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The Backcountry News

Volume 33, Issue 4

The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

FALL 2021

DON'T MISS THE FUN!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE.
RENDEZVOUS 2021
TULARE, OCTOBER 29-31



See RENDEZVOUS, page 10-11

The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

Editor Carol Jo Hargreaves

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Who is BCHC? The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc. is a 501c3 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 should be sent in a Microsoft Word format to include author and photo credits. 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.

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
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Half Page (h/v)	\$100.00	\$95.00	\$90.00	\$85.00	
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For more BCHC information, see our website: bchcalifornia.org

President's Page

Greetings, BCH members. I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well.

Here we are, heading into the final stretch of 2021. Amazing, isn't it? Although the weather in my area still remains quite warm, I feel and see the signs of fall here and there. Each passing day the sunrises are a bit later and sunsets a bit earlier. There is a cool morning to enjoy here and there, too. Hopefully the cooler weather will help slow the remaining forest and brush fires and aid firemen in getting these destructive blazes extinguished.

I'm a firm believer that fire is a good and natural tool in maintaining forest and brush land health. However, these horrific out-of-control conflagrations aren't a good thing at all. In addition to lives lost and huge property damage/losses, many destinations for stock packers have been burned and won't recover for a generation, maybe two or three. Trails are in danger, too, from abnormal water runoff. Repairing them will take scarce monetary resources. Perhaps the politicians will finally see their way clear to aid the agencies administering our public land resources to formulate plans to reduce fuel loads and provide money and other tools to accomplish the same.

There are many ways to accomplish the task, but it takes political will and public support. Controlled burning, practical logging, livestock grazing, mechanical removal, etc., are some of the ways. I hope that folks in particularly fire prone areas see the light and create defensible space around their properties. Firemen don't have time to do that for you. You need to help yourself in that endeavor, prior to an emergency.

OK, enough of that. We now need to look forward into the crystal ball. I've been trying really hard to not bring up the COVID-19 word, but there is no avoiding its continuing impact on our organization. Last year Rendezvous had to be canceled because of it, necessitating a later than normal Rendezvous for this year, 2021. It's right around the corner, by the way, October 29, 30 and 31 in Tulare. More about that in a minute. Due to the lateness of Rendezvous this year, it looks entirely impractical to get back to our normal spring Rendezvous schedule for 2022. Unless an enterprising and energetic unit steps forward to host a Spring Rendezvous in 2022, it looks like our next Rendezvous will not happen until 2023.

That's right, 2023! I'm not happy about that in the least, for a variety of reasons. For one it's the time our members up and down the state get together to swap stories and renew friendships. That alone is a very important aspect of Rendezvous. Another loss is the educational opportunity for our members and non-members alike. With no Rendezvous we also lose the opportunity to attract interested new members. Finally, there is the financial aspect to be reckoned with. Simply put, the income from Rendezvous is what pays the bills and funds the operation of BCHC. No Rendezvous means no income.

Through very good past management of our treasury, BCHC should be able to weather this situation. We do have assets to draw upon if needed. BCHC has always operated in a fiscally conservative manner, mindful of the fiduciary responsibility. If we don't have to dip into those reserves, however, we would rather not. If any of you have fundraising ideas that might help to backfill our operating needs, the BCHC directors would be very pleased to entertain them. This process is called brainstorming. All ideas are recorded with no judgement. After an idea is received, it is then carefully considered. What at first might seem to be an unworkable idea, could be massaged into something very workable. So, send me your ideas, I'm all ears!



**BCHC President
Michael King and "Bella"**

The next topic, as referenced above, is Rendezvous, coming up at the end of October. This has always been our premier get-together. The Rendezvous Committee has been working very hard to bring you an exceptional event. I would surely be over-the-moon thrilled to see a huge membership turnout.

Come on down and enjoy the event. Reacquaint yourself with old friends, make new ones, learn a new thing or two at one of the many instructional classes. Enjoy some fantastic dinners, too. In general, support YOUR organization that works to protect YOUR equine packing and riding recreation activities. Remember, you get as much out of an organization as you put into it. So, let's all get jazzed up and come to Tulare and support BCHC. YOUR ORGANIZATION!

Finally, I want to touch on membership for just a minute. I'm always anxious to attract as many members as possible. Membership is the life's blood of any organization, and there is always strength in numbers. There will always be ebbs and flows in our membership tally, but we want to see an upward trend to our membership, not a static line. Please do your utmost to bring back prodigal members, and also attract new members. We would welcome them with open arms. Invite prospects to come to Rendezvous with you to observe "Who We Are and What We Do." This is a very unique organization. Let's do our best to reinvigorate it and make it bigger and better than ever.

Finally, thank you all for your faithful membership. As always there are many challenges ahead. We need your support and those of like minds on our mission to keep trails open for all while practicing Leave No Trace ethics.

Best Regards,
Michael King
BCHC President

EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, continued from page 4

Many, many thanks go out to the following committees who have had numerous meetings striving to make BCHC an even better organization:

- Bylaws Subcommittee: Chip Herzig, Chair, Tammy Bozarth, C.J. Hargreaves and Susie Patton
- Insurance Subcommittee: Jamie Wilson, Chair, Tammy Bozarth and C.J. Hargreaves
- Nominating Committee: BCHC Past Presidents Lloyd Erlandson and Chip Herzig



BCHC Vice President of
Education
Stacy Kuhns

LEAVE NO TRACE OUTDOOR ETHICS FOR STOCK USE

Submitted by BCHC Vice President of
Education, Stacy Kuhns

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Educate yourself on the area you plan to visit. Scout the area before an extended trip and locate appropriate grazing areas. Talk with local land managers to learn about available feed and water, bear issues, high-use areas to avoid, and current restrictions.
- Choose appropriate grazing restraints to minimize impact. Loose grazing, hobbles, highlines, electric fencing, and pickets minimize impact.
- Repackage food to minimize waste and the load on pack animals. Take only animals necessary for your trip.
- Train and practice backcountry activities with your animals at home so they are used to restraints, loads, and other techniques you'll be using. Take the most experienced, calmest animals.
- Getting lost can cause damage to land and risk for rescuers. Carry and use a map, and cell phone, know your route and stay on it.

