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

BCHC

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The Backcountry News



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Spring/Summer 2012

Thank You for a Successful 2012 Rendezvous

Again this year the BCHC Rendezvous was held in Red Bluff. It was bigger and better than last year and it was a pleasure to be involved. It takes a lot of support from the BCHC Units, individual BCHC members, local businesses and others to put it on. So with that I would like to thank everyone I can that went above and beyond the ordinary. First from BCHC I would like to thank the five North State Units:

High Country Redwoods Shasta Trinity Top of the State Sutter Buttes

Next I want to thank some special individuals that were very instrumental in making the Rendezvous such a success; Sam Burrows, Kim Gardner, Pat Snyder, Ken Snyder, Melissa Budden, and the rest of the 2012 committee. A special thanks to those from CSHA for putting on the Trail Obstacle Challenge.

Last I would like to thank the local businesses that provided support to us: Maverick Outfitters, Hawes Farm & Ranch Supply, Guy Rents, Tink, Four Corners Hulling & Shelling, Bar Ale Feeds, Grange Insurance, The Gallery in Mt Shasta, McCloud Mercantile, Wild Wind Rustics, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Riverside Nursery, and Antelope Veterinary Clinic. These businesses helped sponsor the event and provided BCHC with equipment, logistical items, high end raffle items, and other help. That goes along with the North State Businesses that provided over \$10,000 in cash and items for our raffle.

Again thank you for your support and efforts. The Rendezvous moves to Norco in 2013 and I know it will also be a resounding success and it will be great to see it in the southland. I will be there, won't you?

AWARDS:

Every Chapter that decorated their tables did a great job but we only have 4 awards!

Best Overall went to Lake-Mendo!

Best Represents BCHC went to North Bay!

Most Humorous went to Shasta-Trinity!

Most Original went to Top of the State!

See pages 16 & 17 for contest results & photos



Kids having fun at the Rendezvous

The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

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Who is BCHC? The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc. is a 501c4 nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of California, March 13, 1990, with a 501(c)3 education foundation established in 2007. The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc., reserves the right to refuse any advertisements and/or articles that are inconsistent with the Backcountry Horsemen of California's objectives and purpose statement. Other material will be printed at the Editor's discretion.

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Reader Submission: The Backcountry News welcomes reader contributions, event and calendar dates, and Unit news. These will be printed on a space-available basis. Submissions may be sent on disk in a Microsoft Word format, emailed or sent by regular mail. Longer articles are subject to edit for space at the discretion of the Editor. Photos may not be returned.

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

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

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

Number of Issues:	1	2	3	4	Cost per Issue
Full Page	\$150.00	\$142.50	\$135.00	\$127.50	
Half Page (h/v)	\$100.00	\$95.00	\$90.00	\$85.00	
Quarter Page (h/v)	\$80.00	\$76.00	\$72.00	\$68.00	
Bus. Card (h/v)	\$25.00	\$23.75	\$22.50	\$21.25	

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

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President's Page



Greetings BCH,

Seems like just a short time since I last communicated with you. We just completed another great Rendezvous, thanks to Larry and crew; they did a fantastic job of getting us all educated! Next year we will be heading to Norco, CA for Rendezvous 2013!

I hope everyone has been communicating with your agency partners to organize summer work projects and I encourage you to invite new members to participate. As we look around at fellow members a lot of us are getting a little gray and long in the tooth, who is going to replace you? There is the question of how long we can physically continue these labor intensive projects? Is it 5, 10, or 20 years before we can no longer navigate the back country? We need to be looking over our shoulder to ensure we're training replacements and instilling the desire to care for the back country! Get those kids and grand kids involved NOW!

Most of you are probably aware of the lawsuit against the Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park by the High Sierra Hikers Assn. Lately the e-mail have really been flying through cyberspace. If you've been out of touch you probably haven't heard about what they want, such as limited stock use in the back country, they don't want us to pack in "luxury items" such as ice chests, chairs, 2 burner stoves, no bells on stock and of course they want you to put diapers on your horse! If you don't believe this check out their website at highsierrahikers.org. The Park service did not assess the "needs necessity" of having commercial packers in the back country, so the Judge will decide on May 23 as to the mitigation of what the park needs to do. No one can predict the outcome, but in the meantime the park has suspended issuing permits to the packers, essentially shutting down their operations.

This brings us to where BCHC stands and what we can do? We have written letters to the park superintendent and our legislators to encourage them to reinstate the packer's permits. But can we do more? I have appointed a Legal Affairs Committee to address all items pertaining to legal matters that need to be dealt with by BCHC. The appointed members are Bob Magee, Richard Waller, Lynn Joiner, Dan Horn, and Richard Cochran. They will report to the Executive Committee as to what actions BCHC should pursue.

As you know whenever you need legal counsel it takes money. We have been talking about fund-raising for a long time but this issue brings to the forefront that we need money for legal actions. There are many ideas floating about and even BCHA will be discussing the need for a dues increase. We know that many of our units are sitting on extra cash reserves in the bank. I know from my own unit's perspective that it is very hard to turn loose those hard earned dollars but we may have to ask the units to come up with funds to support our legal pursuits.

We hate to think of a dues increase but that may be the only fair way for all members to participate equally. We need to get a significant sum in this legal fund and hopefully never have to spend it. However, if we don't spend it we can then use that fund as equity and in turn use the interest generated to carry out BCHC purposes. So put on your thinking caps to come up with ideas on how we can build a sizeable legal fund to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in Americas back country and wilderness areas.

Good luck on your summer adventures,

See you on the trail,

President Dennis M. Serpa



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BCHC Rendezvous 2013

Will be held in Norco.

March 22nd-24th, 2013

George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center

BCHC

YOUTH COORDINATOR REPORT

By Karen Lopes, BCHC Youth Coordinator

Hello! Well, we are just recovering from the 2012 Rendezvous in Red Bluff! Larry Shuman and his crew did another fine job of organizing this event...it sure takes an entire team of worker-bees to pull off an event of this magnitude! Congratulations again!!

Our Youth Program was a big success! We had 38 kids

participate in the Incentive Program that we initiated this year. Many of the classes had double or triple the participants of past years, and the Stick Horse Obstacle Course, as well as the Stick Horse Rodeo each had 25 youngsters participating! I would like to take the time to again thank my presenters who took charge of teaching, inspiring, and encouraging our next generation of packers and trail blazers: Ruthie Heuer, Carrie Johnen, Sam Burrows, Larry Shuman, Paul Villanueva, Dennis Jensen, Dianne Stearns, Kaye Bruns, Rhonda Zinkel, Carl Perry, Julie Perry, and Mike Roberts and the "Out Of The Box Ministries." This team of individuals did an outstanding job, and we all need to pitch in and do our part to ensure that the love of the Wilderness and the passion for riding and packing is not lost with the next generation. The "Youth Booth" seemed to be a big hit as well! We were located next to the State BCHC Booth, and in the main entrance aisle. When kids of any age passed by, we

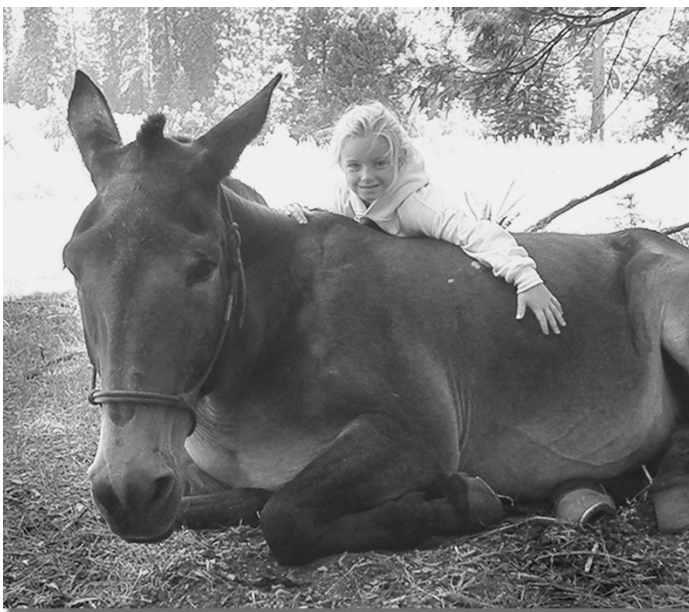
told them about the classes, the incentive program, and passed out the special "Kids' Classes" program. The kids also helped liven up the booth by coloring in one of our signs! Many thanks also to all of the volunteers who helped out at the booth...

your smiles and warmth were very well received by the kids! Rendezvous 2013 will be in Norco, and we plan to continue the Youth Incentive Program again next year. We will need

presenters, volunteers to help with the "Youth Booth," and fun items to give away for the Incentive Program. Please contact me soon and let me know if you can help in any of these capacities.

Reflecting on the Rendezvous and the kids that participated this past weekend, I noticed that most of our youth were in the younger age bracket, between 4-11 years old. I believe we made a great impression on them...some were BCHC members, and will continue to be exposed to the Wilderness, pack stock, and trail riding through their families. Others may have been local kids from town...but if they can have that fun and educational experience once or twice a year by attending BCHC Rendezvous' and other local events similar to ours; they may just grow up and either become directly involved, or at least a supporter of our cause: "To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness." It is up to the local units to hosts activities and events in your immediate community to continue this outreach in order to expose more and more youth to the mission of BCHC. Fair season is coming up, and what better way than to have an informational booth display. Be sure to have something for the kids...a roping dummy and some kids' ropes, a coloring activity, and/or maybe a rope and teach them how to tie a simple slip knot or square knot.

Now, what can we do for the older kids? This will take more money, more time, and a dedicated commitment to reaching the very next generation of packers, stock users, and otherwise supporters of BCHC and our mission. I would like to see each unit of BCHC commit to at least one activity that is solely for the purpose of their youth. Ideally, plan a pack trip to take a group of youth members into the Wilderness for one or two nights. Take them fishing, clear some trails, do some tracking... just get them out there! If their parents are not packers, provide the pack support so the whole family can go and enjoy the backcountry experience. Additionally, reach out to local 4-H, FFA, and Boy Scouts to offer pack support. Collaborate with them to plan an outing (using LNT/GU guidelines), have them hike into a designated area, and have your BCHC packers haul their heavy gear and equipment. What about insurance, you ask?? Pay for the Public Days!! In addition to financially supporting our trail work, I personally believe that we need to be investing in our future by spending some money to get these kids into the backcountry. Some units have the money... use it!! If you don't, then this is one of the very reasons that we need fund-raising!! I challenge all of the units of BCHC to plan a pack trip that is solely devoted to our youth, and I look forward to the report and pictures at the Fall Meeting, as well as in the newsletter.



