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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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The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

Winter 2013

24th Annual Rendezvous "From your backyard, to your back roads, to your backcountry"

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA
RENDEZVOUS



MARCH 22-24

Norco, CA • Horsetown USA
George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • ADMISSION IS FREE

"California has been doing a nice Rendezvous for over 20 years, but 2013 might have been the most successful ever. Initial estimates are that we netted a profit of \$20-25K, all this while offering this public event with free admission and free Parking. Make no mistake it was a lot of work, but I think this investment in Education... paid off! Thanks to everyone that worked so hard to make this Rendezvous a success. Rendezvous 2014 will be coming to Norco March 21-23!"

Pete Kriger ~ BCHC Codirector

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.

Disclaimer: Articles and advertisements that appear in The Backcountry News do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of BCHC or its officers and members. Nor does publication of said articles and advertisements constitute an endorsement of the views or of the goods or services offered therein that they may express. Accuracy of all material is the sole responsibility of the authors. BCHC is not responsible for unsolicited material of any kind.

Reader Submission: The Backcountry News welcomes reader contributions, event and calendar dates, and Unit news. These will be printed on a 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
April 19, 2013	May 2013 – Spring/Summer
August 19, 2013	September 2013 – Fall
December 18, 2013	January 2014 – Winter

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Full Page	\$150.00	\$142.50	\$135.00	
Half Page (h/v)	\$100.00	\$95.00	\$90.00	
Quarter Page (h/v)	\$80.00	\$76.00	\$72.00	
Bus. Card (h/v)	\$25.00	\$23.75	\$22.50	

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President's Page



Greetings BCH,

I have now started my third term as President of BCHC. I look back and well I hope everyone enjoyed the Rendezvous in Norco. It's been several years since it's been in the South, but never this far South. It was good to see the southern units step up and do a great job of putting on the Rendezvous. The Rendezvous is always a time to greet old friends and to make new ones with people of the same mind-set. Our Forest Service packers did an excellent job of educating us on what they do and how they do it. We can now be assured that their stock programs will be around for a long time with the creation of the "Centers of Excellence"; One in the Shasta Trinity National Forest and the other in the Inyo National Forest. We want to thank Ken Graves and Michael Morse for putting this program together to maintain stock programs in Region 5 and look forward to helping out in any way we can.

It was good to see our PCTA partners presenting at the Rendezvous. Many of our units are actively working on PCT projects to preserve the trail. There are still places out there that can use more help from BCH. An excellent way to become more informed is to sign up for one of their Trail Skills College to learn the fundamentals of trail design and maintenance. These classes are free and you can learn from the experts. Go to PCTA.org to learn more.

Summer is approaching and our projects are starting. We are encouraging everyone to assess their safety

skills so that we can be safe on the trail. BCHC has developed some safety guidelines that will be available on our website. We are also working with Jerry Tindell on clinics that will make us aware of the techniques to use on our animals to make us safer. No matter what level of expertise we have, we can all benefit from reviewing our horsemanship skills. We will be trying to bring these clinics to the units throughout the state, stay tuned as we develop this program.

Everyone should by now be familiar with our BCHC Education Fund. These dollars are set aside for use by our members for the different projects going on in your units. These projects can be educational clinics or for purchasing equipment and educating members on the use of tools. An application for these grants is part of our 501c3 bylaws and anyone interested can find it on our website. Remember that these funds don't grow on trees, but they can be used to clear trees! Your units should be soliciting funds from sponsors or fundraisers to replenish these Ed Fund dollars. The grant application looks to see if your unit has been active in collecting donations. We will be accepting grants twice a year, at Rendezvous time and at our Oct., meeting.

I enjoyed the BCHA newsletter by Al Sammons talking about Dulane Fulton (original founder) how he decided to go with building the organization, "Lead, Follow, or get the hell out of the way"!

Let's get out on the trail and make a difference,

Dennis M. Serpa



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Back Country Horsemen of America's (BCHA) 40th year celebration will be an 8 day "Trec".

The Proposed Date is July 27th to August 4th

See page 5 for more info.

BCHA

Some news this week from BCHA of a new partner in PA

For Immediate Release: March 29, 2013

Back Country Horsemen of America Welcomes Pennsylvania Equine Council as Advocacy Partner by Sarah Wynne Jackson

The leading organization in our fight to preserve our right to ride horses on public lands from coast to coast, Back Country Horsemen of America welcomes the Pennsylvania Equine Council as their newest Advocacy Partner. The PEC shares BCHA's vision of saving trails for horse use through volunteerism, education, honoring good outdoor ethics, and hard work.

Pennsylvania Horse Council

The PEC aims to make horse ownership and participation in equestrian sports easier, safer, more affordable, and more enjoyable in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Specifically, they represent and promote the interests of the entire equine community and industry in the state; provide educational programs that lead to effective management, a higher standard of safety, and opportunities for equestrian activities; enhance communication among all equine enthusiasts; and protect and preserve Pennsylvania's equine heritage.

The people of the PEC accomplish those goals in a variety of ways. For example, they gathered experts at the Pennsylvania Horse World Expo to educate horse owners on a variety of topics from nutrition to manure management. In 2003 and 2004, the PEC organized two events to bring horse related issues to the attention of state legislators. In addition, the organization has trained numerous fire departments how to deal with the special situation of horses caught in a barn fire.

Saving Trails for Horse Use in PA

As it is for Back Country Horsemen of America, preserving our right to ride horses on public lands is a big concern for the Pennsylvania Equine Council. Not long ago, the PA Game Commission was considering shutting down access of game lands to users other than hunters. The Allegheny National Forest, 513,000 acres in Northwestern Pennsylvania, proposed in their mandated Long Range Plan to limit equestrian use to only 12% of that land. The 2.4 million acres of Department of Conservation and Natural Resources State Forest and State Park trails are also in jeopardy.

The PEC Trail Committee meets these challenges head-on, using the same principles of partnership, responsibility, and sweat equity that BCHA values. The PEC seeks to build a working relationship with groups that have the same interests and the agencies who manage the over five million acres of land that Pennsylvania riders want to access. They offer educational programs, trainings, and assistance not only to promote good relations on shared and single use trails, but also to support conservation efforts to preserve open space.

In many cases, trail closures are due to lack of funds and/or volunteers for maintenance. The PEC answers with their three-phase Trail Stewardship Program. Phase one entails three-day workshops combining concepts and application of effective multi-use trail design and maintenance, which are attended by equestrians, other user groups, and public land management personnel. In the second phase, trained PEC Trail Stewardship Coordinators teach trail design and maintenance to their local stewardship groups. Packing and Leave No Trace workshops are also offered. Phase three focuses on educating Pennsylvania's trail riders in outdoor ethics and sound equestrian skills at various saddle club meetings, youth groups, 4-H gatherings, and horse expos.

Continued on page 5

BCHA

Taking an Active Role

In addition to joining Back Country Horsemen of America in fighting the good fight to preserve public lands for equestrian use, the Pennsylvania Equine Council teaches new and prospective horse owners about the care and costs associated with horse ownership through the Equine Learning Center. The PEC takes a stand on equine welfare, pro actively addressing the issues surrounding the proper care and handling of horses across their state. In an effort to better represent and serve the horse industry in Washington DC, the PEC is involved with the American Horse Council's Congressional Cavalry Program.

Success, From Coast to Coast

Back Country Horsemen of America welcomes the Pennsylvania Equine Council as their newest Advocacy Partner. BCHA commends the PEC for the hard-won successes they have already accomplished in saving trails for horse use in their state, and looks forward to

a future of horseback riding on public lands from sea to shining sea.

About Back Country Horsemen of America

BCHA is a non-profit corporation made up of state organizations, affiliates, and at-large members. Their efforts have brought about positive changes in regards to the use of horses and stock in wilderness and public lands.

If you want to know more about Back Country Horsemen of America or become a member, visit their website: www.backcountryhorse.com, call 888-893-5161, or write PO Box 1367, Graham, WA 98338-1367. The future of horse use on public lands is in our hands!

Peg Greiwe
1-888-893-5161



WOW! Check out what BCHA is doing for our 40th anniversary!!

