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FALL 2022



LYONS RECEIVES ANN LANGE AWARD

By Troy Patton with Michele Machado and Carol Jo Hargreaves

The Ann Lange Award is presented annually to a BCHC member who goes above and beyond around public lands, demonstrating a true passion for preserving public lands by consistently working on them, improving trails, meeting with agencies, and advocating for trail improvement.

The award's namesake, Ann Lange, was a founding member of BCHC. Her focus was always on trails and maintaining them for pack stock use. She was a powerful voice with BCHC, BCHA, and in Washington, D.C., always advocating for trails and keeping them open.

The 2021 recipient of the BCHC Ann Lange Award is John Lyons, Top of the State Unit.

John was born and raised in Monterey Bay area. He and his wife Gail have two adult children, daughter Christine (Chrissy) and son Bret, who now reside in Lompoc and King City, respectively.

During his career, John was employed as an underground plumber. Construction projects often took him 30 feet underground to build storm drains, water lines and sewer lines for new developments. He and his family lived near Monterey Bay.

John recalled the day, more than 50 years ago, when his 12-year-old daughter (and her mom) bought and brought home a horse. At the time, John was an avid sportsman who regularly bowled, played golf, went hunting and played softball.



John Lyons (center) receives Ann Lange Award for his passionate work on public lands, flanked by proud son Bret and daughter Chrissy

See LYONS, page 19

The Backcountry News

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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.

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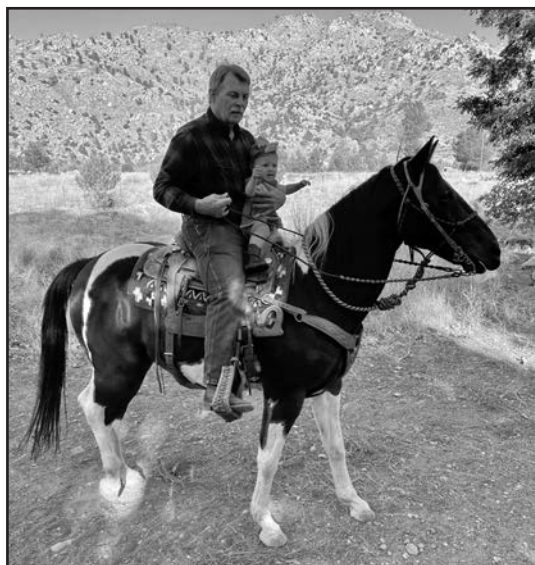
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President's Page



**BCHC President
Mike Hughes**

" ... we all possess special gifts that have been bestowed upon us as individuals."

" ... look inside yourselves and recognize your gifts. Reconcile how you might best benefit this organization Seek the community service comfort zone which best suits you and don't be afraid to have faith in yourself."

Friday, October 7, and Saturday, October 8, Backcountry Horsemen of California held its biannual Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings in Santa Nella, California. Serious business was discussed and settled with the long-term health of our organization central to the discussions and votes.

In the months I have been BCHC President, surrounded by all the experience and wisdom of the BCHC State Board, it has become clear to me that as participants we all possess special gifts that have been bestowed upon us as individuals. Surrounded by the Executive Committee, the Education Fund Board, the Board of Directors and others with special titles and assignments, I have observed the uniqueness of these members and the special talents they possess.

Some excel at diplomacy, others in economics or organizational skills, team building, common sense and logic or have mastered the written word. In each of these situations I can assure you that these professionals make the office of President much more manageable. Believe me when I say I greatly appreciate their unique skill sets.

Clearly, not everyone can pack stock, use a chain saw, chair a meeting, be artistic or perform the myriad of other tasks it takes to make this organization the success that it is. It is by combining an array of individual skills that the BCHC Board can make such tremendous progress with various governmental agencies and private enterprises to ensure equine access to Public Lands.

However, as a previous Membership Chair for the Kern River Valley Unit, I realize how difficult it is to recruit and keep new members in our fold. Once involved, the individuals' strengths and commitments to our mission must be identified, highlighted and then utilized. To blend the varied gifts of people into a smooth team takes time, effort, patience and skill, yet it is a task worthy of the effort.

I have been graced with an Executive Board and Board of Directors that contain all the above listed traits and much, much more. Three BCHC Board members - Vice President of Public Lands, Troy Patton, Vice President of Membership, Chip Herzig and Secretary, Susie Patton - were recently elected to additional terms, approved by the Board of Directors as proposed by the Nominations Committee. Additionally, 1st Vice President of Insurance, Jamie Wilson, DVM, and BCHA National Director Randy Hackbarth were elected to additional terms of office. From the President's desk, Terry Jorgensen was reappointed BCHA Alternate National Director and Alyssa Alvarez was appointed to fill the Sergeant at Arms position.

I am so pleased and honored to be surrounded by these dedicated and committed volunteers. However, this brings up a lingering concern. These same folks who serve BCHC out of dedication and love for this organization are probably seeking some help and would like nothing more than to mentor their future replacements. Who can blame them for wanting to evolve into a mentorship role, sharing all their hard-earned expertise and knowledge?

I would ask every one of you to look inside yourselves and recognize your gifts. Reconcile how you might best benefit this organization from the unit level up to and including serving at the state level. Seek the community service comfort zone which best suits you and don't be afraid to have faith in yourself.

Just saying.

Mike Hughes, BCHC President

FEBRUARY STATE BOARD MEETING

**Friday, February 3, 2023
Saturday, February 4, 2023**

PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED



BCHC NEWS



BCHC Editor
Carol Jo Hargreaves

CHANGING SEASONS

By Carol Jo Hargreaves, BCHC Editor

Summer on the lake was everything we hoped it would be. We had beautiful weather, enjoyed the water and the new bright red jet ski, as well as visits from our kids and grandkids. On an African safari we saw “The Big Five” and many other animals and birds and a one-week chartered sailboat trip in the San Juan Islands was idyllic.

Fall has been luxuriously warm and sunny for Washington state, but we are just about to enter the rainy season. Ten consecutive days of rain are predicted to begin at the end of this week. Time to get out my “Indoor To Do List.”

Congratulations to my friend, John Lyons, who was presented the Ann Lange Award for service to public lands at the October State Board Meeting. An article about John begins on the front page and continues on page 19. John’s contributions of time and effort to BCHC and the PCTA are invaluable.

Susie Patton’s comprehensive report of the State Board Meeting is in the column to the right. If you weren’t at the meeting, read it and you’ll know what transpired. Check out the list of Unit Reporting Deadlines and Action Suggestions on page 5. Susie had knee replacement surgery October 17. I wish her a speedy and complete recovery and relief of the pain she’s suffered for too long.

2nd VP Alyssa Alvarez now has another hat to wear! Not only is she in charge of Volunteer Hours reporting for BCHC but she is also the Membership Communication Coordinator and newly appointed Sergeant at Arms. Alyssa is a multi-talented young woman who wants to make Volunteer Hours reporting easier for you. See her article on page 6.

It is thrilling to learn that BCHC’s membership continues to grow more than ever before. See Chip Herzig’s article on Page 7. On the same page, you will find a list of 2021 Top Hand award winners as well as the newly approved description of State Directors’ duties included in the Bylaws.

Be sure to buy tickets for the rifle and Bass Pro gift card raffle to be held at Rendezvous. Basic information is on page 9 along with several other Education-related articles. A Public Lands Update by Troy Patton is found on page 11.

Shasta-Trinity planted fish in a burned out forest this summer. Read Larry Shuman’s account on page 12 followed by a report on the unit’s Pack Clinic and barbecue. I appreciate every unit that sends in articles and photos for the paper. There are many pages of Unit News in this edition. Thank you!

To Kick off Back Country Horsemen of America’s 50th Anniversary celebration, please send them your early days BCHC photos and photos of founding members from your state and/or unit. BCHA will use these photos in monthly updates and during the 2023 National Board Meeting in Montana.

If you would like extra copies of the paper to distribute at upcoming unit events, let me know the number you need by the next deadline.

Thanks for reading!
~ Carol Jo



BCHC Secretary
Susie Patton

STATE BOARD MEETING REPORT

By Susie Patton, BCHC Secretary

After a three-month search to find an affordable venue a little further north for the BCHC Board Meeting, we again went to Pea Soup Andersen’s in Santa Nella. If any of you know of a different place with hotel rooms, lunch service and a meeting room that will hold at least 50 people, please let me know. Friday night the Executive Committee

met to review agenda topics for the Board of Directors (BOD) meeting and discuss any questions that might come up.

We began early on Saturday because we had a long agenda and an election to hold. Santa Ana River, Lake Mendocino and Sutter Buttes units were not in attendance and did not send proxies. Stacy Kuhns chaired the Education meeting and Troy Patton chaired the Public Lands meeting. These reports should be covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

After lunch, a special ceremony was held to present John Lyons (Top of the State Unit) with the Ann Lange Public Lands Award. John was incredibly surprised to have his family attend for this presentation. Congratulations to John!