BCHC

BCHA National Board Meeting

by BCHA National Director ~ Pete Kriger

I was honored to represent California at National Board Meeting of BCHA In Eugene, Oregon. The BCH folks from Oregon had really done their homework and planned well in advance to take this opportunity to showcase some of the best that Oregon has to offer. There were organized day trips before and after the meeting to the beach and Crater Lake, and I understand that these were well attended and highly praised. A friend of mine took me around to a local park with horses trails that had been a BCHO work party and their little farm east of town.

There were meetings for many hours every day and some evenings from Tuesday morning through Saturday evening. We were all encouraged to participate and ask questions of the many influential trail partners as well as high-ranking agency representatives. From what I understand the BCHA state directors got along better than ever, and there was definitely a strong sense of partnership and teamwork among everyone present. I was welcomed warmly and this proved to be a great place for me to get involved and contribute. Other Californians present included director Ann Lange, BCHC President Dennis Serpa, and PL Chair Alan Hill.

Tuesday was Public Lands Day, and Dennis Dailey led the discussions. Dennis plans to "retire" this year, but also make it clear that he will still be around for consultation. Chain saw use was talked about throughout the week many times, and Dennis that he wants to document any and all denials of the USFS to pursue "minimum tool analysis" after significant trail damage events. I read a statement written by BCHC VP of Public Lands, Bob MaGee about the commercial packers in the SEKI which started plenty of discussion. The Wilderness Society (TWS) sent their legal representative, lawyer Paul Spitler, and while he down played some of the hypothetical issues, was very supportive of stock use in the wilderness and National Parks overall. TWS was even supportive of chain saw use as a local process through "minimum tool analysis".

We met the newly hired Executive Director of BCHA, Rick McLean who will be charged with building corporate sponsorships. A motioned was made, seconded and passed to allow Rick to sell our BCHA mailing list (e-mail and address) for a minimum \$10,000 sponsorship. This may trickle down to state organizations soon. The consensus on this issue was that internet searches have evolved to the point that this information is already available online.

Wednesday, the Sierra Club sent a representative from San Francisco, and she (Vickie) talked about preparations for the upcoming 50th anniversary of The Wilderness Act (2014). Vickie made a point to make contact with representatives from California and Nevada BCH, and talk about her days using burros on family pack trips.

Ben Pendergrass, a lobbyist from the American Horse Counsel (AHC), talked about the importance of building relationships. He challenged BCH to invite public officials and politicians on trail work projects and pack trips. He assured us that most politicians like to know and be part of what is going on in their districts. He also said that AHC can help make these invitations at a high level.

Wednesday night, we were transported to a local stable, for packing demonstrations from Oregon packers Dan Applebaker and Casey Hufstader and their stock strings. We saw the new battery operated chain saws which can be used in wilderness apparently and made in Oregon (oregonpowernow.com). A huge feast of Oregon followed including Salmon, Elk Stew, and Dutch Oven blueberry cobbler.

Thursdays meetings included presentations from Deputy Chief of the US Forest Service (USFS), Leslie Weldon, and her colleague Leanne Martin, Director of Wilderness & Wild & Scenic Rivers. They talked about the planning rules being rolled out around the country that relate to Wilderness and road-less areas. Current Wilderness Policy is 30 years old and is currently being reviewed. The issue of commercial services to the "extent necessary" will be included in the new policy, and it will be published in the Federal Register, but a release date was "unknown at this time". They had hoped that chain saw and crosscut saw certification would be done by this summer, but this will not happen THIS summer...perhaps by fall.

The National Park Service was represented by Garry Oye, Chief of Wilderness Stewardship. Garry suggested involving College and University students in outdoor projects and trail work through a new program called "Alternative Spring Break". Another interesting new program introduced recently is called "New Ranger- Old Skills" where new park rangers, perhaps fresh out of school, can be introduced to historic and traditional skills of stock handling and packing which they may not have learned in school. When I asked about the narrow ruling in the SEKI case against commercial STOCK users, Garry said

that a team of Park Service attorneys have seen this decision as a challenge to ALL commercial services in Wilderness Areas. NPS is considering putting a stop to all commercial services in Wilderness including Rock Climbers, River Guides, LNT, and other guided trips. He then encouraged us to watch the PBS / Ken Burns specials: The National Parks; America's Best Idea.

Break-out committee meetings took place Thursday and Friday afternoon. Oral Committee reports followed on Saturday. I was selected as Chairman to the Education Committee and have sent my report out e-mail to the BCHC Executive Committee and Units Presidents along with the other committee reports that I have received. Seek out one of those people if more detailed information is needed, and to help shorten this report.

Friday, a report came from Rob Perrin, BLM Trails & Travel Mgt. Coordinator. Rob was clear that BLM wants "Locally-based, partner-driven trails planning, implementation and management". He lamented that the BLM budget for trails is much less than the USFS and "BLM doesn't have TRAILS in their DNA" like the USFS. They may have recreation officer, but no trails specialists. BLM needs input from outside groups, and help from grants.

Friday afternoon and Saturday included business meetings of BCHA including elections and voting on state resolutions. Mike McGlenn (WA) will continue for another year as Chairman, as will Yvette Rollins (IN) as Vice Chair (unopposed). We elected a new Treasurer in Don Saner (WY) who also ran unopposed. Alan Hill will continue as Non-director member on the Executive Board. Two (new?) candidates were chosen to sit on the Executive Board including Phil Hufstader (OR) and Tom Thomas (NC).

There was also voting on a number of resolutions from the state organizations. The voting was not particularly close on any issue. The results were as follows: A resolution about funding and salary for the Executive Director position was withdrawn as BCHA has filled this position. An AZ resolution requesting one membership fee (rather than individual or family) was recommended to be tabled, but the board voted to bring this issue up for a vote and shot it down. A WA resolution urging BCHA to adopt direct e-mail communication with its members was approved. A resolution to have state annual reports posted on the BCHA website by April 1st, saving the states

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BCHC

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

- To improve and promote the use, care and development of California backcountry trails, campsites, streams and meadows; to advocate good trail manners.
- To promote the conservation and utilization of our backcountry resources in concert with livestock transportation.
- To keep the backcountry trails and forage areas open to horsemen on all public lands.
- To keep current information before the Corporation membership and its local Units regarding new legislation or management plans related to government regulations of the backcountry.
- To support or oppose new proposals, plans and restrictions as related to the interest of horsemen and those persons interested in recreational stock use and enjoying the backcountry.
- To promote the interest of people who, due to health or physical factors, need transportation other than by foot on backcountry trails.
- To promote public awareness and interest in the historical aspect of horsemen and stock in the backcountry and to help educate backcountry users on ways to use the trail and forage in a manner that conserves the backcountry resources.
- To assist in keeping the public informed of the vital need for a clean backcountry.
- To promote a working relationship with and keep the work and interests of the Corporation before our local, state and federal officials.
- To assist in the formation and continuation of local Units to carry out these purposes

GET INVOLVED, DO YOUR PART

NOTICE: At the direction of the BCHC Executive Committee, we will no longer send out membership renewal verification "green slips" via regular mail. Instead, each unit president & membership chair will get a personal email from the BCHC Membership Chair (Chip Herzig) with each units' data AND it will be put on the web page in the password protected section.

Continued from pg 7

the expense of producing copies was approved. An ID resolution requesting the USFS to "reverse investment loss in the trail system" and "evaluate use of all tools and management options (chain saws)" was approved. Another ID resolution requesting that BCHA protest the management change (loss of packer position) and request that TWS also protest this change was also approved. And finally the resolution from BCHA to pass the REQUEST for a fee increase to states for adoption was passed 23 to 13 against.

A few of the last minute discussions included some plans for an e-mail alert system, monthly e-newsletter, and request for e-mail addresses from the states. Possible expansion of BCHA into TX, NE, ND, ME, NH, MS, LA, NY, MA. Volunteer hours total value for 2011 was \$10,913,278.29 and the total volunteer hours reported was 326, 347 hours. CA did not win any of the awards despite our significant contributions. The 2013 national meeting will be in Rapid City, SD April 22-27. 2014 meeting in Chattanooga, TN. California's proposal to host the 2015 meeting in Sacramento was also approved!



There was also a last minute request for ONE picture from each state that best depicts Backcountry Horsemen. I sorted through plenty of pictures for the BCHC report which can be found on the BCHCalifornia.org home page. The one picture I chose for the CD cover came from the Wilderness Rider Class of 2011, and it is my pick as the best photo (attached).

Thanks for allowing me the honor to proudly represent Backcountry Horsemen of California.



BCHC/BCHA

Forest Service National Volunteer of the Year BCHO Member Joel Starr

Trail boss for the Oregon Equestrian Trails' mid-valley chapter, member of the Pacific Crest Trail Association and Back Country Horseman of Oregon, Starr has worked with several other groups on equestrian trail work parties who've also volunteered to clear forestland trails, such as AmeriCorps' Northwest Youth Corps and the Sierra Club.

In recognition of his efforts, the U.S. Forest Service has named Starr its National Individual Volunteer of the Year - as well as its individual volunteer of the year on Region 6, which covers Oregon and Washington.

A former process engineer, Starr's talent for organization is evident in the Oregon Equestrian Trails chapter's supply trailer, which is parked on his Philomath property. It's well-stocked with shovels, hard hats and other equipment needed to clear trails. A work party can equip itself at his trailer and be ready to go in 30 minutes or less.

Starr, who is 65, is hoping to get enough people motivated and involved so that he can pass along his mission of keeping public recreation areas accessible to a new generation of volunteers.

Read more: http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/forest-service-volunteer-of-the-year-hopes-more-will-join/article_c1bee06e-5c19-11e1-998a-001871e3ce6c.html#ixzz1uRDa7iWW

Something exciting from Trail Blazer Magazine for 2012

In the November issue a feature story will be written by Terri Folks to spotlight our top trail advocacy warriors from different regions of the country. She will interview these folks over the phone (or via e-mail) and the questions would be relating to what the top issues that trail riders face and how each of the groups and individuals are approaching them to save trails?

Terri would love to have your input on who would be a great person to be interviewed for this article. Send her the person's contact info: Name, Organization, Involvement in trail advocacy, e-mail address, best phone number to reach him/her.

Where can you get Trail Blazer Magazine? It is a nationally-distributed magazine, published 10 times each year and not available on newsstands. The only way you can receive it is to subscribe at www.trailblazermagazine.us

You can also LIKE Trail Blazer magazine on Facebook where there are subscriptions specials, contests, polls, etc. You'll love this beautiful magazine that is full of great information for horse lovers and trail riders.

Deadline for submissions is September 1

Any questions – feel free to shoot Terri an e-mail ~ trfolks@gmail.com

AHC WASHINGTON UPDATE MARCH 14, 2012

Senate Protects Recreational Trails Program

On March 14, 2012, the Senate passed MAP-21 (S. 1813) its version of a national highway bill. MAP-21, as amended, would reauthorize the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for 2 years and allocate \$85 million in annual funding for the program. The AHC is pleased the Senate recognized the importance of RTP and included it in their bill.

