trees in the washes. The easiest access is from Box Canyon Road, near Mecca.

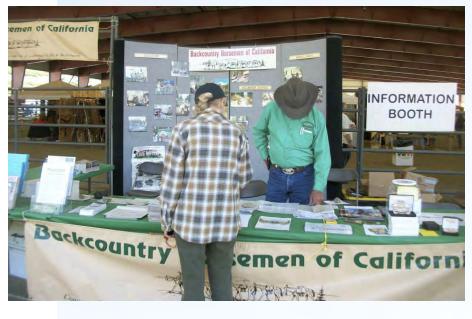
**Orocopia Mountains Wilderness** - Our farthest-flung wilderness area is a corrugated country inhabited by resident bighorn, burro deer, and desert tortoise. Adjoining Mecca Hills to the west, the crumpled and eroded scenery is courtesy of the underlying San Andreas Fault.

Visit www.wilderness.net for detailed information on each of our wilderness areas, as well as information on Leave No Trace principles and wilderness etiquette.

For full article and photos go to: http://www.palmspringslife.com/Palm-Springs-Life/September-2014/Keeping-it-Wild/

## 2014 Rendezvous













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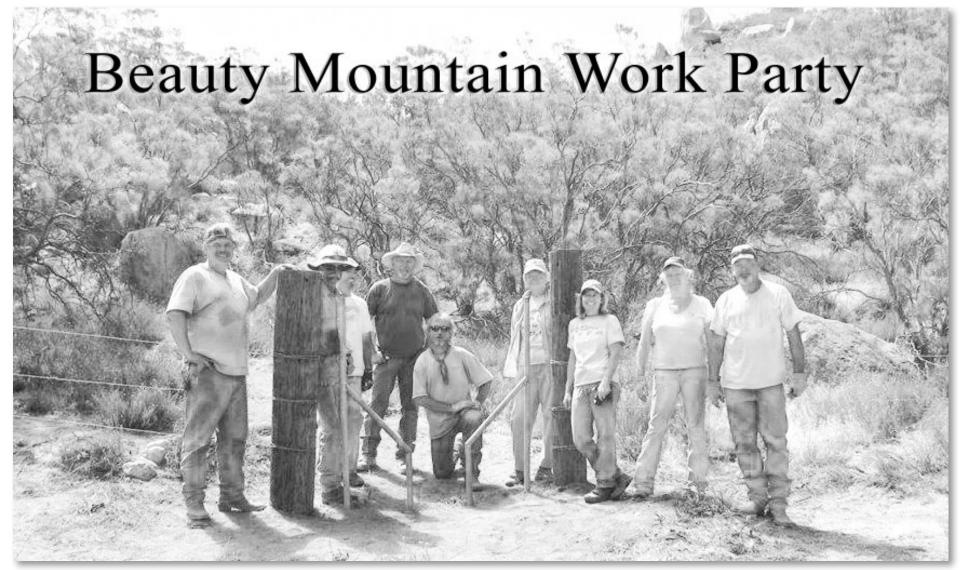








Redshank Riders Work Party - Beauty Mountain Wilderness Tule Peak Trailhead Gate Installation



From L to R: Greg Bruce, Mike Lewis, Dustin Renck, Bob Jones, Tom Firth, Mary Litch, Allison Renck, Audrey and Tim Turpin



On July 13th several members from the RSR unit got together early to dig holes and put up a gate and fencing to help keep motor vehicles from entering and destroying the trail. Photos by Allison Renck

## **BCHC Membership Application**

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ARENT BCHC MEMBERSHIP TYPES dividual, Family (Shaned*), Reordiactor, Patron, and Mt Whittney. A Paron embership is affiliated with a single Local Unit. BCHC members may NUT foll more than one active Preent Membership. SELARED Membership is for two adults with differing last names, each sharing common address. SSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS hase special Memberships are only available to persons already holding Parent CHC Membership No one tray sign up for an Associate Membership without having registered one of the Parent Membership types, and 2) having Selected new Unit allification. • You may segment for as unity Associate Memberships as you like • Associate Memberships not also be infinited at any time daming the	KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS   ISUBMOTTED AN Application Form for:   Individual Membership \$ 50.00   Hamily (Shored) Membership \$ 60.00   Benelactor Membership \$ 60.00   Pamon Membership \$ 60.00   Pamon Membership \$ 500.00   Mit Whency Membership \$ 500.00   Mule Shumes \$ 255.00   Other (Wink m) \$

