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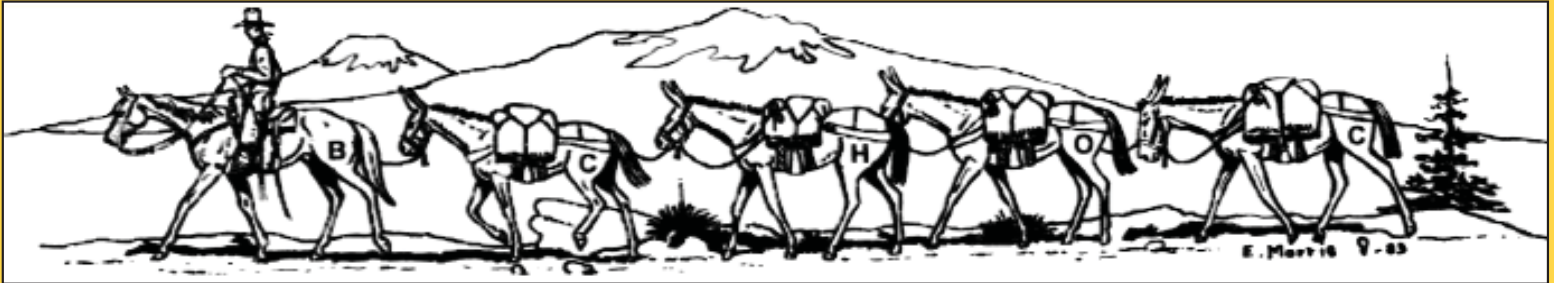
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The Backcountry News



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HIGH SIERRA UNIT STATE DIRECTOR BOB HERRICK WINS BOB TANNER AWARD AT BISHOP MULE DAYS

High Sierra Unit State Director, Bob Herrick, won the Bob Tanner Award at Mule Days over Memorial Day weekend in Bishop, California.

Bob entered his pack string, as a representative of the High Sierra Unit, under the commercial pack string working category. Bob not only placed first in this category but he also won the Bob Tanner Award.

Bishop Mule Days is a multiple day celebration where more than 700 mules compete in 181 events.

Herrick used a lead animal and five mules tied together. One of the mules carried a litter.

There were 97 entries in the Bishop Mule Days Parade. The Bob Tanner Award is what is known as the Sweepstakes Award. It is



Bob Herrick receiving the Bob Tanner Award

given for the best overall entry.

At the Bishop Mule Days Parade a short script is read to the parade attendees to describe each entry. A script was read while Bob Herrick guided his mule pack string through the parade. The script, furnished by Bob, described the mission of the Backcountry Horsemen of California.

Bob Herrick is an outstanding member of the High Sierra Unit. He served several years as the President of the High Sierra Unit and he is the current newsletter editor for the Unit. Bob is also the person who sits on the State Board of Directors representing the High Sierra Unit.

Bob Herrick has been packing mules for about nine years. He was first introduced to the activity through a friend. Bob resides in Reedley, California. He grew up in Livermore, California and graduated from high school there in 1979. He went on to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in poultry science and then a Master's Degree in agricultural business.



The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

Editor · Lisa Deas

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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.


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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 14, 2015	October 2015 Fall
January 15, 2016	January 2016 Winter
April 15, 2016	May 2016 Spring
July 15, 2016	Aug. 2016 Summer

Advertising Rates per Issue: Rates effective January 2012. All ads must be paid in advance.

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

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

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

President's Page

Our (Jim Clark and Otis Calef and I, from the Los Padres Unit) Old Spanish Trail Ride ostrek.com - seems like a dream now. Did we really ride 1200 miles across the West from San Bernardino to Santa Fe? It was quite the adventure, and we met so many fine people along the way. We had friendship and support and guidance from Backcountry Horsemen chapters, from Paul and Gail



Van Velzer along the Mojave River to Terry Jones and the Bristlecone Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of Nevada, to Kent and Trudy Thurgood and Freddy Dunn of BCH Utah, Southwest Chapter. Ray Conner and the BCHU, Central Unit, Stephen Schultz and Naomi Wilson with the rest of BCHU Canyon Lands. Bed Warburton and Tara McElhinney of BCH Colorado met us at Ghost Ranch with a fresh apple pie, wine and friendship. At Abiquiu, Debbie Spickerman and friends from Backcountry Horsemen of New Mexico rode with us, guided us down a country road alongside the Chama River, we saw lovely country we would have missed otherwise. We also saw sets from the remake of The Magnificent Seven with Denzel Washington, which was currently filming in the area, although we did not see any movie stars! That was a grand day in a very historic setting. At Santa Fe, the Backcountry Horsemen of New Mexico, Pat Kuhlhoff in particular, arranged for a parade for us. We rode through the old town of Santa Fe escorted by the Santa Fe County Mounted Posse and the Santa Fe Police Department motorcyclists to the Plaza. Where, in front of the Governors Palace a ceremony honored us, City and County and Old Spanish Trail Association officials greeted us, proclamations were proclaimed, speeches were made. We answered questions, it was all very exciting, we felt honored, we thought of ourselves as just a few old guys out for a ride, but, the ride was special. Visitors and locals formed a small crowd who watched the proceedings. As was pointed out, we were the first people to ride this trail since 1848. Floyd, Otis's mule walked the entire route (Jim and I used different animals on the two segments) the first mule to travel the trail since 1848! I was very impressed with the steady no drama mules Jim and Otis used.

The ride in part was to promote the Backcountry Horsemen of America and the various state chapters and our mission to protect and preserve the public's right to ride on public lands. I think we did a great job, our film and book will reinforce that effort. The film will be used to educate folks on both the Backcountry Horsemen and the Old Spanish Trail.

We, both the exec board and the board of directors and many others throughout the state have been wrestling with funding issues. How best can we fund our operations? I believe that we cannot accomplish our mission with membership dues as the primary funding mechanism. I'd like to see a reduction in membership dues amounts, we cannot do that unless we can replace those dues as our primary funding mechanism. This is where you come in. We need your help. There are other sources of funds out there. Grants,

sponsorships, bequests, etc. If you know of, or can work on funding methods alternative to our dues, please, jump right in. The BCHC strategic plan <http://www.bchcalifornia.org/docs/BCHCStrategicPlan.pdf> calls for a million dollar endowment. Once we reach that goal, we will have \$1 million that properly invested will provide a major proportion, perhaps all, of the State's funding needs.

Each unit can and should write a strategic plan along the lines of the State plan, reaching and maintaining an appropriate endowment fund will ease the financial stress some of our units are in, please take this seriously, our mission depends on dollars.

Calendar sales; the BoD voted to extend calendar sales for 2017. I know that there are many who are not fond of selling the calendars, I am one of those, yet, we have \$35,000 in the bank from our calendar sales, with the prospect of much more. If you dislike the calendar sales, I completely understand. I do hope that, each person who does not want to sell the calendars can come up with another workable funding scheme.

For myself, I have 5 calendars to sell, Christmas is coming, I reckon I will spend far more than \$125.00 on Christmas presents, so, buying the 5 calendars I have and giving them as gifts will be just a minority percentage of my Christmas shopping budget. You too can do this, what other gift can you give that has both great photos and can make money for the recipient? Oh, and speaking of the photos, some folks have said, the 2016 photos are not really all that great. Only photos that are submitted can be put on the calendar. The submissions for the 2016 calendar were meagre. Please, submit photos showing BCHC members doing stuff. Cellphone photos are not generally sharp enough. A regular digital camera, should be used.

I will begin my third and last!, year as the president of Backcountry Horsemen of California. I am grateful, and am honored to serve you and the organization. We have a great organization, we are accomplishing great things, and have much more to do. I have met so many members over the past several years, and am constantly impressed by those I have met, and have heard about regarding their great work, we are an outstanding organization, thanks to you.

Thank you,
Your President,
Richard Waller



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LUCKY CALENDAR AND YOUTH UPDATE

PICTURE INFO FOR THE 2017 BCHC Lucky Calendar

Photos must clearly represent BCHC activities - education, volunteer service, packing, youth participation, Dutch oven cooking, etc.

The best photos show:

ACTION - people obviously doing something (i.e., sawing, tying hitches, riding in a parade, clearing brush, building hitch rails, etc.). Photos of people standing with or sitting on their horses are nice but are typically not selected for the calendar.

ALL photos must be 300 dots per inch (dpi) or higher resolution.

(Note: Photos posted on Facebook do not work because they are only 72 dpi.)