The Back Country Horsemen of America's (BCHA) 40th year celebration will be an 8 day "Trec" with horse drawn wagons, horses - packsaddles, and activities along the way. The Proposed Date is July 27th to August 4th, and will include a work projects to demonstrate that the purpose of BCHA is not just a riding organization but an organization to promote the use and maintenance of packsaddle trails in America. The Trail has not yet been chosen, but it looks like "Central Utah" is more of the consensus. More updates will be coming in the near future. Contact Ken Snook San Rafael BCHA for more information (ksnookprwid@emerytelcom.net)

To follow this on Facebook go to <https://www.facebook.com/bcha.org>

Membership Happenings

As some of you are aware our membership for individual and family went up \$5.00 on January 1st. What you might not know is where that money is going. \$2.00 is going to BCHA Education Fund thus two dollars of every membership is a tax deduction. Two more dollars are going to the LAC fund (legal affairs committee) and the last dollar of the \$5.00 increase is returned to the units. So although the cost did go up the money is actually accruing for each units use.

Chip Herzig - BCHA Membership

BCHA

Back Country Horseman of America DOUBLE DIAMOND AWARD

The prestigious Double Diamond Award was presented to Pete Kriger at the BCHA Grand Banquet in honor of BCHC & the partnership of 6 units including Eastern Sierra, San Gorgonio Pass, Mid Valley, Kern River Valley, Sequoia and Kern Sierra.

Doc Carter " F. William Carter" was instrumental in the organization with Friends of the Inyo, and PCTA. Chip Herzig documented this monumental effort. This was not possible without a huge team effort.

Eastern Sierra: Bill Carter, Phil McDowell

San Gorgonio Pass: George Boone, Chip & Linda Herzig

Kern Sierra: Lynn Joiner

Mid Valley: Dan Prine, Ernie Warzyca

Sequoia: Bonny Searcy

Some of you may remember the story "Epic Event" from the last issue of the BCHC News. For those that might have missed it here is a brief recap:



The "epic" wind event was last October (2012) where the equivalent of the high altitude jet stream came down to earth. Winds out of the north were 100-120 mph lasting 5-6 hours with gusts that pegged the anemometers atop



Mammoth Mountain. Best guess the gusts were in the neighborhood of 160-180 mph. As you might surmise the trees in the forests surrounding Mammoth took a pretty severe hit with blow downs estimated to be in the tens of thousands of trees toppled. The burnt still standing trees were unaffected by the wind storm however the fully

BCHA/BCHC

leaved and evergreens with their large sail areas were pushed down in massive matchstick piles all over the trails.

27 volunteers spent 9 days clearing trails, rebuilding root ball torn up tread and in general rejuvenating a devastated trail system. All told five BCHC units were represented with 11 folks and 8 sawyers. All we volunteers cut over 370 trees on some 30 miles of trails. On a previous work party in early June BCHC sawyers cleared a 2.1 mile section of the PCT south of over 160 trees.

With 175 different folks (FS Fire Crews, FS trail Crews, SCA, ACE, PCTA, FOI and BCHC) working to open the trails (with both chain saws and cross cut saws) in the RM area, removing near 5,000 blown down trees (many in complex tangles) not a single injury was reported.

Photos Submitted by Pete Kriger & Chip Heziz
Excerpts from story by Chip Herziz



Back Country Horsemen of America



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

WILD RIDERS

A Partnership Between the
Back Country Horsemen of America
and
The Wilderness Society



TWS Mission

To protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places.

~

BCHA Mission

The purpose of this organization shall be:

To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness

To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.

To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen's organizations.

~

For more information, contact:

Randy Rasmussen, BCHA Wilderness Advisor@backcountryhorse.com
541-745-5452

Paul Sanford, TWS paul_sanford@tws.org
202-429-2615

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.



BCHA's volunteers have donated over 2.9 million hours of volunteer time to trail maintenance over the past 17 years

In fact, recreation is the main reason a lot of us get out on our public lands.

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 – of which a great deal takes place on federal public lands – has a \$388 billion annual impact on the U.S. economy, supports 4.2 million jobs nationwide and generates \$57 billion annually in federal and state tax revenues."

BUDGET CUTS THREATEN RECREATION ACCESS

While recreation is one of the top uses of our public lands, it is facing traumatic cuts in FY 2013 and 2014 – cuts that will further reduce the ability of all Americans to access the lands they love. Trails programs will experience an **additional 6% cut with sequestration**, on top of already drastically reduced funding levels. This means depleting the already bare-bones resources we have for trail maintenance and safety improvements. It will also reduce support for youth and other volunteer programs that serve as one of the few sources of trail maintenance 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 Back Country Horsemen of America 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 2011 alone, BCHA's volunteers donated over 326,000 hours of volunteer time for a value of \$10.9 million. The Wilderness Society and BCHA's volunteers love to connect people to our public lands and see no better way to do so than to make sure the public lands are accessible to people now and in the future.

Photo credit: Sage Paulson

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

REMINDER: 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.

BCHA has distributed a Call for Action nationwide on the Merced River Plan in Yosemite National Park. Yosemite National Park to Eliminate Guided Day Rides in Yosemite Valley

The National Park Service is making plans that require your public comment. In particular the Merced River in Yosemite NP and how these plans relate to horse use and public access.

The Merced River Draft Plan will:

Establish the Wild and Scenic River's boundaries and segment classifications and provide for protection of the river's free-flowing condition in keeping with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act's Section 7.

- Refine descriptions of the river's outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs), which are the unique, rare, or exemplary river-related characteristics that make the river worthy of WSRA designation.
- Document the conditions of ORVs, water quality, and free-flowing condition.
- Identify management objectives for the river, and specific actions that will be implemented to achieve these objectives.
- Commit to a program of ongoing studies and monitoring to ensure management objectives are met.
- Establish a user-capacity program that addresses the kinds and amounts of public use that the river corridor can sustain while protecting and enhancing river values.
- Fulfill the 1987 legislation designating the Merced River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System. Make appropriate revisions to Yosemite's 1980 General Management Plan.

The draft plan analyzes six alternatives, including a No Action and five action alternatives. Alternative 1 (No Action) would continue current management and trends in the condition of river values. Action Alternatives 2-6 would improve conditions that threaten sensitive meadows, archeological resources, and scenic vistas and would incorporate a robust monitoring program to evaluate the success of restoration goals and adapt management actions accordingly. To provide for long-term success, the draft plan includes an environmental impact statement evaluating the plan's potential impacts across its five action alternatives.

Deadline for Comments was: April 30th, 2013

Information taken from <http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/mrp.htm>

BCHC ~ Education

NEWS FROM YOUR YOUTH COORDINATORS

Were you one of the lucky ones who were able to attend the Rendezvous in Norco this year? Norco, also known as “Horsetown, USA” was an impressive equine-oriented community in itself, and then when you add the wonderful



a Pack Trip with Kids” and many Gentle Use classes for kids. They learned a lot at Rendezvous, and had fun doing so! Thanks to everyone who helped to make the kids’ program a success.



At the 2013 Equine & Trails Celebration in Red Bluff, CA, the kids’ activities were a big

George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center facilities, the vendors, exhibits, classes, and competitions, they came together and made Rendy a resounding success—especially with the kids!

Carol Chodakauskas, of the San Geronio Pass Unit, manned the Kids’ Korral, where youngsters competed in the Stick Horse Obstacle Course, Coloring Contest, Dummy Roping, Boot Race, Kid’s Costume (best dressed cowboy/cowgirl), and Knot Race (ages 12-18). They



attended classes including *“Reptiles of Southern California”*, *“Lost but Found, Safe and Sound”*, *“Survival 101 with Kids”*, *“Leather work”* (hands on), *“Science on the Go”*, *“Planning*

hit. Classes included: Wild Animal Encounters, Leave No Trace, Plan & Prepare for the Backcountry with Kids, Child Safety on the Trail, Story Telling, Kids Survival Course, Stock Safety for Kids, Iron Mule Packing, What is the Backcountry and a Miniature Donkey Demo. The most popular kids’ class was the leatherworking and beading; you could hear the hammer of leather tools almost all day on Saturday. Another class that was intended for adults but ended up being quite interesting for the kids was the Tales of Bigfoot lecture. Overall, the youth classes were well attended and enjoyed! Hopefully the youth classes at the 2014 Equine & Trails Celebration will be even better (and hopefully spaced farther apart from the Rendezvous)!