Since its inception RTP has provided money for thousands of state and local trail projects across the country, including many that benefit equestrians. RTP provides funding directly to the states for recreational trails and trail-related facilities for all recreational trail users. It is funded with a portion of the gas taxes paid into the Highway Trust Fund by recreational off-highway vehicle users.

The current national highway bill SAFETEA-LU that authorizes RTP was set to expire in September of 2009. However, because Congress has yet to pass a new highway bill it has been forced to extend the current law several times, most recently until March 31, 2012.

MAP-21 as it was originally written would have made major changes to RTP by removing dedicated funding for the program and consolidating it with several others. Such changes would have effectively ended RTP as it currently exists. The AHC opposed those changes to RTP and in conjunction with a broad coalition of recreational trail users has been requesting Congress re-authorize RTP in its current form.

Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and eight other Senators, including Michael Bennet (D-CO), Scott Brown (R-MA), Richard Burr (R-NC), James Risch (R-ID), Bernard Sanders (D-VT), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), and Mark Udall (D-CO) responded to the requests of the recreational community to save RTP and successfully amended MAP-21 to preserve RTP as a distinct program with annual funding of \$85 million. The AHC appreciates the work of these Senators as well as the efforts of equestrians around the country including members of the AHC Congressional Cavalry who contacted the Senate to voice their support for RTP.

The House must now either approve MAP-21 or its version of the highway bill (H.R.7). H.R. 7 would also reauthorize RTP in its current form with annual funding of \$85 million.

If you have any questions please contact the AHC.

Members, note the names of the Senators who have responded to our requests, and please send them a thank you.

State Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Draft

SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES

**Backcountry Horsemen of California
State Board of Director's Meeting
Saturday, January 21, 2012
Holiday Inn, Visalia, California
Plaza Room**

A. Call to Order: at 1:13pm by President Denis Serpa

B. Record of Attendance: Executive Committee and Unit Director's signed in.
Members/Units not present:

1. Lisa Deas
2. Dan Clifford
3. Director from Lake Mendocino- Paul Villanueva
4. Director from San Diego: Cheryl Wegner
5. Director from Steinbeck Country: Lisa Deas

C. Minutes of October 15, 2011 were approved

D. Secretary's Report/Correspondence: Kaye Bruns reported correspondence from October 20, 2011 to January 19, 2012

E. Reports:

1. Treasurer's Report by Lynn Joiner was approved

2. BCHA Action Report:

Ann Lange reported on the National Meeting in Oregon, Trail Classification, and BCHA Executive Committee.

Pete Kriger reported on BCHA emails, needing photos for the National Meeting, possible BCHA dues increase. Straw poll taken: majority against increase.

3. Insurance: Richard Waller reported how helpful Sam Burrows has been. Wants to write an insurance manual to help answer questions. Every unit needs an insurance coordinator.

4. Membership: Chip Herzig informed the units about their membership packets. He will start sending out 2nd renewal notices again. At the date of membership expiration, member is no longer eligible for insurance. Each unit should have a membership chair.

Dennis Serpa announced the winners of the membership drive:

#1-High Country gained 9 members, equals a 27% increase

#2-Mid Valley gained 25 members, equals a 7% increase

Richard Kirchner from Mid Valley gave a talk on how to increase membership.

5. Education: Dan Horn reported on the education flyers still in progress, -possible implementation of Pay Pal for our membership dues (2.9% surcharge added to the dues) Discussion held and motion carried.

-Cowgirl Calendar: order from the website

-new link buttons: unit project reports and resource guide

-new merchandise supplier for Rendezvous and will be on the website to order items

-BCHC has 707 Facebook fans

-Officers Training at Rendezvous will be Saturday March 31 from 7:00-9:00am

6. Public Lands: Bob Magee reported on Trail Classification issue, will have units give a report at the P.L. meeting. Suggests units start a legal fund for this issue.

John Keys made a presentation on the California Equestrian Trails & Land Coalition (CETLC). Explained what it is, and how it works.

7. Public Service: Carrie Johnen reported on the new columns for the 2012 Volunteer Hours Report. Dan Horn will update the tutorial.

8. Youth Coordinator: Karen Lopes gave an update on the incentive program for the kids, classes to be held at Rendezvous, and requesting help for the Kids Booth.

9. Webpage: Lisa Deas was not in attendance. We need someone within 6 months to take over. Need a new host to eliminate the "bugs."

10. Newsletter: Rhonda Strickland was not in attendance, Chip will get information back to her. Good job for her first issue!. Lots of compliments given.

11. Travel site: no report given

F. Old Business:

1. Policy Review: still looking for old minutes. Policy is down to about 50 pages

2. State Fundraiser: Michael King gave a presentation of the calendar. Will have more information at the October meeting. Do we still want to continue with the project? Majority said yes.

5. Executive Committee visits: Redshank wanting more information on the 501C3: what it is and how to use it. Chip gave a brief explanation. Also suggested that a portion of membership dues go to the C3 account to help get large corporations to donate to BCHC.

6. Missing Unit Reports: Kaye will send out another request.

G. New Business:

1. Historian: still looking for someone to fill the position. Carole Polasek from the Redwood Unit, might be interested.

2. BCHC/PCTA/Forest Service meeting held in December, issues discussed. Next meeting in February, with information being presented at a class during Rendezvous.

3. BCHA: Pete Kriger already gave his information

4. Mother Lode By-laws: approved

5. Recommendation for Membership Coordinator to be on the Executive Committee:

First Reading: January 21, 2012

The Membership Coordinator works with the Secretary to keep accurate membership lists and with the Treasurer to deposit and distribute

State Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Draft *(cont'd)*

membership fees.

Thor Bodtker made the motion to accept, second by Dave Rigoli. Motion carried. Second Reading will take place at the October State Board of Director's Meeting.

H. Other Business:

1. Art contest for Rendezvous: make it a state wide contest, \$300 for first place, \$100 for second place. Open to photography and paintings. BCHC members only?

2. State booth needs help during Rendezvous.

3. Homework for everyone: GAIN MEMBERS!

Motion to adjourn at 4:19pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kaye Bruns,
BCHC Secretary

The full draft of the meeting minutes can be found at the BCHC website at http://bchc-lake-mendo.tripod.com/BOD_minutes_1-21-12.pdf

First Executive Director of BCHA

We are pleased to announce as our choice Mr. Rick McLean of North Carolina. Rick is a member of The Backcountry Horsemen and a retired city manager with excellent Washington DC knowledge. His background and abilities, we believe, will make a good fit with BCHA, our existing staff and our partners in Wilderness and trail access issues.

Rick McLean will be charged with building corporate sponsorships.

Please join me in welcoming Rick and helping him as our first ever Executive Director.

Best regards

Mike McGlenn, Chair

Back Country Horsemen of America

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BCHC HISTORIAN

Carole Polasek

Carole Polasek and Darrel, her husband, are founding members of Redwood Unit, BCHC. She has served as secretary and president and has also been the Public Lands Chair of Redwood Unit for several years. Carole became interested in the Historian position for BCHC and is going to "give it a try." She is very concerned about the history of BCHC and likes to be organized.

Carole and Darrel currently have six mules and have ridden and packed in California, Nevada, Idaho and Colorado. They have packed in the Marble Mountain Wilderness in northern California for many years with friends and family. Hancock Lake is Carole and Darrel's favorite place to go. Many tales can be told of these trips!

After working for 35+ years in clerical work at Ferndale High School in Ferndale, CA and College of the Redwoods in Eureka, CA, Carole is very happily retired and enjoys her family – two children, four grandchildren, one great grandson and a great granddaughter on the way. She also knits, crochets, does counted cross stitch and embroidery when not doing backcountry things.



BCHA

Wild Riders

A Partnership Between the Backcountry Horsemen of America and The Wilderness Society

Wild Riders is a partnership between the Back Country Horsemen of America and The Wilderness Society to “insure that traditional, historical and responsible pack and saddle stock use in wilderness areas is recognized, protected, supported and sustained consistent with the capabilities of the land.” We believe that trails are a critical way to connect Americans to the outdoors and to insure our wild heritage remains cherished and protected.

Public Lands Recreation: Connecting Americans to the Outdoors

Each year millions of visitors recreate on public lands, places within our national forests and national parks, and untold more on Bureau of Land Management lands. They hike, bike, view wildlife, horseback ride, fish and canoe across the hundreds of millions of acres we are lucky to call every American’s birthright. In fact, recreation is the main reason a lot of us get out on our public lands.



BCHA's volunteers have donated over 2.6 million hours of volunteer time to trail maintenance over the past 16 years. *Photo credit: Sage Paulson*

Active Outdoor Recreation Drives our Rural Economy

Recreation is a key economic driver for many of the rural communities that neighbor public lands. According to the Outdoor Industry Foundation, “active outdoor recreation (a great deal of which takes place on federal public lands) has a \$730 billion annual impact on the U.S. economy and supports 6.5 million jobs nationwide. Active outdoor recreation also generates \$289 billion annually in direct retail sales and services across the U.S. and \$88 billion annually in federal and state tax revenues.”¹

Budget Cuts Threaten Recreation Access

While recreation is one of the top uses on our public lands, it is also facing traumatic cuts in FY 2013 – cuts that will further reduce the ability for all Americans to access the lands they love. **Trails programs are facing an additional 9 to 10% cut as of January 2013, on top of already drastically reduced funding levels. This means depleting the already bare-bones resources we have for things like trail maintenance and safety improvements, and support to youth and other volunteer programs that are some of the only sources of trail maintenance going on these days on our federal public lands system.**

Our groups understand that we face difficult economic times. That’s why The Wilderness Society is sponsoring wilderness trails stewardship efforts in several states, and BCHA has an active volunteer base that has worked hand in hand with land managers for years to maintain, build and improve safety for trails all over the country. In fact in 2010 alone, BCHA’s volunteers donated over 315,000 hours of volunteer time or an equivalent of \$11.9 million dollars. All because The Wilderness Society and BCHA’s volunteers love to connect people to our public lands and what better way **to do that than make sure they are accessible to people now and in the future.**

¹ The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy, Outdoor Industry Foundation, Fall 2006.

Reprinted from The Wilderness Society newsletter ~ 2/12 shared by Peg Greiwe submitted by Pete Kriger

www.wilderness.org

BCHA

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BCHA MEMBERSHIP

By Dan Applebaker BCH of Oregon

The Backcountry Horsemen of America is not a typical, socially oriented saddle club. The difference between our organization and other equestrian groups is our commitment to be involved in protecting our heritage of backcountry stock use across the country. BCHA is a national trail advocacy organization with some very serious purposes that require serious commitment. These purposes are incorporated in every Chapters Bylaws/Constitution. Our members must be made aware of the philosophy, mission and purposes established for BCHA by its founders and members should support them. Many however, support them with a casual, "Yeah, those are good ideas; I can go along with that." But what is truly required is the commitment for active support. That means actual and personal involvement in activities that support the mission of BCHA.