Please send original photos in as large a format as possible. Photos without dates embedded at the bottom are preferred.

In the envelope with your CD or thumb drive, please include - for each picture - your unit name, activity and place, as well as photographer's name.

Mail CDs or thumb drives to:

C J Hargreaves
1229 Maple Hill Ct.
Manteca, CA 95336

no later than.....Friday, December 11, 2015.

Your 2016 Lucky Calendar Raffle ticket enters you into:
215 drawings for amounts ranging from \$50 to \$3000 in 2016.

Drawings are held every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday;
last day of every month and the first and last days of the year.

Winning tickets are returned to the drawing pool for all subsequent drawings.

Lucky Calendar Raffle tickets are \$25 per ticket.

If you would like to purchase a 2016 Lucky Calendar Raffle ticket, please contact your local unit.

BCHC YOUTH

The youth are the future of the BCHC and we need to get them more involved. We trying to get more information available to the units to help plan a successful youth activity. Here's a great idea for a mounted youth activity.

Trail Obstacle Challenge

Set up an obstacle course and have the youth members take turns completing the obstacles. Remember, this is not a competitive, but rather a learning event. Encourage the youth to learn and grow, but don't push them beyond their abilities to safely handle their mount. Obstacle ideas are:

- Riding over a tarp. Place a small tarp on a smooth surface, pin the corners of the tarp down with smooth heavy objects.
- Pickup items from fence post while mounted. Place an item (saddle bags, bucket, jacket, etc.) on the top of a solid fence post (or other raised surface). Have a second fence post to place the item on or have a barrel or other obstacle for the rider to go around before replacing the item on the post.
- Ride between poles. Place two poles or small logs 5 feet apart and parallel to each other. Have the riders ride their mounts through the poles. Add difficulty by adding turns with more poles to create a maze like effect.
- Backing in tight spaces. Place two barrels or similar objects 5 feet apart. Have riders ride between barrels and then back their mount back through the barrels. Add difficulty by having them back their mount through both directions.
- Crossing trail obstacles. Place a small log or larger pole and have riders ride over it. Add difficulty by creating a short series of logs, using bigger logs or slightly raising one end of the log.
- Ride by new objects. Place a strange object and have riders ride by this object. Objects can be anything (large stuffed animal, animal pelt on a fence, large rock, etc.).
- Crossing a bridge. Using a sturdily built small wooden platform, have riders cross over it. Add difficulty by having them stop on the bridge.
- Agility game. Add a small gymkhana type or other mounted game. Examples: Riding in a pattern around poles/barrels, carry an egg on a spoon while mounted, mounted follow the leader, mounted Simon Says, relay race, etc.
- Get creative! Add your own obstacles to the challenge. Remember safety first!

A BCHC Youth is between the ages of 6-17 years old. All riders must wear a fitted ASTM or SEI certified horseback riding helmet. All riders must ride a mount that is owned or leased to the rider.

We hope to see more youth activities in each unit soon! Please let us know if you have any suggestions or questions.

**Jacque Murphy
Mary Odell
Youth Coordinators**

BCHC EDUCATION

Wilderness Riders 2015 Class



Cheryl Reese-Stacy Kuhns--Audrey Turpin-Jacquelyn Murphy-Paul Villanueva-Debbie Watson-Chris Vallerga (in back) -Lucy Badenhoop-Cathy Miller (in front)

by Denise Robinson
Co-VP Education

Nine candidates completed the Wilderness Rider course in September. Students came from North, Central and Southern California to participate in the training class, held again at Granite Creek campground in Eastern Madera County area of the Sierra National Forest. New graduates of Wilderness Rider training are: Cathy Miller, Stacy Kuhns, Cheryl Reese, Jacquelyn Murphy, Debbie Watson, Lucy Badenhoop, Audrey Turpin, Paul Villanueva and Chris Vallerga

It was a week spent learning the Leave No Trace principles and how to present practices to the public. All left with enthusiasm to go forth and teach.

Leadership Training

As elections of unit officer's approach for the New Year, Leadership Trainings should be planned.

This is planned to help newly elected officers take on their duties with confidence for a successful term. We have divided the state units to three parts. There is a contact person that will need assistants to plan and prepare these sessions.

Guideline to hosting Officers Training (Manual) found on our website under forms.

Southern area units: contact Stacy Kuhn - 909-633-1705 Antelope Valley, Santa Ana River, San Gorgonio Pass, Redshank Riders, and San Diego

Middle area units: contact Ted Fischer - 559-855-8599 Mid Valley, Sierra Freepackers, Eastern Sierra, San Joaquin

Sierra, High Sierra, Sequoia, Kern River Valley, Kern Sierra, Los Padres

Northern area units: contact Cindy McMurry - 530-279-6230 Mother Lode, Sutter Buttes, North Bay, Lake-Mendo, Redwood, Shasta Trinity, Top of the State

Rendezvous 2017

Good News!!! Rendezvous 2017 will be held in Bishop, California.

Word is the community there is very excited to have BCHC there.

Susie Patton will be heading up as Chairperson, so please plan to help her like we've helped Mike Kohlbaker and Lloyd Erlandson with 2016 Rendezvous.

Speaking of Rendezvous 2016 - I would like to ask ALL attending units to set up a "Brag Booth". Booths are free to units as long as there are NO products sold. Brag booth consists of sharing what your unit's work projects, camp outs, pack clinics and scenery through photos and maps. Share with us ALL know who you are and what you have done.

BCHC Education Awards

Education Steering committee will also be looking for nominations for Individual and Unit Education Awards, **due by March 6th.**

These awards are presented at the Rendezvous each year. Last year there were only two nominations, sad

with as many units as we have.

Criteria and nominating form can be found on the BCHC website.

Backcountry Horsemen of California Leave No Trace Master Educator Stock Course

April 4th through 8th, 2016

Mann Ranch
Bishop, CA 93514

Stock Course, Trail Head Camp, NO PERSONAL STOCK, NO DOGS

Price: \$550.00
(price subject to change)

Contact:
Ruthie Heuer
(559) 568.1260
rmheuer@gmail.com

Gentle Use Tip #28 Gentle with Other Users

Follow the Golden Rule, which is to "treat others the way you would like to be treated." Be of assistance when a need arises. Treat others with respect and common courtesy. Greet others with a smile and a friendly hello.

Backcountry Horsemen of California
bhcocalifornia.org

BCHC MASTER COURSE

BCHC Masters Course

by Dan Horn



Our first year of being a Leave No

Trace Masters Provider has been a great success. In June of this year we held a class at the National Forest Service Center for Excellent Northern location, Bowerman Barn in the Trinity National Forest. We will be holding a class in November to upgrade a group of our current Wilderness Riders to Masters.

The June class was very exciting for us because of the robust agency participation. Eight of the ten students were from the National Forest Service.

In 2016 we have a Master Educator Course scheduled for April 4th to 8th. This class will be at the Mann Ranch in Bishop, Ca.

Anyone interested in attending this class, please contact myself or Ruthie Heuer.
Dan Horn
707 953 4903

Ruthie Heuer
559 568 1260

The story below is from one of our non-agency students

The BCHC LNT (Leave No Trace) Masters class was a wonderful experience for me. I arrived Sunday night after driving up from southern California encountering a few other early arrivals in anticipation as well as our training instructors and several stock saying howdy from across the road. I was

a mere assistant scout master with trainings in many areas looking to gain my master classification as a LNT trainer.

In the morning when the rest of the staff arrived I found that I was the only non-stock person in the class, and despite that was welcomed with open arms by everyone. The strange part then to me was that although everyone in attendance came from various corners of the state (though many USFS personnel were relatively local) everyone seemed to know everyone else.

I feel I learned a lot from this class and everyone was very patient with me. Me, whose only connection with stock was a rent-a-horse where on an occasion many years ago, I had gotten way ahead of my party, and when I turned around to gallop back to their location, found that the horse quickly obliged but upon reaching my party, it became apparent the horse had other ideas and returned at that same brisk pace all the way back to the stable!