If your unit is looking to start a Jr. BCHC group, we have good news for you. The Jr. BCHC draft program binder has been found, and as Jacque Murphy gets our new website up and running, a link will be established so that interested parties can find a program outline and curriculum ideas they can use with youth. We are currently in the process of getting a youth program approval from our insurance underwriters, but those anxious to begin may start their groups under the umbrella of their local 4-H organization after completing 4-H leadership training and background checks. Please let us know what you are doing with youth in your unit, and what we can do to help.

Cathy Andrews & Jacque Murphy
BCHC Youth Education
Co-Chairpersons



BCHC

New Volunteer Hours Form

By Carrie Johnen

2013 opens with a much revised form for collecting volunteer hours posted at BCHCalifornia.org. It has many details embedded, but many of the pesky formula cells are gone. The summary sheets are password protected. Included in this article is a single sheet for collecting hours. Please feel free to make as many copies as you need, if you are not comfortable with technology. Also remember though – you do the cipherin' and give the education director your totals for each column. They will then deliver the final totals for the unit to the second VP. There is also one section for just the instructions that were modified from BCHA website. They are too detailed for the newsletter. Please visit the website for the instructions or contact Carrie Johnen at cjubilee@comcast.net. Number is in the directory.

Use all old versions to start your campfire.

Happy trails!

Find the online form here: <http://www.bchcalifornia.org/bchc-forms.html>

Unit Name: _____

Project Leader : _____

Agency Contact
Person: _____

Project Date: _____

Agency/ District:

Backcountry Horsemen
of California
Volunteer Hours
Report
Year 2013 _____

Project
Location _____

Description

Work			Trail Miles		Education			Meetings	Admin	Travel			Equipment		Stock Use		Donation
Basic Work	Skilled Work	Recon. Work	Wilderness Miles	Trail Miles	# of contacts	Teach Class	Attend Class	Public Meeting	Prep/ Coord.	Travel Time	Personal Miles	Stock Hauling	Power Equip	Heavy Equip	Stock Used	Stock Days	Dollar Amount

Totals:

BCHC

IN REMEMBRANCE

Gerald (Jerry) A. Clark

Jerry Clark, 68, passed away Friday March 15 following complications due to a fall. He is survived by his high school sweet heart and wife of 47 years, Jeri. Jerry was born and raised in Orange California and graduated from Orange High School and attended Abilene Christine College for Agri-Business.

He is also survived by his daughter, Eva, and son James, daughter-in-law Kelly and beloved grandchildren Tyler and Kelsi, his mother, Helen and five sisters, Marilyn, Marry-Etta, Jennifer, Charlotte and Kathy.

Jerry is preceded in death by his beloved father, Cecil Clark. A 44 year resident of the Valley, he worked for Contel 15 years, an owner-operator truck driver for 15 years and a local farrier and horse and mule trainer.

Jerry was a member of many organizations including VP of Hesperia Wranglers, Apple Valley Pigeon Club, Cowboys for Christ, Director and VP of California High School Rodeo District 8, Apple Valley Sheriff Posse and Back Country Horsemen of America.

Volunteer work included search and rescue, animal evacuations and leading his trusted pack mules on Public Lands for BLM, USFS and Back Country Horsemen of California projects.

Favorite past times included family pack trips and fishing and hunting in the High Sierras, team roping and supporting local rodeos. Jerry's passion for the back country way of life led him to enter his pack string in many parades and pack clinics to educate future generations.

A celebration of life to honor Jerry was held on Sunday April 14, 2 pm at Mountain View Ranch- 9924 Mocking Bird Ave Apple Valley off Deep Creek to Tussing Ranch Rd., right on Mocking Bird. 760-408-0104 Eva. In lieu of flowers Jerry would prefer you make a donation to the Back Country Horsemen of California and to support and volunteer towards preservation of our back country trails and stock use for future generations.



Jerry was a friend and fellow Backcountry Horseman. We first met at a State board meeting where Jerry was pretty upset with an issue we were discussing. He did an imitation of Nikita Krushev pounding on his table to get the floor. Later that day I asked him if he felt strongly concerning the particular issue. He looked at me like I wasn't the sharpest tool in the farriers tool box but then it clicked and we became friends sharing the joke. Later in that year at Click's trail head we had loaded up our string thinking of a great stay at Grey meadow but we had gotten stuck due to down trees on the trail. We had worked all day clearing the trail with small hand saws running out of daylight we had returned to the trail head. Jerry & Eva show up the next day with a "I know you" and not much else loads up his string and takes off thanking us for clearing the trail. We shared that joke many times later as we met several times in the backcountry.

Thank you to the Blanchard Family for the generous donation made to BCHC in memory of Jerry Clark.

Chip Herzig

Please Support Our Advertisers

R Wild Horse Ranch 3rd Annual Poker Ride



May 18, 2013

R Wild Horse Ranch invites you to join our 3rd annual poker ride May 17th thru 19th

1st Place - Silver Belt Buckle

2nd Place - \$200

3rd place - \$100

Entry fee includes dry camping, limited horse corral accommodations, and limited cabins available; Saturday morning Poker Ride, a great BBQ Brisket with all the fixins' from our Chuck Wagon, Award ceremony, Saturday night entertainment by the legendary DAVE STAMEY (see below), breakfast and a guided trail ride on Sunday to see our beautiful ranch!!

Reservation Deadline is May 1st, 2013

Please RSVP to Jon Barrett at 530-352-4499 or e-mail at

stables@rwildhorseranch.net

6700 Hwy 36 West, Platina, CA (35 miles west of Red

Bluff)

Check-in starts Friday May 17th at 5 pm

Prices:

\$75.00 for the entire event

\$25.00 for dinner and entertainment (if you are not participating in poker ride)

\$12.00 for entertainment only

SPACE IS LIMITED. DON'T DELAY BECAUSE THIS RIDE WILL FILL QUICKLY!!



Dave Stamey

Cowboys and Indians Magazine has called him "the Charley Russell of Western Music." Western Horseman Magazine has declared his "Vaquero Song" to be one of the greatest Western songs of all time. In 2010 and 2011 True West Magazine named him Best Living Western Solo Musician...

Dave Stamey has been a cowboy, a mule packer, a dude wrangler, and is now one of the most popular Western entertainers working today. He has been voted 5 times Entertainer of the Year, 6 times Male Performer of the Year and Five times Songwriter of the Year by the Western Music Association, and received the Will Rogers Award from the Academy of Western Artists. He's delighted audiences in twenty states, and finds that he prefers this to being stomped by angry horses.



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Education

BCHCalifornia.org

A Great Source for Education Flyers

Members: Packing season is close so it's time to review & refresh our memories of BCHC Practice. Visit our web page for a reading of the education flyers.

Who We Are and What We Do!

A great overview of each one of the Gentle Use Concepts!

Bare Bottom Basics

"Improper disposal of human waste can produce significant health hazards."

High Country Manners

A Common Sense Guide for Gentle Use of the Backcountry.

Black Bear Sense

"Having more people and vehicles in the back country doesn't mean there is less danger."

Are You a Mountain Lion Lunch?

A Common Sense Guide for Understanding Mountain Lions.

How to Have a Safe and Enjoyable Trail Ride

Here are some tips for a day out riding with safety in mind first!

Lost Rider

If you don't know where you are going or where you came from, you are lost.

Hello Camp

A Common Sense Guide for selecting a campsite and use of fire.

Highlines in the Backcountry

A versatile system that protects the resources, your stock, and your gear!

Equine First Aid

A simple and easy reference guide to common issues and solutions for your critters!

What's the Buzz??

So what is that buzz or hum of wings? Is it a bee or wasp?

Living with Rattlesnakes

What's lurking in the grass.....?

Gentle Use Guide

A pocket guide for Backcountry Stock Users

<http://www.bchcalifornia.org/educational-flyers.html>



Space is limited so book early!



Join the Ohlone Riders of the Back Country Horsemen of California for 5 days of HORSE CAMPING JULY 3-8 at Jack Brook Horse Camp, Sam McDonald Park.

★ Jack Brook Horse Camp has flush toilets, hot showers, two refrigerators, a microwave, outdoor cooking area with sink, fire pit, a pay phone and miles of redwood forest trails with ridge views. There are 48 pipe corrals and 6 tie posts available on a first-come basis. Water hoses available but bring your own water buckets. Wheelbarrows and forks are provided.