Travel Durable Surfaces

- Water horses 200' from water source, carry water in bucket to animals. If watering in a stream or lake, choose a location with low rocky bank or established ford. Avoid soft ground covered with vegetation.
- Stay in center of trail, single file, and avoid trailside areas.
- Use trails designed for heavy use. Follow regulations and avoid non-horse trails.
- Take rest breaks well off trail, on durable surfaces including dry grass, sand, or dirt.
- When traveling cross-country, each rider should pick his or her own route to disperse hoofprints, staying on durable surfaces.
- Avoid steep slopes. Ride across slopes rather than straight up or down to minimize impact.

- In undeveloped areas, stay only one night at each site to lessen the trampling of the site which may cause an impacted site to be formed.
- To help disperse your campsite impact, setup kitchen area in the most durable location as it gets the most traffic. Place tents on the most durable surface available.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, Pack it out. This includes all garbage. Do not burn or bury trash.
- Disperse manure piles away from camp daily, and after rest breaks along the trail.
- If there are no bathroom facilities, deposit solid human waste in cat holes by digging 6-8" deep, 200' from water sources, camps, and trails.
- When breaking camp, visually sweep the entire area for any items left.

Leave What You Find

- Use weed-free feed to prevent spread of invasive plants. Start feeding your animals 3 or more days prior to entering areas with weed restrictions to allow their digestive systems to clear.
- Fill in areas the animals have pawed to help regrowth.
- Don't break limbs, cut trees, build structures, or tie horses to trees without a tree saver to avoid leaving scars.
- Don't flag or blaze trails when going cross-country. If you mark trail with temporary markers, retrieve and removed on the way out.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Make sure fires are allowed and obtain fire permit as required.
- Only have fire if weather is safe, there is a source of wood, and time to prepare and maintain the fire. Keep the fires small and responsible.
- Use only down and dead wood that is smaller than wrist. Gather wood away from camp, do not strip camp areas bare.
- Use portable liquid fuel or wood-burning stove rather than an open campfire for cooking.
- Burn fires to ash, don't leave half-burned logs.
- If there is no established fire ring, use a firepan.

Respect Wildlife

- Control your dog; consider electronic collars; teach your dog voice and hand commands.
- Always store feed, food, and trash in secured containers to prevent wildlife from accessing.
- If your presence changes wildlife behavior, you're too close.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Use pack animals to remove trash left by others.
- When encountering other trail users, greet them and ask to please move to the safest side of trail. Be polite.



BCHC STRATEGIC PLAN



THE SEVEN PRIORITY OBJECTIVES OF BCHC'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Seven objectives form the core of BCHC's strategic plan. In the plan, each objective is accompanied by a description of desired outcomes and an action plan units can follow to implement the objectives.

Each unit will negotiate its implementation selections and responsibilities after the strategic plan has been formally adopted by Board vote.

The seven objectives are:

1. Enable more trail maintenance and trail support projects
2. Make program of best practices available to local units
3. Rebuild Rendezvous attendance
4. Youth program development

5. New member development and retention

6. Website and social media transition
7. BCHC services available to local units



HERE'S MORE DETAIL:

5. Priority Objective: NEW MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION

Success Measures: Every unit has a net membership growth.

Strategy: Test and refine different approaches to generate awareness of our work among equestrians in each unit's local area. Include proven programs for recruiting, mentoring and integrating new members into the unit's programs and local activities, especially programs which address trail access for the general public.

Action Plans for Awareness of a BCHC Unit:

- Develop a membership committee in each unit
- Put up posters, banners and sponsorships at local feed stores and trail camps.
- Social media – Facebook and Instagram postings by units

Action Plans for Trial:

- Hand deliver a new member packet to each new member. Discuss their interests and expectations. A sample packet is available.
- Offer potential new members a group ride as their first event. If camaraderie is good, we can follow up with training for camping with your horse, with other stock present, and then a trail project.
- Institute a mentor program to “ride shotgun” for new members, developing familiarity with horse camp, trail projects and other essential skills. This personal approach has been proven to get new members active and committed to BCHC.
- Personally contact trail groups to consider joint events
- Rendezvous as a new member attraction to discuss their wilderness experiences.

BCHC NEWS

STRATEGIC PLAN, continued from page 6

Action Plans for Repeat/Loyalty/Long-term Members:

- Rendezvous participation is important for developing both skills and relationships.
- Unit publishes a calendar of events with periodic updates. Personal contact to less-active members. Newsletter published showing involvement opportunities.
- Consider an electronic community forum for all members with different chat groups to address different interests.

For more information about BCHC's Strategic Plan, see your unit or state leaders.



**BCHC Vice President of
Membership
Chip Herzig**

MEMBERSHIP

By Chip Herzig, BCHC VP of Membership

I need your help, please!

Make sure you send your dues payments to me and NOT to BCHA.

If you send your dues to BCHA, it will cause a long delay in my receiving them which could have a negative impact on you. Your membership will show as EXPIRED on your unit's roster and you may not be permitted to participate in rides or other activities. If you are on the DOJ list

to work with kids, you will lose your certification and have to begin the background checking process all over again.

Thank you for helping me out with this!

BYLAWS ARE DONE!

By Chip Herzig, Bylaws Subcommittee Chair

There is cheering in the background from several very overworked members, specifically Tammy Bozarth, CJ Hargreaves, Susie Patton and me.

We worked first on the BCHC Education Fund (501c3) Bylaws until March of this year when we were given the blessing of the BCHC Education Board. Then we dug into the 501c4 Bylaws for BCHC, Inc.

