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The BackCountry News

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Summer 2016

MLU Sponsors UC Davis Pack Team to World Championship

by Lucy Badenhoop

Photo by Dr. Jan Roser, Equine Professor Emeritus at UC Davis

Three years ago, the UC Davis Horse Barn formed a student pack team and began competing in area events. For the last two years, the Mother Lode Unit has sponsored the UC Davis Barn Gals with both cash donations and packing tips from our top notch packers. Last year, the team did very well in their competition at the week-long Mule Days in Bishop CA.

In the 2016 Bishop Mule Days over the Memorial Day weekend, the Barn Gals took the grand prize "World Champion Interscholastic Pack Team" in a field of eight collegiate teams. Their total score was 72 while the second place team earned 62 points. This top honor is attributable to their consistently high ranking performances in all four collegiate team events:

#168	1st place	Team Pack Contest
#169	2nd place	Pack Team Scramble
#170	2nd place	Comedy Class
#171	3rd place	Pack Relay Contest

Of course, this stellar display of packing skills is the result of their own hard work and coaching from MLU member Andy Assereto and the UCD management support generated by Joel Vilorio. It should also be noted that the UCD team is supported by Craig London (owner of the Rock Creek Pack Station) who provided all the pack stock and tack for the team during Mule Days.



The winning UC Davis team consisted of four Animal Science and Management majors.

(left to right in the picture):

Erica Falk (a Junior from Los Angeles), Madison Seeley (a Senior from San Diego)
Kayla Wigney (a Junior from Huntington Beach), Katie Ott (a Senior from San Juan Capistrano).

In addition to their collegiate level events, the Barn Gals participated in events focused on encouraging the younger packers. Examples of the coaching/competition were:

- #158 Youth Individual Packing Contest
- #159 Youth Diamond Hitch Contest
- #160 Youth Box Hitch Contest
- #161 Youth Individual Scramble Contest

The four Barn Gals delivered an eye catching display in the main arena in their long-sleeved bright pink shirts with "Mother Lode Unit" displayed down the sleeve in black.

Their participation in these youth events displays maturity and the spirit of sharing their knowledge that makes the Mother Lode Unit proud to support these exemplary young women.



The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

Editor · Lisa Deas

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

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	
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President's Page



Gosh, could this be my last President's letter? I guess that depends on how quick Lisa is with the Fall newsletter. I want to thank her for picking up the task of editing the newsletter, and while I am at it, great thanks to all whose knowledge and expertise enabled me to have a clue as to what to do while President of

the Backcountry Horsemen of California. I reckon there are some of you who do not know our Executive Board members, but you should. Please come to our October general meeting and get to know the folks whose knowledge and experience is just simply vast and profound. We are as effective as we are because of folks like them, and you, who care about our mission to preserve and protect the public's right to ride stock on our land.

I was in Yosemite Park in June, returning from a fun motorcycle trip through Nevada. I got to the Tioga Pass entry station about 9:00 in the morning and was about number 11 in line. I finally got through and rode Highway 120 westward. Nearly every parking spot between the boundary and Crane Flat was taken up with cars. At Crane flat the four lines for gas at the station each had a backup of 4 to 6 cars.

I rode on to the valley, each of the turnouts near the tunnels were backed up with parked cars sticking out into the road. Reaching the valley I headed up to what is now erroneously called Half Dome Village, not Camp Curry. Those few miles took over a half hour, the traffic was essentially gridlocked. Each intersection had Ranger traffic police, directing traffic. There were no parking places for cars at Camp Curry. I had planned to eat, the two cafes each had lines of 10-15 people, so I bought a muffin at the store.

I then thought I would go to the visitor's center, nope can't go there. I had to park at the market parking lot. There were no parking places for cars... Fed up, I decided to leave, even that was difficult, heavy traffic on the valley road.

Now, the park recently completed a management plan for the valley restricting the more than 100 year old horse tradition. Really? I kept banging my head on my handlebars. Restrict horse use, but not restrict the tens of thousands of cars? Something is very wrong. Now, the park is going to take a hard look at horse use in the uplands, but I betcha, tens of thousands of cars are not going to be troubled.

What happened in Yosemite happened because the horse community, the 600,000 or more Californians that own horses did not act in any meaningful way. The impact of the horse community on the planning proposals was small, the number of letters written were few.

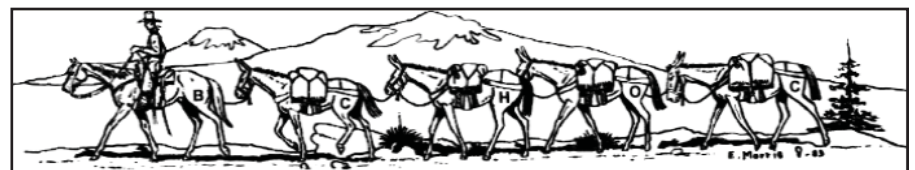
**We cannot let this continue.
We must get riled up, we must get fired up!!**

Please, there are roughly 3,000 of us Backcountry Horsemen members. We each need to find and bring in more members, donate more dollars as you can, get political, but political focused on preserving our chosen avocation.

A couple more ideas. There are any number of historic trails in our state, whether designated or not that need hoof prints. As my friends and I did, riding off on our adventure on the Old Spanish Trail, promoting the Backcountry Horsemen of America (the film will be finished one of these years), more of us need to run off to the trails. Carolyn Gilmore of the Mother Lode Unit is participating in a Pony Express ride. Kathleen Phelps of the Los Padres Unit rode the Pony Express Trail last year. I am plotting a potential ride of the Lassen Applegate Trail from Winnemucca NV to the Oregon border. Nevada County has recently approved (as I understand) a designated route for the Emigrant Trail from the Nevada border to the west Nevada county line, that needs to be ridden. Up in the north state, Salmon River packs were developed and used, what is that history? Where were they used? A great basis for a long distance ride in that country would be to promote BCHC and the history of that famous pack saddle.

I'd like to see folks up and down the state find some of these historic trails, ride them, make a project out of them, use them to promote our mission and build interest in backcountry horse use.

See you on the trail,
Richard



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UNIT NEWS

French Trail Revitalization

by Mary Odell

Members of the Sierra Freepackers were asked last year by the Bass Lake Ranger District of the US Forest Service to aid in the restoration of the historic French Trail. The French Trail was a victim of a big fire in summer of 2015.

"TRAIL HISTORY: What is now called the French Trail began thousands of years ago. The trail follows natural river canyon terrain founded and used for thousands of years by the Mono people. Because of the route's low elevation and western exposure, for most of the winter and within eight miles of the Sierra Nevada crest, it is below the heavy snow line. The Mono regularly used this trail to access the east side of the Sierra, for gatherings, spiritual walks, learning, visiting friends and relatives and to trade for items like obsidian, pinion pine nuts, baskets, games and songs. In recent history the route was to be the foundation for a Euro American wagon road. In 1879, John French began developing the already well established Native American trade route through the mountains." Sierra National Forest.

Last October we reconned and flagged a bit of the trail as we found it. Work for the spring was noted: replacing of melted trail signs, downed trees and brush to be cleared. We studied various maps for the exact trail location, with starting and stopping points and places to park our rigs.

In May we gathered new signs and tools to get to work. Our first day started at the Power House 8 Road located on the Scenic Byway 81/Minarets Road (Road 200 off of Highway 41). Brush was cleared, trail found and marked and trees cleared. Working through out May, we completed re-marking the section of the French Trail from the Power House 8 Road to the S81V.