NO SMOKING and NO DOGS in camp or in the park.
BCHC requires helmets for all riders. Ride at your own risk.

★ \$200 for 5 nights of camping with 10 meals: Wed. dinner through Mon. breakfast.
OR \$150 for 2 nights with 6 meals
OR \$75 per day with 3 meals.
\$50 for children under 12 for 5 nights.

★ For more information, contact Kathy Woods at (650) 678-8070, ksmithwoods@yahoo.com. A confirmation email will be sent upon receiving registration form and check.

NOTE! DIRECTIONS: Access to the horse camp is only on a one lane road. Driving IN is on the HOUR and driving OUT is on the HALFHOUR. If you arrive early, wait at the turn out west of the gate. Do not wait in front of the gate.

From Hwy. 101:
Take Hwy. 84 (Woodside/La Honda/San Gregorio Road) west to La Honda. 1/2 mile passed village center turn left on Pescadero Road. Horse camp gate is 7 miles from the turn-off and 1 mile past the Sam McDonald Park entrance.

From Hwy. 1: Take Pescadero Road turn-off. Go east on Pescadero Road about 10 miles passed a turn out. Horse camp gate is on right 1 mile before the Sam McDonald Park entrance.

Paid Advertisement

BCHC needs you!

At the State Board meeting in October we will again be electing State Officers. These positions are important to keeping BCHC alive and working as a cohesive organization.

To keep BCHC running smoothly requires members to step up to the plate and run for positions. Too many times have I seen us have to "hunt" for people to run for a position. New blood and new ideas help to keep BCHC alive and vibrant. Some of the Executive Council members want to step down and it would be nice to see multiple people run for the positions.

If you feel the itch to run or know someone that you think would make a good member of the Executive Council please let me know. The election is in October which is closer then you think. Call me (Larry Shuman) at 530-526-0590 or Email at Lshuman62@gmail.com See you in October (if not before).

Public Lands

Clearing after the Devil's Windstorm - Cutting Blowdown Trees from Trails, Inyo National Forest, California.

Excerpt from Forest Service Recreation & Natural Resources Briefing Paper by Michael Morse, North Zone Wilderness Supervisor, Inyo NF

Executive Summary:

On November 30, 2011 the Devil's Windstorm tore through the Mammoth and Mono Lake Ranger Districts of the Inyo National Forest. The worst storm damage centered on Mammoth Ranger District in Reds Meadow Valley where over 400,000 trees were toppled by 180 mile per hour winds*. Public access to the Pacific Crest and John Muir Trails, as well as the access road and developed recreation sites in the Red's Meadow Valley, was severely obstructed. Inyo National Forest (NF) successfully mitigated the damage created by this blowdown through a rapid response with leadership emphasis and priority, strategic planning, coordinated teamwork and generous partner contributions.

In January Forest staff completed a rapid assessment of trail conditions resulting from the blowdown. This preliminary field inventory enabled the District to prepare a strategic plan for clearing blowdown on trails, including an itemized request for additional trail funding, and the types and numbers of crews needed to complete the work. This winter trail assessment also provided the base data to analyze the costs and benefits of various methods for clearing the trees from system trails using the framework of a Minimum Requirements Decision Guide.

During the summer of 2012, over 175 personnel, including both Forest Service employees and volunteers, cleared 290 trail miles of 4700 down trees. This monumental effort included both chainsaw and crosscut saw work. Crew labor amounted to over 29,600 person-hours at a value of \$617,160. Sixty percent of this work was accomplished through generous contributions from partner organizations and volunteers.

The Forest's rapid response enabled successful clearing of the Pacific Crest, John Muir and other trails in time for thru-hiker and forest visitor use during summer 2012. Trail clearing provided watershed resource benefits by preventing damage from user-created routes around blowdown. Trail clearing also facilitated support of the tourist-based economy in the nearby resort town of Mammoth Lakes, as a result of visitor patronage at local businesses.

Even with this monumental success, there remain challenges in budgeting and planning for a continuation of trail work in 2013. With the first fall 2012 storms, wind-weakened trees are being blown down on trails, which will necessitate additional clearing next year. Repair of trail tread and structures will also be needed next summer. Inyo NF will be seeking to leverage funds and partners for this work in 2013.

* Tree estimate was made by Vegetation and Wilderness Managers based on Timber plot data. See section "Wind Event" for specific wind speeds. Full Article is available to read at www.restlessdesigns.com/bchc_news_issues.html#epic_event

Backcountry Horsemen of California

The partnership between the Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCH) and the Forest Service has become an outstanding example of user groups working for a common goal to provide open trails for all wilderness visitors. Under a regional agreement with the Pacific Crest Trail Association and Forest Service, the BCH provided over 40 personnel for three weeks to tackle some of the worst sections of blowdown on trails connected to the PCT and JMT.

By utilizing their stock skills, they were able to assist in supporting crews with greatly needed supplies and tools to continue the assault on the blowdown. Their saw skills were critical to maintaining the safety record of no injuries on the project. Led by Dr. Bill Carter, the Backcountry Horsemen cut over 900 trees on both the Inyo NF and the Sierra NF. The BCH contributed over 4500 hours of volunteer time at a value of \$93,825.00.

For their assistance in clearing the areas effected by this Epic Event BCHC was awarded the prestigious 2012 Double Diamond Award given by BCHA. See page 6 for details



Forest pack string resupplying crews



These trees fell on the JMT/PCT between Purple Lake & Lake Virginia, covering the trail and forcing the hikers to go off trail.



Photos from Forestry Service article

Rendezvous 2013

Rendezvous 2013 Obstacle Trail Challenge

Submitted by Audrey Turpin - Redshank Riders Unit

Well, a year ago in 2012 I was suckered, I mean asked to help with the 2013 Backcountry Horseman of California Rendezvous. Being the first time this event has been held in Southern California in quite a few years I thought this would be great opportunity to promote our message and mission to a whole new generation of horseman and also the general public.

I have had a little experience with trail trials, obstacle challenges and cowboy races as I'm kinda known as the crazy buckskin lady. I've had at previous rendezvous; I had my buckskin horse Tanner attempt to jump over stall doors, (thanks Davy for cutting the door down and releasing the nut case), Tanner rearing at almost every obstacle in the arena, (I think we are there for comedy relief) and at the Rendezvous in Red Bluff I hauled him 10 hours to have him almost completely take out the first judge at the first obstacle then leaving stage door left in an awful hurry because of a little itty bitty black and white cowhide hanging on the gate. YES, I'm an expert on what obstacles can truly test (SCARE) certain buckskin horses. So yes, I wanted to step up to the challenge to help make rendezvous 2013 a success and a jolly good time.

First things first; I had a judging clinic at my house where all my dedicated and awesome judges came out in the snow, wind and cold to go over scoring, judging and to practice some obstacles to get a good feel of this. It takes a



village to put something like this on and needless to say our unit did. Redshank Riders has some of the best people, they truly put their spirit into what ever we signed them up to do.

Having three divisions Novice, Open and Packers we were ready to go!

Taking our Rendezvous theme to heart "From your backyard to your back roads to your backcountry" in my vision wasn't as devious as some would think. We planned obstacles to reflect this starting with a gate coming out of your backyard (with a little itty bitty cowhide hanging on it I might say!). Then, taking out the trash (gotta do your chores), riding thru a construction zone with plastic, sand bags construction signs, and a huge tarp tape up to look like a road all the while trying to get to the backcountry.

Following the path around the arena the teams of horses and riders encountered round bridges with 360 degree turn arounds and bridges with real water around them complete with quacking ducks and chirping frogs. A tight turn representing switch backs (Oh yes with another hidden elk I might add). This is the backcountry ya know. A step over forest service gate, a big step up then a two foot step down. Open riders you handled that exceptionally awesome!

Next came the dead fall with real logs coming out of Montana next to a tent with a couple of stuff bears sitting in camp chairs around a camp fire. Finally, the path exited through a canopy of leaves to ride up to a tree with one of our sponsor's cool product, Cinch to Hang hook on to claim

the competitor's prize filled with more goodies from more very generous sponsors.

The novice division certainly was a challenge and so many did so well even though many had never done anything like this before in their life. Novices, you made me proud by truly trusting your mounts and being so kind to them. Those horses really took care of their riders.