Your unit directors and others received the draft revisions in early September. They returned some great comments which the subcommittee then entered into BCHC's Bylaws. The c4 requires two readings by the State Board of Directors. The first reading will be Saturday, October 2, followed by the second reading in February 2022.

Why all these fix-its? Well, BCHC is proceeding to grow up as an organization and our next giant step will be to go to a policy-driven organization. This will be discussed and further explained to your directors at the October State Board meeting.

WANTED

BCHC Members,

Please send all membership renewals to BCHC Vice President of Membership Chip Herzig.

DO NOT send your dues payments to Back Country Horsemen of America. If you do, you will cause a long delay in BCHC's receipt of your money. This can cause your membership to show as EXPIRED so you cannot ride in a unit event. If you are on the Department of Justice list to work with youth, you will lose your certification and have to start all over.

EDUCATION

Student Conservation Association

RESTORING MY FAITH

By Dan Horn, BCHC Saw Coordinator

On the weekend of August 21 and 22, Chip Herzig and I drove to the far north town of Alturas to teach a Crosscut Saw Class for High Country Unit. With the current fires in California and

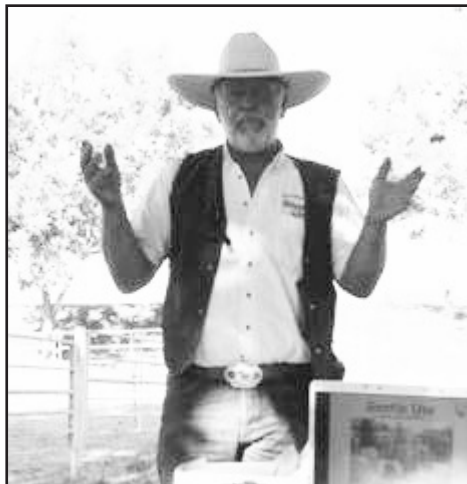
Instructors at the booth during random times of the day to answer whatever questions you may have.

We received word that with the pandemic going on, the Forest Service is planning to extend Saw Cards that expired after October 9, 2019 until December 2022. Final signature is not out yet, but Pete Duncan, USFS Saw Program Manager, is optimistic we will see it soon.

We are planning some off season Sawyer Training this winter. Stay tuned for dates and locations.

Postscript:

Just in the last few days I got a picture from the SCA students wanting to show off their use of a compound cut techniques they learned from the class Chip and I taught (see below).



**BCHC Saw Coordinator
Dan Horn**

many roads being closed (Highway 395 specifically), Chip had to wander around in the deserts of Nevada to get there while my drive was up boring Interstate 5. (Side note: With all the fires going on, don't listen to that talking box on the dash. It will send you down a closed road.)

Our classroom day was at the new National Forest Compound in downtown Alturas. We were very thankful that it had a good air filtration system because the smoke was right on the ground outside. Locals said they hadn't seen blue sky in a few weeks.

The students were about half BCHC members and half folks from the agency. Five of the agency folks were summer help jointly funded by Student Conservation Association (SCA) whose mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of the environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land.

SCA crews are made up of young adult students from all over our nation, assigned to a forest to spend the whole summer living in the dirt, working on our trails.

This was the most amazing group of young adults I have ever worked with. They were thirsty for knowledge, never lost their attention in class and, in the field, there was always one of them ready to tackle whatever the task was before I could even speak. The energy of their youth (made me green) was inspiring. They were an amazing group to work with.

It is so nice to see this level of involvement with young folks. BCHC should investigate working with or supporting this organization. It was an outstanding group that restored my faith in the younger generation.

OTHER SAW NEWS

This year at Rendezvous we will have a saw booth. Hands on Crosscut, Chainsaw Demo and a one-hour lecture by Tiffany van der Linden, Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m. We will also have Saw



Student Conservation Association students



Compound cut techniques learned by SCA students

BCHA: Dedicated to keeping America's trails open for all



**BCHC National Director
Dennis Serpa**

MEMBERSHIP

Greetings, BCH!

So, are we ever going to get back to NORMAL? I don't think so. Instead, we have to learn a new way of life. We have to live and continue on with what we want life to be like! Don't forget we need new members for BCH to be sustainable. We can't stop doing the things that create new members: Getting out and asking

for memberships at the trailhead, on the trail, and everywhere else; putting on events that create interest in Back Country Horsemen - all the things we used to do but seem to have forgotten!

The BCHA.org website has some great ideas that can remind you of all the activities that help in getting and retaining members. Specifically, the **BCH Washington Membership Development Handbook** and the **Membership Development and Retention PowerPoint**. After going through these, if you need assistance, please feel free to call or email.

Dennis M. Serpa
BCHA Ad Hoc Membership Chair
209-531-5175, dmserpa@velociter.net

USEFUL TIP: Who should be on your Membership Committee?