BCHA exists to protect our right and heritage to use our recreational pack and saddle stock in our wilderness/backcountry. That does not mean that our Chapters can't have fun. Our organization offers great camaraderie, all kinds of social functions and varied riding and educational opportunities for horsemen of all levels of experience. BCHA offers all the same experiences as most trail riding saddle clubs, but we go a step further, by accepting the mission of protecting those opportunities for all horsemen, present and especially future. They back that up with their commitment and dedication by spending personal time working to achieve the purposes of BCHA. That doesn't mean that we can't have a diversified membership. We have members that don't own a horse, but they work to keep the trails open for all of us.

BCHA is the largest and oldest national volunteer group of horsemen in the country today. We are actively sought to speak and represent our interest in wilderness and backcountry issues on the national level. We're all aware that many decisions affecting our local use are made at the national level. That is why BCHA is special and different. There is nothing wrong with trail riding saddle clubs organized for social purposes; they certainly offer experiences that can be a lot of fun. Many equestrians wish for that type of commitment free opportunity. Those equestrians need to join such a group. BCHA is not for all horsemen or women. If, however, they wish to work to protect the very experience they enjoy up to the national level, then they may be ready to accept the responsibility of membership in BCHA. Many of our members need to be commended for joining other equestrian groups, as well as BCHA.

That is commitment.

To reiterate the purposes of BCHA, they are as follows:

1. To Perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness areas.
2. To Work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To Assist the various governments, state, and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. To Educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the use of the backcountry resource by stock users and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To Foster and encourage the formation of new state organizations.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA

Backcountry Horsemen of America (BCHA) is a service organization working in the backcountry and educating the users of the backcountry. These two elements, along with a determination to protect the heritage of backcountry stock use, are the primary factors of our existence. In a five year period we contributed 557,000 hours of volunteer work for various agencies. BCHA has achieved unsurpassed national credibility by committing our own personal sweat to this huge volunteer effort. What better way to prove our dedication to the backcountry, to meet our purposes and to build our credibility as horsemen that really do care?

Our Chapter, as well as our members, has the obligation and responsibility to support the above purposes by action. Purpose #1 and #2 means we will be involved to perpetuate the use of equine in the backcountry. That involvement means in Chapter, State and National BCHA affairs as well as public agency issues affecting our use. Purpose #3 means we will be involved in all levels of Legislative/Public Lands because that is a way to meet purposes #1 and #2. Purpose #4 means we will be involved in and provide education opportunities for the public, the State organization, and the Chapters because that is a way to meet purposes #1 and #2. Purpose #5 means we will be involved with expansion to increase our membership so we have the strength of a national organization to meet purposes #1 and #2. There is a membership obligation in BCHA. If the organization is to function to meet its purposes, each Chapter must make the commitment to step up to the plate to be involved. Individual members are the ones that meet that commitment. We are a grass roots organization with our strength in membership. BCHA builds through a pyramid with a broad base of local membership, through the state organizations, and peaking at the national organization of BCHA.

We are a volunteer organization, and as such we understand there is a limited amount of time members can spend on BCHA. Some members can spend more time than others because of passion, inclination, or just more available time. What is important is that as a member of BCHA, you take the responsibility and the commitment to spend what time you can. Your Chapter officers are certainly examples of those with that commitment. They can certainly use your help. Through this kind of determination, you will insure that BCHA will continue to exist to protect our heritage of backcountry stock use on virtually all public lands.

Comment:

This article was addressed to Dan Applebaker's Chapter in Oregon some years ago. In the past five years (2005-2010) BCHC Chapters in total have provided over Ten (10) Million Dollars' worth of Volunteer work for various agencies. BCHA provides ongoing needed contact with many organizations, agencies and representatives in Washington DC. BCHC provides coordination and support for many of the Chapters in achieving their needs and goals. Continued growth of our membership and involvement by members will assure future viability to achieve those needs and goals. January 17, 2012

Submitted by Bob Magee

Public Lands

Save the Future of Stock Use on Public lands

*Submitted by Bob Magee
Vice President – Public Lands*

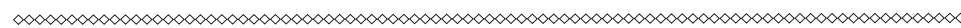
We Backcountry Horsemen of California are obligated to work for the use, care and development of backcountry trails, campsites, streams and meadows, with good manners. We promote conservation and use of backcountry resources while keeping those resources open to equine use on all public lands. It is our obligation to keep all of our membership informed, involved and active with any items of concern to the use of recreational stock and enjoyment of the backcountry. We are required to work with others to protect those objectives and educate those who have the ability to effect those interests. Today we are facing some of the strongest challenges to our interests in the backcountry. There are groups of individuals that are working very hard limit or eliminate stock use in the backcountry. These people have powerful tools to accomplish those goals. They have been able to have courts restrict some stock use on public lands, and are working even harder to expand those restrictions. They have used those tools extremely well and as they continue to win they grow stronger.

This is a huge challenge to back country horsemen and our organization as a whole. We find ourselves with fewer tools, lesser power and a huge challenge to resist their attempts to restrict stock use. The Units of BCHC need to step up to the plate and start to get some hits and work to get our score even or better than those opposing groups.

BCHC needs active and energized involvement of members to work for our objectives and purposes. We need to be aware of all situations that might affect stock use. We need to take action to assure there are no negative effects to stock use. Those are two of the necessary tools we need to use. But we also need to ensure we have sufficient capacity to deal with these challenges by having a tool of legal support. Those who are working to restrict and eliminate stock use are using the legal tool with exceptional effectiveness. More and more we are becoming aware of the need for our organization to also get involved with this legal tool to meet our goals.

All units of BCHC need to be working very hard to acquire funding to obtain the support and subsequent need for

these legal services. Any fund raising efforts that you might think of from cake sales to begging on the trail, or other more sophisticated methods to obtain monies for a legal fund should be employed. Back country horsemen are going to need legal services in the future to secure our access to these public lands. Please do your part, get involved and take action. Thank you.



Pacific Crest Trail Volunteers Awarded for Hard Work and Dedication

Submitted by Merrit Hoeh PCTA

The Pacific Crest Trail traverses some of the most beautiful and remote landscapes in the West. The trail zigzags its way through seven national parks, 24 national forests and 33 wilderness areas. Running from Canada to Mexico, the trail makes its way through mountain wildflowers of the Cascades, around glaciated lakes in the Sierras, and through the Joshua



Trees of the Mojave Desert.

Each year, this 2,650 mile trail is subject to heavy use, floods and fires, and overgrown vegetation that cause erosion, trail blockage, and in some cases permanent damage. The annual maintenance and restoration of the PCT is a major undertaking, one that requires thousands of people so that others can safely enjoy the beauty of the wilderness. Volunteers are involved in every aspect of trail work, which includes conducting routine maintenance, packing in supplies, cooking for hungry crews, reaching out to local communities, performing administrative tasks and attending meetings with agency and nonprofit partners.

As a result of the hard work performed by volunteers, hikers and equestrians will tell you the PCT is one of the finest wilderness trail experiences in the world. The Pacific Crest Trail Association and federal land managers are very proud of the committed volunteers who maintain the trail. To show their appreciation and recognize PCT volunteers for their hard work, the PCTA and the United States Forest Service have a

Public Lands

volunteer recognition program. Three types of awards are included in this program: Annual, Lifetime, and Agency.

Annual Awards are given every year to volunteers who accrue 40 hours or more in a fiscal year. The annual award is a limited edition trail crew t-shirt (or equivalent for non-trail crew service).

Lifetime Awards are earned with cumulative, lifetime volunteer hours. These are non-reoccurring awards and will be assimilated into the Recognition Program over the next six years.

- 1 hour: Lapel Pin
- 100 hours: Bandana (to be started in 2012)
- 250 hours: Hat (to be started in 2013)
- 500 hours: Long-sleeved T-shirt (to be started in 2014)
- 750 hours: Embroidered Polo or Work Shirt (to be started in 2015)
- 1,000 hours: Embroidered Fleece Vest (to be started in 2016)
- 2,500 hours: Engraved Utility Tool (to be started in 2017)
- 7,500 hours: PCT Emblem (to be started in 2018)

Agency Awards are also earned with cumulative, lifetime volunteer hours. These are reoccurring awards.

- 16 hours: Northwest Forest Pass (Oregon and Washington only)
- 100 hours: Adventure Pass (Southern California only)
- 500 hours : America the Beautiful Pass
- 1,000 hours: USFS Chief's Award (certificate)
- 4,000 hours: Take Pride in America, Presidential Award (certificate, lapel pin, letter)

This program is administered by the PCTA and awards are given at the end of each fiscal year. To help the PCTA keep accurate records, volunteers must complete PCTA project report forms. These forms enable the PCTA to keep track of each volunteer's hours. In addition, these forms provide the PCTA with project accomplishments, which are shared with nonprofit, local and federal agency partners.

If you currently volunteer on the PCT, please be sure you are submitting complete project report forms after each project you lead. These forms are found under "Volunteer Resources: Crew Leader Forms" at the PCTA website http://www.pcta.org/help/volunteer/vol_rec.asp. The forms can be submitted to the PCTA office by email (volunteer@pcta.org) or mail (PCTA, Attn: Volunteer Programs, 1331 Garden Hwy. Sacramento, CA 95833).

If you have questions about the volunteer recognition program, PCTA's project report form, or about the mission of the PCTA, please call 916-285-1838.

Thanks to all of you who are making the Pacific Crest Trail an enjoyable experience for equestrians and hikers for generations to come.

Happy Trails!

Merrit Hoeh

Volunteer Program Assistant

Pacific Crest Trail Association

HOT ISSUE: SEKI House Bill 4849

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Backcountry Access Act

According to Devin Nunes, MEMBER OF CONGRESS the bill that passed the House today (April 27th) requires the Park Service to issue permits for the next two years, immediately restoring commercial pack operations. At the same time, the Administration will be able to work with the federal court to establish a permitting process that brings the Park Service into compliance with the court ruling. This common sense solution saves important jobs, preserves access to the wilderness, and respects the judicial process.

The Senate must now act. Given the unanimous consent agreement that enabled House passage today, there is no excuse for the Senate to fail to take up and pass the measure as soon as it is received.

ACTION ALERT: At time of printing this newsletter this issue was still a hot one as it was undecided, up for the Senate to vote.