The next section of trail goes through the burn area and requires a GPS to determine exactly where the trail goes. Our unit will continue to work and restore this trail. The area is recovering from the fire with oaks sending out shoots, bear clover and wild flowers in abundance.

This is a beautiful trail with outstanding views of the San Joaquin River Gorge. This section of trail is located between 3000 to about 4000 feet. Eventually the trail will be connected with the San Joaquin River Gorge Trail which starts at Highway 99 and will go over to the east side of the Sierra via Granite Creek to Reds Meadow.



Linda Sadler installing sign picture by Mary Odell



Cathy Miller with melted sign picture by Mary Odell



Cathy Miller, Angie Ausman, John Wagoner, Diana Pierce, Mary Odell, Denise Robinson and all our doggies - picture by Suzanna Williams



In 1879, John French began developing the already well established Native American trade route through the mountains."

Sierra National Forest

UNIT NEWS

I am NOT your Mother.... I shouldn't have to clean up after you! Take Your Trash Home!

by Mary Odell

Members of the Sierra Freepackers Unit of BCHC (Backcountry Horsemen of California) spent Friday, June 3 to Sunday, June 5 at the Snow Play Area just north of Fish Camp working and playing. Backcountry Horsemen are a non-profit equestrian group dedicated to keeping trails open for everyone. We teach and follow Leave NO Trace ethics and volunteer for different public agencies on a variety of trail work projects.

Members arrived Friday, set up camp and started their 3rd annual trash clean-up of the Snow Play parking lot and surrounding area. In the camp area were piles of trash left behind by campers from the Memorial Day Weekend. UGH...so clean up started before camp set up. After the area was cleared of trash and camp set up the six members present on Friday rode their horses out the end of parking lot to the trail leading into Yosemite where trail and trash conditions were noted for Saturday's work.

On Saturday five more members arrived for the big clean up. The group worked for about 2 ½ hours bagging and removing approximately 12-14 large bags of trash including broken sleds, cardboard, Charmin Flowers (i.e. used toilet paper), broken glass, Styrofoam pieces, micro-trash of all sorts. After lunch the group rode the trail out around the meadow and down on to the Pack Station Trails that head down a set of switch backs and cross back and forth across Big Creek. A potluck dinner followed the ride and continuing trash pickup as we came across it.

On Sunday morning camp was packed up and members returned home. We as a group want to remind everyone to practice "Leave No Trace" ethics....leave places cleaner than when you found them, take care of our forests and surrounding areas.

Sierra Freepackers meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Oakhurst Library meeting (behind the Library). Come join us, public is welcome to these meetings.

See our web site with calendar of event at <http://sierrafreepackers.com>

Pictures courtesy of Mary Odell



Members included: Linda Sadler with Otto, Chris Dockendorf Emma Graham (youth), Diana Pierce, Denise Robinson, Cathy Miller, Patricia Vallentyne, Mary Odell, Sharon Seslowe, Laurie Wagoner, John Wagoner with Millie



(Front) Chris Dockendorf with granddaughter, Emma Graham Sharon Seslowe, Cathy Miller and Patricia Vallentyne



UNIT NEWS

Challenges Facing Stock Users Presentation

Submitted by the Kern Sierra Unit

On April 2nd a presentation was held at the Frazier Park Library to highlight some of the obstacles facing stock users.

The well attended event was coordinated by the local newspaper, The Mountain Enterprise, and consisted of three segments.

The first segment was presented by John McDonald, a documentary film maker who has chronicled some of the travels by John Sears who has traveled much of the West with his three mules (3mules.com) for over 30 years. In addition to traveling the backcountry, he often travels between urban areas using our public highways, byways and rails to trails. His movie trailer consisted of various scenes. Most of the time John Sears was very well received in urban areas by the citizens but the film exposed a lot of conflict instigated by law enforcement, animal control, the judicial system and the mental health system. He has been cited, arrested, jailed and kept in mental wards while his mules were confiscated by animal control.

While his way of living is not for most of us, he has never been found to be mentally incompetent and his message is that people have that most fundamental right to travel where they choose, how they choose. Scott Rogers made a generous personal contribution to the completion of the movie on behalf of the Kern Sierra Unit and recently donated a mule to John Sears. He also assisted John McDonald in answering questions regarding the public's rights to access public lands.

The second segment was presented by Lynn Joiner, State Treasurer, and Tammy Bozarth, Unit Education Chair, both members of the Backcountry Horsemen Kern Sierra Unit. They discussed what the BCHC and the Wilderness Riders program is about and the principles of Leave No Trace. They highlighted the LNT principle by discussing the large amount of trash they saw earlier in the day, left by inconsiderate winter visitors and illustrated the point by showing a large section of a sled discarded on the side of the road going to Mt Pinos that they collected.

The final portion was a Power Point Presentation by Steve Cozzetto, a local equestrian, and Vice President of the Backcountry Horsemen Kern Sierra Unit. The presentation described the various challenges facing stock users and other forest users in Mt. Pinos and Ojai Ranger Districts.

Some of the topics discussed were permanent camp ground closures, the lack of transparency by the Forest Service in where user fees are spent, the lack of trailhead access and trail maintenance and conflicts with other user groups such as OHV users and mountain bike riders. Also discussed was the positive impact volunteer groups are recently having in helping to maintain local trails.

The event lasted over 2 hours and afterwards the presenters met with the audience to answer questions and go into more detail regarding the various topics. The event helped educate the audience on the importance and benefits of the BCHC.

(McDonaldProductions.com & 3mulesmovie.com)

Forest Service Issues Decision for Restoration of Six Meadows in the Lake Tahoe Basin

Submitted by the Mother Lode Unit.

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CALIFORNIA – The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) released the decision for the Restoration of Fire Adapted Ecosystems Project.

The project will restore ecological characteristics to six impaired meadows in the Lake Tahoe Basin using a combination of tree removal, prescribed fire, stream channel repair, planting vegetation and rerouting trails.

“The U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region has identified ecological restoration as a core objective to respond to climate change and specifically identifies restoring at least 50 percent of accessible, degraded meadows,” said Forest Service Central Sierra Province Associate Ecologist, Shana Gross.

“This project provides a great opportunity to restore meadows in the Lake Tahoe Basin and to monitor the success in order to direct future work in the greater Sierra Nevada.”

Healthy meadows are essential to the Lake Tahoe watershed. They filter sediment from water flowing into Lake Tahoe and provide important habitat for many plant and animal species. Meadows are often close to recreational facilities, such as trails and campgrounds and are valued for their scenic qualities.

“The meadows here in the Lake Tahoe Basin are facing challenges from past land uses and from climate change.” said LTBMU Forest Supervisor, Jeff Marsolais.

“Restoration of these meadows will help provide a significant ecological benefit to the Lake Tahoe watershed.” Between 2000 and 2011, the LTBMU evaluated the health of 37 meadows around the Lake Tahoe Basin. Baldwin, Benwood, Freel, Hellhole, Meiss and Star meadows were selected for restoration because they are facing encroachment by trees, primarily Lodgepole pine, have been negatively affected by past management practices that have altered plant and meadow hydrology, and may provide habitat for rare and sensitive species. Project work is intended to restore these impaired meadows, strengthen their resiliency to climate change impacts, and prepare them for future natural disturbances

All project work will be conducted using hand tools. Crews will remove trees and complete thinning treatments by hand, conduct prescribed fire operations, restore stream channels and plant willows. Two segments of the Pacific Crest Trail through Meiss Meadow will be rerouted out of the meadow and the Meiss Cabin Corral will be rebuilt utilizing Lodgepole pine removed from the meadow.

continued on Page 7

UNIT NEWS

Six Meadows continued from Page 6

In partnership with the LTBMU, the Back Country Horsemen (BCHC) of California Mother Lode Unit will develop a proposal to rebuild the Meiss Meadow Corral and will provide volunteers and horses to move the logs and construct the corral.