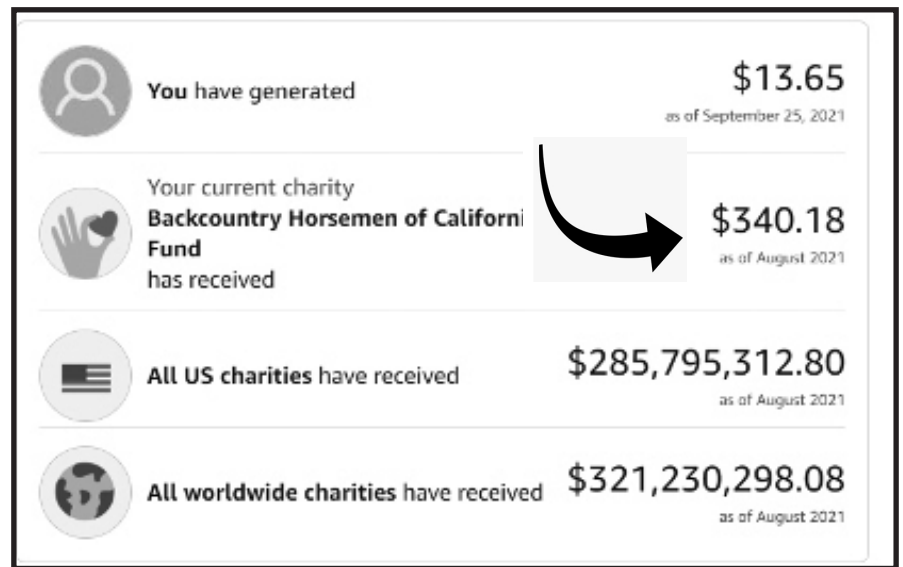
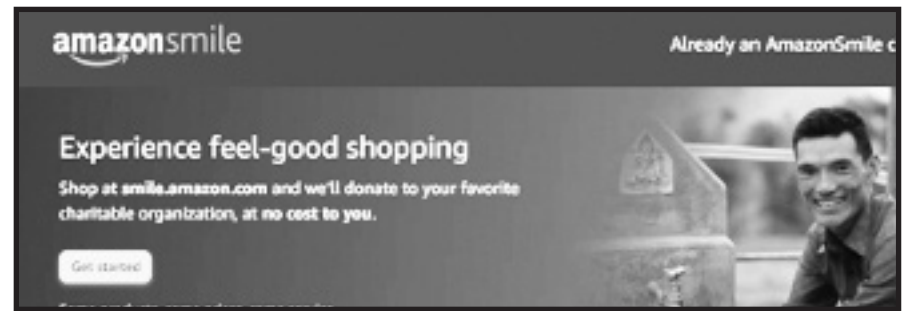
Every unit has a large pool of talent with great skills. The Membership Committee should be those individuals with exuberant personalities and who are very social. They should not be hard to spot!

This is the age of Social Media. At least one member should be interested and skilled in managing a unit Facebook page and its messaging functions. Today's Facebook is yesterday's email and newsletter. This should be a fun committee on which members would love to be a part and to serve!

Hey, all!

I know I'm not the only Amazon shopper in BCHC, so if you shop Amazon, please use Amazon Smile. Since August we've earned \$340.18 for the BCHC Ed Fund! So easy!

~ Dan Horn, Saw Coordinator



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Remember, you can support BCHC every time you make a purchase on Amazon. Simply sign up at smile.amazon.com, designate BCHC as your charity of choice and the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price from your eligible purchases to BCHC. There is no cost to you. Make a difference for BCHC - it's that easy!

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA



VENDOR APPRECIATION BEER, WINE & CHEESE TASTING!



When: Saturday Oct 30, 2021 • 3pm - 5pm

Where: Vendor area

Admission \$20.00

includes an
etched souvenir
tasting glass

**Invite your friends,
family &
future members**



open to the public, must be 21 years or older to participate

This fundraiser helps support BCHC (c)4

We are once again asking everyone to bring a six pack or two of beer from your favorite local brewery so we can taste beer from across the state.

ENTRY DETAILS AND RULES for the following classes and competitions may be found on the BCHC website (bchcalifornia.org):

- Western Art Show - \$5/item entered
- Dutch Oven - \$20/day
- Packing 101 - free, class size limited
- Box Hitch Speed - \$20/entrant
- Diamond Hitch Speed - \$20/entrant
- Odd Load Packing - \$20/entrant
- Youth Box - free
- Youth Diamond - free
- Trail Challenge - \$50/rider/class + CA Drug Free (\$8/animal)

DEADLINES:

Walk in registrations DO NOT guarantee meals.
MAIL - do not mail registration forms after October 17
EMAIL - do not email after October 25.
Please bring check to Registration Booth at Rendezvous.
Make checks payable to BCHC.

QUESTIONS? Call Susie Patton (760) 764-2850

DON'T MISS RENDEZVOUS!

By Stacy Kuhns, BCHC VP of Education

We are very excited to have all our friends gather in Tulare for BCHC Rendezvous 2021. It has been way too long between visits!

There is so much going on at Rendezvous this year! We have Lee and Jennifer Roeser sharing their vast knowledge of mules; JoDe Collins, a fantastic trainer, will be a treat to watch teach us more about mules; Loni Langdon will share The Masterson Method®- "Beyond Bodywork with Your Mule." If mustangs are what you want to watch being worked, Sarah Muzquiz will help participants learn nonverbal communication skills and develop skill sets going far beyond horsemanship. Mike Gifford, a farrier from the High Sierra Unit, will conduct classes to show us what to do in a pinch with our horse and shoes.

Oh, yes, a favorite time of year is Halloween. We have some great fun in store for the younger generation. The Kids Corral will be howling with fun activities. There will be Trick or Treat for the kids on Saturday and a costume contest on Saturday for both kids and adults. Kids will have the opportunity to learn knots, run a backpack relay race, do leatherwork, participate in stick horse races, interact about being lost, and much more. There will be fun photo shoots with BCHC's youth mascots, "Diamond" and "Hitch"! We can't wait to share all of this with you.

BLM will provide equines for adoption this year, too. Bring that empty trailer so when you love one, you can take him home.

Beer and Wine Tasting is always a popular place for us to stop and chat. The Trail Challenge, Packing and Dutch Oven contests will be exciting to take part in and enjoyable to watch even if you're unable to participate. All experience levels, novice through open, may ride in the Obstacle Challenge and a pack class. A buckle will be awarded for first place.

Come sit and enjoy the aroma of foods being prepared in Dutch Oven contests and presentations on Friday and Saturday (or get your entry in and participate). Come watch Packing Demos and learn knots through hands-on experience. Our guys would love you to come out and give the box and diamond hitches a try. Knot tying contests include Box Hitch, Diamond Hitch and Odd Load. We also have a few college teams coming out to the event. Buckles and prizes will be given.

There will be lots of activity at the state booth, too. Come pick up some raffle tickets, purchase clothing, buy DVDs and find lots of information to share.

If all this isn't enough to keep you busy, there will be saw classes and demonstrations, Leave No Trace presentations, shopping at many vendor sites, too! Plus see all your old friends and make some new ones while you're here.