I learned many things, such as when stock took their bathroom breaks, proper techniques for rush hour on the trails. Tread vs Hiker vs Stock. How perspective is everything. How one adventurer sees the other type adventurer and the perspective of how their experience is being wrecked, and that nature is being ruined. Learned techniques to passively teach those we encounter, alternatives to when they are being counter to LNT. That those who administrate trails need to keep in mind the needs of stock and not just hikers. Not just pave over trail heads. Or that when hikers first start down a trail, they have their series of stretching

and preparation as they start off, and when stock first starts down a trail, they have their own regiment. How horse or mule waste is nothing as compared to dog or human waste. Now cattle waste, that's another story! Again, it is all about perspective. On a scale from 0 to 10, we can't get someone to jump up their LNT score, but we can get them to move incrementally up the scale. The big item was of the seven LNT topics, the biggest one was related to fire. If any of the others are violated, it's a problem,



*Students; Matthew Carson, Eric Cordtz, Dan Hendrickson, Jim Leiterman, Tony Mattias, Mike McFadin, Lee Roeser
Vic Parker, Allen Schroeder and Emily Tornroos*

but when fire is not handled responsibly, the result is devastating for everyone!

During the week long training, we had great food, interesting weather, some hot and not so hot days, and though cooling oneself off at the creek was nice, heaven was driving down the road, during a personal break time, to the local KOA campground before dinner for a heavenly shower. A lightning storm mid-week unsettled our USFS class members since their stock would be used to resupply

the backcountry fire fighters but fortunately it was a priority and not critical so they were able to stay to finish the class. It was a learning experience and a fun one too!

One of our USFS class members had a gazillion high adventure jokes and stories. And to top that, he and one of our instructors were cowboy poets! It was something to look forward to every evening.

The topper was near the end of the

class when we joined the stock in their fenced area to get them as well as the Bowerman barn into the camera field of view for the class photo, it took three pictures to get one right. The stock wanting their cameo shot messed up two, and the one that turned out all right appeared to have been taken by one of the mules. Camera timer set to go, run to get into position, and the mule walks up and starts pushing on the camera. Somehow it turned out okay.

by Jim Leiterman

UNIT NEWS

BCHA Awards Education Equine Packing Scholarship Grant

by Colby Hay



Pete Kriger presenting Colby Hay - Redwood Unit with the BCHA Packing scholarship. Colby was chosen from a nationwide contest after entering a 500 word essay.



Anderson High School FFA Trail Crew... “We don’t rock, We Boulder!”

The Anderson High School FFA/BCHC/USFS Trail clearing project on Granite Lake Trail #8W14 was a great success!

We camped at Gibson Meadow July 11-19, 2015 and the students hiked to the worksite each day. The group consisted of 5 adults and 10 students. We used 11 head of stock on the project and taught LNT practices to the group all week long! This group cleared 1 tree that was app. 18” in diameter from the trail somewhere near 1 mile up from the Swift Creek Bridge. They also cleared a lot of larger rocks and all of the boulders that were impeding the trail tread all the way to 7UP Gap. (There is always more tread work to do, more rocks to move and brush to clear!)

We hauled app. 3600 lbs. of gravel with the pack stock from the meadow area to various places on the trail that needed it.

The majority of the work that the FFA/BCHC Members did was in an area app. ¾ mile up from Granite Lake. The trail tread was basically non-existent and had sluffed off into the creek. We dug footings where the ground was good and placed boulders/large rocks in the footings and continued to build it up to where the trail had originally been by keying in the rocks and packing them into place 1 level at a time (app. 4’ higher than where the trail had slipped to over a distance of app. 200’). We were very careful to protect the creek from future soil erosion by putting in a couple of water bars and using the out slope and a couple of rises in the tread to prevent the water from running down the trail. We also packed the brush into the area below the rock cribbing to catch any soil that did wash down from the tread. I am certain that we will need to cap it with more gravel after it has settled in.

This was a great experience for the FFA Students and very rewarding for all of us involved. There will always be more that can be done to improve/maintain this trail and we would like to continue with this endeavor in future years.

Thank you so much for your support and we look forward to any feedback that you have!

Sam Burrows

Anderson Union High School FFA and

Backcountry Horsemen of California Shasta/Trinity Unit

Picture on the right hand side is the Danaher valley in the Bob Marshall Wilderness of Montana. We rode a total of 65 miles in four days. Saw amazing views and wildlife, learned to saddle/unsaddle, tie a load, mantee loads, and lead a pack animal. Mack and the crew gave us a history lesson of the area each day.



This was our farthest point into the wilderness. Yes it is a working telephone, they were placed in the wilderness to communicate from cabin to cabin and up slope to the look outs before the use of hand held radios.



Mack Long of Bob Marshall Wilderness Outfitters left and myself on the right after practicing saddling and unsaddling a decker pack saddle. A big thanks to Mack and Connie Long, who helped spear head this great opportunity and donated the spot on their summer packing skills class, Chris Vassar (wrangler), Jackson Holt (assistant wrangler), Kristy Horvath (assistant wrangler and cook) of Bob Marshall Wilderness Outfitters, along with Mr. Roy Cornett of Tennessee who was on the trip, proposed the idea at the yearly meeting, and gave a monetary donation for the scholarship and last but not least to the rest of the BCHA board of directors I thank you.



UNIT NEWS

The Shasta Trinity unit of BCHC has had a busy season. The July 30 lightning strikes that hit the Mendocino, Six Rivers, Shasta Trinity and Klamath NF were as devastating as the 2008 fires. However in many cases was more difficult as fires burned into areas that had previously burned in years past where the tinderbox conditions of dead snags, brush and downed logs made it more difficult.

The Shasta Trinity unit again was able to provide the logistic support for the CCC backcountry crews at the time all the Forest Service and stock were committed to fire support. Typically our commitment through the season, May through mid-September is to provide 5 +/- 6 mules for each weekly resupply to support the Forest Service stock. When the fires occur we need to add more for the resupplies. Typically camp moves two or three times during the season requires 20 – 25 head of mules, of which we provide half or more as necessary. We are fortunate we have 14 – 15 members who have 2- 5 mules each so has been possible to meet the ever changing needs through the season.

This year again under Sam Burrows leadership the Anderson High School FFA spent a week in the Trinity Alps rolling rocks, clearing trails and rebuilding a nasty dangerous section of trail tread that had slide out and was essentially nonexistent. The group this year consisted of 5 adults and 10 students. Approximately 3600 lbs. of gravel was hauled (thanks to the BCHC grant that purchased the gravel bags). The students came up with a saying “We don’t rock, we boulder “ T shirts were purchased with that emblazoned on the back with BCHC and USFS logo and handed out to participants.

We were approached by Lassen National Park to provide the pack support to rebuild Twin Lakes Ranger Cabin on the Pacific Crest trail in the Park. We were asked to haul in building materials, concrete, roofing, tools and equipment for rehabilitation and repair of the old log cabin. The cabin had been built in the 20’s or 30’s and was in need of maintenance and reconstruction. The intent was to provide a location for wilderness rangers, trail and fire crews to use for overnight stays and storage of supplies.

The request came in late July at the time we were committed to cover the logistic support for the CCC crews in the Trinity Alps. This project had been funded by the NPS, however the planning for the work crews and the logistics of the project were still evolving. Subsequent to the Park request we discussed and decided we could do it without impacting the other projects. The supplies and material were not scheduled to be on site until mid-August so we worked with Greg Hand of the LNP staff to put a well-planned work schedule put together. LNP staff identified 50 + head of pack stock was required however it looked as if we could meet the schedule with our packers and stock to start packing about the time of arrival of the materials.

A couple of the issues that needed to be resolved was the size and location of the staging area to accommodate the number of stock trailers, overnight camping, stock holding and trail clearing to accommodate the pack animals. In addition there were other concerns that we had re stock use, adequate facilities, adequate trail maintenance in the Park to assure livestock safety and access. With the Park we collaborated on an agreement for a specific work plan to give to all those participating so there would be no misunderstandings of what could be expected by each party. There had been a long history of equestrian use in the Park, until 20 – 25 years ago when changes occurred that were adverse to our interests. So we were pleased with the meetings and the support of the Park staff to continue to work to assure future equestrian use would be encouraged and recognized in the future.

At this time we have hauled 40 loads of materials into to Twin Lakes Cabin. The project is scheduled to be completed September 25. Weekly resupplies will continue. It is expected 6 loads of tools and equipment will remain to be hauled out. It has been a fun project working with the Park and would not have been possible to do the Cabin reconstruction if we had not been able to help. A BIG Thank You to BCHA for the \$1,000 Grant to support this project!



UNIT NEWS

Great Adventure for California Future Farmers of America

By Randy Witt, San Joaquin Sierra

Every year California Future Farmers of America high school students compete in state wide Natural Resources Management contests.



The students compete in knowledge of flora and fauna, as well as mule packing. The students from Clovis East High School who competed in the mule packing portion of the contest were Jonathan Woodard, Austin Thompson, Mikaela Kirk, and Lauren Raley. Their Clovis East High School FFA advisor was Kevin Woodard. The students competed in their freshman year of high school.