“The BCHC Mother Lode Unit will enlist horsemen and horsewomen who have experience using draft animals to move the logs. Ms. Michelle Russell of Iron Horse Ranch will supply her driving expertise and the draft horses to pull the loads under the direction of Mr. Scott Borello of Borello Forestry,” said BCHC Mother Lode Unit Trails Committee Co-chairman, Jerry Heitzler.

“Together, and with the appropriate horse logging tools, we look forward to restoring the corral for the horse enthusiast community who ride in Meiss Country and may stop for a rest at the historic Meiss Cabin.”



Mike Kohlbaker and Tim Durbin

From the Lake Tahoe News - by Kathryn Reed

Submitted by Mike Kohlbaker - Mother Lode Unit

STATELINE – Five years after **Van Sickle Bi-State Park** opened, the main trail is getting a major upgrade.

A 26-foot long, 6-foot wide fiberglass composite bridge is being erected at the waterfall that is a little more than a mile up the trail from the parking lot.

The goal is provide access to more users of this 725-acre park – including equestrians, mountain bikers, small children, older people and those with some stability issues.

This is no easy undertaking. On Thursday about a dozen volunteers from the Tahoe Rim Trail Association were at the worksite. Horses were bringing in 80-pound sacks of cement. By the end of today more than 30 sacks will have been delivered.



Bonnie Fair and John McKenna work the hoist. Photo/Kathryn Reed

A grip hoist was rigged across the stream, with thick cables secured to trees. The cement bags were brought across the water this way – in the air – instead of carried by people. Mostly this had to do with ensuring it didn't get dropped in the water. That would be an environmental nightmare.

Safety for the people doing the work and for the land is of utmost importance.

Clay Grubb and Chris Strohm are the project leaders. Both are veteran trail builders with long histories tied to the South Shore.

In surveying the site on June 2, Strohm described the location as dealing with two imperfect surfaces in a tight spot.

The stream crossing comes at a bend in the trail. As with most mountainous areas, it's not flat or even. And working around any body of water in the basin means needing to adhere to strict guidelines to ensure nothing gets downstream that could negatively impact Lake Tahoe.

Rock being used for the project comes from the side of the hill. By the time everything is done the landscape will look as though the workers were never there.

“We're building a structure that will last 100 years or longer,” John McKenna, who was working the hoist, told Lake Tahoe News.

While horses were used for the cement, the men and women hauled the rest of the tools, including the 50-pound generator, up to the waterfall. Wheelbarrows were pushed up the slope with tools.

McKenna, who is 70, brought up 75 pounds of gear his first trip on June 1, 50 pounds the second.

Many of the men and women are in their 60s and 70s.

The youngster of the group was Chris Binder. He was also the only actual employee of the TRTA. He started with the group about a month ago as the director of trail operations, having come from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

“My involvement is fairly minimal,” Binder told Lake Tahoe News. This is because the logistics are done before the work begins. He praised the volunteers, realizing without them, this bridge and work on the 170-mile TRT wouldn't get done.

(The trail is still open while work is being done.)

UNIT NEWS

Big Meadows Horse Camp – Open and Still Free Horse Camping (*for now*)

Open 2016 courtesy of BCHC – San Joaquin Sierra Unit

BACKGROUND and HISTORY

Big Meadows Horse camp is located in the Sequoia National Forest at about 7,000 foot elevation. The camp is exclusively for horse camping. There are about 16 pipe corrals with campsites with fire rings. This camp has been open to the horse public for many years on a no reservation, no fee basis. However, the US Forest Service (USFS) was scheduled to have a vendor take over this site and have it run as a fee, reservation only horse campground in 2016. Because of the long association of Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) with this site, the USFS agreed to let BCHC run the site. The camp will be run pretty much as it always has been, with **no fees, on a first come first serve basis**.

KEEPING THE BIG MEADOWS HORSE CAMP OPEN

If you are a horseman and like to ride in the Sierras and have not been to this camp, this is a great venue. If you are a veteran of the camp and have enjoyed staying, you may keep enjoying the camp.

Our club, San Joaquin Sierra Unit of BCHC, is a volunteer organization and the camp will stay open if we can afford the expense of maintaining the camp (we have to pay for trash pickup, lavatory supplies, maintenance of each site, etc.) We cannot solicit or accept donations while in the camp, BUT donations are what will keep the camp open and running. If a commercial vendor takes over its operation, it could become a very expensive outing for all of us. Also, if the other campsites are filled the run off may be sent to the horse camp and the horse camp could end. Reservations could also be filled up by January 1st as does happen at Montana De Oro Horse Camp.

Donations can be sent to:

BCHC, San Joaquin Sierra Unit
P.O. Box 25693, Fresno, California 93729-5693
Mark Donations for Big Meadow Horse Camp

LOCATION

The camp is in the Sequoia National Forest on the edge of Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park. You have to enter the park to get there. From Fresno, CA, take highway 180 eastward to the Generals Highway (Highway 198) and turn right onto 1981 go about 7 miles to forest road 14S11 and turn left. There is a Big Meadows sign there; road 14S11 is paved; the camp is about 4 miles up the road.

There is no drinking water at the camp, so bring your own water. Early season may have some stock water available, but you should plan on bringing water for your stock.

The Fresno Police Department Mounted Patrol Mule Packing Clinic

By Randy Witt

April 30th the Backcountry Horsemen of the San Joaquin Sierra unit provided an introductory packing clinic for the Fresno Police Department mounted patrol. It was a beautiful sunny day, but not too hot. After seeing an article in our August newsletter about a Clovis East High School /FFA student pack trip, Sergeant Bill Dooley, the leader of the Fresno mounted patrol, contacted me about providing a packing clinic for the members of the patrol unit.



After checking with some of our more experienced unit members about their availability, and a delay due to rain, the clinic finally happened. Debbie McDougald of the National Forest Service agreed to give an initial demonstration, Bob Herrick agreed to bring all of his experienced mule string, as well as his son Lee Herrick to help out with individual instruction.

The day began with about 15 participants from the mounted patrol. After coffee and donuts, Ted Fischer gave a short lesson on Leave No Trace ethics. After that Debbie McDougald gave a one hour demonstration on saddling the mule, balancing a load, and throwing a box hitch to keep the load together. The next hour was spent participating with five individual mules and a leader with a maximum of two or three participants for each mule. John Mikkelsen led one group, as well as Ted Kimbler who showed up unexpectedly from the Sheriff's Search And Rescue unit. The other leaders were Debbie, Bob, and Lee. As usual, in my experience, the most difficult part of the lesson was mastering the actual box hitch. After that hour, the participants all felt relatively comfortable throwing that hitch. By that time, it was almost afternoon, and we broke for a delicious catered lunch of delicious tri tip sandwiches, salads, desserts, and drinks provided by the mounted patrol.

After a relaxed lunch in the shade, I gave a talk on preparing human food and stock management in the backcountry. The human food may be prepared and frozen solid before leaving home, or those famous dehydrated meals may be packed, or one may take all unprepared ingredients and cook everything from scratch at altitude. No matter which type of food you choose, it all has to be at least heated for your own comfort, so that entails a variety of cooking methods including campfire, portable wood stove, or gas stove. Packers also require water, of the chemically purified or pumped filtered variety.