The open division also did extremely well. It is just amazing to watch the team work of everyone and the good camaraderie everyone had with each other.

Now the packers were a whole different story. Trying to get two animals over these obstacles was quite the test. Sure your string animal will go but did somebody forget to tell the pack animal. Or vice a versa when your lead animal won't go now what!!! Kudos to Pete Kriger for doing the big step up even if it wasn't on the course. Love that mule!

All said and done first place champions received beautiful buckles, reserve champions received gorgeous plates and we had awards all the way to tenth place.

I hope everyone had as much fun as we all did. The obstacle-challenge was certainly a crowd pleaser. Thank you to the judges, ring crew and our sponsors. I hope this will inspire more people to come out and compete next year. Now start practicing!

2013 Rendz Obstacle Trail Challenge Results

RESULTS Novice:

1	CJ Wallace	197
2	Kristen Hick	189
3	Linda Wall	186
4	Aimee Ryan	170
5	Dorraine Smith	168
6	Paul Anderson	135
7	Cary Lewis	122
8	Susan Zurowik	117
9	Susan Turner	108
10	Molly Jenks	99

RESULTS Open:

1	Tiffaney Bailey	192
2	Stacey O'Hara	190
3	Kathy Thistlewaite	189
4	Beth Jennings	181 7 pluses
5	Georgia Allen	181 4 pluses
6	Georgia Shnell	176 11 pluses
7	Don Moore	176 1 plus
8	Deanna Williams	166
9	Jennifer Wells	164
10	Sandie Anderson	149 4 pluses
11	Cindie Paine	149 1 plus

RESULTS Packer:

1	Stacy Kuhns	131
2	Jay Stella	123
3	Mike Lewis	108
4	Pete Kriger	96

Rendezvous Recap 2013



USFS Mules Arriving at the Rendz - Photo by Sandy Kinsman



McClintock Saddle Fitting



Kids Corral Science Demo

As I prepared for the BCHA national meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota this April, I look forward to reporting on our Rendezvous in Norco this year. As the Rendezvous Education Coordinator, I take a good deal of pride in the success of our event. I would like to share our knowledge and success so that other Back Country Horsemen may learn and benefit from our triumphs.

Rendezvous 2013 in Norco, CA "Horsetown USA" where we sold out every hotel room in town and the event was attended by the mayor, several city council members, and even a brief visit by a member of the state house of representatives.

Featured 55 unique educational classes, most offered more than once and featured presentations by Region 5 USFS Pack Team, BLM Archaeologist, BLM adoption of 20 wild horses, and a rare wild mule was first equine taken. CA State parks, Eight LNT Master educators, two DVM, two prominent trainer / clinicians (Jerry Tindell and Robin Bond), Former Mayor of Norco demonstrating the horse rescue sling, the Trailmeister from the state of Washington, and many more.

We featured 8 different on-site venues for classes that included dedicated areas for clinicians, packers, Saw (maintenance) Corral, a Kids Corral and a Power Point Tent (for digital media presentations).

We had 75 vendors of goods and services from halters to house furniture... and a lot more stuff for your horse! Trail Trial Competition with Buckles to the winners and perhaps the first ever Pack UN-Scramble competition. A Horse Shoeing Contest, Wine, cheese, and beer tasting event, a western Art Show, raffles and an auction.

Wayne Williams from Speaking of Horses came from Wisconsin and filmed the event for a 30 minute TV special. 3mules.com is about a 65 year old man and his 3 mules that have lived "outside" for ten years and have traveled 16 states in nearly 30 years.

Cowboy singer Dave Stamey entertained a crowd of 400-500 people, at times singing and dancing along.

Garry McClintock Saddlery made a new saddle that was donated and raffled off.

Rock Creek Pack Station donated a 7 day pack trip that was donated and raffled off.

Pete Kriger ~ San Geronio Pass Unit President ~ BHCA National Director

Rendezvous Recap *(cont'd)*



Education

Social

&

Service



RENDZ 2013

Photos by
Laurie Stanton
& Rhonda Strickland



Rendezvous Recap (cont'd)

AWARDS



& PRIZES



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Rendezvous Recap (cont'd)

~ CONGRATULATIONS TO



~ PACK SADDLE RAFFLE WINNER ~ Terry Wright



A photo of one of this years Rendezvous buckles donated to the Rendezvous by Molly at Molly's Custom Silver.

MollysCustomSilver.com

My Rendezvous Experience

Submitted by Carol Chodakauskas

As a new member of the Sierra Freepackers unit of BCHC I had no idea what to expect or experience at my first Rendezvous. I read the newsletter cover to cover, made a hotel reservation in Norco (What's Norco?), Google mapped my way and headed south. Upon arrival I found friendly people everywhere, from the desk clerk at the Howard Johnson's to all the folk (and I mean ALL) at the Rendezvous. I learned something in every class. I've mastered the bank robber hitch, tried my hand at the box hitch, learned about prussic loops, learned 6 new ways to start a fire, and the gentle way to deal with poop. I got to speak with Mr. McClintock personally (dangnabbit, I didn't win that saddle!), and he gave me some excellent saddle fitting advice. I don't mind mentioning I earned my Green pin, and have affixed it to my swanky new BCHC cap. I've begun using some of my newfound knowledge on my horses "Rain" and "Remedy" already; but truth be told they both remain somewhat less enthusiastic about hobbles and what they mean than I am...Everyone I talked to was open, kind, helpful and genuinely nice to get to know. You can sign me right up for next year's event, and I'm counting the days till then!

Sincerely,
Sharon Seslowe



**RENDEZVOUS 2014
WILL BE COMING TO NORCO
MARCH 21-23!"**



Rendezvous Recap (cont'd)

Rendezvous 2013 Awards

At the members award dinner on Friday March 23rd, 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 Penny Wells Thomas from Top of the State Unit.

Penny has been Top of the State's education chairperson for the last three years. During this time she has organized numerous events including horse evaluation clinic, an obstacle play day, and education clinics. Thru out the years Penny has lined up speakers for our meetings at least every other month. She deserves a big thank you for all her time and efforts these past three years.

The Unit Education Award this year was earned by San Gorgonio Unit. 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 12 units: Santa Ana River, San Joaquin Sierra, Los Padres, units submitted their newsletters for the Max and Irene Cochran Award. We had such a great response & the newsletters were so good we had a tie for 2nd place. I also had to give extra kudos by presenting 2 special award certificates.

- 1st Place: Santa Ana River Trail Winds (editor: Linda Hughs)
- 2nd Place: Mid Valley Monthly (editor: James King)
- 2nd Place: San Joaquin Sierra Hoof Prints (editor: Mary Odell)
- 3rd Place: High Country Highline News (editor: Valerie Lance)
- Above & Beyond Award: Mother Lode Unit Matters & Sutter Buttes both edited by Corky Layne)
- Special Recognition for Consistency: Top of the State Sis-Q-Trails (editor: Kathryn Matthews)

~Rhonda Strickland~

BCHC 2012 Top Hands

Antelope Valley	Ray Drasher
Eastern Sierra	Nicole Milici
High Country	Cindy McMurray
High Sierra	Julie Beale
Kern River Valley	Joel Donoho
Kern Sierra	Pat Mumford
Lake-Mendo	Toni Villanueva
Los Padres	Cheryl McGray & Terrie Garretson
Mid Valley	Kathy Zimbrun
Mother Lode	Cathy Andrews
North Bay	Cindy Rowe
Ohlone Riders	Doug Jones
Redshank Riders	Laurie Stanton
Redwood	Susan Combes
San Diego	Terry Jorgensen, Tammy Alsmann & Patty Heyden
San Gorgonio Pass	Mandy Picozzi
San Joaquin Sierra	Toby Horst Katie Horst
Santa Ana River	Roland Schmitz
Sequoia	Peg Wilson
Shasta Trinity	Melissa Budden
Sierra Freepackers	Denise Robinson
Steinbeck Country	Joe Anzini
Sutter Buttes	Ralph Looney
Top of the State	
John Lyons	

Table Decorations

Winners: San Diego was best overall and will be the judges for next year. The most humorous was Sequoia Unit.



Raffle Prize Winners: Pack saddle winner was Martin Jorgensen and the pack trip winner Cathy Haun.