The packing portion of the contests included each team's judged ability to properly balance, load, and securely lash down a load onto a mule. The students had practiced mule packing skills at their high school, but had never used those skills in a real life, high-altitude, and pack trip into the mountains.

In April 2015, Alan Fry, Backcountry Horsemen of California/San Joaquin Sierra unit member, and Kevin Woodard first started talking about taking the FFA packing team on a mountain trip. In early May Alan, Kevin, and Randy Witt BCHC San Joaquin Sierra unit Vice President, met together to begin planning the trip and outline a grant proposal to be submitted to the Backcountry Horseman of America education fund. By mid-May, Alan Fry had written and submitted the proposal to the BCHA. In Early June BCHA informed Alan

the grant had been approved and the adult team went to work.

While more detailed planning continued, an appeal to San Joaquin Sierra unit members was sent out asking for members to loan their horses to the FFA team for some riding training and practice, and to use during the pack trip. Thanks to Wanda Caradonna, Jim Knabke, Ted Fischer, and Randy Witt for the generous loan of their precious saddle horses! Other adults helping out with the instructions were Peter Parkin and Ted Fischer.

A big shout out needs to be given to Bob Herrick, an associate member of the San Joaquin Sierra unit. Bob volunteered his time for the duration of the pack trip, as well as his fine string of five mules and saddlehorse. Bob tries to volunteer his time and mules at least once a month. Thank you, Bob.

Before this fun and educational pack trip could begin, there had to be a great deal of planning and preparation. One week before the pack trip was to begin, all the new riders and their mounts assembled at Randy Witt's ranch for some riding instruction and practice. Jonathan and Austin of the FFA, had almost no riding experience, but the two young women, Lauren and Mikaela, had some previous horse riding instruction. Their instructor, Kevin Woodard, had not been on a horse for twenty years, but had considerable horseback experience when he was managing a ranch. In less than three hours' time, the students and their instructor received instruction on emergency one-rein stops, leg cues for forward motion, backing, move on the forehand and the haunch, crossing a bridge over a creek, water crossing and going up and down mountain steps. All of the riders and their mounts felt more comfortable with these skills before they left that day.

One week after the practice

riding session, all the participants of the pack trip met at the Chamberlain meadows trailhead, located near Courtright reservoir, just a few hours northeast of Fresno/Clovis California in the Sierra National Forest. This is when the rubber hit the road (or you might say "the hooves hit the trail".) The students learned to lay out all the components of the load on spread-out mantes. They next started assembling the loads, densest items at the bottom of the panniers, with lighter, smaller items packed in around the dense bottom part of the load. We first lifted and estimated the balance of the two sides of the load and then used the spring scale to verify our estimate. We explained to the students the success or failure to keep the load on the pack stock was dependent more than anything else on the balance of the load. After adding the top load, we next put the panniers on the mules. We next squared the mantes and rolled back the edges



to expose the crosses of the Sawbuck saddles. "What's so important about seeing the crosses of the saddles?" the students asked. Watching the crosses of the saddle over the mule's spine is the surest way of detecting slippage of the load to one side or the other.

The students had competed in contests using the diamond hitch. For our loads the box hitch was more appropriate. It took a few tries but the students picked it up pretty quick. It took a couple hours to get everything packed up, but eventually we were on our way down the trail toward Chamberlain cabin.

The ride to Chamberlain meadow was beautiful and green. We found our campsite to have plenty of feed in the meadow, but thanks to the drought in California almost no water in the creek. We were also pleased to find the new bear boxes packed in earlier in the week, as well as the pit

toilet and solar shower stall our unit constructed the year before, all to be in good order.

After breakfast the next day, Wilderness Rider, Randy Witt, led a group discussion on Leave No Trace principles. During The remainder of the day, the students practiced the box hitch, took a hike and went fishing, and the two young female members of our group went out for a ride with Peter Parkin. We also added some wooden feet to the bear boxes and angle iron braces on some added support posts for the pit toilet/shower structure.

When we arrived at Chamberlain cabin, the first order of business was to set up the highline with tree savers. The work was parceled out to work teams. While one team set up the portable hot wire fence in the meadow, the boys on the FFA team headed out looking for potable water to be transported back to camp and filtered. After the horses were secure in the meadow, we all started working on setting up the kitchen, our tents, and bags.

The first night the young women helped out in the kitchen by cooking the hot dogs and burgers. Add some potato salad, chips and some drinks and you could call it a delicious meal. The two hot breakfasts included coffee, eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, butter, syrup and milk. Dinner the second night included tri tip sandwiches, beans, chips and more potato salad. Everything tastes fabulous at 7500 feet.

Alas, all good things eventually come to an end. On the third day, after breakfast, we began breaking camp, packing up our stuff, balancing loads, and loading them up. Everybody, adults and students, were kind of tired from a busy schedule but we all pitched in and got the work done quickly. We headed back out to the trailhead riding along knowing that we had accomplished something and had a good time while doing it. As tired as we were, at the back of our minds was the question, "How soon can we go packing again?"

UNIT NEWS

Sutter Buttes Unit: Preserving BCH Traditions

The Sutter Buttes Unit (SBU), located in Northern California, has a history of trail maintenance for a 46 mile segment of the Pacific Crest Trail since the late 80s. The unit has completed this year's log out with the removal of the final log September 16, 2015. The trail had been cleared the previous month, but the final log took a joint effort of Lassen National Forest personnel, PCTA personnel along with the SBU.



Ralph Looney and the Last Log

Along with the tradition of annual trail maintenance of the adopted section of the PCT the unit has volunteered efforts in a variety of ways.

In recent months member, Marlene Rold and president, Bob Gage have worked with the Plumas National Forest to develop horse camping at the Whitehorse Campground in the Bucks Lake Basin. Three sites have been improved to allow truck and trailer parking for a trial horse camping after Labor Day weekend this year. This is a beautiful area underutilized for lack of ample campsites for horses. The unit has encouraged users to report a summary of their experience and suggestions to the unit in order to make a case for a permanent horse camp in the Bucks Lake

Basin. Some unit members are camping there ahead of time to attend to last minute details, like posting some general rules and ways of providing feedback and suggestions.

In August a group of teens from the East Bay area of San Francisco and Quincy met as a crew to do tread work on the Indian Creek Trail. Bill Colvin & Bob Gage from the unit met with pack animals to provide water they could not otherwise have packed in.

Earlier this year some of the members helped clean up an area that had been trashed in the Williams cabin area of the PCT.



Cleaning up the Trash

The Sutter Buttes Unit recently received information about log obstacles on trails in the Little Grass Valley Reservoir area. Our Unit stepped up arranged for the logs to be removed prior to Labor Day Weekend.



High Mountain Riders, horse, and bike

In the spirit of sharing our trails safely and respectfully with mountain bikers, the unit met with the High Mountain Riders at the Plumas County Fairgrounds and National Forest Service. The meeting went very well and was a fun day sharing mules and horses to demonstrate the importance of trail etiquette.

In order to volunteer to clear trails using chainsaws, regularly scheduled certification is required. Vol-unteers below are shown below during a recent certification.



Michael Schmaljohann, Cynthia Lusk, Ralph Looney, and Jerry Smith at chainsaw certification, PNF.

The unit demonstrates the philosophy and purpose of BCH through volunteerism, working with various government and private agencies, and otherwise actively participating and promoting the wise use of the backcountry resources.



Sierra Freepackers Grant Report

Starting Sunday, July 5, fifteen members of the Sierra Freepackers headed to Granite Creek. Our original plan was to pack in to 77 Corral and start on the removal of the stock fence per the Forest Service request. After the Forest Service looked at usage of the area and that the fence is in the wilderness, it was decided to remove it permanently.

BUT our dilemma was that the 9 mile trail into 77 Corral had not been cleared. We were only notified of that about a week out, so we decided to go in and work on removing trees (per our Volunteer Agreement with the FS) and opening the trail so that we may be able to go in later in the summer and start work on the fence removal.

Day one: Sunday-arrival day, set up and plan out the week.

Day two: Monday – it was a hot and humid day. We packed up tools, had our FS required Safety Tail Gate talk and were on the trail by around 9 am.