Don't miss all the fun! We hope to see you all at Rendezvous in Tulare, October 29-31.

NEED A PLACE TO STAY?

Camping with full or partial hook-ups, dry camping space and stall space may still be available. Prices vary. (All overnight must pay for camping.)

Also, there are several hotels near the fairgrounds in Tulare:

- La Quinta (559) 685-8900
- Quality Inn (559) 686-3432
- Best Western Town & Country Lodge (559) 688-7537
- Hillstone Inn (559) 686-0985

RAFFLE TICKETS will be available onsite - \$5 each
Pack Saddle – Made by Lee Roeser
Gun – Henry Rifle 22 caliber
Quilt – Handmade by Cindy McMurry (66"x80" Cowgirl Throw)

VOLUNTEERS: Help us run the Rendezvous!

Throughout the Rendezvous weekend extra hands are frequently needed for a variety of activities. If you would be willing to help for a few minutes/hours, please stop by the State Booth and let us know. Thanks!

MERCHANDISE: A limited number of T-shirts and ball caps will be available at the State Booth. First come, first served. Be sure to stop by!

MEALS: Meals might still be available.

Friday Dinner - \$20/each
Saturday Dinner - \$20/each
No Host Bar at 5:30; Dinner served at 6 p.m.

Breakfast and lunch available for purchase on the grounds.

**TULARE COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS**
620 South K Street
Tulare, CA 93274

Enter at Gate 17 off of K Street
Follow signs to check in area

Gates Open at 9 a.m.
Close at 5 p.m.
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday

Classes start at 10 a.m.

Registration Booth
Open 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

THE BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA PROUDLY PRESENT THE

RENDEZVOUS

October 29-31, 2021 Tulare County Fairgrounds

ADMISSION IS FREE!



JOIN THE FUN:

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- Trail Obstacle Challenge
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Western Singer
Gary Gragnani



Preserving Our Trails for Future Generations

BCHCALIFORNIA.ORG

BCHC NEWS



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

Greetings from smoke-free Northern California!

In the last two weeks, we've had about 1.25 inches of rain, the skies are clear, the mornings crisp and clean and afternoons warm and bright. This is one of my favorite times of the year to be in the mountains.

This year is a little different for me. My horse had an accident and will be in rehab for quite some time so, I'm off on foot like so many of our trail user friends

to experience the beautiful weather and the aspens turning gold.

Fishing pole in hand, dog at my heels, I get to see the trails I love from a little different perspective. My heart beats faster, my muscles burn just a bit as climb hills at 7,000 feet. I have to work just a little harder to draw air deep into my lungs and I'm ever grateful to still be able to hike these beautiful hills.

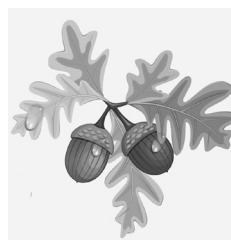
This year has been hard on many members of my unit, High Country. Some of our friends on the south end have been evacuated at least four times for two different fires. I'm sorry to say, we had the second largest fire in California history cover a very large portion of our territory.

The Caribou Wilderness, on the east side of Lassen Park, took a direct hit from the Dixie Fire and we still don't know to what extent it suffered. I do know BCHC will have a lot more work in there over the next few years. Our challenge? Find a way to develop a better working relationship with the Lassen Forest. How to convince the forest managers we are an asset to them and show how we can help make their job easier by providing boots on the ground and our expertise to get these very popular trails open in good time. Will we plant fish in there next year? Did our corrals survive? How badly did the trees around the lakes suffer? We will just have to wait and see.

In other news, you will be getting Fall State Board Meeting election results soon and will then know who the new BCHC 2nd VP will be to work on Volunteer Service Hours with you for the next couple of years. Please be ready to provide the name and contact information of your unit's Volunteer Service representative so the new VP can communicate how to proceed with volunteer hours tracking.

Thank you!

Cindy McMurry, BCHC 2nd VP



FIVE TIPS FOR FALL RIDING

By Robert Eversole (Member Backcountry Horsemen of Washington) and TrailMeister.com

Reprinted with permission from TrailMeister, September 30, 2016

TrailMeister is an official partner of BCHA and supports the BCHA mission.

Fall is one of my favorite seasons to ride. The colors, the brisk breezes, and the lack of bugs and humidity make this a fabulous time to go out for a long ride. Every season brings its own set of considerations to a trail ride, and Fall is no different. Here are my top five tips for a fab fall ride!

The Weather is Changing

Night and mornings are becoming brisker just as quickly as the nights are becoming longer. Be sure to dress in layers to accommodate the cooler temps in the morning, followed by summer-ish temps in the afternoon. Protect your horses (and mules) by making sure that you end your rides early enough that they can dry completely before dark or by keeping a light blanket handy to prevent chills.

The fall season often means the return of rain. If you've stashed your rain slicker over the summer, now is an excellent time to dig it out, lest you discover first-hand how chilly an afternoon shower can be.

Winds are Blowing

Falls changing temps often bring along breezes to carry horse-eating leaves. My animals sometimes act as though the woods are full of equine-eating monsters at this time of the year. Where we see glorious leaves of gold and scarlet, our horses may see monsters.

Fewer Bugs

Hooray! The mosquito and fly populations are starting to drop, and trail crossing spider webs are becoming somewhat less common. One insect that hasn't entirely wrapped up its season yet is the yellow jacket. Peak yellow jacket activity occurs in late summer and early Fall as their food interests switch from protein to sweets (which is why you see them buzzing around soda cans). They are also becoming more aggressive as they prepare for a long winter.

Leaves Obscuring the Trail

Last week, a clearly defined trail through the woods may now be hidden beneath a golden carpet of fallen leaves. Unless the trail is well signed, you might find yourself late for dinner if you become disoriented. Make sure that you bring along a navigation aid (I think a traditional map and compass is the best) and the knowledge to use it.