### **Lightning Strike Blaze in Trinity Alps Wilderness**

Submitted by Alan Hill - Shasta Trinity President - Reprinted exerpts from Trinity News - August 6, 2014



The Northern Province Center of Excellence Mule Team, also known as the Forest Service Trinity Alps Pack Mules, along with the Backcountry Horsemen of California, extricate a backcountry California Conservation Corps group, relocating them to a work camp away from the fire's path.

Our unit helps to move the 18 + member CCC backcountry Camps several times each season (May through September) in addition to the providing weekly resupplies in the Trinity Alps wilderness area. Each camp move requires 25 mules and each weekly resupply 10 - 12 mules which we do in partnership with the Shasta Trinity USFS.

This fire started so quickly it was determined to be potentially too hazardous to have the CCC camp remain at the location they had been using. The day after the fire started we were in the process of moving the camp to a new camp site farther up the mountain. Plans were quickly changed and we moved the entire camp out of the area to another remote location out of harms way.

As of August 14, the fire (6000 + acres is 80 + % contained) so the camp was relocated back up to a higher camp in the basin they moved out of two weeks before.



View of Coffee fire from Boulder Lake Road. On Tuesday, 412 personnel were fighting the fire.

KATHY PAINE [:

#### MLU & US Forest Service Partnership Keeping Trails Open

Submitted by Lucy Badenhoop

The last weekend of June 2014 "saw" six MLU volunteer sawyers (and one helper) trained by the US Forest Service performing trail maintenance



The work group started off Saturday morning with the prescribed safety briefing before leaving camp on seven mounts and four pack animals hauling an assortment of chain saws, axes, shovels and other useful implements.

The MLU unit had recently purchased two new chainsaws and the sawyers were pleased with their performance. Another extremely useful piece of equipment was the Peavey pry bar. It's an odd concoction that looks like a five-foot pry bar with a hinged fish hook on the side near the end which enables a single



on a popular trail in the El Dorado National Forest. The group consisted of four men and three women.

The high winds (in excess of 140 mph) during a Nov 2013 storm in the Sierra Mountains caused many popular campgrounds and trails to be closed this spring due to the many toppled trees blocking the public access roads and trail systems. They are being reopened one-by-one as volunteer crews and the Forest Service work to clear the downed timber from traffic paths and roads. The most experienced crew member commented that this was the worst damage he's seen in 18 years of trail maintenance.

The Tells Creek campground and 6-mile access road showed recent efforts by other crews to reopen the area to the public. The mission this weekend was to clear some of the surrounding trails. First on the list was the 2-mile section from the Tells Creek equestrian campground to the Bassi Creek crossing on the Two Peaks Trail.



person to roll large log segments off the trail without back strain (see picture next page).

Using the leap frog concept, the group separated into two teams and was more efficient. The first team unpacked and cut the first obstacle. Then, while the first team cleared the area of debris and repacked the gear, the second team proceeded through or around the first team to the second obstacle, unpacked and cut that one.

It seems that a team of 3 or 4 people is the optimum size as there usually isn't room for more to approach and safely work an obstacle. The one time a "nest"

Continued from page 19



Since the base camp at Tells Creek boasts a 6100 foot elevation and the trail climbs from there, six hours of physical labor at the mile-high altitude assured that everyone slept like a log Saturday night.

The next morning the group headed out again. They enjoyed the 45 minute ride on cleared trail and, after crossing Bassi Creek, the higher elevation did not present as many downed trees.

of tangled logs was encountered, the two teams took turns cutting after there was much discussion among all the sawyers about which of the logs should be removed first.