We rode approximately 3.8 miles when we hit the first pile of trees. There were 3 trees: 1 very large (48 inches/4 foot) tree and two 16 inch trees (at left). It was "initiation to trail work by fire" as John Glen our master sawyer and instructor said. We removed the smaller 16 inch log. Once the tree was cut we used our leg power to send it on its way

Next came cutting the large 48 inch tree. That did take a while. Only three of us and John Glenn had any previous experience cutting with a cross cut saw. IT was a LEARNING DAY and a day to adjust to the altitude.

The first day was a long one as we wanted to complete the job before heading back to camp. We arrived back to camp at 6 pm to an awesome meal planned and cooked by Paul LaSpada, our camp cook for the week. Thank you Paul for all you and Sandy did before and all during the week!

On Tuesday we headed out again by 9 am. At about 4.2 miles we came upon our next tree. It was a 24-26 inch tree in multiple pieces. It took 4 cuts with the saw before we could get the pieces moved.

On our way back to camp this day, we discovered that a new tree had fallen between where we were working and the first tree we cut. Thank goodness we could get around it as we had stashed our tools for the night to save work on our pack animals.

On Wednesday we left by 8:30 am as each day we had ride a bit further down the trail. We rode past the newly fallen tree as our tools were located below this tree and our plan being to take care of that tree on our way out. At about 4.5 miles we found a 24-26 inch tree that required only one cut and we were able to clear it out pretty quickly. *continued on page 25*

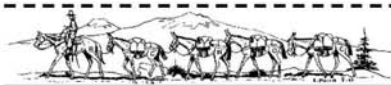


John Glenn



BCHC Membership Application

Backcountry Horsemen of California



MAIL TO: BCHC Membership
1280 State Rt 208
Yerington NV 89447

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Renewal or Change

(indicate changes)

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

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

DCTR (your Membership Number): _____ (For new memberships, will be assigned by Membership Chair)

MEMBER'S NAME—No Business Names; Print Clearly

SPOUSE / Co-MEMBER'S NAME—MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

Street Address / PO Box

City

State

Zip Code (full 9 digits, if known)

Area Code Phone

Email Address: _____ (please print legibly)

Donation to BCHC Education Fund (tax deductible) \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Check No. _____

Parent Unit Membership Types: (CIRCLE ONE)

Individual \$50 - Family \$60 - 2 year Individual \$90 - 2 Year Family \$110 - 3 Year Individual \$125 - 3 year Family \$150

Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15 - Benefactor \$100 - Patron \$250 - Mt Whitney \$500

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 lines and keep the below portion for your records

Parent BCHC Membership Types

Individual, Family (Shared*), Benefactor, Patron, and Mt Whitney.

A Parent Membership is affiliated with a single Local Unit. BCHC members may NOT hold more than one active Parent Membership.

* A SHARED Membership is for two adults with differing last names who share a common address.

Associate Memberships

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

You may sign up for as many Associate Memberships as you like.

Associate Memberships may 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 pages at BCHCalifornia.org or call (775) 463-3634

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a new –

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Shared) Membership | \$ 60.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old) | \$ 15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual | \$ 90.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family | \$ 110.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual | \$ 125.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family | \$ 150.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Membership | \$ 100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership | \$ 250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mt Whitney Membership | \$ 500.00 |

On that form, I also requested –
_____ Associate Memberships \$ _____

My Total Remittance: \$ _____

My Check Number: _____

Date Mailed: _____

Verification of BCHC membership is available via (1) BCHC unit president's reports (2) BCHC membership chair reports (3) a self addressed stamped envelope submitted with this form or (4) a valid email address.

BCHC

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.

IN MEMORY

Garry McClintock 1948 - 2015



Backcountry Horsemen of California lost a great friend and supporter when Garry McClintock passed away after a long illness in August. Despite health challenges he continued to build his custom saddles and tack right up until the end. Garry was an icon in the equestrian community and had always been an enthusiastic supporter of Backcountry Horsemen and other equestrian organizations, most recently building two custom saddles and donating them to BCHC for the 2013 and 2014 Rendezvous in Norco. He was one of the first members of the BCHC-San Diego Unit and his riding experiences extended from riding and pack trips in remote areas of Baja California to the Rose Parade.

Garry's saddles and tack are functional works of art and are ridden by people all over the world, including many of us in BCH. You

could tell him any style of saddle you wanted, from any time period, and he had the skills and knowledge to build it. He was an acknowledged expert in early California history and culture, especially the ways of those first California cowboys, the vaqueros.

His fabulous documentary *Corazon Vaquero* gives a window on those individuals in Baja California who still to this day choose to live much as their ancestors have done since the 1600's- without telephones, computers, televisions and automobiles- making saddles from scratch and living in a simple harmony with the world around them.

I first met Garry in 1974 when we both lived in the mountains behind San Diego, but our friendship really blossomed in the 1980's and 90's when we rode a lot of country together on both sides of the border. We had many things in common, including a love for mules- those half-ass long-ears that so often work their way into our hearts. We both grew up on the California coast and rode surfboards long before we ever rode horses or mules. It was that connection with nature in all its glory- whether you're riding a wave or riding a mule in the mountains- that resonated in both of us and made us fast friends over the years.

Garry loved the people of Baja California and mainland Mexico and traveled extensively there for most of his life. Whether he was on a family vacation to Scorpion Bay or roping at Rancho La Mentada, he always found a way to make every trip with him a memorable one.

For many years Garry sponsored a yearly event in Descanso called Vaquero Days, an opportunity for people to see and experience old-style riata roping, food, and music. The event was created to celebrate the vaquero culture but also to honor Granville "Granny" Martin, one of the last true vaqueros in California and Garry's friend and mentor. There are many of us who can think of no better way to remember Garry than to get Vaquero Days up and going again.

Whenever I think of Garry McClintock (which is often), what I'll remember more than anything else is his attitude towards life. He was always upbeat and positive, and full of curiosity of the world around him. And he had the inner and spiritual strength to maintain that despite the long illness that affected him the last few years. Garry made friends easier than anybody I've ever known, and I cannot remember him ever saying a bad thing about anybody. His shop was always somewhere that you could buy a saddle or have it repaired, but it was also a place where you could find out what was happening, in Descanso or in the equestrian community. It was as much a social center as it was a saddle shop.

A while back Garry asked me to finish a project he had started many years ago- a trail guide for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and the area surrounding it. Working together on it we had the opportunity to spend quite a bit of time together recently and I will cherish that time and those conversations forever. He was truly a gentleman of the old school and the best friend a person could ever ask for.

I would like to share two stories about Garry. The first is when many years ago a group of us started on a ride out of Granny's old ranch just on the other side of the freeway. We kept asking Garry where we were going, and he kept dodging the question. Being local riders with many hours in the saddle, we just went along figuring we could handle anything he threw at us. But it quickly became obvious that we were to be tested- the trails were steep and overgrown, and the country just kept getting rougher and more remote. By the time we crossed

Pine Creek there were only three of us left. We continued on down to Horsethief then turned up the fire road towards Corta Madera. By the time we stumbled into the ranch it was about 11:00 at night and we had to wake up the foreman to call somebody with a trailer to come get us. We had spent over fourteen hours in the saddle. In later years we spent a lot of time laughing about that ride.

The second story is when he and his son Cody were in Mexico filming his documentary "Corazon Vaquero". Eve Ewing and I had accompanied them down for a portion of the filming, and we were staying at the Meling Ranch a few hours south of the border. Garry had arranged for us to travel by horse and pack string through a remote section of the San Pedro Martir Mountains to a little ranch on the Rio Santo Domingo. We camped there for a couple of days and dined on trout we caught out of the river. One evening we were sitting around the campfire with the couple who lived there and her elderly uncle. Cody was deep in conversation with the uncle when suddenly he broke out in a huge grin and started rummaging in his bag for his video camera. He proceeded to tell us that the uncle had offered to sing his rancho songs for us, a cappella. Despite his advanced age, the man proceeded to sing the songs in a clear, haunting voice that brought us all to a stunned silence. The beauty of the songs and the moment, with the glow from the fire dancing on his face as he sang, created something that I will remember for the rest of my life. When he was done singing I looked over at his niece, who had tears running down her cheeks. She thanked us profusely and told us she had not heard him sing those songs for many, many years. If you watch "Corazon Vaquero" he's in the early part of the film.

Garry put a little of himself into every saddle he made- his mind visualized it, and his hands shaped it and tooled the leather. He took great pride in his work, and few things made him happier than to know one of his saddles was getting lots of miles put on it. It may sound funny, but I get a lot of satisfaction thinking that, through those saddles, he's still out there riding those trails and taking it all in.