See TIPS, page 13

EDUCATION

TIPS, continued from page 12

Those leaves may not only obscure your intended route. They might also be hiding holes or unsafe footing waiting to trip your horse. Be aware and be careful.

Hunting Seasons are at their Peak

Fall is not only ushered in with leaves of golden hues but also jackets of blaze orange. Autumn and Fall are the prime hunting season in most of the US. With hunting season comes the need to be more alert and informed. Know which trails are in hunting areas and also know which riding areas are closed to hunting. Regardless of whether hunting is allowed or not, it's a good idea to be visible, so brush the dust off the orange and wear it.

You can find hundreds more trail riding and horse camping tips in the soon-to-be-released book "ABCs of Trail Riding and Horse Camping." Find it at www.TrailMeister.com along with more information on hundreds of trail riding and horse camping areas in California, including accurate driving directions, pictures, GPS tracks, and more.



DUTCH OVEN BISCUITS AND GRAVY

This tasty-sounding fall recipe was reprinted from San Joaquin Sierra Unit's September 2021 "Hoofprints" newsletter. Thank you, Jim Laber!

These dutch oven biscuits and gravy make an awesome camping breakfast meal and will give you plenty of energy for your full day outdoors.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package Pillsbury Grands Biscuits
- 1 tbsp Oil
- 1 lb pork sausage, crumbled
- 1/4 cup flour

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 2-1/2 cups milk
- 1/2 tsp Onion powder
- 1/3 tsp Thyme



BRING THINGS TO SHARE AT RENDEZVOUS' "IN MEMORY" BOOTH

For several years, BCHC has had an "In Memory Of" booth at Rendezvous and we would like to continue this each year.

We will provide a booth/table in the vendor area at Tulare and offer it as a place to recognize our BCHC friends who have passed.

Since we didn't have a Rendezvous in 2020, please bring items, pictures or articles in memory of those who passed away during the past two years.

We look forward to sharing memories.

Thanks,
Stacy Kuhns, VP of Education

- 1 tsp pepper
- 1/3 tsp salt

1. Rub oil on the bottom and sides of the dutch oven, this will prevent the biscuits from sticking.
2. Arrange the biscuits in the dutch oven so that they barely touch. They will expand, so leave some room between them.
3. Cook the biscuits for 10 minutes and then check. Add time as needed.
4. In a separate skillet, cook sausage over medium heat 5-6 minutes.
5. Stir in flour, mix it in with the sausage to get it coated. Gradually start adding the milk, making sure to keep stirring.
6. Cook mixture until it comes to a boil and starts to thicken, stirring constantly. Reduce heat and let it simmer for 2 minutes. Season with salt, pepper, onion powder and thyme.



IN MEMORY

The following members of Backcountry Horsemen of California are no longer with us but are not forgotten. We sincerely thank them for the support they gave BCHC through their years of participation in unit events, trailwork, Rendezvous and other activities. Rest in peace.



JB McCONNELL, CHARTER MEMBER, MID VALLEY UNIT

1929 - 2021

Mid Valley Unit Charter Member, JB McConnell passed away September 5 at his home in Oakdale, CA. He was 92. Born in Midland, Arkansas, JB was the oldest of 14 children. His family followed the crops from Arkansas to Huron, California, where, while working in the cotton fields, he met Ruby Gilmore. The two married in 1949 and raised five children. JB thought he might become an auctioneer but ended up pursuing a career in construction instead. As a Licensed General Contractor, he ran successful businesses in San Carlos and Oakdale. JB was also a bush pilot who flew his own plane on many trips to the East Coast and Mexico in the 1980s. In 1969, JB purchased a 40-acre piece of property in Oakdale. He and Ruby lived there until their 1992 move to Tuolumne where they spent 10 years before moving back to their Oakdale property. JB had a passion for mules. He bought his first jack in the mid 1970s and started a breeding service. He competed in various mule shows and was one of 35 Charter Members of the fledgling Mid Valley Unit, Backcountry Horsemen of California.

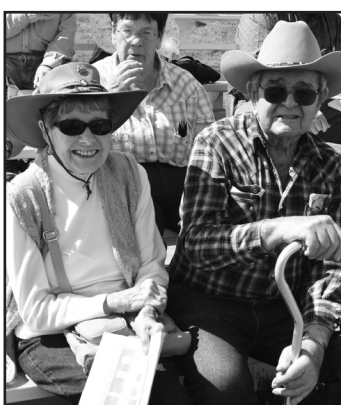


RUBY McCONNELL, CHARTER MEMBER, MID VALLEY UNIT

1932 - 2020

Ruby McConnell, wife of JB (see above), passed away December 15, 2020, at the age of 88. Ruby was born in Texas and moved with her family to California where she met her future husband while working in the fields. Ruby was a quiet, gracious hostess and caring woman who enjoyed reading, participating as a Charter Member in Mid Valley Unit BCHC activities and caring for her pets. Ruby originated the "Sunshine" column in Mid Valley's newsletter to express her care and concern for others.

Ruby and JB are survived by three of their children, 11 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren. They were predeceased by a daughter, son and son-in-law.



JEANNETTE LUCIENNE O'NEIL, MID VALLEY UNIT *(by Kathy Zumbrunn)*

1927 - 2021

It saddens me to have to write of the passing of another of our longtime Mid Valley members. On September 3, Jeannette O'Neil left us. She was just a few weeks shy of her 94th birthday. Jeannette met her husband, Bill, while she and her father were fishing up at Kennedy Lake. Bill was a guide there and the two struck up a conversation. As soon as Bill learned she loved fly-fishing and could ride a horse, he knew then and there she was the gal for him! Their first date was a horseback ride to the Dardanelle Store to deliver mail. They were married six months later! Since they were both in their teens, the "old folks" said it wouldn't last. They were married 74 years! As Bill put it, they not only had a great marriage but a wonderful partnership. Bill and Jeannette had two children, William Lawrence and Marilyn, and have three grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Jeannette stayed home to raise the children and do the books for Bill's business. Later, when the children were grown, she worked for several years as the secretary at a school in San Jose. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bill for his loss. May you rest in peace, Jeannette.