Managing your stock in the wilderness or in the lower country, requires some preparation and experience. We talked about high-lining with tree protectors, tethering to a stake, hobbling, and portable electric fencing. All of these conversations included the idea that one horse is dominant and often a mare. Keeping that one dominant animal close ensures that the rest of the herd won't run off.

Thankfully, all of our animals were extremely well behaved and the participants expressed a great deal of appreciation. There is a possibility that sometime this summer some of the participants may go on a short instructive pack trip. Finally, as a demonstration of their appreciation, the patrol unit presented a \$500 check to our San Joaquin/Sierra unit.

Wow, a pretty successful clinic!

NATIONAL NEWS

National Board Meeting - Las Vegas Nevada, April 2016

By Pete Kriger BCHC National Director

The National Board Meeting this year had several significant highpoints, despite the very un-backcountry-like location of Las Vegas. As a current director from California, I'd like to offer my perspectives in this short report. There may be some topics that are short on details, so feel free to give me a call or send an email for further clarification.

This was the first meeting that introduced the new Association Management Company (AMC) of BCHA. This change has been in the making for many months. The management change was envisioned by Past Chairman, and current Executive Director, Jim McGarvey. The strengths of bringing such a team to work for us are significant, but include several individuals that can answer phones, take minutes at meetings, host teleconferences, provide treasury support, manage and back-up all the business and communication data, and offer non-profit management expertise. Over a year of research, paperwork, proposals, cost analysis, calling of references, matching of mission and structure to the needs of BCHA went into this decision

The management change coincided with the retirement of long-time BCHA Executive Secretary, Peg Greiwe. For well over 20 years, many of you have come to know Peg as the face and voice of BCHA. There have been some health issues for Peg and her family in recent months and BCHA continues to grow (more on that below)...all driving a need for a robust, energetic, multi-faceted team management approach to the business of BCHA.

On the heels of the 2015 addition by the states of Michigan and Mississippi, 2016 brought the addition of three more state organizations, including Alaska, North Dakota, and Iowa. It was great to see former BCHC member Julie Hahn (Mother Lode) representing her new home state of North Dakota. This brings to 27 the number of state organizations of BCHA.

The financial health of BCHA has seen steady improvement over the last couple of years. Key factors in this improvement were the dues increase, crowd funding campaign, Backcountry Store, and recent "\$5/month club" sponsorship. Jim and Cindy McGarvey have been driving most of these fundraising efforts. Hopefully we see continued stability and growth in our bottom line.

There were several significant offerings from the BCHA Public Lands team. Currently we have MOU with all three major government land management agencies: US Forest Service, BLM, and National Park Service (NPS). The MOU with USFS will expire in October of 2016, but Alan Hill stated that we are already in negotiations and expect an agreement soon.

Randy and Jim continue BCHA Lobbying efforts in Washington DC, particularly in regards to the National Trail Bill (H.R. 845) and the possible sale or transfer of Public Lands (we BCHA opposes quite stridently!). There many thanks given to state organizations (including California) and a few individual entities for contributions to the USA Today full page advertisement in the National Parks Commemorative Issue. This is a wonderful issue that is certainly on display in every national park in the country this summer.

New Education Chairman Mack Long started a survey in advance of the NBM, and distributed the findings in the director's binders. California continues to lead many concepts including Leave No Trace Education; Washington is the leader in Saw Certification efforts with Oregon and California racing to catch up. During the education committee breakout sessions many ideas and challenges were shared so that other states could resources and contacts available. Another Youth Packing Scholarship was in the works and I reviewed the applications

The speaker presentations were impressive and timely. As Randy stated that he went after the best folks in their field to speak about our issues of greatest concern and to his surprise they all said "Yes!"

From Washington DC, representing the National Park Service (NPS) we had the Chief of Wilderness, Roger Semler. I felt that the most important of his messages was that BCHA has an MOU with NPS and he encouraged us to use the MOU to our full advantage. The MOU should give us an audience with a local NOS representative in a park near you. Roger also stated that "half of all wilderness in the USA is managed by the NPS"

Also from Washington DC, representing the United States Forest Service (USFS) was the Director of Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers, Susan Spear. The main message here was the impact that firefighting is having on the USFS budget. Susan reported that "for the first time in the 110 year history of the USFS..., more than 50% of the USFS budget is spent of fire suppression" and further noted that the shift in job function "is eroding the ability of the agency to serve America's need for recreation". She had a graphic to symbolize this change in the USFS workforce.

We also had local representatives from BLM and Fish & Wildlife in the southern Nevada area to talk about some of the unique challenges and opportunities of land management in the Nevada desert. Another speaker that was highly anticipated was that of Robert Wetherell who is the Recreation, Safety and Uniform Program Leader for the USFS; he is involved in the development of the "new Saw Policy" that hopes to bring together chainsaw and cross-cut saw policies and have the new policy applied uniformly in all (state) regions. He joined us via the internet and a video conference call from Missoula, MT. His presentation was quite short, but he did offer his contact information should we have further specific questions: rwetherell@fs.fed.us (406)329-3935.

The trip was a short drive for me, and we stayed in our LQ in the adjacent RV Park to the host hotel casino: Sam's Town east of the strip and downtown Las Vegas. We missed Ann Lange this year, but I was able to get alternate Dan Clifford to fly in from San Diego for the last day of the meeting and voting activities. Dan was immediately helpful in drafting an update to the BCHA resolution against the sale or transfer of federal lands to state or private control. Thanks Dan, I really appreciate your support of Back Country Horsemen. Thank you all for your support of me too. Serving as a National Director from BCHC has been an honor.

UNIT NEWS

Mother Lode Unit Annual Pack Clinic Relocates *By Lucy Badenhoop*

For several years, the Mother Lode Unit has dedicated the Saturday of their April campout as a training session for wannabe packers. Usually, it is held at the Dru Barner Equestrian Campground, but that facility was closed for dead tree removal, so a new site had to be located.

As an alternative, MLU held the Clinic and campout at Sandy and Lonnie Stovall's ranch in Wilton CA. It turned out to be an ideal spot. There were plenty of trees for high lining the equine, lots of space for all the rigs, and the Cosumnes river flowing nearby.....very picturesque.

The campers had their usual pot luck meals around the campfire for breakfast and supper. For Saturday lunch, Sheila Bond and Ron Akers treated everyone to Dutch oven chili and cherry cake dessert...yummy!

Al Kaiser conducted the pack clinic Saturday morning, assisted by Mike Kohlbaker. Students got demonstrations and hands-on practice with both a live mule and an iron mule. A variety of pack saddles and panniers were exhibited and explained.

After the clinic and Dutch oven lunch, some campers tacked up and went for a ride around the ranch. One new packer had brought her mule and Decker saddle and requested assistance in properly fitting the saddle to the mule.

Mr. Kaiser graciously stuck around and assisted the novice packer by advising the sequence of adjustments.

1. Set the pad(s) and saddle well forward over the withers and rock/slide it rearward until it settles naturally to the mule's back (behind the shoulder).
2. Set the cinch rings just below the wood bars on the Decker pad. Cinch the saddle in place.
3. Attach the breast collar so it rides comfortably in front of the shoulders and across the base of the neck without chaffing (approximately two finger spaces) the same as with a riding saddle.
4. Adjust the spider ring so it is positioned at the croup (the highest point in front of the tail).
5. Adjust the hip straps (vertical straps) that hang from the spider ring so the breaching hangs about halfway down the rump and is parallel to the ground.
6. Adjust the quarter straps (horizontal straps) on the breaching so that the breaching hangs naturally under the tail without being taut (approximately 1 finger space off the hide) and matches the curvature of the thigh. The breaching should be just slack enough to allow the animal to walk without binding the muscle.