Vaya con Dios, my friend. You were truly one of a kind and you will be sorely missed. Marty Jorgensen

IN MEMORY

John Glenn

Backcountry Horsemen of California and the U.S. Forest Service, as well as the world lost a dedicated, talented, wonderful volunteer and man on August 6, 2015.

John Glenn died from injuries he incurred from a freak accident. It's been said he was where he loved to be, doing what he loved to do.

John was known for his expertise with all aspects of trail work, awarded national honors for use of primitive tools from the USFS. Along with his knowledge of tools he enjoyed sharing that knowledge, teaching adults as well as kids' proper safety and handling of these tools. Most summers he lead a school group on hiking pack trip to work clearing trail using cross-cut saws and axes.

Just this last spring John was also awarded "Volunteer of the Year" with over 4,000 hours logged.

I personally have known John all the years he volunteered in the Bass Lake Ranger District, Clover Meadow. There isn't a trail or place I can go without a memory of working with John in our forest.

John's talents included; Certified chainsaw, faller, cross-cut certified, 1st Aid/CPR instructor and retired teaching Veterinary He was also a proud father and grandfather.

Submitted by Denise Robinson,, Sierra Freepackers, Co-VP State Education BCHC



*Cori Hayes and John Glenn
photo courtesy SNF*



Forest Service Mourns Loss Of Beloved Volunteer

CLOVIS – The Sierra National Forest regrets to report the passing of beloved volunteer John Glenn on Aug. 6.

They share with his family in mourning his loss and express their deepest condolences on his passing. John was a longtime volunteer working with the Sierra National Forest, and died from injuries he sustained yesterday, engaging in the volunteer work he loved. At the time of his passing, John was surrounded by family. The Sierra National Forest had recently named John the "Volunteer of the Year," as he had served 4,000 hours throughout his time with the Forest Service.

"He was not only a volunteer but a member of our family," says Public Information Officer Iveth Hernandez. "He saw the importance of working to preserve the outdoors for future generations. His passion and love for the land made him an essential part to the operations of the forest in fulfilling our moto of "caring for the land and serving the people."

The Forest Service says they will continue to work with the family of John Glenn to make sure that all of their needs are being meet. <http://sierranewsonline.com/forest-service-mourns-loss-of-beloved-volunteer/>

BCHC

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BCHC



Region 5

Pack Stock Center of Excellence

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

Education and Training

2014 saw COE representatives participate in 18 separate training events. Clinic and presentation topics given by COE instructors included advanced saw training, Leave No Trace, stock safety and use for Type I and Type II Fire Teams, stock handling, and handson packing demonstrations. Educational events and formal trainings the COE participated in or sponsored included:

- * Annual Fire Refresher Training, Sequoia National Forest
- * Back Country Horsemen of California (BCHC) Annual Rendezvous, Marso, CA
- * BCHC Northern Unit's Equine and Trails Celebration, Red Bluff, CA
- * Type I and II Fire Team Refresher, McCallum Fire Training Center, CA
- * California Conservation Corps (CCC) Placer Training Center, Auburn, CA
- * BCH of Oregon Packing and Wilderness Skills Clinic, Klamath Falls, OR
- * Packing clinic and crosscut saw demonstrations in partnership with BCHC, Mule Days, Bishop, CA

Future Opportunities

In 2014, a representative from each of the participating forests was nominated to serve on a steering committee that will provide guidance and set annual priorities for the Center's program of work in 2015 and beyond. One of the goals for the committee is to help to ensure the long-term success of the COE by developing a marketing strategy, helping to secure supplemental funding, pursuing new partnerships and building on existing relationships with supporting partners, such as the Back Country Horsemen of California, American Conservation Experience, Student Conservation Association, California Conservation Corps, and Pacific Crest Trail Association.

To read the full article go to:
www.RedbackRIDes.com/for/magaz/2014_11/FSR/PackStockCOE_web.pdf

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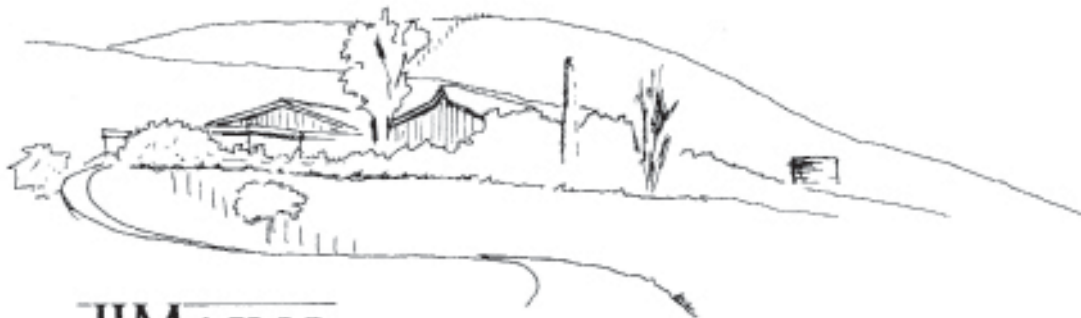
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IN MEMORY

The Saddle Shop

Not sure when he opened the saddle shop
 The building was old and in need of repair
 I could smell the smoke from the old wood-burning stove
 Like artwork, old reatas, hides, and antique tools laid near the building
 Like an old timie photo
 Inviting my imagination to what was truly inside

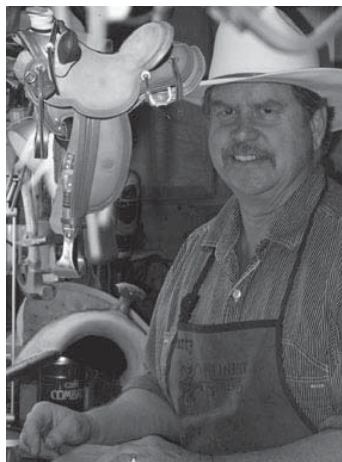
The shop smelled of leather; the sweet smell of new hides and oiled gear
 Music softly floated thru out the room
 On the floor, leather and pieces of rawhide lay scattered
 New saddles lay patiently waiting for their excited owners
 Old saddles, newly repaired, stained with hours of horse sweat and human tears

The saddle maker greeted me
 A gentle giant of a man, speaking to me as if he'd known me for years
 The stool he sat on easily moved around his artistry
 His voice, calm, confident and reassuring
 I felt comfortable, as if Id known him from childhood
 I watched as he turned leather into art
 Working with his hands, mind and heart: the pure passion of a true artist

Garry McClintock is his name
 A saddle maker and more
 In the 22 years following our first meeting I grew to love this man
 A gentle man, a teacher of the Vaquero way
 We in Descanso and beyond will miss you

Construya un fuego en lugar del fuego hace cuarto caliente y le veremos pronto
 Nos Vemos mi amigo
 Translation: Build a fire in the fire place, keep the room warm and we will be seeing you soon my friend.

Shawn Doblado, August 24, 2015, Descanso Ca



Memorial Ride



McClintock Saddles and Garry at the first Jackass Mail Ride (about 1980) Photo by Mule Mary

Marty Jorgensen and Garry

IN MEMORY

John Glenn by Chip Herzig



I've been holding this since I read about John's passing but now I just gotta let it out.

I first met John in a cross-cut class put on by the PCTA down in SoCal. The information and the rate of data exchange was nothing shy of intense, oh did I mention, that not only was John there teaching us but David Michael too. David wrote the book "Saws That Sing" for the USFS. It is the definitive guide on cross-cut sawyer skills. Anyway the class was akin to attempting to drink from a fire hose. Near the end of the class as these two supreme experts looked upon us beginners noting the glazed looks and stunned appearance they had mercy upon us by saying that if we garnered 10% we would be doing good. Well, I think I only got 1% but mother nature would provide the proving grounds for me to gather that missing 9% later at Mammoth Lakes.

The good mother blew down thousands of trees in a wind storm that was epic in scale. As we BCHCers and USFS volunteers mustered at Reds Meadow for the 8-9 day work party I was aware of the scope of the work before us as we had given Doc Carter a weekend quickie work party immediately after Mule Days. If you have not heard about this storm the blow downs were as the new sawyer guidelines state VERY COMPLEX bucking situations. Anyway, as the crew assembled I saw John show up with his famous welded cross-cut and a huge chain saw. I decided to attach myself to John and dedicated our Casper mule to hauling around his gear.