In tribute to a Backcountry Horsemen of California member who has died, we welcome units to submit a brief obituary/story and photograph for publication in The Backcountry News. Please send submissions by email to BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com

In addition, the BCHC Member site (bchcalifornia.org) contains an "In Memory" tab. This is another place where a photo and obituary of longtime members may be placed. To share stories and pictures, email to BCHC Webmaster Jacque Murphy at brennalu@hotmail.com

RENDEZVOUS SPONSORS

BCHC sincerely thanks the following 2021 Rendezvous sponsors for their generous support:

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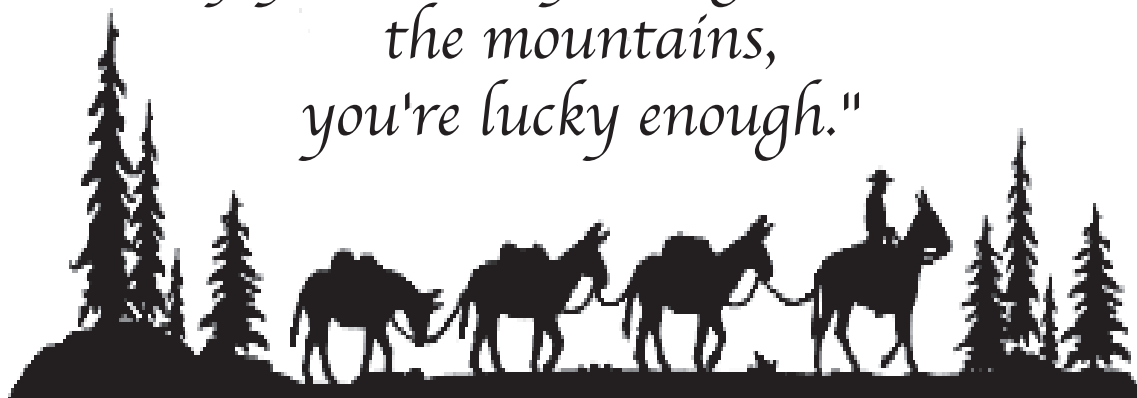


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\$1,000 donation made by Mid Valley Unit member Terri Arington in memory of her late husband Ron ("RA") Arington. Ron was a longtime Ag teacher at Sonora High School. He was passionate about the back country, his horses and mules, his students and his wife.

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



Recognition of Special Individuals

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

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS,

7/24/2021 through 9/25/2021

BENEFACTOR (\$100)

Eastern Sierra	Bill Carter Troy Patton
High Sierra	Ruth Gerson Nancy Hamill Jacob Hamstra Karl Pendegraft
Kern Sierra	Brad Allen of Rosedale Farrier Supply Mylon Filkins, DVM Larry Mumford
Lake-Mendo Los Padres	Richard Knox Kaye Bruns Robin Cederlof William Chaides Eve Devine Laura D. Wimer
Mid Valley	Tony Alamo Karen Barindelli Jay Barnes Gary A. Cain Bob Cooper Carol Jo Hargreaves Debra Lewis Bob Magee John V. Marshall Jennifer Marshall MID VALLEY UNIT Randy Powell John Schaapman
Mother Lode	Donna Jones Furlow Jaede Miloslavich
North Bay Redshank Riders	Lynn Cominsky Renee Aberle Allison Renck Ron Robertson
Redwood	Darrel & Carole Polasek

San Diego	David Roy Chevallier Lee Kelly-Gillen Walt J. Kirkwood
San Joaquin Sierra	John Cunningham Larry Nishma Knapp-Yosemite Trls Pk Sta Stephen Naylon
Sequoia	Jamie Wilson, DVM Larry Young
Shasta Trinity	Lyle Charter Ken Hartman Lori Henderson
Sutter Buttes	Corky Layne Jerry Walters

PATRON (\$250)

High Country High Sierra	Lynn Saunders Richard Cochran Trish Pendegraft Sonia Shepard McLellan
Kern Sierra	Robert L. Anderson Willi Coeler Lynn Joiner
Los Padres Mid Valley Sequoia	Otis Calef Sarah Rivers Kathryn C. Bennett Jim Holly
Shasta Trinity	Bruce McGowan

MT. WHITNEY (\$500)

Eastern Sierra Kern Sierra Mid Valley	Sarah C. Sheehan Roger Whitaker Terri Arington Lloyd Erlandson Dennis M. Serpa
Pacific Crest Shasta Trinity	Craig Bugajski Dean Angelides

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

We look forward to meeting you!

**The following new members joined BCHC from
7/24/2021 through 9/25/2021**

Eastern Sierra	Sera Skellenger
High Country	Lori Woodward
High Sierra	Nicole Gordon
Lake-Mendo	Cheri Galassi
Los Padres	Augustine Brace
Mid Valley	Katie Myers
	Carmen Olson
	Jean Sheehan
Mother Lode	Anne Bochenski
	Doug Marr
	Calvin Martinez
	Kaitlyn McClain
	Eugene Power
	Susan Turpen
Redshank Riders	Brenda Cowan
	Aldrena Harvey
	Cathy Jones
	Monique Morton
	Maia J. Turner
	Claire Williams
	Aurora Wilson
Redwood	Michael S. Willis
San Diego	Pete Macias
San Joaquin Sierra	Joe Machado
	Sonya Onorati Prys
	Janet Smith
	Julie A. Vogt
Santa Ana River	Michael Hughes
	Laura Yeaman
Sutter Buttes	Penny Howard

WHY JOIN BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA?