After the adjustments are completed, check the rigging by going over the six steps visually to make sure later adjustments didn't change an earlier setting. Make adjustments as necessary. Repeat the visual checks/adjustments until you are satisfied nothing has moved out of place.

Perform a test ride (without panniers) of about an hour to check for rubbing or position changes. Make adjustments and repeat the test ride with a live load. If beginning with a new saddle, the leather may stretch with use and weight loads.

It is recommended that each pack animal have its own designated saddle. Once a pack saddle is fitted to the animal and tested, it should be checked periodically to ensure correct adjustments. Be sure to visually run through the six steps each time you tack up to ensure a proper fit before hanging a load on the saddle.

It is also recommended that periodic cleaning and oiling of the leather will prevent stiffness and cracking. Soft pliable leather is crucial in protecting the animal's hide and securing a load so it doesn't fall off in the middle of a trip.

MLU encourages members to consider learning to pack and will provide the needed assistance to get started. If unsure about the commitment, try out the experience by volunteering to be an outrider. The outrider is positioned at the end of the string to keep an eye on the pack animals and their loads to alert handlers of shifting packs or other possible problems....it's a fun way to get started.



UNIT NEWS

Volunteer of the Year for Education For The Sierra Forest Service

By Joe Kaminski, SJSU President and

Susan Burkindine, Assistant Recreation Officer

IMPACT

Bob Skinner has been a member of the Back Country Horsemen of California, San Joaquin Sierra Unit (SJSU) since 1997. Bob has changed the idea of volunteering significantly.

The SJSU primarily works in the wilderness opening trails using horses and pack mules to take equipment along with them. SJSU has an average of four trips a year to clean water bars, cut out downed trees, and recon the trails to report back to the forest service.

Over the past three years, with Bob taking the lead, the SJSU has partnered with the Four Wheel Drive Club of Fresno (FWDCF) to complete projects near the wilderness boundary.

One project at Chamberlaine Meadows was the construction of a pit toilet near an old cow camp and corral. Wilderness visitors with stock overnight at the location approximately four miles from the trailhead. To reduce impacts to the natural resources, the toilet was constructed near this location. The USFS designed/engineered the toilet to meet accessibility requirements and paid for a portion of the building materials.

In three days the building was constructed and painted to weather the elements. Bob's attention to the planning and implementation of the projects has created a safe environment; there have been no injuries for over six years. He takes the time to work with the volunteers to identify a work location where they will be most effective. He takes into consideration their skills and the skills of their stock. He takes into account the expected weather, terrain and the camping area.

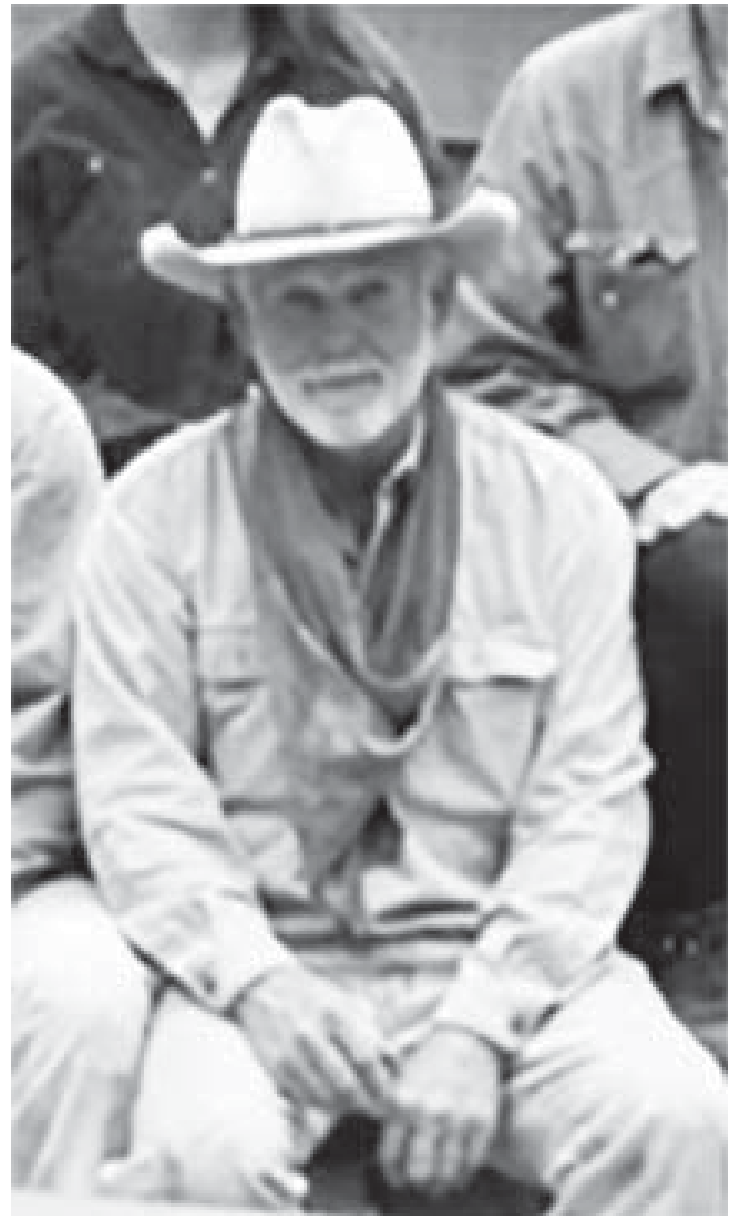
PERFORMANCE

Over the past three years, with Mr. Skinner taking the lead, the SJSU has partnered with the FWDCF to complete projects near the wilderness boundary. The FWDCF used their vehicles to haul needed materials up to the wilderness boundary. The project materials would then be loaded on mules and hauled into the project site. Many of the FWDCF volunteers would walk or be packed into the project site and together they completed the projects. All waste, litter, and old barbed wire would be packed out and loaded into the FWDCF vehicles to be hauled down to the nearest Forest Service dumpster. It is through outside-the-box thinking that leads to higher quality of completed projects.

Mr. Skinner has personally volunteered 188 hours in 2015, with a total of 7144 hours since he began working with the SJSU project trips.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Skinner has been instrumental in training others in using the skills he has developed over the years. He has taught many different volunteers as well as Forest Service staff. In 2014, Mr. Skinner taught topics relating to stock and volunteers at the Region 5 Wilderness Ranger Academy. Mr. Skinner finds multiple ways to enhance the wilderness character of the Sierra National Forest.



UNIT NEWS

News from the Coast Range *by Richard Waller*

Packers from the Los Padres Unit have assisted the Forest Service, the Los Padres Forest Association and the California Conservation Corps by packing in gear, tools and food for four trail projects this year. The unit packers led by Packer Emeritus, Otis Calef, with Susie Thielmann, Kathleen Phelps and Richard Waller. We began operations in February by packing for a Los Padres Forest Association volunteer crew in Santa Barbara Canyon in the Dick Smith Wilderness south east of Cuyama California. This trail known as the Mono Alamar trail was the historic and prehistoric trail from the Santa Barbara area to the Central Valley. It has been difficult to use in past years due primarily to encroaching chaparral. The February project occurred over a long weekend, volunteers brushed out nearly 5 miles of trail, allowing stock access to the old Forest Service Station at Madulce. Otis and Richard worked this project.