The 8-9 days are still a blur of hard work but two situations still stick in this ole brain. John had been doing most of the cutting and I watched very intently with constant questions as to the what and why of the cuts. Eventually he said to me to do the next batch but first tell him the analysis. I walked up to the next one which was a root ball with a sizeable chunk of tree still attached but broken along its length laying on the ground supported by another group of trees further on. Well, I studied the situation and then in a tentative voice announced my analysis. John looked at me and quietly told me to walk around the root ball in the opposite direction this time and then tell him the analysis. There was no "you're wrong try again" just a quiet respectful once more kid! I circled the tree again and was amazed at the differences I saw. I came back to John told him what I saw and the proposed cut and with a small smile on his face and the words "You got it" he had made my day.

As the work party continued there were repeated cuts and always the quiet OK for me to proceed until we got to this really hairy root ball on the side of a hill. I walked it both directions and came to the conclusion I did not know how to attack the beast. John commented that he too was a little uncertain as to what to do but proposed a grip hoist hold and several cuts. He explained the logic and as the beginner in-training I believed. Just as we were to make the first cut I asked one of the million questions percolating about this tree and John stopped in his tracks looking at me in a fashion that was different but good. I didn't know what to make of the look but then he said the question was excellent and that we needed to move the grip hoist and make the first cut in a different location than what he first proposed. John thanked me for the analysis question and said in his usual quiet manner that "I was really getting it". I know my head came close to exploding with the pride I felt. I will miss this master sawyer sorely!!!



Unit News

Mid Valley Unit Backcountry Youth Horse Camp

The Mid Valley Unit held their third annual Backcountry Youth Horse Camp this past June, and it was another great success.

Seventeen participants, ranging from 10-16 years in age, attended the three day camp hosted by Mid Valley Unit.

On the first day, after introductions, orientation, and a short study on grooming and saddling by Doug Dollarhide, the youth mounted up on gentle stock provided by Aspen Meadows Pack Station, owned and operated by Josh Bloom. Due to our large numbers this year, we broke our kids into three groups for safety, each led by the wranglers from the pack station. Committee members followed each group (on their own stock) to ensure all was well with our young riders; although many had ample riding experience, a few had very little saddle time prior to this event.

Our ride was just about two hours long, riding up to a wonderful ridge overlooking Bell Meadows, located in the Stanislaus National Forest, with a view of Haystack Peak (in Yosemite National Park) in the distance. Our ride also took us up along Dodge Ridge, where we rode directly under one of the ski lifts! The kids were pretty quiet, taking in all of the beautiful scenery, as well as getting to know their mounts' personalities and quirks. After the first ride, you could hear the kids talking about their horses as if they had been riding them for years!

Back in camp, we introduced Leave No Trace to our young stewards. We discussed the beauty of the wilderness, and how LNT can help to protect and preserve the natural wilderness that we so enjoy. Throughout the weekend, Dave Moser and I took turns presenting each of the seven principles of LNT.

After a wonderful dinner



prepared by our cooks Vicki Whisler and Cathy Dollarhide, Dave Moser discussed the importance of Wilderness, and gave a little background of the Wilderness Act. The kids then enjoyed s'mores and campfire fun until bedtime. Oh, and our camp nurse, Sally Moore, was kept pretty busy on that first day with stomach aches, headaches, and other ailments. These all subsided after a little TLC from Nurse Sally and children's Tylenol. Tracy Webster was our official photographer and extra "female chaperone", as there were 13 girls and just 4 boys!

Saturday was a big day, and so breakfast was served at 7:00 a.m... Some of the kids were up bright and early; a few others needed a little extra encouragement. After breakfast our committee members set up four stations: Dennis Serpa and John Marshal saddling the pack mule, Dave Moser and Valerie Perry balancing the loads, Doug and Garrett Dollarhide packing the load on a mule, and Karen Lopes tying the box hitch on the iron mule. Participants rotated through each station, practicing hands-on for the time allowed. The kids were really enthusiastic and seem to enjoy each of the stations!

By 10:30 a.m. we were on our way to Aspen Pack Station to mount up and head out on our lake trip. Many of the youth had their bathing suits on under their riding jeans; they just couldn't wait to get to the lake! We had a nice ride to the lake, with more beautiful views along the way. We stopped just short of Camp Lake, located just inside the Emigrant Wilderness Boundary, in the Stanislaus National Forest. After a quick lunch

they had fixed during breakfast, with Dennis and Doug packing them in on their pack mules, many of the kids were checking out the water. This Camp Lake is now famous among our Mid Valley Youth! Many of our participants have attended more than once, and they are certainly making many great memories from this backcountry lake. Isn't that what it is all about? Alas, but time is short, and we can never stay at the lake as long as they would like, and so we gather them up and head on back.

Our Wilderness Manager, Joel Silverman, along with our Mid Valley sponsored Forest Service Intern, Tara, came that evening and talked to the group about various duties of the Wilderness Manager and Intern, along with some LNT practices that Tara had just learned at a training. We had a great dinner of Chili Boats, along with a variety of side dishes, and ice cream sundaes for dessert. Vicki and Cathy were just always feeding us the best stuff! Campfire again was a great time to reflect on our ride, discuss future activities, and just have some fun! I'll say the kids were a lot easier to coax into their tents after all of the fun and excitement of that day!

And of course, Sunday morning it took even more coaxing to get them up and out of the tents! After breakfast, the kids packed up their gear, took down their tents, and then we all headed over the hill to Aspen Meadows Pack Station. It has been our tradition to perform a Volunteer Service Project with the youth, and so each year we spend over an hour raking loose hay and manure, picking up trash, and sweeping out tack rooms in order to instill that sense of "volunteerism" in our young attendees. Some of the kids snapped some pictures of "their" horse/mount, and talked with the wranglers about their jobs.

Finally, it was back to camp for the grand finale. Parents started showing up, and we held our "ceremony." Each participant was called up, shook hands with each of the ten adult

committee members, and received their t-shirt and certificate. Kids and parents alike then enjoyed a lunch of hot dogs, chips and cookies, and sat around and visited with each other for a while.

It was a wonderful weekend, and we hope that we again inspired these youth to get more involved with the backcountry. A special "Thank-You" to Terri Arington and Josh Bloom, who both donate generously to help make this event affordable to our youth. And another "Thank-You"



to the committee members, who graciously give of their time and talents to make this event happen.

If you would like to get the details on how to put on a backcountry youth horse camp, PLEASE, contact me and I would be delighted to share our program with you! Karen Lopes (209)756-5534 or klopes@muhsd.org



Unit News

29th Annual

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**RENEWING OUR PARTNERSHIPS
TO SAVE OUR TRAILS**
bchcalifornia.org/rendezvous


BCHC-San Gorgonio Pass

Submitted by Pete Krieger

The San Gorgonio Pass (SGP) Unit membership has faded recently, but rallied a group of committed members for a project at Lake Skinner this summer. Vice President Mandy Picozzi worked to establish good relations with a Resource Manager at the park and had negotiated plans months in advance.

Lake Skinner is nice park south east of Temecula. There was an old ranch on the site many years ago with hay farming and pig raising operations. Grassy rolling hills surround the lake and the largest events nowadays are a big balloon festival and summer concerts. The park has set aside a nice equestrian staging area with hitch rails, water, tables, and porta-potties. Several trails are maintained for hikers and equestrian traffic only. Mountain bikes are not currently allowed on the park trails. The longest trail in the park travels along a canyon of cottonwood trees and rises up on a grassy ridge dotted with Pepper Trees and nice views of a remote section of the park. A picnic table, water trough, and porta-potty are at this termination point of this trail. Mandy felt that for the area to be a better lunch stop, that what was really needed was a place to tie a horse or mule; a few hitch rails were in order!

Mandy contacted Christine Moen, Natural Resource Manager for Riverside County Parks and set up a face to face meeting on site and invited President Pete Kriger along as well. Christine was very agreeable to the plan. Christine said she enjoyed working with equestrians as she felt they were a good fit with the park's mission to preserve natural open space and multi-species reserve around the lake. "Horse people just GET IT!", while going on to say that she rallies against the use of mountain bikes on the trails in the park.

The first attempt at this project was preceded by a significant rainstorm. The rainstorm forced closure of the access road and cancellation of the project. This unfortunate turn of events also resulted in the loss of our partnership with Red Shank Riders and Santa Ana River Units. We couldn't get a reschedule date that would jive with the other unit's schedules. So the SGP pulled together and got it done ourselves! Mandy requested bids and purchased threaded galvanized pipe, and later Pete welded on horse and mule shoes for tie rings.