Jamie Wilson, 1st VP-Insurance, presented some new forms we need to use for additional insured or proof of insurance. She also presented the Event Release and Waiver form that must be used for everyone attending any BCHC sanctioned event. There were several questions. Jamie will find the answers and let the units know as soon as possible. The new forms will soon be available on the BCHC website.

Alyssa Alvarez, 2nd VP-Public Service, spoke on volunteer hours and better ways to track them. Each unit should have one person whose job it is to keep track of hours.

Chip Herzig, VP of Membership, reported BCHC has gained 255 new members this year.

Stacy Kuhns, VP of Education, reported that after the morning Education meeting discussion we needed a BOD vote to move forward with the proposed Conflict Resolution Policy. A policy will be brought to the February 2023 meeting for approval.

Tammy Bozarth, VP of Youth Education, explained that we now have 34 approved Youth Volunteers over 10 different units. We also have seven youth members. We are looking into more activities to involve youth. Also, volunteers are needed for the Kid’s Corral at Rendezvous. Please get your background checks done so you can help.

Jacque Murphy, Webmaster, discussed how we are revamping the BCHC

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website. If you have suggestions let her know.

Mike Lewis, Saw Coordinator, talked about how BCHC is now on the same page as the Forest Service as to whom BCHC can certify (members only). Mike told us that in the future the Forest Service will have a national database of all certified sawyers.

Randy Hackbarth and Larry Shuman, BCHA National Directors, informed those present that BCHA is putting on a series of webinars on critical issues for BCH members. One was done on the BCHA Legacy Grant, and the October 22 webinar will be on electric bikes and how to deal with the issues and agencies. The April 2023 BCHA National Meeting will be held in Montana.

BCHC c-4 Bylaws were up for a second reading. There was discussion on the changes. North Bay Unit (by proxy) asked to table until the February meeting. It was voted not to delay approval and the new BCHC Bylaws were passed by a 2/3 majority vote. A copy of newly revised BCHC Bylaws will be sent out to each unit soon.

Rendezvous 2023 will be held March 24-26 at CRC Ranch in Temecula. How can your unit help? We encourage all members to attend. It is a great venue!

Treasurer Lynn Joiner discussed the issues with Raffles and Poker Rides. She explained that the c-4 nonprofit law only allows all BCHC to hold ONE Poker Ride per year. The event must be approved by and a fee paid to the State of California. Mid Valley Unit held the approved Poker Ride for 2022. In February we will draw the name of a unit that wants to hold a Poker Ride in 2023. Lynn and a unit contact will submit the paperwork and fee. Raffles also require approval by the California Attorney General. Lynn will submit the annual request for blanket approval; however, units need to notify Lynn when they are having raffles. Lynn must file summary reports each year on how much units earned from Raffles and Poker Rides and how the money was spent.

The BOD passed a new policy on how to amend BCHC Bylaws. Anyone may submit a suggested bylaw change in writing to the Executive Committee for review.

The BOD discussed the need for BCHC Youth Volunteers to be mandated reporters, which now requires taking an online class. It was decided, with input from the Executive Committee and BOD, that BCHC would give Youth Volunteers 60 days to attend the class and notify Tammy Bozarth they received their certificate. After 60 days, old Volunteer Cards will be invalid. The motion to amend the Youth Policy to reflect these changes was passed.

The BOD held election of officers for the Executive Committee. Chip Herzig, Chair of the Nominating Committee, explained how Past Presidents were appointed by President Hughes to seek out candidates. Nominating Committee members Lloyd Erlandson and Michael King talked about how difficult it is to find qualified members who want to do these jobs at the state level. The BOD discussed ways we could begin searching units for people who have the skills for these jobs. The jobs are described in the Leadership Training and Resource Manual posted on the BCHC website. There was a motion from the Directors to approve the slate of officers as presented. No nominations were received from the floor.

The motion carried to approve the slate of officers as presented:

1st VP – Jamie Wilson
 VP of Membership – Chip Herzig
 VP of Public Lands – Troy Patton
 Secretary – Susie Patton
 BCHA National Director – Randy Hackbarth

Congratulations to our elected officers.

We will again search for a new venue for our February 3 - 4, 2023 meeting. The February meeting will welcome new Directors from the units so we must know all Directors' information by January 1.

UNIT REPORTING DEADLINES and ACTION SUGGESTIONS

- Before January 1, send the names of new unit officers (including Directors) to Chip Herzig *and* Susie Patton
- By February 1, each unit must file its Volunteer Hours report with Alyssa Alvarez
- By February 22, each unit must complete its insurance application as directed by 1st VP Jamie Wilson
- Financial Statements including income from Raffles and the Poker Ride are due to Lynn Joiner no later than the end of February
- No later than the end of February each unit must file a report with Susie Patton about all the unit activities for the year (including dates of general membership meetings)
- Begin a review of unit bylaws to make sure they comply with the revised state BCHC bylaws
- Talk to unit members about taking a seat on the BCHC Executive Committee. In October 2023 we will elect the following officers: President, 2nd Vice President-Public Service, Vice President of Education, Vice President of Youth Education, Treasurer and one BCHA National Director

WANT TO START A NEW UNIT?

If there is no unit in your area and you are interested in starting one, contact BCHC Secretary Susie Patton for more information:

bludog46@gmail.com

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2022

November - Happy Thanksgiving

December - Happy holidays

Suggestion – Hold a transition meeting of outgoing and incoming unit officers before the end of the year

2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 1 – Units send lists of new officers to Chip Herzig & Susie Patton by this date or as soon as possible thereafter

New unit and state officers take over

15 - Deadline for Winter newsletter submissions to Editor

February 1 - Units send Volunteer Service Hours Reports to 2nd VP

4 - State Board of Directors Meeting (Place TBA)

22 - Units complete Insurance Renewal Application and send to 1st VP

By the end of February - Units send financial statements for the past year to the BCHC Treasurer AND send Annual Unit Reports to the BCHC Secretary (include all events the unit participated in during the previous year such as rides, events, fundraisers, educational workshops, work parties, items that fall under the BCHC Strategic Plan, etc.)

Intern Applications go out

March 24-26 - Rendezvous, Temecula - plan to attend and volunteer
BCHC President appoints Nominating Committee of Past Presidents

April 15 - Deadline for Spring newsletter submissions to Editor

May – Bishop Mule Days Celebration (Memorial Day Weekend) – volunteer to help at the BCHC booth

June - Summer Retreat Meeting for BCHC Executive Committee

July 15 - Deadline for Summer newsletter submissions to Editor

October 7 - State Board of Directors Meeting (Place TBA)

15 - Deadline for Fall newsletter submissions to Editor



**BCHC 2nd VP
Alyssa Alvarez**

VOLUNTEER HOURS: A CRUCIAL PIECE TO THE BCH PUZZLE

By Alyssa Alvarez, BCHC 2nd VP

Volunteer hours are crucial to our organization. If you are reading this, you can collect and report volunteer hours to help us to grow! Volunteer hours allow for our organization to provide trainings, tools, educational resources and more! They are also ammo for our organization when applying for grants and funding to show how hard we work to keep public lands open and accessible for all. Every meeting or project for your unit

should have a point person that is in charge of tracking the hours and miles and reporting them to the Volunteer Hours Chair of your unit, who will then annually report them to BCHC. Providing a sign-in sheet when a project or meeting starts helps to track these folks down if you didn't catch their hours/miles during that event. The sooner you track them, the easier it is to remember all of the details.

We encourage you to strive to beat your unit's hours from last year!

Examples of a volunteer hour:

- Miles driving to and from a public meeting
- Hours traveling to a public meeting
- Reconnaissance for a work project (driving to a place to see what tools are needed, how many volunteers or stock are needed, etc.)
- Hauling stock to a work project
- Providing education or educational resources
- Running a chainsaw or heavy equipment for trail clearing
- Clearing trash from a trail on public lands
- ...and more!

If you have questions about what hours are or how to track your hours, please don't hesitate to email, call or text me with any questions.



BCHC NEWS



**BCHC VP of Membership
Chip Herzig**

GIANT “ATTABOY” FOR MEMBERSHIP

By Chip Herzig, BCHC VP of Membership

Since my last report in our Summer edition of this newsletter, BCHC has continued to grow. We have picked up 255 members since December 2021. That is the most growth we have ever had in all the years that I have been involved with BCHC membership! So, a WELL DONE to all of you out there.



Of the 255-member growth, 212 are newbies and the difference is what puts a big smile on my face, which is 33 returning members. Of the 33, one member fell off the list over 20 years ago and San Diego troops got him back!

The number of returning members says something great about us. We are doing good things within our organization and within the forests/parks we all love.

So, don't stop! Let's break all our records and keep growing!

BYLAWS CHANGES APPROVED!

By Chip Herzig, Bylaws Committee Chair

At our recent BOD meeting the changes to BCHC Bylaws incorporating the job definition of Directors was approved. It is effective now.

I know I wrote to you about the Bylaws Committee's struggles to capture this job in a way that makes sense and describes in detail what is expected of a Director. The words we stole come from a document compiled by California's Attorney General titled, "Guide for Charities." Within this rather large booklet are the definitions in clear, simple, understandable verbiage for what a State Director must do for this corporation. Yes, we are a corporation. Actually, BCHC is *two* corporations. In IRS lingo we are a non-profit organization for public benefit as well as a charity.