Please Call Your Local Senators. Your statement to the Senators receptionist or the designated person should state: "I am a resident of California, my address and phone number are and I am recommending that Senator's Feinstein & Boxer pass H.R. 4849, the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Backcountry Access Act, by placing this legislation on the Senates unanimous consent calendar and passed as soon as possible. This legislation is needed to ensure that the lively hood of 16 commercial stock operators, their employees, connected vendors and business and their clients are not impacted by a lawsuit brought against the National Park Service"

Backcountry Horsemen of America is asking each member in each state to contact their respective Senators as soon as possible and ask them to support putting H.R. 4849 - the "Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Backcountry Access Act" on the Senate's Consent Agenda. This legislation would direct the Secretary of the Department of Interior, which the National Parks Service is under, to issue commercial use authorizations (permits) to 16 commercial stock operators that provide pack and saddle stock services in designated wilderness within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks located in California.

If the Senate takes this course of action, H.R. 4849 would not be assigned to a committee and could be passed and sent to the President in a few days. This process was implemented in the House of Representatives – introduced on April 26th and passed on the 27th. If H.R. 4849 gets assigned to a Senate committee it may take months to be considered by the assigned committee.

This course of action is being taken to prevent 16 commercial stock operators from being impacted as the result of an environmental organization's lawsuit against the National Part Service. Refer to information listed below. Also listed below is the text of H.R. 4849.

Cont'd on pg 14

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SEKI House Bill 4849 Cont'd from pg 13

WHY URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED:

The High Sierra Hikers Association (HSHA) filed a lawsuit against the National Park Service (NPS) in September 2009 alleging that the Parks 2007 General Management Plan violated the NPS Organic Act, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Wilderness Act regarding commercial stock operators that provide saddle horses, pack mules, guides, chefs, and camping gear to clients who take wilderness trips in California's Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and wilderness areas.

On January 24, 2012, U.S. District Court Judge Richard Seeborg ruled that the NPS violated a procedure in the Wilderness Act, but did not violate the NPS Organic Act or NEPA. Judge Seeborg's ruling suspended the NPS authority to issue commercial use authorizations (permits) for pack stock operations in the Park's wilderness, pending completion of a separate ruling by the court that will deal with the Wilderness Act violation. As a result, this past March, NPS suspended all the commercial stock operators commercial use permits. The court's ruling is specific to commercial pack stock and does not involve administrative or private (individual) pack stock use in the Parks/wilderness areas.

To resolve the commercial stock permits dilemma, the National Park Service (NPS) has requested permission from the U.S. District Court to allow Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks to immediately issue commercial use authorizations (permits) for pack stock operations in the Parks wilderness – 96% of the parks are wilderness, 838,000 acres or 1,310 square miles. A court hearing to determine a remedy for the NPS's Wilderness Act violation, including consideration of the NPS' request to issue commercial pack stock operator permits is scheduled for May 23, 2012. There is the possibility that the courts could suspend commercial stock permits until the Parks Service completes further studies or management plans – which could take months or more.

While there is no guarantee that the court will allow continued commercial pack stock use in the Parks, the NPS has notified commercial pack stock outfitters that applications for the annual permits for 2012 are being accepted in advance of the court's ruling. This will help expedite issuance of the permits, if allowed, pending the court's determination.

H. R. 4849 IS A CONGRESSIONAL SOLUTION TO PROTECT JOBS AND SERVICES

On April 26TH H. R. 4849 was submitted in the U.S. House of Representatives, passed on April 27TH and set over to the Senate with a request for HR 4849 to be put on the Senate's unanimous consent calendar. If the Senate passes HR 4849 and the President signs this legislation, this legislation would circumvent the courts authority to curtail commercial permits for stock operators in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks as a result of a lawsuit brought against the National Park Service. If HR 4849 is passed by consent, it could be sent to the President in a few days. If it gets assigned to a committee it may take months to be considered by the committee or may not even have a committee hearing.

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS (SEKI) INFO:

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada in central California , serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts 1.6 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. SEKI is also an International Biosphere Reserve. World wide, there are only 580 reserves in 114 countries that have this designation. It is estimated that 1.6 million visitors to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks spent over \$97 million and contributed 1,384 jobs to the local economy in communities within 60 miles of the parks in 2010. Total acres - 865,964 acres (1,353 square miles) - 96.85% of the parks is wilderness; 838,000 acres or 1,310 square miles, trails: 842.4 miles, highest point - Mt. Whitney 14,494 feet - highest point in contiguous United States.

For additional info refer to the fact sheet: <http://www.nps.gov/seki/parknews/upload/FINAL-SEKI-FACT-SHEET-2012ms.pdf>

HR 4849 EH, 112th CONGRESS, 2d Session

H. R. 4849

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue commercial use authorizations to commercial stock operators for operations in designated wilderness within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Backcountry Access Act'.

SEC . 2. COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATIONS IN DESIGNATED WILDERNESS WITHIN THE SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS.

(a) Issuance of Commercial Use Authorizations- Notwithstanding the decision, for the 2012 and 2013 seasons, the Secretary shall issue packer permits at no more than the levels of commercial services authorized by the Secretary in 2011 until the Secretary--

(1) makes an extent necessary determination that addresses the violations of the Wilderness Act found in the decision; and

(2) begins to issue packer permits for operations in designated wilderness within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in accordance with that extent necessary determination reflected in a Record of Decision for the Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

(b) Definitions- For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions apply:

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(1) **DECISION-** The term 'decision' means the January 24, 2012, ruling by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California in High Sierra Hikers Association v. United States Department of the Interior, et al., Case No. C 09-4621 RS.

(2) **EXTENT NECESSARY DETERMINATION-** The term 'extent necessary determination' means a determination on the need for commercial services within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park wilderness under section 4(d)(5) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(5)).

(3) **PACKER PERMIT-** The term 'packer permit' means a commercial use authorization granted to a commercial stock operator.

(4) **SECRETARY-** The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior.

Passed the House of Representatives April 27, 2012 .

UPDATE H.R.4849 5-8-12

Latest Title: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Backcountry Access Act

Sponsor: Rep Nunes, Devin [CA-21] (introduced 4/26/2012)
Cosponsors (3)

Latest Major Action: 5/8/2012 Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 394. !

2011 Volunteer Service Hours in the books

By Carrie Johnen, 2nd Vice President BCHC

Once again, BCHC volunteer service hours and dollar equivalent was impressive. Totals included at 141,648.35 work hours for a value of \$3,202,141.17; 547658.87 miles driven valued at \$539,324.54; 1927.5 equipment hours valued at \$54,240.00; and cash and goods valued at \$15,860.91. The grand total submitted was \$4,483,166.84!

This year there are a couple of changes to the report form. BCHA asked that the trail miles be split between wilderness and non-wilderness miles. Dan Horn asked that education hours be split between teaching a class and taking a class. I also found a new formula for Administrative hours. There is a new column to catch all those pesky hours that don't fit in other columns for things like writing articles, making phone calls, etc. The old column that automatically catches 3% of hours to make up for "missed" hours is still there. With the major overhaul, there may be some errant links, so if you find one, please let me know at cjubilee@comcast.net. The new form is on the web so maybe we can get our "missed" hours down to the 3 %.

For those who need guidance, Dan Horn has updated the PowerPoint presentation on how to fill out the form so the Sheriff can guide you. He even provided a "saddlebag" version for on the trail.

Happy trails and stay safe.

NEWS RELEASE: USDA Forest Service, Washington, D.C.
Contact: Press Office: (202) 205-1134 - Twitter: @forestsERVICE

US Forest Service targets \$40.6M to purchase, restore lands in 15 states Land & Water Conservation Fund provides support for land acquisition projects.

WASHINGTON, April 6, 2012 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the U.S. Forest Service will dedicate \$40.6 million for 27 exceptional land acquisition projects in 15 states that will help safeguard clean water, provide recreational access, preserve wildlife habitat, enhance scenic vistas and protect historic and wilderness areas.

Projects funded are in Alaska, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah and Washington. Projects range from protecting nationally significant lands from threat of residential development in North Carolina to help pave the way to help purchase the largest single parcel of privately held land with the Kootznoowoo Wilderness on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.

California: Hurdygurdy, Six Rivers National Forest: The land on the Smith River National Recreation Area covers portions of three streams, including the Hurdygurdy, a designated as Wild and Scenic River that serves as refuge and vital spawning habitat for Coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead and coastal cutthroat trout. The acquisition will help restore and improve fish and wildlife habitats and development of public recreational access and dispersed recreation sites. \$1 million

Deer & Mill Creek, Lassen National Forest: The parcel of land will help complete a continuous protected fish and wildlife habitat area along about 30 miles of Deer Creek, one of the most productive salmon-producing streams in the Sacramento River system. As a dam-free stream with little development, Deer Creek has breathtaking scenery and abundant fish and wildlife. \$1.5 million

Eldorado Meadows, Eldorado National Forest: This project is part of the Sierra Nevada Checkerboard Initiative, a large ongoing effort to address land ownership patterns intermingled with private and public land. The funds will be used to help leverage non-federal funds from threat of private land sale and development. \$1.5 million

Stony Creek Consolidation; Shasta-Trinity National Forest: This parcel, within the congressionally designated Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area, is a donut hole in the midst of Forest Service recreation facilities on the shore of Lake Shasta and is threatened with incompatible subdivision and development. Acquisition will preserve the high quality visual character of this key recreation area while preventing lakeshore degradation and habitat fragmentation. \$800,000

Fleming Ranch, San Bernardino National Forest: Will conserve and enhance resources in the San Jacinto Mountains in part by implementing fire and biofuels management that would prevent emissions release, maintain sequestration in forests, and through restoration practices advance carbon migration. \$1.5 million

Sierra Nevada Inholdings, Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests: Will leverage a large land donation to purchase vital areas threatened by incompatible development. This acquisition will preserve an ancient petroglyph, as well as conserve meadows, wetlands and riparian areas at the headwaters of the American and Yuba rivers. \$2 million

California/Oregon/Washington: Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, multiple national forests: The area was one of first two congressionally designated national scenic trails. The acquisition will help protect critical portions of the 2650 mile trail system that stretches from Mexico into Canada. The land will help protect key wildlife corridors that support the migration of the grey wolf, grizzly bear, elk, deer, coyote and moose as well as protecting the trail from encroaching development. \$1 million

Rendezvous 2012



Odd Load Packing

Odd loading packing contest was held on Sunday at 1pm. Three teams competed in the event: Dennis Serpa (president), Arnie Streetman, Kip Kinneavy, Kim Gardner & Edie Davis.

There were three loads that had to be packed onto live animals, then ran through the CSHA trail trials obstacle course. One load consisted of tools, one load consisted of two burner camp stove (2) and the last load was two ice chests (40# each) and a large metal trash can.

Each mule had a different saddle type: sawbuck, decker and salmon river and each saddle had different knot requirements. The ladies won the event (pictured left) and took home handmade leather wrapped canteens. These were donated by the Shasta-Trinity Unit and made by JJ Maxwell.