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Unit News

Mother Lode Unit News

Mother Lode Unit Riders Hit the Hills

Submitted by Lucy Badenhoop

On a gorgeous Saturday morning 16 March, twenty four riders met at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve near Rancho Murrieta. The last few miles of the access via Latrobe Road was a bit of a test of driving skills, but well worth the effort.



The Preserve is one of several parcels protected by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. An MLU member, Don Hess, arranged for the private group tour just for us.

This preserve is a working cattle ranch on rolling hills studded with numerous oak trees and watering ponds where the stock roams free. The horses had to hold up a few times to allow cows and calves to reunite or a small herd to pass by.

Our group was so large, we split in two....each group had several docents to share information about the preserve. We took off in opposite directions and passed each other halfway through the 7.8 mile ride.

One of the ponds had some unique stone work on one side which was the ruins of a hydraulic mining operation during the last century. Not far away, were some grinding stones created by the Miwok Indians who pulverized the abundant local acorns for food.

After the ride, which lasted almost 4 hours, the group lunched at the picnic tables and conducted the usual 50-50 raffle.



Dru Barner Campout & Packing Clinic

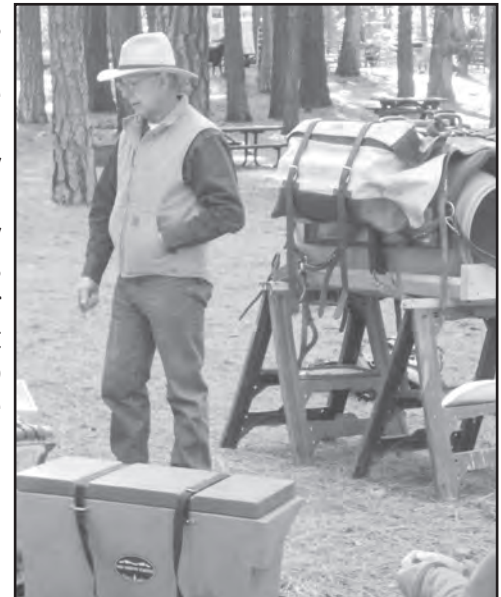
Submitted by Lucy Badenhoop

The monthly MLU horse campout regularly occurs on the third weekend of every month. On March 15-17 a packing clinic was



added to the usual mix of camaraderie, potluck meals and trail rides. There were about a dozen campers who stayed the whole weekend, and another dozen came just for the Saturday clinic.

Frank Henderson shared his wealth of information on securing panniers using the relatively simple box hitch method. He was assisted by several experienced packers, like Jere Schaeffer and Randy Kirkbride who brought his metal mules. Mike Kohlbaker also helped, plus he brought his collection of panniers to demonstrate the wide choice of equipment.




After the lecture and demonstration, there was a question and answer period, followed by an opportunity to

practice on live mules with a teaching assistant. Afterward, lunch was spiced with tall tales about packing mishaps.



Dru Barner is located just above Georgetown and is heavily tread. The campsites are large, some with corrals. There are central water faucets, vault rest rooms, trash bins, and bear proof food lockers.

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
 P.O. Box 525
 HEALINGWELL, CA 92223
www.bchc.org

DC#TR (YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER) _____

** ALL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE PAYABLE TO THE BCHC NATIONAL OFFICE

PARENT UNIT AFFILIATION: (Select and CIRCLE ONE from your Primary Unit Address)

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Antelope Valley | Mid Valley | San Joaquin Storm |
| Eastern Sierra | Mojoer Lodge | South San River |
| High Country | North Bay | Sagehen |
| High Sierra | Oldlore Riders | Sierra Trinity |
| Kern River Valley | Redbank Riders | Sierra Freckles |
| Kern Sierra | Redwood | Starback Country |
| Lake Mendocino | San Diego | Star Riders |
| Los Padres | San Geronimo Park | Top of the State |

Donate to BCHC Education Fund? Tax Deductible

Packer	\$10.00
Mule Skinner	\$25.00
Other (Write in)	\$ _____

MEMBER'S NAME - No Punctuation Allowed: Please Print Clearly _____ SPOUSE/MEMBER'S NAME - MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Make Checks Payable to: BCHC CHECK # _____ DATE SUBMITTED: _____
 TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

BUSINESS NAME - DONATIONS ONLY

PARENT UNIT MEMBERSHIP TYPES: (CIRCLE ONE)

Individual \$45.00* Family \$25.00* Benefactor \$1000.00 Patron \$250.00 Mt Whitney \$500.00

*BCHC shares portions of dues with Backcountry Horsemen of America

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS: AN ADDITIONAL \$15.00 PER UNIT IS ADDED TO YOUR PARENT UNIT DUES.
 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP UNIT AFFILIATION 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 print unit/Division/Region 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.bchc.org>

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS
 I SUBMITTED AN Application Form for:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$45.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (Shared) Membership	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Membership	\$1000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mt Whitney Membership	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Donations - Packer	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mule Skinner	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Write in)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership	\$ _____
Total Reimburse	\$ _____
Check Number	_____
Date Mailed	_____

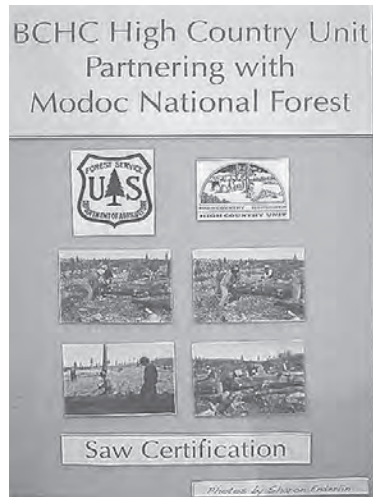
Questions: Contact membership@bchc.org



Unit News

High Country Unit partnered with the Modoc National Forest for the Equine & Trails Celebration

Submitted by Valerie Lantz High Country Unit



The Equine & Trails Celebration event, planned and organized by BCHC Units in northern California, offered educational, fun and free activities on April 5 - 7, 2013 at the Tehama County Fairgrounds in Red Bluff. 'A Wild Wilderness Weekend' theme focused on

subjects needed for those recreating in Wilderness areas. The hands on packing demonstrations proved to be a popular activity. Both iron mules and live pack stock were available for those who wanted to try their hand at throwing a box or diamond hitch. The pack demonstrations by U.S. Forest Service personnel included details for packing fire equipment and trail construction equipment. The USFS mules and horses, fresh off winter turn-out, appeared ready to return to work for this season.

The crew members with the California Conservation Corps also looked eager to return to their mountain trail work. Their camp demonstration depicted equipment needed for a 15 member crew doing trail construction work in wilderness areas. An impressive slide-show illustrated several 'before' and 'after' projects on wilderness trails. The 'CCC' crew members helped with set-up throughout the weekend. It was wonderful to witness their energy.

The Dutch Oven Cooking demonstrations and contests provided wonderful examples for camp meals. The set-up, cooking tools, recipes and samples fascinated those lucky enough to time their visit well.

For those purchasing the week-end meal package, no disappointments occurred about food as every meal proved delicious. The food concession was also great, operated this year by a youth church group. Friday evening entertainment after dinner included an open mic that attracted talented cowboy poets.

Many vendors provided ample opportunities for finding head to toe clothing and gear for equestrian pursuits. A children's activity area was busy the entire weekend. Classes for learning Gentle Use and Leave No Trace techniques were available too. The most popular presentation topic was 'Bigfoot.' An art contest and display included many entries from local artists. All day Saturday, riders

rode the racetrack in the Ride for Life. Many of the young riders turned out in colorful, glitter covered costumes. The early spring cool winds had the horses prancing.

A trail challenge course offered riders true challenges with obstacles that ranged from live goats, a fresh cowhide, and a wild camp to a dead body (dummy), blooming plants, wiggly oak logs and a suitcase on a pulley.



Sam Burrows teaches prospective packers how to tie a box hitch during a hands on packing demonstration.

A mule auction held during the wine and cheese tasting event offered three nice mules from Levi King's Rolling K Saddle Mules and Livestock. After dinner, a live auction, raffle and silent auction provided entertainment and multiple opportunities to win or bid on items any equestrian wishes for.



USFS Packers from the Shasta-Trinity Forest demonstrated packing with USFS stock



Paul Walther, Dutch Oven Cooking Demonstrator, offers a 'taste of breakfast' to a visitor.