What I ask is that you take the Bylaws to your unit meeting and go through the Director's job section so that all our members understand this new element of our world. For those who want to see the source document just let me know and I'd be glad to email it to you. It is all captured in Guide for Charities, Chapter 7. You may find this document online at: <https://oag.ca.gov/charities>

To inform all members of the State Director job duties and responsibilities, following is the section from the BCHC c-4 Bylaws as proposed and approved at the October 2022 State Board Meeting:

ARTICLE V - DIRECTORS SECTION 5. DUTIES OF STATE DIRECTORS

It shall be the duty of each BCHC State Director to:

- a. Act as a fiduciary. This means the State Director always puts BCHC Inc.'s interests ahead of his own and always acts in the best interest of the organization.
- b. Carefully protect the interests of BCHC, Inc. by exercising his powers in good faith and refrain from doing anything that harms the corporation.
- c. Make decisions in the best interest of BCHC, Inc., act with undivided loyalty, be fair and not seek to benefit personally.
- d. Review BCHC's Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to better understand the organization's mission and the roles and responsibilities of State Directors and officers.
- e. Regularly attend and actively engage in State Board meetings and meetings of any committee upon which he serves.
- f. Make informed decisions. Request and obtain all necessary background information and reports, if necessary.
- g. Not be afraid to ask questions at State Board meetings or request that matters be decided at a later date to allow for more in-depth deliberation.
- h. Proactively review budgets and financial reports. Ask questions to ensure understanding.

2021 TOP HANDS

Submitted by Lynn Joiner, BCHC Treasurer

Every year each Unit President selects an individual that, in the President's estimation, provided the greatest service to the President and to his/her unit. The award is a stainless-steel cup engraved with the year and name of the recipient. The selection is not necessarily made from unit officers or board members. This award was first presented at the 1988 Convention and continues to be a popular award. Top Hand Awards were distributed at the October 2022 State Board Meeting. Following are the 2021 recipients. Congratulations to each one!

Antelope Valley	
Eastern Sierra	Anna Baglione
High Country	Laurel Marsters
High Sierra	Crystel Gifford
Kern River Valley	Archie Kinch
Kern Sierra	Lisa Gammel
Lake-Mendo	
Los Padres	Kris Pimental
Mid Valley	
Mother Lode	Ron Akers, Sheila Bond
North Bay	James Kelly
Pacific Crest	Jennifer Sponsler
Redshank Riders	Pebbles Lewis
Redwood	Rochelle Halligan
San Diego	Billi Jo Swanson
San Joaquin Sierra	Jim Laber
Santa Ana River	Sigrid Williams
Sequoia	Wilbur Brown
Shasta Trinity	Sam Burrows
Sierra Freepackers	Mary Odell
Sutter Buttes	Marlene Rold
Top of the State	Alan Woods

BCHC EDUCATION

5 TIPS FOR YOUR LEAVE NO TRACE AUTUMN ADVENTURES

Article by Susy Alkaitis, September 3, 2022, on the Leave No Trace website. Submitted by Stacy Kuhns, BCHC VP of Education. Permission to reprint from LNT.

Autumn has arrived and it's time to venture out and explore the beauty of the season. One great fall activity is traveling to view the fall foliage. If you are planning a trip to see the leaves change this year, check out these five tips to enjoy the season – Leave No Trace style:

1. Leave Space for Wildlife

Autumn is an important time for wildlife. Animals are rushing to prepare for the winter by storing food, building shelters, or making long migrations. Disturbing wildlife during this sensitive time can affect an animal's ability to survive the winter. **Respect Wildlife** by observing them from a distance and allowing them access to food, water, and other things they may need.



2. Keep an Eye on the Trees and the Trails

As the leaves fall and cover the path, they can make trails hard to follow. Research your route ahead of time and follow trail markers closely to avoid getting lost or wandering off the trail. Sticking to trails keeps you safe and reduces damage to the soil and plants in the area.



3. Leave the Leaves

The leaves are an incredible sight but what they do for the ecosystem is even more amazing! As leaves on the ground decompose, they add important nutrients like nitrogen, calcium, and potassium back to the soil. These nutrients keep the soil healthy and help trees produce leaves year after year. Help protect next year's fall foliage by keeping leaves where they land.

4. Enjoy the Colors, Avoid the Crowds

There are plenty of beautiful leaves but there are only a limited number of parks, forests, and public spaces. Large crowds can put added stress on our shared outdoor areas. We can reduce the strain on these places by doing our part to spread out the crowd. Explore less visited fall hikes and viewpoints or consider visiting areas at times when they are less busy, such as early in the morning. Bonus points if you see the fall colors and the sunrise!

5. Prepare for Changing Leaves and Changing Weather

Fall weather can be unpredictable and temperatures can change quickly. **Plan Ahead and Prepare** for the weather by bringing extra layers and rain gear. Being prepared will help you stay safe and comfortable on your leaf peeping adventures.



HEY, WILDERNESS RIDERS!

By Denise Robinson



My name is Denise Robinson. I am a Wilderness Rider from the class of 2001. I am also Education Chairperson for my unit.

I attended the most recent State Board meeting in Santa Nella and was surprised and disappointed. I remember attending BCHC Education Committee meetings in years past and just those delegates alone filled a meeting room. Now, because of such low participation, both Education and Public Lands Committee meetings are combined in one room. I also remember the BOD meetings sometimes being so crowded that some members had to stand on the sides of the meeting room. (Sorry, a little off track.)

As Unit Education Chairperson and unit-appointed representative, your attendance at the BCHC Education Committee Meeting is required. As stated in the bylaws, "These Unit Education chairpersons comprise the STATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE." "The [Education] Committee shall consist of one member from each BCHC, Inc. unit selected to serve as the unit's representative and vote as a member of the committee." Please come to the next State Board meeting in February 2023.

So, my other point is, if you are a Wilderness Rider and your unit has no Education Chairperson, I would like to encourage you to step up and fill the position. As Wilderness Riders we are tasked to EDUCATE. Your involvement is important to our whole state. The BCHC Education Committee has lots of input as to what we are all about.

Now, this is directed more to ALL BCHC Wilderness Riders: It is time to think about Rendezvous 2023 in Temecula, March 24, 25 and 26. We need you to help by being a presenter of one (or more) of the seven Leave No Trace practices. We would really like to have as many classes as we can to catch up from the past two years of pandemic and no Rendezvous. What things frustrated you while spending time in our public lands - improper trash/waste disposal, poor fire management, food storage done wrong, etc.? What bothered you the most? Here's your chance to educate others.

Stacy Kuhns, BCHC VP of Education, has asked me and Nyna Cheek to help with the Wilderness Rider classes this Rendezvous. Please contact one of us to let us know what class(es) you will present.

Nyna Cheek therockincranch@yahoo.com
Denise Robinson robnden76@gmail.com

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW:

The Wilderness Rider program is a partnership between Backcountry Horsemen of California, the National Park Service, the USDA Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Wilderness Riders are trained stock users who have made a commitment to educating others about the value of wild lands and the importance of Gentle Use /Leave No Trace Skills.

2023 Wilderness Rider interviews will NOT be held at Rendezvous but, instead, via Zoom. More information to come.

BCHC EDUCATION



**BCHC VP of Education
Stacy Kuhns**

2022 OFFICER TRAINING

By Stacy Kuhns, BCHC VP of Education

I would like to thank the State Board for all the effort and all the time it takes to make Officer Training happen. We conducted three successful classes throughout California in 2022. Officer Training is held every other year and let me tell ya, it is never the same from one year to the next. I would also like to thank all of you who attended. Great conversations! The days were filled with a lot of information sharing. Thank you to the units that hosted

the training sessions, too.

We broke into groups to talk about specific responsibilities. It is always useful to discuss as a group what our organization's strengths and weaknesses are. What was most interesting was that weaknesses echoed from the bottom to the top of the state. We have already started working on some of the weaknesses by forming the following committees: grants, marketing/website, and youth outreach. If you would like to help on any of these committees, please contact me.

Here is a list of some items we discussed as a group:

- How to promote BCHC
- Struggles and strengths in units
- Reminder that we utilize multi-use trails
- BCHC is a small group compared to bikes (education through clinics?)
- Finding balance between service and fun
- Fundraising ideas

Please go to the BCHC website to see the 2022 revised Leadership Training and Resource Manual. All officers should have a copy of the document and use it for reference. Go to the BCHC Member Site then select the Forms tab. Look down the list of forms to find BCHC: BCHC Leadership Training Manual. The revision date needs to be updated but the correct version of the manual is posted.

We would love to have you attend Officer Training in 2023!

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR
WINTER 2023 EDITION**

of the Backcountry News is: **January 15, 2023**

Send submissions to:

BCHC Editor at BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com

2021 INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION AWARD:

LARRY CIGAINERO, KERN RIVER VALLEY

Submitted by Stacy Kuhns, BCHC VP of Education

The education efforts of individuals and units throughout the state are deserving of special recognition. Education is a cornerstone and integral part of BCHC's purpose.