Odd Load Packing Winners



Saw Class



Packing 101 on Live Mules Class

Rendezvous Classes

Rendezvous 2012 *(cont'd)*

Rendezvous 2012 Awards

At the members award dinner on Friday March 30th, the best of the best were singled out for recognition. With all the fine efforts achieved this past year, it was not an easy choice.

Education Awards

The Education Individual Award this year was earned by Karen Lopes. Karen accomplished something this past year that BCHC has been struggling with for a long time. Karen is chairperson of the BCHC Youth Program. At last years Rendezvous, Karen did an outstanding job organizing the kids events and programs and this year her efforts will be a hard act to follow. She is also very active at her Mid Valley Unit. She has been in charge of our unit campout in getting new members and the youth involved, set up LNT tables at trail heads and various functions. She has been in charge of putting on youth horse show and organized week long unit work projects. And Karen somehow finds time to write Grants for youth participation and unit work projects.

The Unit Education Award this year was earned by Top of the State, <http://www.bchc-tos.com/>. Their participation in local sports shows and events spreading the word of Backcountry Horsemen totaled the highest number of education hours in the state.

~Dan & Lisa~

Newsletter Awards

This year four units, Mid Valley, San Joaquin Sierra, Mother Lode and Sutter Buttes units submitted their newsletters for the Max and Irene Cochran Award. It was really neat to see all of the other unit's newsletters.

- 1st Place: The Mid Valley Monthly (editor: James King)
- 2nd Place: The San Joaquin Sierra Hoof Prints (editor: Mary O'Dell)
- 3rd Place: Mother Lode Unit Matters (editor: Corky Layne)

~Jacque~

BCHC 2011 Top Hands

Antelope Valley	Kelly Carle
Eastern Sierra	Phil McDowell
High Country	Cindy McMurry
High Sierra	Dick Cochran
Kern River Valley	Mike Hughes
Kern Sierra	Curtis Harms
Lake-Mendo	Bill Ruddock
Los Padres	Richard Waller
Mid Valley	Vicki Morales
Mother Lode	Al Kaiser
North Bay	Donna Meier
Ohlone Riders	Woody Woods
Redshank Riders	Carol Schmuhl
Redwood	Gail Jenner & Kathi Poarch
San Diego	Margaret Hill
San Geronio Pass	Linda Herzig & Chip Herzig
San Joaquin Sierra	Ted Fischer
Santa Ana River	June Scales
Sequoia	Steve Ladrigan
Shasta Trinity	Kim Gardner
Sierra Freepackers	Karen Whitehead & David Whitehead
Steinbeck Country	Lisa Deas
Sutter Buttes	Ralph Looney
Top of the State	Pat Snider



Thanks to everyone who contributed photos & info from the Rendezvous. It is greatly appreciated.

BCHC / BCHA *in the News*

Big donation to the BCHA Education Foundation from the DEW Foundation

15 Feb 12

BCHA Directors and members.



Once in a while we get some good news that we like to share with you. In December our Executive Secretary, Peg Greiwe, got a phone call from Jennifer Connell who is involved with the DEW Foundation. The DEW Foundation is a private family foundation. Jennifer was very interested in sending some money for trail work support. Peg spent some time with her on the phone and explained about BCHA and about the BCHA Education Foundation. Jennifer said she would put in for a grant for the BCHA Foundation for \$5000.00 but she wouldn't know if it made the cut until everyone's favorite charity was discussed.

On the 18th of January a check arrived at Peg's office from the DEW Foundation for \$5000.00 to "be used by the Backcountry Horsemen Education Foundation of America to supplement trail building and maintenance, but these funds should be used however will best support the organization."

Jennifer indicated that there could be other grants down the road perhaps for BCHA.

The BCHA Education Foundation and Mylon Filkins were very pleased to accept the money.

A big thank you to Peg for picking up on this situation and working it thru the system.

Michael K. McGlenn
Chairman BCHA

The DEW Foundation is an Illinios based 501(c)(3) private charitable contribution foundation



The Passing of a BCH Founder Dulane Fulton

As mentioned in the current issue of the BCHA Newsletter, we have lost another icon of the BCH. Dulane Fulton led a full & long life passing quietly in his sleep Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012, in Kalispell, two days short of his 97th birthday.

One of his proudest moments was

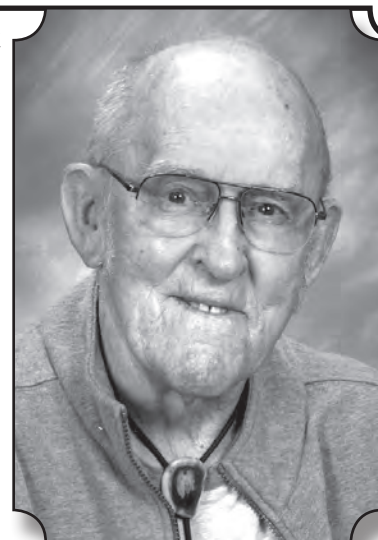
when he and a group of hard-leather packers

formed the Backcountry Horsemen in the early '70s to raise awareness of the jewel that the wilderness area was to Western Montanans.

His sunny optimism will be missed by his many friends along with his attitude that *"If I'm on the vertical then things must be all right."*

Jack and I visited Dulane Fulton at Greenwood weekly for quite a few years" says Sandy Bradford, a long-time friend. "He lived a good long life with education and horses both part of his life up to the last few years. He was one of our original BCH founders, Saddened to loose a knowledgeable horse person and good friend."

Thank you to all the friends of Dulane who helped with info & photos



BCHC Membership Application

- NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** Backcountry Horsemen of California
- RENEWAL APPLICATION**
- CHANGE - () PARENT UNIT () ADDRESS/PHONE/EMAIL () MEMBERSHIP TYPE**



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

DCTR (YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER) _____

****NEW MEMBERS WILL BE ASSIGNED NUMBER BY MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR**

PARENT Unit Affiliation: (Select and **CIRCLE ONE** Unit as your Primary Unit Affiliation)

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Antelope Valley | Mid Valley | San Joaquin Sierra |
| Eastern Sierra | Mother Lode | Santa Ana River |
| High Country | North Bay | Sequoia |
| High Sierra | Oblone Riders | Shasta Trinity |
| Kern River Valley | Redbank Riders | Sierra Freepackers |
| Kern Sierra | Redwood | Sutter Buttes |
| Lake-Mendo | San Diego | Top of the State |
| Los Padres | San Geronimo | |

**Donate to BCHC
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Packer	\$10.00
Mule Skinner	\$25.00
You're the Greatest	\$50.00

MEMBER'S NAME -No Business Names; Please Print Clearly		SPOUSE/MEMBER'S NAME -MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS	
ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE
EMAIL ADDRESS			
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____	CHECK # _____	DATE SUBMITTED: _____	

BUSINESS NAME - DONATIONS ONLY:

PARENT UNIT MEMBERSHIP TYPES: (CIRCLE ONE)

Individual \$40.00* Family \$50.00* Benefactor \$100.00 Patron \$250.00 Mt Whitney \$500.00

*BCHC shares portion of dues with Back Country Horsemen of America

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS: AN ADDITIONAL \$15.00 PER UNIT IS ADDED TO YOUR PARENT UNIT DUES.
 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP UNIT AFFILIATIONS MAY NOT BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT.

Associate Membership for: _____	\$15.00/unit (Unit Name (from above list))
Associate Membership for: _____	\$15.00/unit (Unit Name (from above list))

Please write additional choices on back

Please clip form along dashed line - **KEEP BELOW INFORMATION FOR YOUR RECORDS**

PARENT BCHC MEMBERSHIP TYPES
 Individual, Family (Shared*), Benefactor, Patron, and Mt Whitney. A Parent Membership is affiliated with a single Local Unit. BCHC members may NOT hold more than one active Parent Membership.

*A SHARED Membership is for two adults with differing last names, each sharing a common address.

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

- You may sign-up for as many Associate Memberships as you like.
- Associate Memberships may also be initiated at any time during the term of your Parent Membership.
- Associate Memberships must expire concurrently with the Parent Membership, and are renewable only at the time of renewal of the Parent Membership.

Complete information regarding BCHC Membership is available on the MEMBERSHIP page at: <http://www.bchcalifornia.org>

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS
 I SUBMITTED AN Application Form for:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$ 40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (Shared) Membership	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Membership	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mt Whitney Membership	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation - Packer	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mule Skinner	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> You're the Greatest!	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership	\$ _____
Total Remittance	\$ _____
Check Number	_____
Date Mailed	_____

Questions: Contact membership@bchcalifornia.org

Unit News

IMPORTANT REMINDER

The forwarding address for BCHC membership has expired. Please remember to use the new address:

BCHC Membership
PO Box 535
Beaumont CA 92223



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Unit News



TOOL SCHOOL

Put on by Pete Fish and the PCTA. Units present were San Gorgonio Pass and Redshank Riders.



Photos by George Soliman



University of CA Davis Beyond the Classroom Equine Classes

Proud UC Davis Alumnus Mary Odell wanted to share this with anyone who might be interested in some great programs offered by the UC Davis Extension Program Beyond the Classroom. This summer join UC Davis Extension on two unique outdoor adventures that take participants into the California wilderness on horseback.

- Mustangs: A Living Legacy and Mountain Horsemanship June 9–12, 2012.
- Veterinary Care and Horsepacking in the Wilderness. July 8–14, 2012

WHO MAY ATTEND

These programs are open to anyone 18 or older. Those under 18 may attend only by special permission from Craig London. Although riding experience is not required, the trips require riding up to six hours some days, so you should be in reasonably good physical condition. Prior approval is required for persons weighing more than 200 pounds or those who are very heavy for their height, and for persons with physical traits or disabilities that may pose a safety risk to themselves.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS

For general information or to enroll, please contact UC Davis Extension at (800) 752-0881.

For specific program information visit their website.

http://extension.ucdavis.edu/unit/beyond_the_classroom/?utm_campaign=Equine_Event_Mgmt&utm_medium=general

http://extension.ucdavis.edu/unit/beyond_the_classroom/pdf/114115_horse.pdf

Unit News

San Joaquin Sierra Unit Wilderness Rider

Submitted by
Mary Odell



In January, I gave my first talk as a Wilderness Rider. My talk was a Leave No Trace talk/demonstration to the Coarsegold 4-H Club at their monthly meeting in Coarsegold. There were about thirty

people present including parents and students. My talk focused on trash and how we all can help with that no matter where we are.

Students that responded to questions were given LNT temporary tattoos. They especially liked it when I dumped trash all over and then asked them about how long they thought each piece would last. We talked about trash not only when one is camping and enjoying the mountains, but also in our everyday lives.

I recently also enjoyed volunteering at the State Booth at the Rendezvous and working with Ted Fischer on our talk on Managing Stock in the back country.(see picture). It was great fun greeting and talking with fellow members and prospective members.