The park allowed us to drive a couple of trucks on the narrow access road that is usually closed to park vehicles. There were some steep spots, deep ruts and sandy clay, side hills. It was pretty clear why they

wanted to cancel the first date after the rain storm. San Gorgonio Pass had the largest turnout of the year for this event. Six members worked for 3-4 hours. We dug post holes and mixed concrete by hand, and avoided getting stung by bees that had made a nest in a nearby Pepper Tree. After all the work was done, we met for some fine Mexican food in nearby Temecula. Thanks to Mandy, Pete, Rebekah Wan, BJ Heath, Lance and Dianne Stephens.



Unit News

Top of the State Unit Mentor Program Our Continuing Mentoring Opportunities

Many folks that sign up as members are new to horses and mules, new to riding in the backcountry, or just simply new to northern California and southern Oregon. Over the course of time we have learned that many new members don't participate in group functions primarily because they don't want to 'hold things up or lack the confidence to enjoy what we do. We want all members to know that the Education Committee has initiated a Mentor Program that will benefit the Top of the State Unit.

If you are interested in being mentored by an experienced backcountry horseman (or woman) to gain the skills and confidence you desire, please call Penny Wells at 468-2715. She will either personally take care of you, or find somebody who knows what you are looking for. Skills that a mentor can teach you include:

- Groundwork
- Saddle fit and tack (what works for you)
- Knowing your animal
- What to pack in your saddlebags
- Increasing your enjoyment of your animals
- Loading in a trailer
- Driving with a trailer
- Backing up a trailer
- Safety
- ... the list goes on.

We are also looking for experienced folks within our group to sign up to be mentors. As a mentor, you can share your knowledge of, and passion for, animals and the backcountry. Take some time to help members of our unit become more confident backcountry horsemen. Whether you are experienced or novice, want to teach or learn, please contact our Education Committee.



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The deadline for submissions for the
WINTER 2015 EDITION
of the Backcountry News is:

JANUARY 15, 2015

Submissions to:

Lisa Deas

(831) 402-7482

muledaze@yahoo.com

Unit News

MOTHER LODE UNIT Partnerships Promote Progress

Text by Lucy Badenhoop & Photos by Jere Schaeffer

On 7 and 21 July, 2015, further improvements were made to the Caples Creek Equestrian Trailhead in the Eldorado National Forest in a joint effort by the Elegant Ears Mule Association, the Mother Lode Unit of BCHC and two ranger districts of the US Forest Service.

On 7 July, the USFS Pacific Ranger District donated two picnic tables, a fire ring and a pedestal BBQ. These items were picked up from the Crystal Basin Information Station on Ice House Road and delivered to the trailhead by three members of the Elegant Ears Mule Association. The fire ring was immediately cemented in place, but additional supplies were needed for the other items.

On 27 July, the USFS Placerville Ranger District near Camino donated supplies (concrete, security chain, lumber, paint, etc.) to complete the installation. Five members of the Mother Lode Unit of Back Country Horsemen of California, picked up the supplies and spent the day digging holes, mixing concrete and erecting two bulletin boards....one in the picnic area....a second in the day use cul-de-sac.

The first posting on the bulletin boards was a laminated copy of "HOUSEKEEPING TIPS FOR LEAVE NO TRACE". Hopefully, this information will eliminate some of the early issues associated with uniformed users of the trailhead.

On your next visit to the trailhead, check out the new equipment installed in the central picnic area...all are the results of our long term partnerships between volunteer groups and government land managers.



Lunch time with the new table, fire ring and BBQ.

Mother Lode Unit Fun(d) Ride at Mountain Meadows

By Lucy Badenhoop

On the weekend of July 24-26, 2015, MLU conducted their third annual FUN(d) raising campout known as the Fun(d) Ride. For a bargain price, participants got to enjoy the whole weekend without cooking or washing dishes, plus join in some fun activities.

Included were two nights of camping (Friday and Saturday) followed by two breakfasts complete with bacon, eggs, fruit, and pancakes or French toast. Everyone helped themselves to coffee from the pot hanging over the campfire.

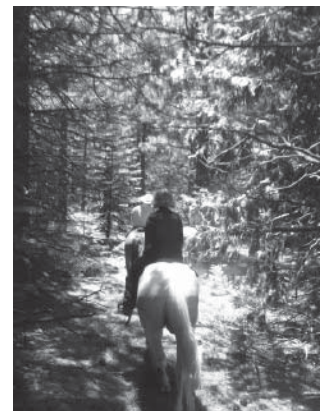
But the FUN activities were on Saturday. After breakfast, everyone packed a picnic lunch for the trail ride through some

"cool" trees at elevations of 6000-6500 feet. This was a welcome relief from the hot draught conditions in the valley. The camp and first part of the ride were on private lands known as Mountain Meadows, adjacent to the El Dorado National Forest.

Returning to camp in mid-afternoon, there was a short rest period followed by wine tasting with music and snacks. During this relaxing time, there was an opportunity to browse the raffle prizes and bid on silent auction items.

Next came the spaghetti supper followed by ice cream and baked dessert prepared in Dutch Ovens.

As the sun set, chairs were gathered around the campfire for the social hour with a final sip of wine before heading off to a good night's sleep.



Welcome, New Members!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

NEW MEMBERS, *continued*

Antelope Valley Bruce & Michelle Clark
Pamela Kenneally-Oxendine
Johnny Oxendine

High Country Ruth Dike

Kern Sierra Daniel Longcair

Los Padres Cloe Mercardante
Cynthia & Scott Mascolo

Mid Valley Chris Guptill
Misty D. Thurman-Gookin
Claire Gookin
Andrew Kazensky
Jan & Onica Kazensky
Mark Yost
Martha & Faith Yost
Amy Lewis
Anya Peeples
Nancy Glenn
Sage Elizabeth Glenn Keller
Michael Mendes
John Lane Gunderson
Bidya Gunderson
Sue Gutierrez
Orlando Gutierrez
Fabricio Araujodias
Paul King
Beth, Amanda & Mattie King
Orville Peterson
Kathryn N. Hegedus
James K. J. Hegedus

Mother Lode Gary Petersen
Patricia Petersen
Susan Travers
Sandra L. Givens
Ian Tiller-Mohr
Melanie Lavallee
Lionel Lavallee
Patricia Ryan
Patty Neifer
Natalie Arnold
Richard Goodwin
Winnie Rivinius
Steve Rivinius

Mother Lode Jamie Pedersen
Russell Caddel
Jeannette Teixeira

North Bay Joel Bartlett
Sahar Bartlett

Kelly Moynihan

Redwood Rosemary Bon
Peggy Vatalaro
Leslie Marron

San Diego Robert Hein
Donna Hein

San Joaquin Sierra Diana Sorensen
Paul Sorensen
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Gabrielle Kant
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Elissa K. Williams

Santa Ana River Timothy Abbot
Joyce Abbott
Michele Harris
Sonny Sardo
Candace R. Price
Gordon R. Price
Michael Nunes
Lee Ann Thompson Nunes

Sequoia Carolyn J. Hyatt
Sydney Portrum Jr.
Yvonne Madayag
Lucio Cisneros
Robert T. James

Shasta Trinity Carl R. Webb
Nadine L. Webb
Tina Fodge
Bill Fodge
Gary Paul

Sierra Freepackers Michael Thamer
Lynn Burrell
Dennis Ryan
Mikela Ryan

These new members have joined BCHC
between
May and September 2015

THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS

We look forward to meeting you!!!!

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If there is no unit in your area and you are interested in starting one, contact BCHC Secretary Kaye Bruns for more information.

(661) 803-5075

Sierra Freepackers Grant Report - continued from page 11

At about another quarter mile down we found another 18-20 inch tree in pieces that we were able to push and roll off the trail.

When we reached the lower end of the trail at Sheep's Crossing on the San Joaquin River we found two smaller trees (8-10 inch) requiring lopping and then we were able to lift and push them out of the way. We had lunch and rested a bit. A couple of the members rode their horses across the bridge and back to make sure all was good with that-Equine Education Time.

On our way back up the trail we cleared the 24-30 inch tree with one cut and were able to roll it off the steep trail using gravity. Since it was on a switch back we didn't want to just roll it down on the trail below. AND we were successful.

Lucky for us we finished on Wednesday as it started to rain Wednesday night. We spent Thursday as a day of rest, where able to get out for more riding and some fishing between the rains. On Friday we observed that Granite Creek had risen about 1-1/2 feet from the previous day. Our youth members helped with dishes, did trash detail in the area, got more riding experience and learn more about being a member of BCHC

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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Mid Valley	Teri Arrington
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Top of the State

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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.

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