The 2021 BCHC Individual Education Award was presented at the October State Board Meeting to Kern River Valley Unit member, Larry Cigainero. Larry is serving as President of his unit this year.

Larry who goes the extra mile in his education efforts, has demonstrated unique, creative, and innovative education programs, has used different methods, or made a variety of presentations and has reached a variety of age groups

Congratulations, Larry! Thank you for all you do in support of BCHC!



Backcountry Horsemen of California Fundraiser

**Raffle tickets \$5.00 each
Drawing on March 25, 2023**



Henry Rifle - lever action
.22 Silver Edition (must
be 18 to enter raffle)



\$500.00 Bass Pro Gift
Card

**Get your raffle tickets from BCHC unit
members, BCHC Executive Committee and
State Directors**

BCHC RENDEZVOUS

**ARE YOU READY FOR RENDEZVOUS,
MARCH 24-26, 2023?**

**We have picked a nice venue - California Ranch
Company in Temecula**

By Stacy Kuhns, BCHC VP of Education/General Rendezvous Chairman

California Ranch Company (CRC) is a very nice ranch, located among the wineries in Southern California. We are working to arrange some options of other things to do once Rendezvous is over. Would you like to ride through the wineries on your own stock (or rent horses)? Take a wine tour? Ride in a hot air balloon?

Fundraiser items will be a Henry .22 lever action rifle, Silver Eagle, 2nd edition. Please contact your unit officers and/or board members to purchase tickets. This is the big annual fundraiser for Backcountry Horsemen. We appreciate all units selling the tickets that were handed out to your unit directors at the October BOD meeting in Santa Nella. We will also have tickets available in the Rendezvous Registration Packet coming out in the next couple months. (Boy, where has the year gone?) Here is a partial list of things going on at Rendezvous: Dutch Oven presentations and competitions, Beer and Wine Tasting, Art Show, Leave No Trace presentations given by BCHC Wilderness Riders, packing competitions, packing presentations and classes. We will have many other presentations from backcountry veterinary emergency to saddle fitting and many more topics between. There will even be an Arena Obstacle Challenge.

We are excited to let you know our entertainer for 2023 is Kristyn Harris. Visit her website (<https://www.kristynharris.com/>). We will be presenting BCHC awards Friday night followed by entertainer Kristyn Harris. The huge raffles and auction will be held Saturday night.

Clinicians will be Robin Bond and Matt Sheridan. Here is a little about them:

1. Robin has been training professionally since 1993. Working Equitation, Western Dressage, Ranch.
2. Matt has a unique approach to natural and performance horsemanship for Versatility, Trail, and Reined Cow Horse.

Kids Korral will have supervised fun activities for the kids and an appearance from BCHC's youth mascot. For those of you that would like to help with Kids Korral, please get your background check and Youth Card. They are very easy to acquire but take time so don't wait.

We will be asking for help from all units as we have had in the past. This event is a huge undertaking, and it takes many members to make it happen. We thank you in advance for all you do to help. You know the saying about many hands making light work?

Come on down to Rendezvous in Temecula. Reconnect with others you haven't seen in a while and meet new friends! We are sure you will have a great time.

See ya in March!



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

**Please visit and support these businesses when
you have the opportunity.**



\$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."*



PUBLIC LANDS



PUBLIC LANDS UPDATE

By Troy Patton, BCHC VP of Public Lands

First, I want to say a big thank you to everyone for **writing letters** when the alerts come out. There are about 20 people who faithfully write letters on public lands. Lucy Badenhop writes excellent letters. She includes pictures and news articles to document her views. Richard Cochran also writes great letters and he requests and receives responses back. These are the other people I can always count on to follow through writing letters: BCHC members Jaede Miloslavish, Kathy Rosenthal, Bob Herrick, Randy Hackbarth, Cindy McMurry, Donald Bone, Chestine Anderson, Kim Yates, Lillian Clary, Annabell Toothacker, Michael Stapleton, Clifford Meridth, Terri Giovanine, Patricia Vallentyne, Pat Shreffler, Monte Kruger, Jo Bower, William Peverill, David Lowrie and Michele Machado. Non-members Sarah Cristie, Helen Harvey, Randy Rasmussen and Jill Tucker. Thanks again to all of you for supporting public lands.

**BCHC VP of Public Lands
Troy Patton**

AB1909 is a California bill which amended the CA Vehicle Code to accommodate electric bikes of all classes (Classes I and II - 18 mph bikes; Class III - 28 mph bikes). It passed and was signed into law by Governor Newsome with a slight change to say that State Parks, State Recreation Areas, etc., have full authority to manage electric bike classifications and determine where they can be ridden. We sent 1,300 emails to BCHC members asking for letters to oppose this bill, and Alyssa Alvarez, Communications Coordinator, reported that 658 were opened, which is not a bad rate. Apparently, our letters of opposition did make an impact because the author of the bill contacted me and asked what we needed to pull our opposition. We told them to leave State Parks and Recreation Areas out of the bill. They suggested the added verbiage about parks, recreation areas, etc. We still declined to pull our opposition. The problem with making this language change is that each individual park, recreation area, etc., now must be addressed individually which certainly makes our job harder. Fifteen Senators voted "No" (Chen, Choi, Megan Dahle, Flora, Fong, Gallagher, Kiley, Lackey, Mathis, Patterson, Seyarto, Smith, Valladares, Voepel, Waldron). I feel our opposition was noted. If one of these Senators is from your district, please take a few minutes to send an email telling them you are from BCHC and thank them. In doing so we create friends for future issues.

Browns Ravine (a trail in Folsom State Recreation Area) is where a major battle is going on about electric bikes. What is happening there is setting the stage for other parks and recreation areas to allow bikes. There is damage to trails and wildlife and yet they move forward with allowing these bikes on the trails. If you have a County Park, State Park, or State Recreation Area near your unit's area, it is imperative you talk to them about how they intend to manage electric bikes.

Our other ongoing issue is **non-equestrians using equestrian camps**. This is a national issue. The best way to address this issue is by taking pictures, filing incident reports, and talking to Rangers. Signage is important but does not solve all the issues. Mother Lode reported that what started as a negative contact on this issue ended with a positive result when they were able to open a conversation with agency people.

Reminder to all: You *must* have a Volunteer Agreement before doing work on any public land. This protects you as you work - you are then considered an employee of the organization you are working for in case you are injured. Due to the fires, some forests and areas are closed but be persistent, keep asking how you can help. After a request from Don Bone of the Lake Mendocino Unit, we are trying to get Volunteer Agreements with State Parks. Since I don't have a State Park in my area, I would appreciate if your unit does volunteer service work in (or is located near) a State Park, please try to set up Volunteer Agreements and share them with me. You can go online for State Parks/Volunteers and see what they want you to do.

BCHA is currently doing a series of webinars on prominent issues concerning BCH. In October they have done one on the Legacy Fund and another on electric bikes. If we have your email, you will be notified of upcoming webinars by BCHA.

Congratulations to John Lyons, recipient of the **Ann Lange Public Lands Award**. I know John always says, "If its longer than one page they won't read it." But it's a big page!

" ...a big thank you to everyone for **writing letters** when the alerts come out."



SHASTA TR

FISH PLANT BURNOUT

Article and photos submitted by Larry Shuman

A few months back I wrote an article on the Shasta Trinity Unit's 2021 fish plant. Well, since then the dynamic of our annual plant changed dramatically. The Dixie Fire devastated the North State including the Caribou Wilderness which we had just planted earlier in the year.

We talked to Fish and Wildlife, and they were willing to tackle planting again if we were. They went into the lakes, and they seemed to be ok. The fingerlings we planted last year were up to 6 inches long and were thriving. They caught one over 4 pounds. (I will take payment to tell you which lake.) The consensus was the lakes could still sustain trout.

We knew the logistics had changed and just to get access to the lakes with stock would be daunting. We started in late May creating access and were ready to go by late June. Instead of the 18 lakes we usually plant, we had 15. Three were removed from the list for just this year as UC Davis wanted to use them for a study of the fire's effects.

This is what we had: The south of the wilderness was devastated to the point we did not see one live tree until we got to Long Lake. Ten miles of trail and six lakes were devoid of life. Only the meadows seemed to escape. The north and middle sections of the wilderness were not so bad. It is a long narrow wilderness. In the north and middle, the trails leading in were burnt out almost as badly as the south end. Miraculously the lakes themselves were ok. In fact, when you get to the lakes you would hardly think a fire had gone through the area.

We planted 15 lakes with 35,000+ fingerling trout over three days. All went well and without incident. Only time will tell what the future holds as the effects of winter runoff, erosion and other factors from the fire take effect. This used to be a well-traveled, easy hiking and riding wilderness, but this year we saw only two people day fishing in the north and had someone camp with us at the trailhead in the south. The next day they hiked in for an hour or so then turned around and left. Not much fun camping and hiking in what has been destroyed.