The event organizers deserve a big thank you for doing a great job "to educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the backcountry resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage." Thank you to: Event Chairperson, Larry Shuman; Ads & Sponsors, Kim Gardner; Pre-registration, Melissa Budden; Vendors, Carole Polasek; Speakers/Classes, Sam Burrows; Volunteer

Assistant Scheduling, Cindy McMurry and Dolores Wager; and to those who volunteered their time to help make The Equine & Trails Celebration a successful event.

Upcoming Events

2013 Western States Horse Expo - Jun 7-9th
 Cal Expo Fairgrounds in Sacramento, California
www.horseexpo.com

HOT TOPIC

BCHA Position on Mountain Bike Use on the Public Lands Trail System March 19, 2013

Philosophy

Historically our public lands trail system was shared by hikers and equestrians. Much of the existing system was in place by the mid-1900s – years before mountain bicycles became a popular recreational conveyance. Equestrian/hiking trails were traditionally managed for quiet, slow travel and the enjoyment of nature away from motorized and mechanical conveyances, including bicycles. Back Country Horsemen of America is dedicated to the preservation and protection of equestrian trails as an important resource to accommodate the needs of customary and traditional trail users.

Equestrian/hiking trails offer the best opportunity to design and manage sustainable trails that meet the unique needs of equestrians and provide them with the highest quality experiences. Multi-purpose or shared use trails, which address a variety of recreation needs, may accommodate both traditional users and mountain bicycles provided the trails are designed and managed for that use and protect the interest and safety of all users.

BCHA seeks to work cooperatively with mountain bicycle organizations, and encourages cooperative trail planning and stewardship at the local level between equestrians and bicyclists. Inherent in this spirit of cooperation is the recognition that the experience of equestrians must vigilantly be protected, whether on equestrian/hiker trails or multiple purposes trails suitable to equestrians.

Where the interests of equestrians cannot be guaranteed in a proposed trail system, at a minimum the network of historically-used equestrian trails must be incorporated and protected. Agency approval of mountain bike trails or trail systems should not come at the expense of horse use, nor should equestrians be relegated to a subset of a proposed trail system that consists primarily of graveled-surface road or former road beds.

BCHA encourages thorough dialogue regarding proposed trail systems between agency personnel, the horseback-riding community and other public land stakeholders. We are not opposed to agency efforts to provide mountain biking opportunities; we view doing so as a positive development that contributes to expanding trail-based recreational opportunities. BCHA implores agencies to seek every opportunity to include the horseback-riding community in planning efforts for multi-use trails. It is our belief that only through strong partnerships and effective collaboration can the goal of creating sustainable and publicly-supported trail systems be achieved.

Position

BCHA supports the principle of managing trails for the primary purposes for which they were designed and constructed. Other uses and types of travel should be evaluated for their impact on, and compatibility with, the primary use and purpose of a given trail.

In issues involving local and state trails, BCHA typically defers to the local equestrian community. When requested to intervene, BCHA may assist on behalf of equestrians at large or intervene to mitigate conflict.

In matters pertaining to federal land, BCHA may choose to speak on behalf of equestrians at large, particularly when matters may result in broad regional or national precedent.

BCHA opposes the use of mountain bicycles in designated wilderness and areas identified as suitable and recommended for wilderness through various agency planning processes.

Equestrian-Biker Trail Guidelines

Design characteristics. New trails should be designed to allow for safe passage of one traveler by another, and provide for adequate visibility to avoid collision or surprise encounters. Design should account for varying speeds of travel. For existing trails, equestrians and other users would benefit from evaluation of the need for vegetation clearing or rerouting to ensure adequate visibility. Yet equestrians recognize and accept that trails often contain tight switchbacks and/or less than ideal room for passage or line-of-sight. These shortcomings are inherent in any given trail or trail system and should not be used as rationale by an agency to exclude horse use.

Modifications to provide additional challenge for bicycles should be evaluated to determine that they will not create obstacles that force horses and mules off the managed tread resulting in unacceptable widening of the tread or parallel treads. The addition, removal or modification of tread drainage features, steps, bridges and other structures for bicycle use must consider the acceptability and accessibility of these changes to traditional users and the need for these features for protection of physical, biological and/or cultural resources.

The Equestrian Experience

Trails developed for multiple users should be designed with consideration given to the needs and concerns of traditional users and to minimize conflicts between bicycles and traditional users, particularly at higher levels of use and rates of speed.

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News You Can Use



PCTA - Backcountry Horsemen partnership formalized

Equestrian groups provide an invaluable service to the PCT. Not only do they conduct trail maintenance, but they also provide packing services to backcountry trail crews, bringing in tools, food, and gear. Without this assistance, trail crews would be unable to maintain remote sections of the PCT.

In 2012, PCTA, the Backcountry Horsemen of California, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in California strengthened an existing partnership, culminating with the Feb. 4 signing of a Letter of Partnership Intent.

The purpose of this partnership is to protect, preserve, and maintain the PCT for safe, enjoyable wilderness experience for hikers and equestrians. The agreement covers how we do business - everything from open communication, safety and volunteer recognition to conflict resolution, training and mileage reimbursement.

This month, Chip Herzig of the Backcountry Horsemen of California, was appointed to the PCTA Board of Directors. He brings a unique perspective to the PCTA board and will help nurture our mutual interest protecting and preserving the trail.

"I looked at what is on the PCTA web site concerning our partnership and it one word...awesome!" Chip said. "Our partnership is out there on the cutting edge but it was needed and is a success."

Welcome aboard Chip.



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FALL EDITION

of the Backcountry News is:

August 19, 2013

Send submissions to BCHC.News@gmail.com

or mail to: Rhonda Strickland

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Unit News

Rendezvous Excitement

Submitted by Joyce Granger - President, Sierra Freepackers

This year the Sierra Freepackers has been very fortunate to have several new members join our unit. Some are familiar with Backcountry Horsemen and for others it is a totally new experience. After the Rendezvous this year I asked one of our new members Sharon Seslowe if she would share her experience with us. This is what she had to say:

As a new member of the Sierra Freepackers unit of BCHC I had no idea what to expect or experience at my first Rendezvous. I read the newsletter cover to cover, made a hotel reservation in Norco (What's Norco?); Google mapped my way and headed south. Upon arrival I found friendly people everywhere, from the desk clerk at the Howard Johnson's to all the folk (and I mean ALL) at the Rendezvous. I learned something in every class. I've mastered the bank robber hitch, tried my hand at the box hitch, learned about prussic loops, learned 6 new ways to start a fire, and the gentle way to deal with poop. I got to speak with Mr. McClintock personally (dangnabbit I didn't win that saddle!), and he gave me some excellent saddle fitting advice. I don't mind mentioning I earned my Green pin, and have affixed it to my swanky new BCHC cap. I've begun using some of my newfound knowledge on my horses already; but truth be told they both remain somewhat less enthusiastic about hobbles and what they mean than I am...Everyone I talked to was open, kind, helpful and genuinely nice to get to know. You can sign me right up for next year's event, and I'm counting the days till then!

I appreciated how Sharon took hold of the opportunities at the Rendezvous and how her excitement can spill over to others. It was a reminder to me of the importance of encouraging those new to BCHC.

We had some others in our unit bring great excitement to us also. One member, Linda Sadler entered a picture in the art show and she won 2nd place! Mary Odell who recently joined us from the SJS unit also tied for 2nd place for the newsletter award.