The next packing project supported a Los Padres Forest Association volunteer trail crew on the Lost Valley Trail in the San Rafael Wilderness in April. Again Otis was the load master working with Susie and Richard to provide gear and food to the spike camp in the wilderness.

The third packing project was in the Mono Creek Canyon supporting two CCC crews at the end of April. Gear for the crews was packed up the Mono Alamar Trail to their spike camp (the C's have a lot of odd shaped gear!) This canyon while not in wilderness is in an isolated corner of the Los Padres Forest in the Santa Ynez River watershed. The trail was in need of serious tread work and included a 50 foot section we named the "Man from Snowy River Section" it was very steep with a large rock in the middle. Otis worked his packing magic, as load master he worked with Kathleen and Richard to get all loads in and out, twice. This project was unique in that the packers

led their strings in 5 miles to where a 4x4 road came in at a private ranch where we had permission to camp. The CCC's were able to drive this 4x4 road also (relatively successfully!) At the ranch we loaded the animals and packed in another 5 miles to the spike camp.

Back to Madulce. In May the LPFA scheduled a working vacation on the Mono Alamar Trail out of Madulce Camp. BCHC Los Padres members Kathleen Phelps, Susie Thielmann and Richard Waller, led by Otis once again, packed in equipment and food and packed all equipment out, plus this time fence posts and wire were packed in. While the LPFA folks worked on trails, BCHC members rebuilt the old Forest Service Corrals, so that any animals that make it up Heartbreak Hill, an old dozer line running straight up the ridge will have a pleasant place to hang out.

This area burned in the 2007, 347,000 acre Zaca fire, the brush has come back "real good".

Here is a video link showing Otis and Susie and their animals descending Heartbreak Hill, filmed by Richard with steady assistance from Sarah, whose ears pop up here and there; <https://vimeo.com/168820791> and another (shorter) video, riding along Santa Barbara Creek. You can see the nemesis that is our Coast Range brush, this trail was cleared in February; <https://vimeo.com/168944580>.

Working with the Los Padres Forest Association and the CCC's is a symbiotic operation. They open the trails so we can get the stock in. We get the stock in to supply them with the tools and food and gear they need to operate. The net effect is that trails get opened for the public.



Otis Calef packing out of Santa Barbara Canyon



Packing up at Ogilvie Ranch



Packing Up

"The trail was in need of serious tread work and included a 50 foot section we named the "Man from Snowy River Section"



Packing loads to take out



Kathleen and Otis setting corral corners



Sarah's ears on the Mono Alamar Trail



UNIT NEWS

Mid Valley Unit and the Clark Fork Horse Camp

By Karen Lopes

For the article, please continue on Page 14



Carl Perry (in helmet), Ron Stearns, and Bob Magee



Carl Perry, Evan Rahilly, and Bob Magee



Dennis Serpa moving a boulder



Gail Jamison after cleaning the fire ring



Dennis Weatherington (with chainsaw) and Evan Rahilly



UNIT NEWS

Mid Valley Unit and the Clark Fork Horse Camp

By Karen Lopes

Clark Fork is a river tributary to the middle fork of the Stanislaus River in the Stanislaus National Forest. The Clark Fork Canyon area is home to several campgrounds: Fence Creek, Clark Fork and Sand Flat. Two different religious camps operate throughout the summer on the north side of the river, and on the south side is the home of the spacious Clark Fork Horse Camp. The history of Clark Fork dates back as far as 1841 when the Bidwell-Bartleson Party crossed the Sierra Nevada on their way to John Marsh's California Rancho near Mount Diablo. The Bidwell-Bartleson Party had a terrible time traversing the steep terrain of Clark Fork Canyon, and would probably never have imagined it would one day be a favorite site for campers, anglers, hikers, and equestrians.

Approximately 100 years after the Bidwell-Bartleson Party, Warren Groves was a Forest Service employee who spent most of his off-duty time doing volunteer work in the forest. He was instrumental in getting the Clark Fork Horse Camp established, as well as developing many of the surrounding trails still in use. Upon his retirement, he would spend most of the summer at Clark Fork Horse Camp, digging and maintaining pipelines to the water trough, clearing trails, and even blazing new trails to connect the horse camp to existing trailheads. Warren was a lifetime member of the California State Horsemen's Association, as well as a member of Twain Harte Horsemen. Sam Flippins, a longtime member of Mid Valley Unit of Backcountry Horsemen of California, met Warren on one of his family's trips to Clark Fork in the mid '70s, and a friendship ensued. Sam and his family would spend their vacation time working with Warren; primarily at the Clark Fork Horse Camp and on surrounding trails in Stanislaus National Forest. They worked together on and off the trails; even meeting with California State Representative Gary Condit to solicit support to prevent the closure of the horse camp at Clark Fork. After Warren's passing in the late '90s, Sam and his family continued the tradition of trail clearing and campground maintenance for more than 30 years.

Although the horse camp has been under the contract of concessionaires for Stanislaus National Forest, Mid Valley Unit members have been continuing the tradition of trail clearing and campground maintenance for the past five years. Each year, fees for using the horse camp increased, and sure enough, visitors decreased. The "campground hosts" were those from the neighboring regular Clark Fork campgrounds, and although very nice people, their main duties were limited to fee collection and cleaning restrooms. The area was logged in 2013, and the loggers not only destroyed a mile-long length of trail, but also left behind a considerable amount of slash throughout the campground.

That year, Mid Valley Unit members not only worked to clear the regular trails, but also had to cut a mile-long stretch of new trail out of

the logging debris using McLeods, chainsaws, rakes and shovels, as well as raking away slash in the campground.

Two years ago, Mid Valley Unit proposed to the Forest Service Supervisor, Molly Fuller that we take over being campground hosts for the Clark Fork Horse Camp. She said she would think about the proposal but that the current contract with the concessionaire wasn't up until December 2015. We stayed in touch on the topic and in the fall of 2015, Molly Fuller contacted Mid Valley and said we would be taking over the Clark Fork Horse Camp. Over the winter, unit members met with Molly Fuller and Miguel Macias, who oversees the recreational areas in Stanislaus National Forest. Many details were worked out and now Clark Fork Horse Camp is in the hands of Mid Valley Unit!

In addition to our regular trail clearing and campground cleanup, this year we performed an entire campground facelift! For the first time in many years, the fire rings have been cleaned out, deteriorating picnic tables have been fitted with new legs, the three vault restrooms were deep-cleaned, and boulders limiting campsite spaces were relocated in order to increase the ease of trailer access. Mid Valley Unit members brought generators and drills and refit legs on tables that had been rotting away, hauled a Case 570 Skip Loader to the campground in order to move the boulders and logs (Mid Valley Unit paid for the tractor rental), dug through ash to pick out micro trash and donned rubber gloves in order to scrub the toilets. Mid Valley Unit members will act as "volunteer horse camp hosts" with different members signing up for weekend shifts throughout the summer. Oh, and the fees? Zero. Nada. Zilch. As a result of this partnership with the Forest Service (and the F.S. appreciating the many hours of volunteer hours we commit to our local public lands), they decided that horse camp visitors would not have to pay any fees.

If you haven't been to the Clark Fork Horse Camp in Stanislaus National Forest, just off the Highway 108/Sonora Pass road, you need to come and visit! Bring your horse or mule, your family and friends, and enjoy the beauty of Clark Fork.



Trail Crew on the way..