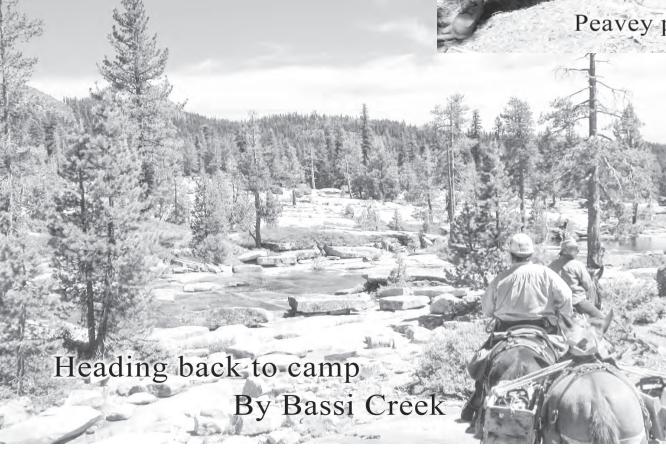
At the end of the day, it took six hours to clear about three dozen trees off two miles of trail. After watering the stock at the Bassi Creek crossing, the return trip took only 45 minutes on the now open track.

Peavey prybar - roll the log

By 2 pm the group had cleared the remaining 20 or so trees off the Two Peaks Trail and met up with another work party of 4 approaching from the other end of the trail. The other party had also cleared trails around Barret Lake and Pearl Lake.

Most of the MLU crew headed home Sunday evening, but a few stayed an extra night to enjoy the fruits of their labor.





#### MLU Enjoys New Caples Creek Equestrian Trailhead By Lucy Badenhoop

On the weekend of 18-20 July 2014, five MLU rigs visited for the first time at the newly constructed equestrian trailhead about 10 miles from Kyburz CA off Interstate 50 in the El Dorado National Forest. This trailer parking site was the result of over 10 years of effort by the USDA Forest Service in partnership with many local equestrian groups, of which MLU is proud to be a part.

Nearly every trailer site is shaded and has only a slight slope for drainage. There are several long ones for the bigger rigs and the gravel really helps keep the fine dust under control. The many trees provide shade and ample choices for high-lining the stock. It's a dry site with no amenities.

Probable improvements may include completion of the gravel, piped water from a spring up the hill, and signage, all depending on continued donations. Addition of a pit toilet is not immediately practical, mainly due to high initial cost and yearly maintenance costs. Soon, an official ceremony will formally announce the camp's availability to equestrian riders.

This location gives equestrian riders access to the 10-mile loop trail that follows the Silver Fork of the American River to the crest and offered spectacular vistas while switch backing down the other side. The mounts had a rocky climb



from base camp at a 6070 foot elevation to 6830 at the crest. There were multiple access points for resting and watering stock in the creek along the way. The ride took about 4 hours, including rest



stops and is not recommended for beginner riders or poorly conditioned and inexperienced stock.

Saturday evening, the group enjoyed the usual potluck supper and social visiting around the propane fire pit provided by one of the participants. Another potluck breakfast Sunday morning and the group were ready to head home with the knowledge that the years it took to establish this trailhead were well worth the effort.

#### Youth camp result of a BCHC Youth Grant that the Mother Lode Unit was awarded

Mike Kohlbaker President, BCH Mother Lode Unit

Dear MLU,

I want to take a quick moment to thank you for your support of 4-H youth development, specifically Backcountry Horse Camp. Cathy, Jerry, Anita, Jere & Tom were incredible mentors to the young people and were inspiring. Putting on a safe, engaging camp for youth is a lot of work and these folks, along with 4-H volunteers made camp a success. I'd also like to thank Bob Gilmore for the many hours of pre-planning he put into camp. We used your menu and it was fantastic!

I will be reporting more to you but wanted to get this email out to you immediately and hope you will share with your board and members. Some months back I spoke to Mike K. and he articulated MLU hope to inspire the

next generation of MLU BCH members and trail enthusiasts. From what I saw this week, this is happening!

One example I want to share occurred after Jerry and Jere's packing demo. A young lady named Rachel came up to me full of joy and smiles and said, "You gotta see this!" She had successfully put a pack on her horse and was overjoyed that the horse was ready to accept it and she got excited about packing, which was something that she did not know about as part of horsemanship. Now Rachel is excited to pack!