Our Unit's Wilderness Riders have been busy. In early April Ted Fischer and I were awarded the 2011 Presidential Hours of Service Award-Silver (250-499 hours) from the Sierra National Forest. Wilderness Rider, Randy Witt, was awarded the Bronze.



Our San Joaquin Sierra Unit received the Group Volunteers Award-Gold (1000 hours+). The attached group picture includes back row from left: Mary Odell (Wilderness Rider), Carol Kaminski (Bronze), Katie Horst, Wanda Caradonna. Front Row: Randy Witt (Wilderness Rider), Ted Fischer (Wilderness Rider), Joe Kaminski, Toby Horst.



Ride Before the Storm

Submitted by San Gorgonio Unit President Pete Kriger

After cancelling a ride last month, I wanted to follow through on this ride to Joshua Tree National Park. It was sprinkling when I left home and rained steadily through the pass cities of Beaumont and Banning. The rain stopped, but the wind was quite literally roaring driving through the town of Yucca Valley driving Walmart bags, Starbuck cups, sand, and



Unit News

BCHC News from Steinbeck Country

Submitted by Lisa Deas

tumbleweeds ahead of my truck on the main drag through town. Ron our trail boss showed up, but I was the only other rider. When I got out to greet Ron, his ball cap got tossed in the breeze. He chuckled and explained the difference between big hat days and small hat days out in the desert. I opted for my helmet that buckles under the chin and he changed to his Elmer Fudd hat with hurricane strings.

He asked if I wanted a longer flatter ride, a shorter hillier ride, or should we just call it off? I could not have guessed that timing would be play a role. I opted for the short ride with hills. As we left the plateau of the horse camp with sand stinging my eyes, I started to wonder if calling it off would have been more wise. Things changed pretty quickly when we crossed the first ridge and dropped into a canyon on the other side; the terrain shielded us from the worst of the wind. Our mules traveled smoothly over the sand and rock; they were only briefly startled if we bumped into the spines of teddy-bear cholla or young Joshua Tree.

Ron explained a saying they have around his house that they usually get only about 6 drops of rain out of the big rain storms that make it over the mountains. "The desert just sucks the moisture out of them", he said with a laugh. I was watching my sleeves and for most of the ride it was true, every time the rain splatters started to get near double digits, the first ones would evaporate. We enjoyed our 3 hour ride, but the sprinkles started to puddle-up as we got back to the trailers. We went our separate ways and 20 minutes later the skies opened up and let loose about 6 billion drops, give or take a few...but who's counting?



Ron's mule, Rufus, was a cute little thing that stepped out well. I want to return and check this place out a little later in the spring. Ron said he was going to the Rendezvous in Red Bluff, so I'll see him again soon.

Our unit is growly slowly but surely. Our name is now more known here in Monterey County. Just last week President Obama named our local BLM a National Monument. BLM is a mere 20 minute via horse or mule from the Marina Equestrian Center, a deeded parcel donated to the City of Marina from National Parks when the base closed 20 years ago.

http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci_20438035/obama-designate-fort-ord-new-national-monument

There are over 82 miles of trails at the new National Monument!!

Our unit recently partnered with Friends of the Ft Ord Warhorse for the 1st anniversary of the Warhorses at the former Ft. Ord. The day before was a parade celebrating the little quaint town of Pacific Grove Good Old Days. Dennis and Loretta Serpa, Carl & Julie Perry drove down from Hilmar and Oakdale to participate in the Parade on Saturday, followed by a wonderful dinner on Monterey's Fishermans Wharf. Sunday was Warhorse Days and historic collections of military uniforms & veterinary tools were on display. Dennis and Carl were joined by Dan Horn and Thor Bodkner of the North Bay unit to assist in a packing demo. The mules were a big hit at the Parade and Warhorse Days. Our event made the front page of our local newspaper. We had over 125 people in attendance along with the Civil Historic Artillery Association (CHAS) with their 6 team horses pulling caissons. A proposed Veterans Cemetery is in the works for the former Ft. Ord and when it is finalized, CHAS wants to conduct formal military

Continued on Pg 24

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CONTACT

Michael King 209-606-8323

Kathy Zumbrunn 209-765-4923

CJ Hargreaves 209-988-5831



Upcoming Events

Western States Horse Expo - Jun 8-10th

www.horsexpo.com

2013 BCHC Rendezvous in Norco, CA

<http://www.bchcalifornia.org/2013-rendezvous.html>

Unit News

Continued from Pg 23

horse funerals departing from the Marina Equestrian Center to the cemetery. The partnerships with CHAS and Friends of the Ft Ord Warhorse has helped launch our new unit and network with many locals as well as horse owners. Our thanks go out to Dennis, Loretta, Carl, Julie, Dan & Thor for coming all the way to help support this new unit! **BIG THANKS!!!**

The last ceremonial warhorse Comanche is buried on the former Ft Ord, now on BLM, National Monument property. The corral around the grave site is in need of repair as well as new signage, so Steinbeck Country Unit is working with BLM land manager to repair as our first local project. We are also going to do our recon in readiness for Mounted Patrol Assistance helping the King City District of Los Padres National Forest at a very popular campground at Arroyo Seco.



Carl & Julie Perry & Lisa Deas

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Phone (435) 752-3737 Fax (435) 752-3756

PCTA, USFS, BLM, and BCHC Partnership

Dennis Serpa - BCHC President

Several of our units have been involved with the different aspects of maintaining the Pacific Crest Trail. It came to our attention that we needed a more formal working relationship, so over the last few months several of us from BCHC have been working with the PCTA, USFS and BLM to come up with a more structured program so each partner would have a vision of what was expected of each other. The purpose of this partnership in California will be to protect, preserve, and maintain the PCT for a safe, enjoyable wilderness experience for hikers and equestrians.

The roles and responsibilities were thoroughly gone over and resulted in an agreeable document that we can all relate to. The Job Hazard Analysis was worked over and simplified for us packers. The policies of communications, operations, and leadership were established to carry out our purpose. more information to come as it progresses.



Unit News

News from Steinbeck Country cont'd



Dennis, Dan & Lisa

Early May our unit will be going down to Ft Hunter Ligget, the Indians, to celebrate with the Ventana Wilderness Alliance for their annual

Spring Gathering. This dedicated group of hikers are the major trail blazers in the Ventana Wilderness, in the Los Padres National Forest. A few of our members have completed day long course out of King City to become FS Wilderness Rangers along with many Ventana Wilderness Alliance members. The BHC members are Lisa Deas, Joe Anzini and James Huggins.

I am in the midst of trying to schedule a Concert in the Arena day for a fund raiser and membership drive at the Marina Equestrian Center. This City park wants to have multi-use events at this facility. The center is the hub for rec users on the Central coast as the park is bordering the ocean by the wonderful Monterey Rec Trail, which goes from Pacific Grove to Castroville on the old Southern Pacific railroad tracks. Beach to BLM is our goal to keep our access and Right to Ride open to all.

Monterey County has been very supportive of our new unit and I would like to invite anyone who is interested, to haul up or down to Monterey, camp and ride. Our unit is about to design a logo, order some T-shirts and obtain a banner to help promote Backcountry Horsemen of California.

I am now sitting on the Monterey Bay Youth Camp board, which is a former Boy Scout camp on the former Ft. Ord. 140 acres was deeded to the County of Monterey from the former Ft. Ord and the county is about to hand over title to Monterey Bay Youth Camp. We anticipate getting all in the previous infrastructure fixed (water etc) and will eventually have platform tents. This camp anticipates having up to 300 campers! This is a huge endeavor and I'm delighted to be a part of this board. Since BHC has a Youth Program and we are involved with Leave No Trace, BHC will be able to utilize this camp as long as we provide a program during our stay and perhaps have a LNT for kids and a possible catered ride camping event.

Much is going on. We are wee but we are mighty. Thanks to all that have joined as Associate Members. Thanks to BHC for giving me this opportunity to help and volunteer. A big thanks to everyone for all that you do with your generous time to help our organization.

I look forward to seeing you all in Visalia this October. Please send me an e-mail if you would like to come visit Monterey! Ride on!

Lisa Deas, Co VP of Education
President, Steinbeck Country Unit



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The Hidden Danger of Old Tires

How old are the tires on your horse trailer and towing rig?

Trailer tires 6 years and older can fail/blow out when traveling; also under inflated tires get hot at high speeds causing sidewalls to fail and separate from the tread. When getting a trailer or replacing tires on any vehicle insist on tires manufactured within the past year or so. Just because a tire hasn't been 'used' or put on a vehicle does NOT mean it is NEW.

Tires are manufactured with a date code, 4 digits long, which represent the week and year the tire was made (For example 3211 is the 32nd week of 2011 while 0598 is the 5th week of 1998). This code is on the tire usually in a circle or indented oval following the other sizing numbers and info on the tire. (The code could be located on the inside sidewall if the tire is already mounted on the vehicle...check for it. Your safety is well worth the extra effort!)

This tip from:
www.TRAILMEISTER.com is
"The Horse Rider's Resource"

Unit News

BCHC to be honored at Bishop Mule Days

LET'S ALL JOIN THE PARADE!

By Carol Jo Hargreaves

Every year commercial packers in the Eastern Sierra Packers Association select the individual or organization they identify as "Best Friend of the Packers." This year Backcountry Horsemen of California receives the distinguished honor!!

Like other BCHC units, every year the Eastern Sierra BCHC unit clears trails to allow commercial packers and other stock users and hikers access trails in Golden Trout, Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses. Hikers and horsemen from Friends of the Inyo and Pacific Crest Trail Association work side by side with BCHC members to support the efforts of public lands agencies. True and enduring partnerships have been forged and hundreds of hours of work valued at thousands of dollars is accomplished every year. It is fitting the award is presented during the Bishop Mule Days Celebration, Memorial Day weekend.



Even though it's too late to enter the parade ALL BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN are invited to ride come & cheer their fellow BCH participants in the Bishop Mule Days Parade. The parade takes place Saturday, May 26, at 10 am. BCHC will also be recognized at a luncheon and at the Grand Entry, just before the Saturday afternoon show in the main arena.

Come and see the biggest non-mechanized parade in the world!! All entries are on foot or using mules or horses. No motorized vehicles or floats are allowed.

Preceded by a big banner identifying BCHC as "2012 Best Friend of the Packers," pack strings will carry trail tools, and a two-up mule hitch will pull a wagon festooned with banners thanking BCHC and partners, Friends of the Inyo and Pacific Crest Trail Association. Those participating in the parade bring your pack stock, trail maintenance tools, bear boxes, dunnage, etc. Or join me and other BCHC members and walk with the BCHC entry.

If you're wondering what to wear, I suggest being patriotic in honor of Memorial Day: red bandana, white shirt and white straw hat, blue jeans and blue vest (if you have one).