UNIT NEWS

Happy Camper Column

by Richard Waller

I'd like to talk about two issues common to vehicle camping, power production and toileting. First let's talk about power production. There is nothing that trashes a quiet evening or morning in the woods more than the harsh noise of a generator. These machines are completely unnecessary to camping and to providing the power we find so handy. In fact, the idea of submitting this article to the newsletter came about at the Rendezvous. There was at least one person who simply ran their generator all day and into the evening. For me, and for many other folks, listening to generators in camp is as much fun as dragging fingernails across chalk boards.

So, if not a generator what? As a camper on our recent Indians campout told me, "I must be able to operate my microwave!" That be campin! I find a Dutch oven on the stove top fills in quite nicely for a microwave. Heat the oven on a burner, while heating the lid on another burner, put in the needed food, and set the hot lid on the oven, this system bakes biscuits nicely, heats those fine Trader Joe's prepared meals (don't use the plastic tub in your Dutch oven, use a paper Dutch oven liner to help keep it clean) and more!

However there is another way to provide power. Something a few of us in the Valley of the Generator eventually figured out. Solar Power. It works and it works well. Photovol-taic, light to electricity. A great thing to have, but, just how? A quick easy primer on so-lar power, if you explore the internet, you can find enough engineering data to fog one's eyeballs. Instead of giving yourself a headache, just think of water, and buckets, and hoses.

A solar panel is just a hose, your storage batteries are just buckets. You get to choose how big your hose is, you get to choose how big your bucket is. Your choices are limited by need, space and cost. One 100 watt panel is a small hose, with that, you want a small bucket. You don't try to fill a bucket with a fire hose, and you don't try to fill a swimming pool with a garden hose. Fit your "hose" to your "bucket".

Glass photo-voltaic panels are cumbersome and heavy, using them on RV and Camper roofs is less than optimal as they add weight up high, they are heavy, prone to breakage, and worst of all, and holes have to be drilled into the roof (which appeals to me as much as drilling holes in the bottom of my boat). There are the folks that set their panels on racks at camp, keeping the weight off the roof, but, they cannot generate power while traveling, and are subject to theft. So, what to do? How about; Roll on, adhesive backed solar panels. I got mine from Amazon, 16 feet long, 18" wide, 135 watts and light weight. Mine has been on my camper for two years now with no problems. I have room on my camper roof for two, I have one, feeding one standard marine/RV battery.

URL: http://www.amazon.com/Uni-Solar-PVL-136-inches-Flexible-Easiest/dp/B00HOU6A12/ref=sr_1_36?ie=UTF8&qid=1429107352&sr=8-36&keywords=RV+solar+panels

I run my lights, my gas fridge which has a fan, and the inverter (more on that in a bit) that can run my computer or radio, and my APAP machine all night.

Our new State office and storage trailer which many of you saw at Rendezvous operates off an 18' panel, powering two marine RV batteries hooked to a power inverter.

In my home north of Truckee I installed 500 watts of generation, feeding 2 L16 golf cart batteries. I started with 4 but, I found that "bucket" was too big, my batteries would not reach "float" voltage, which prevents your inverter from working. 2 batteries with 500 watts gave me all the power I could use, except in the two months of mid-November to mid-January with their short days. I could run my dishwasher, but not an electric clothes dryer at 220v. Keep in mind that photo-voltaic create electricity from light, not heat. It makes no difference how hot or cold it is, just how many hours of light you get. Roof top solar panels are not aimed optimally at the sun so your power production is reduced compared to tilted array, but, with sufficient panel size, that is not a problem.

So, those are two extremes, you can figure how much power you need. You can determine your power needs, either a frequent low draw, like lights, or an infrequent large draw like a microwave. You can generate so much power that the microwave does not affect the "water level in your bucket" but that is over kill. You can generate enough power to run your AC, 3500 or more watts - that would be a big system and will set you back real dollars. You can generate a little power that nearly 'empties your bucket', but if your other power needs are not onerous that may be enough. If you have a TV, take it out and shoot holes in it, you are camping.

Air conditioners, some folks believe they are necessary. A couple of answers to the problem:

1. Don't camp where you need one, drive higher into the hills.
2. Park in the shade.
3. Do as we did on the Old Spanish Trail ride where the first 3 weeks were commonly 100 degrees and more. Put your chair on the shady side, sit and visit with your friends until it is cool enough to sleep.

If you have a living quarters trailer, you have lots of room for lots of panels you can use the 18 footer 200 watt panels, you can have a big hose, remove that generator and put your batteries in the compartment and have a big bucket! A smaller camper, or a pop-top like mine can take one or two 16 footers.

A word on inverters, they convert your 12 or 24 volt battery electricity to a facsimile of 120 volts (step wave DC to be exact, but for our purposes, not important). Some units have them hardwired in with normal electric outlets. Some, like mine are stand alone, connect them with alligator clips to your battery, or cigarette lighter type plugs.



solar panel



inverters

continued on Page 22

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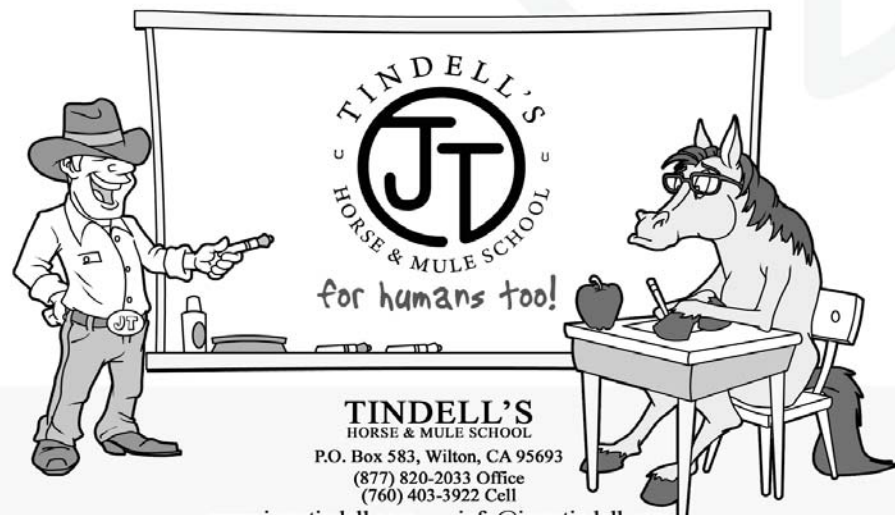
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THANK YOU!



*“If you are lucky enough to be in the mountains,
you’re lucky enough.”*

*In Memory of
Ron Arington*

BCHC

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

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

GET INVOLVED, DO YOUR PART

DON'T FORGET: The BCHC Executive Committee will no longer send out membership renewal verification “green slips” via regular mail. Instead, each unit president and membership chair will get a personal email from the BCHC Membership Chair (Chip Herzig) with each units' data AND it will be put on the web page in the password protected section.