TRINITY UNIT



PACK CLINIC

Article by Kip Kinneavy. Photos submitted by Audrey Sterrett

Goals: To handle safely and effectively, pack and ride stock for pack trips.

Every spring for the past seven years, my wife Audrey and I have hosted a pack clinic and BBQ at our house. It is a great way for current packers to refresh their skills and for future packers to learn how to safely tie hitches and handle stock.

During the pack clinics, I generally start with a safety briefing regarding my stock, how to act and be around them. I make sure every attendee is wearing the proper footwear, clothing, and making sure they have empty hands to handle the stock and pack gear. This is preparation for everyone in attendance to be hands-on and participate.

After we talk about the stock, we move to the round pen where I typically introduce one of my greener animals who has hardly any experience. This past year, I introduced my newest mule, Kale, a three-year-old draft mule out of a standard jack. He had only had a pack saddle on a few times prior to this demonstration, so he was touchy and fresh.

Kale, at the time of the clinic, wanted to straight neck and pull away from me. This provided the training and demonstration to the attendees about body control in dropping your butt to lower your center of gravity. By the end of the session, I was able to handle Kale with more control and we took several steps in the right direction in this short amount of time. Kale has now been on over 30 pack trips in the Trinity Alps, carrying loads into Doe Lake to the CCC crews doing trail maintenance. What a different and handy animal he has already become.

After teaching stock handling, we move to a pipe corral where we have three different types of saddles: Decker, Saw Buck and the local saddle, a Salmon River, on three of my experienced mules. I discuss how to properly fit saddles to the animals and offer my opinions regarding each saddle along with its pros and cons. I teach about different packing methods for each saddle, how they fit, how to repair, etc.

I teach one hitch for each saddle. I know that everyone has their own personal favorite way to tie a hitch, but I like to keep it simple and avoid confusion. I go over each hitch in detail, fish can for Salmon River, fish can for Decker and box hitch for the Sawbuck. After the demonstration comes the hands-on portion for the attendees where they can practice tying each hitch with different equipment at each station.

After the clinic portion, we all enjoy a big potluck-style BBQ. It is a great time averaging about 50 people in attendance every year. My family and I look forward to hosting. If you are wanting to learn how to pack, refresh your skills and have a great time, come on up to Redding at the Kinneavy residence. All are welcome!

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



Submitted by Randy Hackbarth, BCHA National Director

WEBINARS

BCHA hosted two valuable webinars in October. The first, a webinar regarding Legacy Trail Grants, was held October 12. The webinar included information about the required approval of local Forest Service management, details of the grant opportunity and the application process, and BCHA's Help Desk for states and chapters.

Viable examples of grant leveraging, subcontracting and administrative costs were presented, as well as how to request follow-up help from the BCHA Help Desk.

The second webinar, sponsored by BCHA's Education Committee and Public Lands Committee, about e-bikes and non-motorized trails was held October 22. This webinar included information about:

How electric motorized bicycles (e-bikes) represent a potential safety hazard to equestrians on trails, and

How your unit might prepare to respond to proposals to add e-bike use on non-motorized trails by public land management agencies

Hints were offered on how to identify an e-bike in the field (hint: it's not easy) and examples were provided from BCHA's success to date to challenge poorly conceived e-bike proposals on two national forests in the southwestern United States. Proposals to add e-bike use on non-motorized trails are accelerating across the country. BCHA chapters must be prepared to engage in constructive dialogue with agencies and other trail partners to defend trails important to horsemen.

BCHA offers more information on E-Bikes: To view a 2.5-minute YouTube video that includes eMTBs and the various e-bike classes, go to: YouTube, search for "Charged Up for Ebikes" presented by Bicycle Product Suppliers Association (BPSA) on the PeopleForBikes.org page.

For more information on current e-bike policies of the federal land management agencies, see BCHA's Winter 2021 newsletter.

EQUISURE INSURANCE

Equisure Insurance through BCHA provides discounted rates (\$20 Single or \$40 Family) for equine general liability coverage for up to \$1,000,000. Coverage is valid from January 1 through December 31 each year. The time of year you purchase the insurance does not change the renewal date of January 1. You must submit a new application for renewal by January 1, each year.

You must be an active member of a BCH chapter to purchase Equisure insurance. Download the form and send in your payment. **ONLINE PAYMENTS NOW ACCEPTED.** You may mail in a check or provide your credit card information on the form. Go to BCHA.org

HORSE CAMP INCIDENTS

BCHA needs help documenting incidents of parties without stock occupying developed horse camps in your state. BCHA is relying on its members to provide data from the field of your observations, should we need to promote further solutions. Pictures also help when reporting. Reporting forms as well as printable Incident forms are now online.

BCHA 2023 NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

The 2023 BCHA National Board Meeting will be held in Kalispell, Montana, April 16 – 19, 2023.

REMINDER:

BCHA only mails ONE print edition of its newspaper each year. The Fall 2022 edition is posted online and ready for you to download and read. Go to bcha.org, click on "Member Home" then "News" then "Newsletter."



UNIT NEWS

MOTHER LODE UNIT:



BEST RIDE EVER

By Lucy Badenhoop

In 15 years of horse camping and trail riding, I've had some memorable experiences, but nothing compares to my first ride on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). It was out of the Little Lasier Horse Camp about 30 miles northwest of Truckee, California, on September 24, 2022.

The ¾-mile connector trail from camp ends in a T at the PCT and requires a choice of left (toward Mexico) or right (toward Canada). The other two riders had already explored the northern leg, so we turned south and rode about three miles before stopping for lunch. The spot was level, offered shade and small trees to tie our mounts. The riders enjoyed a quiet picnic on the ground.

It was a short ride (six miles round trip on the PCT), but spectacular in so many ways. We three were not chatty and never met another human, so nature had our full attention, and it was quite a conversation. Recent wildfire smoke had been swept away by an even more recent rainstorm. It was a perfect fall day to be in the saddle with sunshine, mild temperatures and a light breeze.

The PCT literally follows the top of the mountains whenever the terrain allows. It zigzags around rocky outcroppings and follows the "crest" where it is bare. The views are expansive in all directions.

Some of the outcroppings were black volcanic deposits, now weathered and exposed after eons of upward thrusting from the earth's seismic plates. In other places, the trees grew lopsided from pressure by the prevailing winds, much like those along the ocean coastline.

Closer by, the sounds grab your attention – your mount's hooves snapping twigs or brushing dry foliage or the squirrel scampering up a tree. There were dry remnants of spring growth cascading down steep slopes waiting for next year's snowmelt and a brief rebirth of leaf and flora. The breeze rustled their dry fronds like a crackling campfire.

Even my horse Mohawk cooperated by relaxing. Usually, he is very forward and requires a lot of check-release to slow him down. This day he walked contentedly on a loose rein.

This type of experience is why I took up horse camping and trail riding. It's the opportunity to escape the phones and all the other electronic communication devices (and even other humans) that invade our daily lives. It refreshes the natural essence of life.

MLU REVIVES THE ANNUAL FUN RIDE

By Lucy Badenhoop

Once upon a time, before COVID and wildfires, the Mother Lode Unit held a glampout (glamour campout) as an annual fundraiser for the unit. Guests were treated to a relaxing weekend of meals, music, trail rides, a wine tasting, a raffle, a silent auction, and campfire camaraderie. In 2020, pandemic rules prevented the gathering and in 2021, wildfires and trail closures forced cancellation late in the preparation stages.

The 2022 event took place August 26-28 at a new location known as Stone Cellar, not far from Loon Lake in the Eldorado National Forest. The site offered a large meadow with water spigots, trees for high lining stock, showers, port-a-potties and manure carts for on-site disposal. A short hike led to a swimming hole and some historic ruins. The name "Stone Cellar" derives from early settlers aging cheese in nearby cellars.

Volunteers arrived at noon Thursday to set up the field kitchen, dining tables and other amenities for the weekend. Guests started arriving about noon on Friday and were served their first meal that evening. The menu and kitchen were organized by Dutch oven cooks Sheila Bond and Ron Akers, so every meal featured at least one Dutch oven dish. Lots of helpers pitched in with the food prep and cleanup.

After breakfast on Saturday, guests tacked up for the eight-mile trail ride organized by Tiffany Van der Linden. A few riders broke off and chose different trails but everyone came back pleased with their experience thanks to the extensive trail prep by Tiffany.

Late that afternoon, the wine tasting introduced guests to white and red wines donated by the Woodbridge Winery in Lodi, California, and served by Stephanie and Dick Zimmerman. Each taster received a souvenir glass etched with the BCHC mule string and tagged with their name. While munching on Stephanie's yummy snacks, guests could buy raffle tickets for over 30 donated prizes or bid on the five special silent auction items.

Following supper, the raffle/auction winners were announced just before Lance Kell started the music and dancing while some guests resorted to campfire chats with the music as background. Lance has an abundance of recorded karaoke tracks and a knack for coaxing audience participation for the sing-a-longs.

Sunday morning breakfast triggered guest departures and the camp breakdown by noon. Fun and financial success were the rewards for a lot of hard work by 14 Mother Lode Unit volunteers led by Mike and Norma Kohlbaker.