The parade begins at South Street and Main. The BCHC contingent will assemble at Bill ("Doc") Carter's lease property on West South Street. There's dirt road with pasture in back, two blocks west of Main Street/Hwy 395. There is ample parking available on/near the pasture. Arrive at the assembly area between 8 and 9 am to assist with packing, wagon hitching, signage, etc.

In addition to the parade, all BCHC members are invited to attend a Dignitary Luncheon (immediately following the parade in the Charles Brown Auditorium) and be recognized at the beginning of the Grand Entry (just before the Saturday afternoon show). The parade and luncheon are FREE but admission must be paid to attend the Grand Entry.

I'm going! I am proud to be a member of Backcountry Horsemen of California and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to walk with other BCHC members, volunteer partners, and pack strings from commercial pack stations and government agencies like the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and Marines from the Mountain Warfare Training Center. There will also be lots of mule- and horse-drawn vehicles as well as marching units from California and surrounding states. Are YOU in? Meet me in Bishop for the Parade! Be recognized as part of BCHC and 2012 Best Friend of the Packers.

HOPE TO SEE Y'ALL THERE. . .

Unit News

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN ~ MOTHER LODE UNIT

The Mother Lode Unit conducted a packing clinic at the Dru Barner Equestrian Campground just east of Georgetown, CA, on Saturday, April 28th. Speaker Frank Henderson brought two of his mules, along with a variety of packing equipment to show many different kinds of panniers that may be needed to pack in equipment for various trail



Dru Barner packing clinic 4-28-12

projects.

Henderson provided handouts of sample menu planning ideas, as well as sample lists of gear needed for people and their stock, covering everything from tents and sleeping bags to dog food and the dog's dish. He emphasized the importance of planning well, and the fact that it is always a lot of work to prepare for a successful packing trip--more work than just a short back country stay would merit. His recognition of the fact that different people may pack a variety of different ways successfully, and his sense of humor, made for an informative and enjoyable learning experience.

Next came a discussion of safety in packing. Henderson covered many safety issues, such as breakaway ties and whether or not to ever dally



to your saddle horn. He followed by teaching participants a version of the barrel hitch that he often uses (photo 044 or 042), and explained the importance of properly adjusted tack and balanced loads, using a hanging scale, as

well as how to "rock a load" to check for balance. Everyone had plenty of hands-on opportunities and several of us were able to lead our pack animals out for a practice pack ride on the trails.

Now if that wasn't good enough, Ron Akers and Sheila Bond demonstrated their skill at Dutch oven cooking, whipping up a fine dinner of "Ron's Chile Verde" made with wild boar or pork loin roast, a second place winner at the 2008 Turlock Rendezvous Cook-Off.

We sincerely do hope that members of other units and outside guests will feel free to join us for any of our training in the future. The more the merrier!

Sidebar:

Frank Henderson is an experienced packer with years of trips logged in the various wilderness areas in California. He has recently become a member of the Mother Lode Unit of the BCHC, and is generously sharing his experience and expertise with others.



Frank Henderson ~ Instructor



The deadline for submissions for the
FALL EDITION
of the Backcountry News is:
AUGUST 19, 2012
Send submissions to BCHC.News@gmail.com
or mail to: Rhonda Strickland
Restless Designs
30201 Yellow Feather Dr., Canyon Lake, CA 92587

Information

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

The following new members have joined BCHC JAN - APR 2012

Antelope Valley	Bob & Debbie Foster Iva & Josef Konya Patty Stopper Karen Yeager
Eastern Sierra	Scott & Margie Hooker Wayne & Vasie Tex
High Country High Sierra	Phillip & Janet Raglen Christine & Laurabelle Burns Vera McNutt Michael Taylor & Beth Nelson-Taylor
Kern River Valley	Nancy Guzman Cindy Roberts
Kern Sierra	Buck Johnson Lynn & Ben Puget Margie Ramos Brian & Kimberly Reese
Lake-Mendo	Diane Bajada Dave Lowrie Diana Robinson
Los Padres	Kathryn Anderson Nora Buck Lisa Chadwick Dave Conte & Della Barrett Karin Donnelly & Andrea Stines Gordie Foy & Tracy Waiters Kathy & Warren Frankel George Gruen Steve & Cindy Heaton Janice & Phillip Kissel Laura Marble Bob & Wendy Smith Pamela Stableford Pamela Storton Laura Linda Strickland
Mid Valley	Stacy Anderson Kathy Burghardt-Cobb Erica Bustos Kathleen Douglas Juanita & Rick Ellington Ken Ellington Debra A. Evans Marsha Field Ed & Diana Fischer Rayma Garcia Sandra Gilbert Marty M. & Julie Griffin Judie Kavanaugh Carlena Kellog Pat Lemon Diane Maclean Sue Mason & Derrick Woods Brenda McKay Sally & Ron Moore Dan & Toni Peterson Barbara Savery John Schaapman Max Slayter

NEW MEMBERS, *continued*

	Mike & Lesa Steiner Christine Treat Kathy Truitt Jim & Chris Westmoreland
Mother Lode	Lynn Gibson Kathy Goodrich Alanna Pena
North Bay	Tracy Engelen Charles Levine Ken & Susie Perry Marcy Schaaf Mary & Marissa Shannon Donna Thornton
Ohlone Riders Redshank Riders	Abby Dawkins Renee Aberle Jacqueline Cirivello Chris Evans Sherri Freeman Susan Gonzalez & Robert Drewery Shelley Grier Mary Litch Jane McGrath Michelle Trist
Redwood	Mary & Jeff Dishman Steve & Joyce J. Dollar Brian & Karen Dorman Anna Dotson Lynett & Mike Flockhart Cindy & Matthew Giacomini Graham Hutt Jessica & Carl Johnson Barbara Kellogg & Thea Sayers Joseph & Adrienne LeMieux Mark Mathis Richelle & Ryan McClurg Nancy Miller Anna & Kevin Newman Pam & Don Porter Roy & Brenda Reynolds Lisa Mason-Shaver & Gerald Shaver Jerry & Toni Tindell Karen Underwood Margaret Waller Theodore Wells Pam & Todd Wilcox Claire Wright
San Gorgonio Pass	Edward & Melanie Pelczar Steve Sparks
San Joaquin Sierra	Candice Coy Jerry & Connie Eckhardt Bill & Joan Gladwin Glen Goulart Marcee Hansen Jerry & Sherry Smith
Santa Ana River	Frank & Sharon Hall Mike Randall Margie Rickards Allyn Van Alstyne
Sequoia	Joni Carrasco & Jeff Ragan Jennifer Michigan & Ryan Finney

Information

NEW MEMBERS, *continued*

Sequoia (<i>cont'd</i>)	Linda Smith William Wood
Shasta Trinity	Jeannette Baugh Christina Foster Marsha & Albert Franks Julian Frazer & Beth Rainsford Scott & Roberta Friar Marsha Kuly Janet Logan Brenda & Robert Meyer Gary & Mary Ann Skelton
Sierra Freepackers	Louis & Cindy Rogers Antigoni Catherine & David Miller Jessica & Jim Roche
Steinbeck Country	Bob Bennett James Huggins
Sutter Buttes	Bill Colvin Chris Gibson David H. & Bridgette Howard Sherri Lafoon Jerry K. Smith Charles Williams
Top Of The State	Tom Berry Sean Kenny & Eden Dahlstrom

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THANK YOU!



2013 Backcountry Horsemen of California Rendezvous
In Norco "Horsetown USA"—Southern California
George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center
March 22nd-24th, 2013

Please join us in Norco for the 2013 Annual Rendezvous, where you can experience "City Living in a Rural Atmosphere". Norco is known for its animal keeping practices and lifestyle—where every street has a horse trail! Upon exiting the 6th St. off ramp off the 15 freeway, going East for 2 miles through Old Town Norco you will quickly see Western themed businesses, horse trails instead of sidewalks with split rail fencing and plenty of cowboys and cowgirls riding through town—taking you right up to the Ingalls Equestrian Center.

The idea of having the next Rendezvous in Southern California was initiated due to the fact that the last Rendezvous in "the South" was almost 15 years ago! This will give everyone a chance to see Norco, also fondly and appropriately nick-named "Horsetown USA". All the units from the North to the South are joining together to plan this next year's big event, so come prepared to learn something new, participate in a different event and have a GREAT TIME!

Within the next few months, we will be providing a flyer to include surrounding areas to explore within the region if you are traveling far and want to stay in the area to horse camp and/or want to visit surrounding regions and plan a vacation around also coming to the Rendezvous. Norco is less than 1 hour to local beaches, wine country in Temecula, Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Universal Studios, Hollywood, etc. and less than 2 hours to local mountains, Palm Springs, deserts and San Diego. And, there are plenty of day ride trips to take if you are planning on bringing your equines, including the Hidden Valley Wildlife Wilderness Area adjacent to Norco as well as many incredible horse trails within a 1 to 2 hour trailer ride.

Recognition of Special Individuals

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

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

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WANT TO START A NEW UNIT?

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

(661) 944-4927

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Membership Matters

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

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

Email: membership@bchcalifornia.org

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



Queen Valley Mule Ranch

2012 Clinic and Event Schedule

Mule Communication Tour

Sunday Cowboy Church 8 a.m., Trail Ride at 9:30 a.m. at all clinics unless noted otherwise. * denotes a clinic with a Why Does My Mule Do That a.m. and Trail Riding with Confidence p.m. schedule

April 27-28 - Armadillo Ranch, Cherokee, Texas*
(512)755-6217 4mules@centex.net

May 4-6 - Klamath Falls, Oregon Pack Clinic
(602)999-6853 steve@muleranch.com

May 11-13 - Klamath Falls, Oregon Clinic*
(602)999-6853 steve@muleranch.com

May 24-27 - Plummer, Idaho
Colt Starting Thursday and Friday a.m.
Why Does My Mule Do That Friday p.m.
Trail Riding With Confidence Saturday and Sunday p.m.
(no Sunday trail ride) (208)755-6375 adriane_m@ymail.com

June 7-10 Montana Mule Days
Stop by Steve's booth to say howdy or ask a question!

June 14-17 - Bozeman, Montana
Colt Starting Thursday-Friday; Saturday and Sunday*
(no Sunday trail ride) (602)999-6853 steve@muleranch.com

June 23-24 - Howard Lake, Minn*
(602)999-6853 steve@muleranch.com

July 29-30 Minnesota Mule Days
Come by Steve's booth to say howdy or ask a question. Steve will be available for one on one sessions.

July 20-22 - Flying R Ranch, West Plains, Mo.*
Host: (417)469-2267



QUEEN VALLEY MULE RANCH

Email: Steve@muleranch.com

Phone (602) 999-MULE (6853)

More info or to register online go to:

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