Denise - Wilderness rider of year

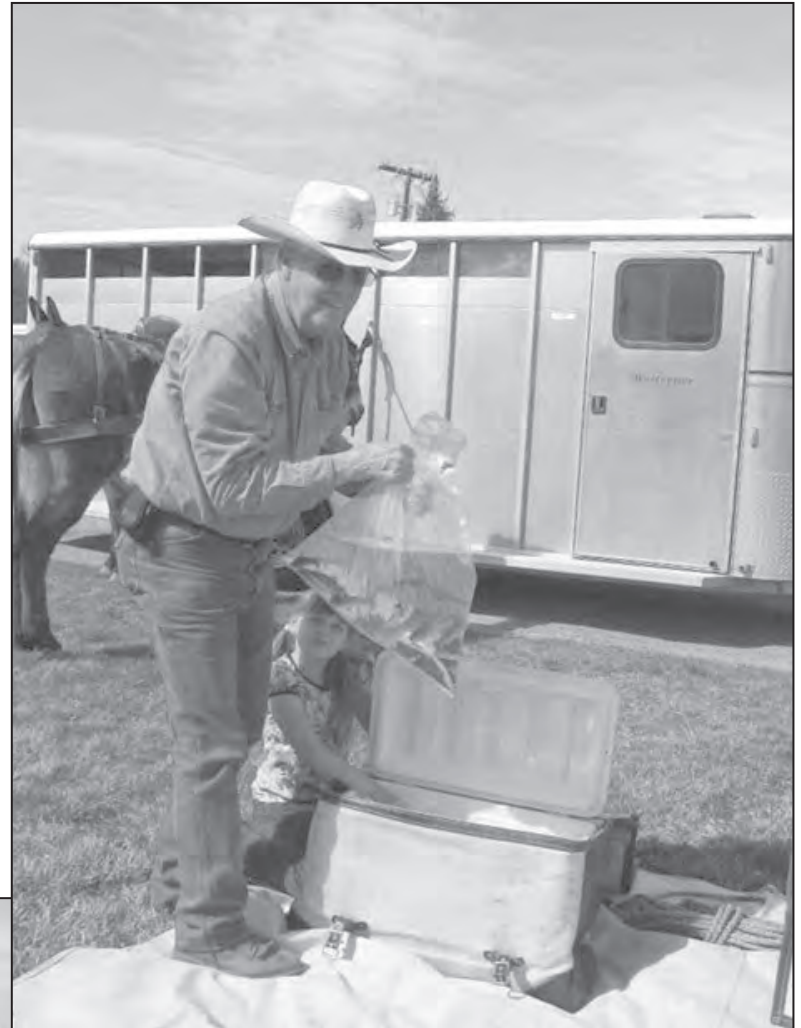
We were most pleased to find out that one of our members, Denise Robinson received the "Wilderness Rider of the Year Award". Denise logged 620 hours as a volunteer in 2012 with a value of over \$14,000. - in service. Denise assisted the Bass Lake Ranger District North Fork office in many ways and as a campground host at Granite Creek she was proactive in educating campers on several subjects including bear awareness, fire and personal safety. Denise is another great example of what BCH is all about.

Unit News

Education News

Photos and article by Penny Wells-Thomas

On March 25th, Dale Payne and I went to the Fort Jones Elementary school to talk about the BCHC fish planting program. Dale brought along his mules, Peanut and Shasta, along with lots of fish including all the gear he needs to pack fish into the wilderness. He also brought along his granddaughter, Hayden, who was our official pooper-scooper. Mary Beebe was in charge of this project.



The idea was to acquaint kids to the backcountry. We had about 50 kids listening to Dale.

After the talk, the kids got to feed the mules cookies. They asked many good questions and hopefully we will have peeked their interest in exploring the backcountry.

Information

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

The following new members have joined BCHC between
January - April 2013

Antelope Valley	Rob & Ann Trussell Darvin White
Eastern Sierra	Lisa Sims Andria Witmer
High Sierra	Bradley R. & Emily Miles
Kern Sierra	Sespe Steve & Mallory Cozzetto Ruth Gerson
Los Padres	Lisa & Michael Andresen Catherine Cobarr Margaret (Peggy) & Michael Crowley Lynn Goodwin Greg Gouveia Samantha Huston Heather Hutchens Michael K. & Karen L. Larson Susan Lewis Caroline Nelson Stanley Ruskow Dana Verreras
Mid Valley	JB Agee & Bella Lacazotte Connie Bennett Joanie & Kenny Buchanan Vickie Eiland Chris & Kreg Enos Dennis & Linda Everman Aaron Ford & Jean Cardona Darrell Green & Kim Keenom-Green Teddi Gutierrez Bob & Shayna Howitz Robert & Joane Job Kristin Martinez Teresa M. & Tom J. McGonigle Sally Mole Melissa Mutzner Mike Osborne & Judy Kozma Nicole N. Parish Mike Passalacqua Berta Richardson & Glen Keenom Terri Trettin Rios & Al, Lindsay, Aaron Rios Valerie Watts Brett Weaver June Wilcox
Mother Lode	Jennifer Berz Michael & Jo Biggs Raymond Brown Kent & Lana Dougherty Lola Drouin E. Duthie Cynthia & Dennis Eyler Donna Jones Furlow Leslie Graves Linda Green Al Jagow Randy Kirkbride Chet & Diane Krage Teresa M. & Tom J. McGonigle Kathleen & Dainel McPherson

NEW MEMBERS, *continued*

Mother Lode (Cont'd)	Russell J. & Brenda Kay Niesz Jan Parigini Jane Patterson & Dave Murray Brittany Peasley Joyce Radell Mike & Kathy Reed Janis & Richard Reid Julie, Terry & Justin Schmitz Paige N. Siegle & Chelsee Guerrero Ruth Spindler Lori VanArman & Joe Wisner Tina Whitson & David Meyer
North Bay	Donald Bone Jane Patterson & Dave Murray Kelly R. Rowell
Redshank Riders	Tom & Melanie Bellamore Pam Bowman Linda Ruggieri & JoAnna Ellenbeck Vanessa Swancott
Redwood	Jeff Chase David & Renee Griffith Nanette Nickerson Kary Schweig
San Diego	Doris Chambers Dawn & Jim Colwell Mariah Hanson Hailie Hauser Monica & Jeff Martin Garrett & Ann Marie Moore Danielle Orhzharo C.J. Truesdale
San Gorgonio Pass	Heidi Furer Max & Joyce Schetter Audrey & Cory Scranton
San Joaquin Sierra	Nathalie Agnew Jo Ann Caufield Colleen & Buzz Hibbard DDS Danny & Kelley Jo Locke Bonnie Martin Brenda, Brad, Maranda, & Austen Morgan Linda H. Sadler Dawn Smith Deborah Trenberth Sandra & Steve Trueblood
Santa Ana River	David Roy & Pamela Chevallier Al & Denise Hawkins Kristin Hicks Tracy Kreun & Megan Moreno Charles & Debora Mills Erick & Liz Normandi Frank J. Pedraza Dale & Julie Roley Tara Yeats Ann Yoshinaga
Sequoia	Werner Ansorge & Jeanette Woods Ansorge Tom & Melanie Bellamore Sean & Shelly Cumming AJ & Lea Heatherly Edna Williams

Information

NEW MEMBERS, *continued*

Shasta Trinity	Alice Eileen Cox James D. & Evelyn L. Donnelly Thomas & Sheila Feil Rick & Catherine Gasper Leon & Sharon Gemini William (Nick) & Virginia Irvin Pamela Lindsay Becki Mathis Neill & Suzanne O'Brien James Rechcygl Tara Ann Schjoth Denise Steger
Sierra Freepackers	Jeanne Morris Melissa Odell Jane Smith & Peggy DeBuyser CPatricia Vallentyne
Sutter Buttes	Sandra Finwick John & Sally Stover Gary & Helen Wentz
Top Of The State	Denny Hunt Lori Luddon Zack Schnack Fritz & Tambi Schnack



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IN CONCLUSION:

I seem to remember that someone asked for BCHA Membership by state and affiliate membership numbers at the Rendezvous. I discovered this information among the many documents and emails that I received in preparation for the National Meeting of BCHA later this month. Just a rough glance of the numbers reveal that about 1/4th of the Family memberships and about 1/5th of the Individual memberships are from California. We are well ahead of any other state.

CHAPTERS: 24

SINGLE: 772

FAMILY: 1028

Pete Kriger

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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Mother Lode North Bay	Ken and Gerry Bourn Mark Aguirre and Sondra Wilson Victoria Harris Alan and Carolyn Mahoney
Ohlone Riders Redshank Riders	Sarah & David Schoen Elaine E. Hill & John H. Schoettler Ken and Allison Renck
Redwood San Diego	Maris Hawkins Allie Heary Tom Shea Lynda & Michael Sterns Sterling H. Wolfe, Jr.
San Gorgonio Pass	Steve and Darla Hanft Susanne Holenstein Ron and Korky Robertson

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DO YOU 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.

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Membership Matters

Contact Membership Coordinators, Chip & Linda Herzig. They will be happy to address your questions or concerns.

Chip & Linda may be reached
Monday through Friday.

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