UNIT NEWS

MOTHER LODE UNIT:

TRTA CREWS GET PACK SUPPORT

By Lucy Badenhoop

Every year, the Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA) requests pack support for its volunteer trail crews working in the mountains surrounding Lake Tahoe. Usually, the Bayview Trailhead near Emerald Bay is used for 10 or 12-mile round trips hauling camping gear, food, and occasionally tools or signs. Mostly, Mother Lode Unit packs them in (pic 1), and they hike out with the lighter loads a week later.

On August 1, 2022, a crew of seven volunteers and one TRTA leader were packed into Middle Velma Lake. This area of the trail is heavily used and routinely requires maintenance to cut back brush that encroaches on the trail (pic 2).

The steep elevation changes and severe winter storms inflict extensive erosion on the trail tread. In some sections, rocks were used to armor the trail tread (pic 3) or create steps (pic 4). In other sections, a total of 15 downed trees were cut off the trail using the crosscut saw (pics 5, 6).

The packers were supported by a grant from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance.

PCT AND TRT GET NEW SIGNAGE

By Lucy Badenhoop

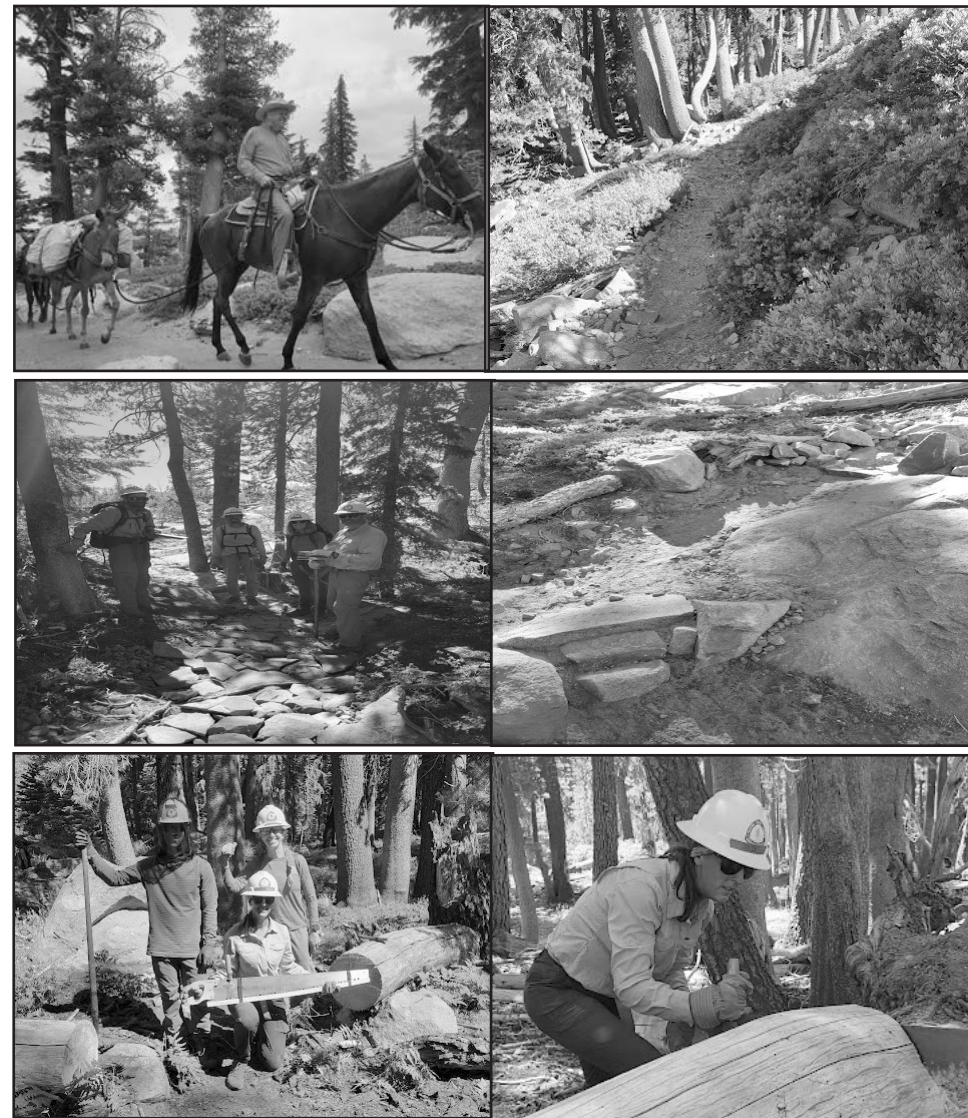
The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and the Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) are old, old trails and their signage shows it. The two trails overlap on the west side of Lake Tahoe, which demands extensive signage because bicycles are allowed on the TRT, but not on the PCT.

The Mother Lode Unit (MLU) helps keep users sorted out by hauling signs and posts for the PCT and TRT volunteer trail crews. Wood boxes are hung as panniers to serve as a platform to carry the 6-foot posts and allow for the secure transport of the odd-shaped cargo. MLU transports posts almost every pack season.

The 2022 pack support request was for new and replacement signage for three different trail segments not previously used by the packers. Consequently, pre-rides without pack stock were conducted in June to ensure suitability of the trails for the passage of the cargo-laden stock later in July.

A total of 31 signs and posts were delivered to various drop sites during a six-day encampment at a centrally located camp in Hope Valley. Additionally, six old posts were hauled out to the trailheads. Each day required a 5 to 15-mile trailer ride for the stock to a different trailhead to meet the trail crew installing that day's posts.

The packers were supported by a grant from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance.



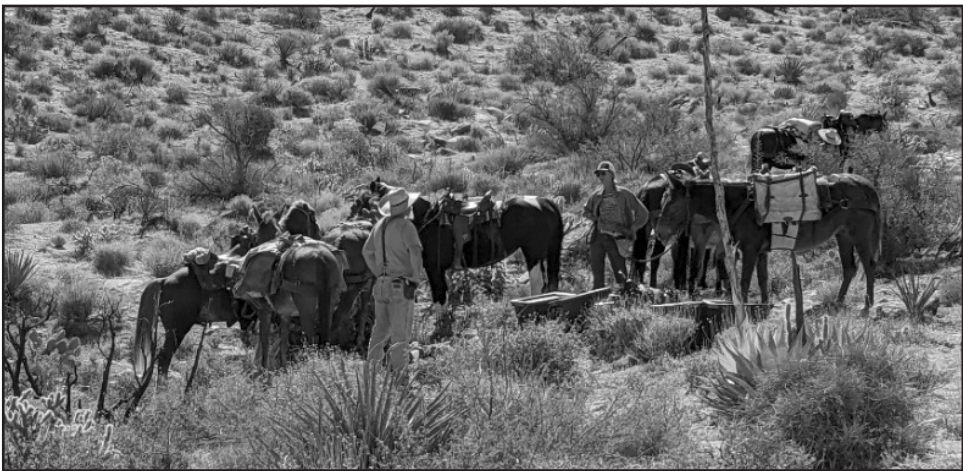
UNIT NEWS

SAN DIEGO UNIT:

PACKING SEASON RETURNS TO DESERT

By Terry Jorgensen

When it's October and fall weather returns to Southern California, it is also the return of packing season in the desert. October 3 found members of the Redshank Riders and San Diego units loading up and heading into Palm Canyon to provide pack support for a US Forest Service crew. USFS has had an ongoing project to remove non-native plants from the canyon for several years. In the cooler fall weather, the sap in the plants and trees begins to move into the roots and, therefore, it is the optimum time to apply herbicide. The crew is packed in on Monday and packed out on Friday each week of the project.



SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA UNIT:

2022 ANNUAL MEMORIAL RIDE

By Jan, from the October 2022 edition of the San Joaquin Sierra Hoof Prints newsletter

September 10 was our annual ride in memoriam of all the Backcountry Horsemen members lost since the establishment of the San Joaquin Sierra Unit (SJSU). Many were strong contributors by working on trails, helping put together rides and gatherings, cooking up delicious meals, representing our unit in meetings as board members, organizing special events, and the list goes on. Initially, the ride started in memoriam of Diana Sorenson who loved our unit and our rides and had a joy for the outdoors and equine life. However, all members who supported us by being actively involved or by continued financial support with their dedicated membership have been greatly appreciated and we hold these members dear to our hearts and memories.

This year the ride was held at our Big Meadows Horse Camp in Sequoia National Forest. Joe and Carol Kaminsky cooked up a great lunch and because it was a chilly, drizzly day, there was nice a fire in the pit to cozy up to. It was especially inviting since the shock of leaving 110-degree weather for the mountains left our cold bodies shivering!

Some of us started to ride out on the trail with a heavy mist, only to return rather drenched from a thunderstorm halfway through. It was, however, exhilarating since there is nothing like a mountain storm to excite the senses! All the equines seemed to endure it as well.

We had about 25+ people riding and/or visiting, and several had been camping for a few days. Two members had to leave early due to a horse injury but fortunately the horse will be fine after rest, medications, and TLC.