Huge kudos to Cathy, Jerry, Anita, Jere, Tom & MLU for supporting this endeavor. May each of you enjoy a comfortable bed, shower and the joys of not having to remind kids to wash hands, brush teeth and go to sleep tonight!

Tracy Celio University of California Cooperative Extension Community Education Specialist 311 Fair Lane Placerville, CA 95667 Email: tbcelio@ucanr.edu Website: http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.org/

ARE YOU READY FOR PACKING SEASON? REMEMBER THE 7 LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES

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The deadline for submissions for the WINTER 2015 EDITION

of the **Backcountry News** is:

December 14, 2014 Send submissions to BCHC.News@gmail.com or mail to: Rhonda Strickland Restless Designs 27150 Shadel Rd. SPC 119, Sun City, CA 92586

#### Submitted by Gwen Nitta August 9<sup>th</sup> TRAIL RIDE REPORT

On August 9 eleven riders, including Erin Andrews, Doug and Diana Fisher, Peggy DeBuyser, Natasha Bookout, Gwen Nitta, Norma Jean Worcester, Kathryn Berry, Jayden Phillips, Rona Adler and guest Patti Carmick, rode from Goat Meadow to Wawona Point for lunch. It is always a treat to ride through the Big Trees and the view from Wawona Point is spectacular. The route back took us through Buffin Meadow and back to the Buffin Cut-off Trail. We could not have asked for a better group of riders or horses. Those of you that missed the ride really missed a great day.





Gwen Nitta



Doug & Diana Fisher



Kathryn Berry

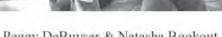


Jayden Phillips



Guest Patti Carmick & Ronna Adler





## Welcome, New Members!

#### **NEW MEMBERS**, continued **WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!** Antelope Valley Mary Reddin Uline San Joaquin Sierra Jasen S. Caudell **Bill Dooley** Kern Sierra Alisa Dodge Don W. Dutra Cindy and Joseph Eller Cyndy May Mid Valley Lynette Aldridge Santa Ana River Amy, Ambria and Brendan Holm Don and Tracy Bedford Susan Watkins Jennifer Bettenhausen Josh, Lacey, Haley, Alexis, Madalyn Sequoia Judy Goldman and Tammy Johnston **Rudy and Pam** Hoek Marquez Sierra Freepackers Aaron, Michelle, Trenton, Bella, Logan Mr. and Mrs. Milam Odell **Danielle Romero** Tammie and Ron Smith Top of the State Kristy Cottini Barry and Heide Snyder Michael A. Jervan Tracy and Dan Webster Justin Jochim **Robert March** Mother Lode Susan and Curt Fossom Beth Goehring Karen Habben and Chris Cozad Jill Hadley Peter and Mardi Langdon Mike Mizinski and Laura Fowler These new members have joined BCHC between **Ray Williams** May and August 2014 North Bay **Taylor Chesnut Redshank Riders** Peggy Greeley Mary and Mike McDonnell WANT TO START A Daniel and Dayna Robinson Kathryn and Gary Robinson **NEW UNIT? Michael Thomas** Phillip and Janet Worts Redwood Lynn Culver and ShayLynn Lenardo If there is no unit in your area and you are Sandra Hayes interested in starting one, contact BCHC Cindi Oney Secretary Kaye Bruns for more information. Sue Ann Daffara San Diego (661) 944-4927 **Carol Dennie** Jerry Hall Darryl Hern

Jeffrey and Lori Tardiff

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### 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), Scroll down to the bottom of any page, press the DONATE button and help us in our many efforts. THANK YOU!

> <u>PLEASE NOTE</u>: BCHC Treasurer Lynn Joiner has a new email address. When corresponding with Lynn, please use the following email address:

> > lynnjoiner7@gmail.com

<u>BCHC</u> - I want to personally thank C.J. Hargreaves for stepping up and being our "Guest Editor" for the Spring/ Summer issue of the Backcountry News. I was feeling a bit overwhelmed due to trying to recover from my open heart surgery in March. She wonderfully took that burden off my shoulders & did a fabulous job of putting together a fantastic newsletter.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!! It would not have been done without you. I am truly grateful for your help!!!