(From bchcalifornia.org)

As a member, you'll:

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

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

JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE

1. Fill out the ONLINE MEMBERSHIP FORM, save it and print a copy for your records.
2. Submit the online form. A copy will be sent to Chip Herzig. VP of Membership. IMPORTANT: Youth Memberships MUST also print, sign, and mail these forms. Youth memberships will NOT be valid until the forms are received.
3. Pay with your Paypal

JOIN OR RENEW BY MAIL

1. Fill out the MEMBERSHIP FORM on page 23, make a copy for your records. IMPORTANT: Youth Memberships MUST also print, sign, and mail these forms. Youth memberships will NOT be valid until the forms are received.
2. Mail the completed form(s) and check* to:

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

*Please make checks payable to Backcountry Horsemen of California. You may also pay via Paypal.

DID YOU KNOW? The annual BCHC Rendezvous is a primary fundraiser for our organization. It helps pay for day-to-day operational expenses such as production and distribution of this newsletter.

BCHC Units Around the State

ANTELOPE VALLEY

PO Box 84
Pearblossom, CA 93553
Marcy Watton
(661) 878-1791
HorsingRound@aol.com

EASTERN SIERRA

PO Box 157
Olancho, CA 93549
Troy Patton
(760) 764-2850
outdoortroy46@gmail.com

HIGH COUNTRY

PO Box 161
Milford, CA 96121
Cindy McMurry
(530) 640-0429
mcmurrycindy@gmail.com

HIGH SIERRA

P. O. Box 6632
Exeter, CA 93221
www.highsierraunit.org
Dan Baumgardner
(559) 334-7731
danbdrafthorse@yahoo.com

KERN RIVER VALLEY

PO Box 2179
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
4HRanch@earthlink.net
Steve Horst
(661) 867-2777
horststephenc@yahoo.com

KERN SIERRA

16347 Stephenie Rd
Bakersfield, CA 93314-9669
Robert Anderson
(661) 978-9630
lazya01@yahoo.com

LAKE-MENDO

6980 Potter Valley Rd
Ukiah, CA 95482
Traci Glentzer
(707) 972-6256
blackhorsetack10@gmail.com

LOS PADRES

Box 472
Atascadero CA 93422
www.bchc-lpunit.org
Ryan Turner
(805) 286-0850
rt91.ltec@gmail.com

MID VALLEY

PO Box 1709
Modesto, CA 95353
www.bchcmidvalley.org
Doug Dollarhide
(209) 605-2403
bootsandspur@att.net

MOTHER LODE

PO Box 702
North Highlands, CA 95660
Randy Hackbarth
(530) 626-0571
trlryder@pacbell.net

NORTH BAY

PO Box 9435
Santa Rosa Ca. 95405
www.northbayunit.com
Dan Horn
(707) 544-4543
bearstrap@msn.com

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PO Box 720684
Pinon Hills, CA 92372
Jennifer Sponsler
(760) 868-1588
jnjspon@aol.com

REDSHANK RIDERS

PO Box 383
Aguanga, CA 92536-0383
www.redshankriders.com
Mike Lewis
(951) 760-9255
mike@stumblinranch.com

REDWOOD

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

SAN DIEGO

PO Box 833
Descanso, CA 91916.
www.bchcsd.com
Walt J. Kirkwood
(619) 445-3555
walterjkirkwood@gmail.com
suzannekirk@gmail.com

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PO Box 25693
Fresno, CA 93729-5693
www.bchcsjsu.org.
Joe Kaminski
(559) 733-9170
kaminski clan@gmail.com

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PO Box 306
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www.sarubchc.org
Mike Williams
(951) 340-1789
socialhorseman@yahoo.com

SEQUOIA

PO Box 456
Springville, CA 93265-0579
www.bchc-sequoia.org
Gail Inman
(559) 539-2260
president@bchc-sequoia.org

SHASTA TRINITY

16900 C Rd
Cottonwood, CA 96022
www.bchcshastatrinity.org
Greg Mittelstadt
(707) 330-3314
donar_723@yahoo.com

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www.sierrafreepackers.com
Patricia Vallentyne
(559) 683-8099
pcvallentyne@gmail.com

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2568 Lake Hills Dr
Butte Valley, CA 95965
Gary Paul
(530) 693-0420
muleguy54@gmail.com

TOP OF THE STATE

PO Box 461
Etna, CA 96027-0461
www.bchc-tos.com
Michele Machado
(817) 308-0258
meechele418@gmail.com

Questions? Membership Matters

BCHC VP of Membership is
Chip Herzig.

He will be happy to address
your questions or concerns.

Chip may be reached
Monday through Friday.

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

Email: chipherzig@gmail.com

Phone: (775) 463-3634

Planning a Trip? Use



You will find the same airlines, hotels, rental cars
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You'll get great travel prices!

Each time you book travel a portion of the travel
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MEMBERSHIP

**Backcountry Horsemen
of California**



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

**MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION**

New Renewal
 Change

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

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

DCTR (Your Membership Number): _____

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

Street Address/PO Box _____

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

Email Address: _____

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

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Check No. _____

Parent Unit Membership Types (Check One)

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

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

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

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

_____ Add additional choices here

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

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

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

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

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

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a new -

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

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

Verification of BCHC Membership

Verification of BCHC Membership is available via:

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

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 VP of Membership (Chip Herzig) with each units' data AND it will be put on the BCHC web page in the password protected section.

Rendezvous 2021 - Tulare, October 29-31

Come join the fun!

This trail challenge is an arena obstacle course that tests the skills of a horse, mule, and rider. Each rider will be sent out alone on the course with a set of instructions about each obstacle. The rider can expect natural and man-made obstacles that closely mimic those encountered while out on the trail.



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**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN
OF CALIFORNIA RENDEZVOUS**

TRAIL CHALLENGE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Classes: Open, Amateur, Novice,
Wrangler (12-17), Packer w/ one animal

**\$50
PER RIDER**

JOIN US ON
**OCTOBER
30**



8:00 AM

For more information, please visit www.bchcalifornia.org or call Cathy at 559.734.8414