The grand finale was our longtime member Linda Fitzgerald winning the SJSU memorial buckle for 2022! Congratulations, Linda!

Until next year, remember, Big Meadows is a treasured gem. It is an awesome place to ride with a great variety of trails for all comfort and skill levels. It's a fun place to camp with sturdy pipe corrals and our unit maintains the cleanest bathroom this side of the Mississippi! This camp was built by the San Joaquin Sierra Unit with help of the High Sierra Backcountry Unit years ago, and, with financial donations, these funds keep the camp open and available for all equestrians to enjoy year after year through our agreement with the US Forest Service.

Hope to see you there next year!



UNIT NEWS

MID VALLEY UNIT:

POKER RIDE

Article by Kathy Zumbrunn. Photos by Kathy Zumbrunn and Aida Nunes

The Mid Valley Poker Ride at Peoria Flat, Saturday, October 15, was a great hit! The weather was beautiful, and we had great attendance of Mid Valley members and approximately 50 participants. The horses and riders set off to gather their playing cards and everyone came back without having any difficulties (except maybe getting off course occasionally!) Everyone had a fun ride and came back hoping their poker hand would be the winning one. Thank you to our Trail Bosses: Rob and Debra Walker, Carl Perry, Kristen and Darren Eaton, and Lloyd Erlandson for leading out all the riders.

Many Mid Valley members helped with all the activities. Vicki Whisler came with the Mid Valley Chuck Wagon and served up a nice lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs with chips, potato salad and chili beans, finished off with cookies and a blueberry cake. Her helpers were chef Craig Stott, Darla Coelho, Katherine Reeves, Susan Erlandson, Bob Cooper and probably more that I didn't see!

Vicki Morales was there with the unit's merchandise for all to view and purchase. Many went home with new shirts and other small items. The raffle table was full of wonderful prizes to choose from, and raffle tickets were flying! Plus, many riders came dressed in costume for the costume contest as well. There were many fun costumes to judge, and it wasn't easy to choose the winner. Both horses and riders were thoughtfully dressed. And, of course, our photographer, Aida Nunes, was there taking photos of everyone.

At the close of the day, with everyone fed and happy, the winning raffle tickets were drawn, and folks went home with their new treasures. The costume contest winners were Carin Devine ("Thing 1") and Marcia Schipper ("Thing 2") who took home beautiful patriotic folding chairs. They were thrilled! Nicole Jones took home a gorgeous buckle for the Four Queens winning poker hand (hmm ... could that have any connection to the recent passing of the Queen?) Thank you to the Oakdale Cowboy Museum for sponsoring the buckle.

One of the greatest perks of this event was that we gained eight new memberships and 13 new members! Welcome and thank you for joining the Mid Valley Unit of BCHC. We hope you will join in on many more of our events.

Most of all I'd like to give a huge "Thank You" to Stephanie Stott for the amazing job she did of putting this wonderful event together. Of course, she pulled in her wonderful husband, Craig, and many others to make this the success it was. It takes many hours of behind-the-scenes work to make everything work smoothly. Thank you, Stephanie, and your helpers, for such a great job!

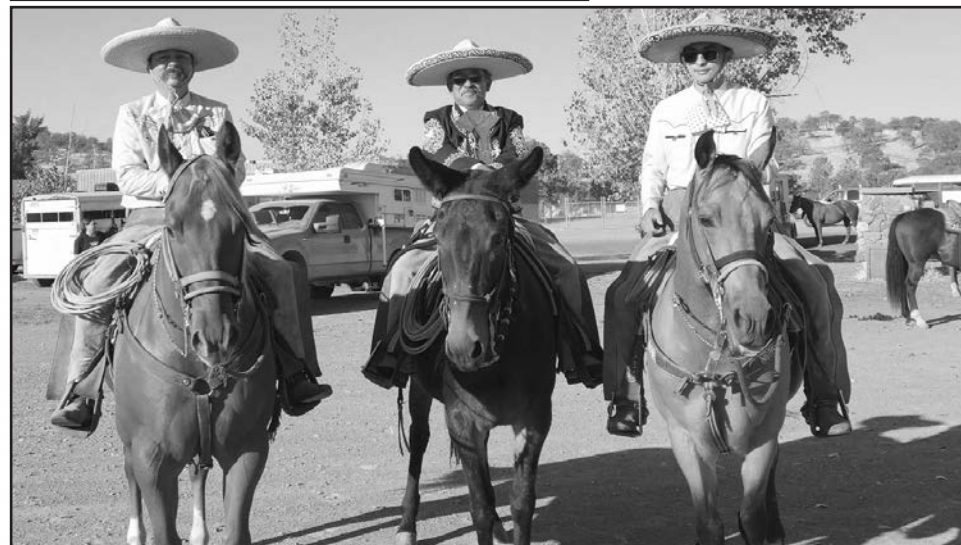


Top: Sandra Ballard (L) Marlene Fultz (center) and Katelyn Ballard (R) are decked out Hawaiian style

Costume Contest winners Carin Devine (Thing 1) and Marcia Schipper (Thing 2)

Nicole Jones' Four Queens was the best poker hand and won her a buckle

Bottom: Victor Pedroza (center) and friends



BCHC NEWS

Continued from LYONS, front page

Over the next few years, the Lyons family progressed from boarding the horse five miles away to buying a pick-up and horse trailer, to acquiring a second horse and enjoying horse camping trips packing gear on the saddle. It took three or four years for John to get his own horse. Then the Lyons bought a house in the country and John started packing in Los Padres National Forest and exploring Big Sur country. The Lyons joined BCHC (Los Padres Unit) in 1993 and have been avid horse/mule people ever since.

When he retired in 1996, at age 57, John and Gail moved from the Monterey Bay area to Etna, a tiny town in the Scott Valley area of Siskiyou County in far northern California. They found the perfect 10-acre property complete with barns, corrals, and fences, and have lived there ever since. John and Gail joined Top of the State Unit in 1997 and have participated actively in all aspects of the unit ever since. Their enjoyment of horse camping ultimately morphed into packing then volunteer trail work and leading trail crews.

For many years, John and Gail attended BCHC State Board Meetings and offered input on the business of BCHC. John has always been known as a knowledgeable, experienced trail worker and leader. He served as President of the Top of State four different terms. John has been one the biggest champions for trail clearing and improvements, including helping clear deadfall on the PCT in several locations this year and in many years past. When unit members were participating in some unsafe practices that threatened their approval to work in the forest, John served on a committee to resolve the issues with the Forest Service as to how to work safely and work within the various agency standards. This effort secured BCHC's ability to volunteer assistance on public lands projects. John has actively helped provide supplies and equipment to Forest Service and CCC packers and trail crews who help maintain the PCT and other trails in his area.

When the Forest Service published its Job Hazard Analysis with a pack animal section filling three pages and requiring specific diameters of lead and lash ropes, John edited the document and made it a single page of pertinent information accepted by the agencies and used to this day. Some still remember John stating he "was not going to pack another animal just to haul paperwork," and "If it is longer than one page, no one will read it."

While John may not ride much anymore, he can be counted on to support other unit members who pack into trails by providing help moving trucks and trailers and driving supplies to trailheads. He is an inspiration to younger BCHC members, especially when he is right in the middle of the work with his hard hat and chaps on, cutting logs off trails. John has worked closely with BCHC and the PCTA over the years to advocate for and maintain the many miles of trail in his area. He supports legislation to preserve public lands for use by the public and is quick to provide comment when something threatens this access.

John relished every one of the years of trail work and riding he has done. He is highly deserving of the second annual Ann Lange Award and was shocked and surprised to tears when his son and daughter appeared at the State Board Meeting to witness the presentation ceremony.

Congratulations, John!

AVOID HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

Excerpted by Carol Jo Hargreaves from Jack Haskel, PCTA Trail Information Manager, article, Fall 2022 PCT Communicator

Jack Haskel's recent article in the PCT Communicator caught my eye because we have had harmful algal blooms in the Washington lake at which I live. When that happens, people are cautioned to stay out of the water and not to let their children or pets swim in or drink from the lake.

Harmful algae are formed by cyanobacteria that can be toxic and cause eye irritation, skin rash, mouth ulcers, vomiting, diarrhea, and cold and flu-like symptoms. **Unfortunately, the ways we purify water in the backcountry (boiling, water filters, UV light, chemical treatment) DO NOT REMOVE THE TOXINS.** It is possible that some of these water purification practices could actually break down the bacteria's cell walls and release more toxins into the water.

Sometimes algal blooms are an obvious scum on the water but sometimes they are difficult to see beneath the surface or attached to the bottom. They can be green, white, red, or brown. Toxins can break off a harmful algal mat and float downstream.

Haskel explains this is an emerging issue "that's likely to get worse as the changing climate warms the water in lakes, reservoirs, tanks, springs, rivers and streams." According to NOAA, every U.S. coastal and Great Lakes state experiences harmful algal blooms. Interestingly, NOAA has set up methods to forecast the blooms in Florida and Texas and is working with NASA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Geological Survey to create a satellite "early warning system."