I want to remind you that if you want to see more special features and unit news, please be sure to submit your articles and photos to me at (bchcnews@gmail.com) by December 14th for the Winter 2015 edition.

Enjoy the rest of the summer riding and packing and be safe!

~ Rhonda L . Strickland ~ Redshank Riders Unit

## **Recognition of Special Individuals**

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

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

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-	Alan and Carolyn Mahoney
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Redshank Riders	Ken and Allison Renck
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Jim and Pat Holly
Larry and Jody Young
*Ken and Betty Finch

\*A notation to Ken and Betty Finch's recent Mt. Whitney membership. It is "*In memory of Toby Horst*"

## **BCHC Units Around the State**

Antelope Valley PO Box 84 Pearblossom, CA 93553 Irma Ann Carle iacarle@yahoo.com

*Eastern Sierra* c/o 420 N. Mountain View Rd Bishop, CA 93514 Phil McDowell (760) 872-9951 cjmbishop@aol.com

High Country

PO Box 1047 Alturas, CA 96101-1047 Stig Han (530) 640-1428 stigman.sh@gmail.com

*High Sierra* PO Box 6938 Visalia, CA 93278-4427

Christine Burns (559) 623-2288 casheepmom@yahoo.com

#### Kern River Valley

3561 Jeffrey St. Lake Isabella, CA 93240 Steve Horst (661) 867-2777 horststephenc@yahoo.com

#### Kern Sierra

16347 Stephenie Rd. Bakersfield, CA 93314-9669 Curtis Harms (661) 833-3100 mulerider@prodigy.net

#### Lake-Mendo

PO Box 191 Potter Valley, CA 95469-0191 Paul Villanueva (707) 263-0147 Villan13@pacific.net

Los Padres

PO Box 6773 Santa Maria, CA 93456-6773 Bill Chaides (805) 471-1197 <u>bchaides@tcsn.net</u>

#### Mid Valley

PO Box 1709 Modesto, CA 95353 Carl Perry (209) 632-9100 hayloftpigeon@aol.com Mother Lode PO Box 2088 Elk Grove, CA 95759-2088 Mike Kohlbaker (916) 214-6505 4horsen@sbcglobal.net

North Bay PO Box 9435 Santa Rosa, CA 95405 Thor Bodtker (415) 328-4545 thunder.t@hotmail.com

*Redshank Riders* PO Box 383 Aguanga, CA 92536-0383 Anne York (951) 662-2928 anne@starfiredesignstudio.com

*Redwood* PO Box 6023 Eureka, CA 95502-6023 Carole Polasek (707) 786-9637 cell: (707) 599-8021 muleride15@gmail.com

#### San Diego 236 Oak St Ramona, CA 92065-1952 Patty Heyden

(619) 561-0787 pheyden54@gmail.com

San Gorgonio Pass PO Box 321 Calimesa, CA 92320 Pete Kriger (909) 910-4619 pkrigerjr@yahoo.com

San Joaquin Sierra PO Box 25693 Fresno, CA 93729-5693 Joe Kaminski (559) 7433-9170 kaminskiclan@gmail.com

Santa Ana River PO Box 736 Norco, CA 92860-8062 Roland Schmitz (951) 833-6403 roland@mtnrider.com Sequoia PO Box 456 Springville, CA 93265-0579 Sandy Oates (559) 784-4912 president@bchc-sequoia.org

*Shasta Trinity* 10855 Beaver Rd Oak Run, CA 96069-9602 Alan Hill (530) 221-8531 athill2011@gmail.com

Sierra Freepackers PO Box 64 Oakhurst, CA 93644-0064 Mary Odell (559) 658-7563 modell@sti.net

Sutter Buttes 110 Medley Lane Oroville, CA 95965 Bob Gage (530) 521-7369 bobgage@wildblue.net



### Questions? Membership Matters

Contact Membership Coordinators are Chip and Linda Herzig. They will be happy to address your questions or concerns. Chip and Linda may be reached Monday through Friday.

> By mail: BCHC Membership 1280 State Rt 208 Yerington NV 89447

Email: membership@bchcalifornia.org

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