Haskel advises us to seek immediate medical attention if we think we or our pet is sick from water. Also, to study and protect ourselves. For more information about toxic algae blooms, visit mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs.

In the meantime, be aware and avoid drinking water in the backcountry that could be contaminated.

The American Horse Council Foundation is hoping to update the National Economic Impact Study (EIS) next year to document the economic effects of all segments of the horse industry on the state and national economy. Every equine organization, manufacturer, retailer and supplier will benefit directly from the public exposure an EIS provides.



AMERICAN
HORSE COUNCIL

Donations are sought from all industry participants – businesses, horse owners, and enthusiasts alike. The AHC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code and **contributions to it are tax-deductible.** Pledge payments are due no later than **1/1/2023** and AHCF offers several payment methods and options.

If you have any questions, please contact info@horsecouncil.org.

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

7/12/2022 through 10/12/2022

THANK YOU!

BENEFACTOR (\$100)

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

BENEFACTOR (\$100)

San Diego	Lee Kelly-Gillen Walt J. Kirkwood Lynda Sterns
San Joaquin Sierra	John Cunningham Stephen Naylor
Sequoia	Kathryn C. Bennett Frank Schlitz Jan Walker Jamie Wilson, DVM Larry Young
Shasta Trinity	Lyle Charter Ken Hartman Lori Henderson Laura Rodger

PATRON (\$250)

High Country	Lynn Saunders
High Sierra	Richard Cochran Sonia Shepard McLellan
Kern Sierra	Willi Coeler Lynn Joiner
Lake-Mendo	Clint Hanks
Los Padres	Otis Calef
Mid Valley	David Kraft Dennis M. Serpa
San Diego	David Roy Chevallier
Sequoia	Jim Holly
Shasta Trinity	Bruce McGowan
Sutter Buttes	Jerry Walters

MT. WHITNEY (\$500)

Eastern Sierra	Sarah C. Sheehan
Kern Sierra	Roger Whitaker
Los Padres	Lisa Shinn
Mid Valley	Terri Arington Lloyd Erlandson
Mother Lode	Catherine Godwin
Pacific Crest	Craig Bugajski
Redshank Riders	Allison Renck
Shasta Trinity	Dean Angelides

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T 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.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

**We look forward
to meeting you!**

**The following new members joined BCHC from
7/12/2022 through 10/12/2022**

Los Padres	Mali Alwood Doug Carscaden Cody Chambers Dan Dixon Niels Grether Basile Inman Ellen McCombs Teresa & John Robinson Anthony Vasquez & Sandra Porter-Obermeyer Hannah Rose Weiss
Mid Valley	Dan & Gina Iverson Regis Kearney Nancy Kissack Karen Rosasco Beth E. Wilson
Mother Lode	Tom & Katie Alling Cosumnes River Horsemens Ass'n, Lisa Cordy Robert Fischer Suzi Johnson Julie A. McManus Leslie Walker
North Bay Pacific Crest Redshank Riders	Paul Marquez Janet J. Grogan Audrey DeCoste Heather LaBathe & Justin Hood Sarah Poncellow Debbi & Annalisa Vessey
Redwood	Mickelle Ammer Lurane Cassidy & Shania Dalton Teresa Mellow Morgan Morss Tanya Westcott Rankin Sharlene & Sadie Rayl Rachel Rosen & Dan Wilkinson Leslie Westcott Krisha White & Cameryn Reynolds Mitzi Whitley
San Diego San Joaquin Sierra	Sharon & Drew Kohn Scott Long, Rebecca Brannon & Whitney Eggers Summer & Jake Price Leann Seroka
Santa Ana River Shasta Trinity	Meta & Ginny Berk Ian Okonski-Fernandes Alberto Pena

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!

TO 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.)

TO 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 Membersio. **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

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 33
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
Larry Cigainero
(760) 379-5920
larrybchc@aol.com

KERN SIERRA

16347 Stephenie Rd
Bakersfield, CA 93314-9669
Tammy Bozarth
(661) 322-2545
spashiners@yahoo.com

LAKE-MENDO

6980 Potter Valley Rd
Ukiah, CA 95482
Scott Harrison
(707) 234-9512
tpahl@sbcglobal.net

LOS PADRES

Box 472
Atascadero CA 93422
Greg Feinberg
(805) 458-2879
feinberg.greg@gmail.com

MID VALLEY

PO Box 1709
Modesto, CA 95353
www.bchcmidvalley.org
Doug Dollarhide
(209) 602-1489
bootsandspur@att.net

MOTHER LODE

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

NORTH BAY

PO Box 9435
Santa Rosa Ca. 95405
www.northbayunit.com
Dan Horn
(707) 953-4903
bearstrap@msn.com

PACIFIC CREST

P.O. 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
stumblin15@gmail.com

REDWOOD

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

SAN DIEGO

PO Box 833
Descanso, CA 91916.
www.bchcsd.com
Terry Jorgenson
(760) 802-1420
tlh9749@yahoo.com

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA

PO Box 25693
Fresno, CA 93729-5693
www.bchcsjsu.org.
Joe Kaminski
(559) 909 0505
kaminski clan@gmail.com

SANTA ANA RIVER

PO Box 306
Norco, CA 92860
www.sarubchc.org
Mike Williams
(951) 340-1789
socialhorsemn@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

206330 Gas Point Rd Ste B2 #48
Cottonwood, CA 96022
www.bchcshastatrinity.org
Laura Rodger
(530) 347-9351
fordoglaura@sbcglobal.net

SIERRA FREEPACKERS

PO Box 64
Oakhurst, CA 93644-0064
www.sierrafreepackers.com
Patricia Vallentyne
(559) 760-6589
pcvallentyne@gmail.com

SUTTER BUTTES

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
and cruises as on other travel websites!

You'll get great travel prices!

Each time you book travel a portion of the travel
commissions will go to support BCHC!

BCHC EARNS 60%

**OF THE
COMMISSIONS!**

It's that simple!

www.ytbtravel.com/bchc

REMEMBER

Send your membership renewals to VP of
Membership Chip Herzig. **DO NOT SEND THEM
TO BCHA.** Sending to the wrong place will delay
payment and cause your membership to show as
expired so you cannot participate in unit events.

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.

WHEN “TRAIL ANGEL” TAKES ON NEW MEANING

Article by Michele Machado, Top of the State Unit. Photos courtesy of Sonja Endlweber and Michele Machado

Normally I would write these stories like a newspaper story, but this one is going to be in the first person because my fiancé, Alan Woods, and I had the pleasure and honor of being Pacific Crest Trail “trail angels” for the most extraordinary horseman and horsewoman this summer. This opportunity came courtesy of being a member of the BCHC Top of the State Unit.

In early June, Sonja Endlweber (from Austria) and Guenter Wamser (from Germany) reached out to our unit via our Facebook page to ask for help as they planned to ride the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) in our Northern California area with their four BLM mustangs and Border Collie, Charlie. I responded to their request and offered to keep their truck/trailer at our ranch and help them get a German film crew of two to Etna Summit as they documented their ride on the PCT.

Little did we know that this first “trail angel” gesture would lead to a great friendship with these well-known adventure riders.

On July 29, the same day that the McKinney Fire ignited in Siskiyou County, Sonja, Guenter and their German film crew, Paul and Johannes, left the PCT on the Kelsey Creek Trail because the PCT was blocked after that for stock use. The timing was perfect because we picked them all up on July 30 at the Kelsey trailhead and evacuated them to our ranch in Big Springs.

Sonja, Guenter, their four mustangs and Charlie the Border Collie spent almost a week at the Machado Ranch in Big Springs, resting and planning their next riding segment on the PCT in Oregon. We learned more about their full career of riding their mustangs on the U.S. Continental Divide trail and into Canada and Alaska. They have published books about their travels with their horses and they have a website, <https://www.abenteuerreiter.de/en/> and Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=abenteuerreiter>

After Guenter and Sonja ended their stay with us, they invited us to camp with them at Quinn Meadow horse camp in Oregon where I got to ride their mustang, Rusty, on a ride to Mirror Lake in the Three Sisters Wilderness. It was a beautiful ride, and it was an honor to ride with them.

Sonja and Guenter ended their PCT ride in late September in Washington and, as they were driving back south, they stopped at our ranch for another night’s stay. When they were with us in August, Guenter had removed the horseshoes they used on the many miles of PCT in our area and gave the shoes to Alan. That gave Alan the idea to create a horseshoe art item, so when Sonja and Guenter arrived back in September, Alan presented them with an American flag horseshoe art piece they can take home to Europe to remember their PCT ride. They were so appreciative of this gift.

Sonja and Guenter are riding in Arizona this fall and then plan to have their four BLM mustangs flown back to Germany where they will live out the rest of their lives on European soil. We wish all of them safe journeys and hope to see them again, but maybe this time in Europe.



Sonja and Guenter (and Charlie) in camp



Guenter in camp with Rusty, the mustang



Michele riding with Sonja in Oregon

Alan created an American flag with the mustang horseshoes to present to Guenter and Sonja



Follow Sonja and Guenter's travels on Facebook by searching for Abenteuerreiter