Recognition of Special Individuals

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

BENEFACTORS, *continued*

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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Eastern Sierra	Bill Carter Susie L. Harms Michelle Layne (Tom's Place Resort) Troy and Susie Patton Russ Rantz James B. Waggoner
High Sierra	David and Juli Beale-Van Richard and Dena Cochran Ruth Gerson Nancy Hamill
Kern Sierra	Brad Allen of Rosedale Farrier Supply Robert L. Anderson Boyce 'Buzz' R. and Joann F. Caffee Mylon Filkins, DVM and Pat Larry and Pat Mumford
Los Padres	William Chaides and Nancy Kimmell James McGarry Kathleen L. Redden Glenn and Karen Teixeira
Mid Valley	Karen Barindelli Jay and Elizabeth Barnes Gary A. and Michelle L. Cain Dennise A. Davis Carol Jo Hargreaves and Larry Schneider David and Kristine Kraft Bob and Sandra Magee John V. Marshall MID VALLEY UNIT - BCHC Claudia Parrish Dan and Toni Peterson

Mother Lode	Ken Bourn
North Bay	Sarah and David Schoen
Redwood	Maris Hawkins
San Diego	Walt J. and Suzie Kirkwood Jayne Lesley Lynda Sterns
San Gorgonio Pass	Susanne Holenstein Peter and Diana Kriger Ron and Korky Robertson
San Joaquin Sierra	John Cunningham Fred Gleason Stephen and Jill Naylon Patrick and Karen Warnshuis
Sequoia	Kathryn C. Bennett Steve Ladrigan Jamie Wilson, DVM Larry Young
Shasta Trinity	Dean and Laura Angelides Lyle and Lauren Charter Lori Henderson Joe R. Wilburn
Sutter Buttes	Corky Layne Ulla Park

PATRONS

High Sierra	Jeff and Alice Kampen Dennis and Cathlyn A. Keller Karl and Trish Pendegraft Lloyd and Susan Erlandson Timothy and Michaela Durbin
Mid Valley	Ken and Allison Renck Larry Nishma, Knapp-Yosemite Trails PackStation Jim and Pat Holly Larry and Jody Young

MT. WHITNEY

Mid Valley	Teri Arrington
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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 Susie Patton for more information. bludog46@gmail.com

Welcome New Members

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Antelope Valley	John Hart Laura Sage
High Country	Elaine Wilson
High Sierra	Phillip Mirise
Kern Sierra	Keith & Tiffany Bier Bob and Judy French Ben and Teresa Rudnick Lisa and Nes Sanli CJ and Wendy Watson
Lake-Mendo Los Padres	Angela, Caitlin, Jodie Nelson Paige Garner Tim and Erin Nisbet Trevor Poindexter
Mid Valley	Sheila Davis Rian, Rylee Gouvea & Rebecca, Regen Hudson Patricia Kanzler Donna & Vernon Storment Donna Tanzella Linda Amezcua Steve Tucker
Mother Lode	Christine Halk Barbara Lawrie Starla & Dennis Ledbetter
North Bay	Greg Ackerman Jeremy & Renee Lott
Redshank Riders	Charlie & Nyna Cheek Bentley Fink
Redwood	Mary Moore
San Gorgonio Pass	Doris & Tim Bartholomew
San Joaquin Sierra	David B. Lometti Brian & Kerry Nichols
Santa Ana River	Margaret Coon
Sequoia	Destiny Ashley
Sierra Freepackers	Crystal Gonzales & Emma Graham
Sutter Buttes	Cindy Goodrich
Top of the State	Ken Berryhill Ben & Lennyann Bishop Ryan & Theresa Yeager

These new members
have joined BCHC
between April and June 2016
THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS
We look forward to meeting you!!



Riding Warehouse

Hello Fellow Members!!

We are happy to inform you of a new member benefit!

We've recently arranged a **15% discount for members-only** at Riding Warehouse. **The discount code will be provided to your Unit President.** This code is good even for additional savings on clearance items. A few exclusions apply (e.g. oversize items and brands with min. pricing requirements). You may use your discount online or at RW's retail store in San Luis Obispo, CA.

Please note: This generous discount is intended for BCHC members only and may be revoked or changed if it is shared publicly with nonmembers. Please respect the discount privilege. Happy shopping!

<http://www.ridingwarehouse.com/trail.html?from=group>



BCHC Units Around the State

Antelope Valley

PO Box 84
Pearblossom, CA 93553
Paul Frisbey
(661) 944-3601
phfrisbey@aol.com

Eastern Sierra

PO Box 157
Olancho, CA 93549
Susie Patton
(760) 872-9951
bludog46@gmail.com

High Country

PO Box 161
Milford, CA 96121
Ernie Coe
(530) 253-2177
echorseshoeing@frontiernet.net

High Sierra

PO Box 6938
Visalia, CA 93278-4427
Dick Cochran
(559)-686-8725
rcochran@visaliaalaw.com

Kern River Valley

PO Box 2179
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
Mike Hughes
(760) 379-5617
4HRanch@earthlink.net

Kern Sierra

16347 Stephenie Rd.
Bakersfield, CA 93314-9669
Scott Rogers
(661) 587-4555
hardlwater@gmail.com

Lake-Mendo

PO Box 1067
Lakeport, CA 95453
Don Bone
(707) 261-2663
bonesmules@yahoo.com

Los Padres

606 S. Hart Drive
Santa Maria, CA 93454
Kaye Bruns
(805) 466-8270
kowgrl@charter.net

Mid Valley

PO Box 1709
Modesto, CA 95353
Denis Serpa
(209) 848-4017
dmserpa@velociter.net

Mother Lode

PO Box 2088
Elk Grove, CA 95759-2088
Mike Kohlbaker
(916) 214-6505
4horsen@sbcglobal.net

North Bay

PO Box 9435
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
Thor Bodtker
(415) 328-4545
thunder.t@hotmail.com

Redshank Riders

PO Box 383
Aguanga, CA 92536-0383
Greg Bruce
(951) 514-9999
equinesmiles3@gmail.com

Redwood

PO Box 6023
Eureka, CA 95502-6023
Carole Polasek
(707) 786-9637
cell: (707) 599-8021
muleride@frontiernet.net

San Diego

236 Oak St
Ramona, CA 92065-1952
Martin Jorgensen
(760) 789-5185
president@bchcsd.com

San Geronio Pass

PO Box 321
Calimesa, CA 92320
Pete Kriger
(909) 910-4619
pkrigerjr@yahoo.com

San Joaquin Sierra

PO Box 25693
Fresno, CA 93729-5693
Joe Kaminski
(559) 7433-9170
kaminski clan@gmail.com

Santa Ana River

PO Box 736
Norco, CA 92860-8062
www.bchcsaru.org
Thad Chodakauskas
(951) 233-8027
ctchod@aol.com

Sequoia

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

Shasta Trinity

10855 Beaver Rd
Oak Run, CA 96069-9602
Larry Shuman
(530) 527-8907
lshuman62@gmail.com

Sierra Freepackers

PO Box 64
Oakhurst, CA 93644-0064
Mary Odell
(559) 877-3532
modell@sti.net

Sutter Buttes

110 Medley Lane
Oroville, CA 95965
Bob Gage
(530) 521-7369
bobgage@wildblue.net

Top of the State

PO Box 461
Etna, CA 96027-0461
Duane Eastlick
(530) 468-2286
duaneeastlick@gmail.com



Questions? Membership Matters

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

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

Email: membership@bchcalifornia.org

Phone: (775) 463-3634



Gentle Use Tip #28 Gentle with Other Users

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

Backcountry Horsemen of California
bchcalifornia.org

BCHC

continued from Page 15

Next, **Letting Go!** I reckon we all find it horrendous to find human waste and TP scattered along trails or on the verge of campsites.

Leave No Trace **DOES NOT advocate burning toilet paper.** Plan ahead to pack the toilet paper out—in a plastic bag—with you. This will leave the least impact on the area. Otherwise, use as little as possible and bury it deeply in the cathole. Attempts to burn toilet paper at the site are not recommended. It rarely burns completely, and has been the cause of wildfires. “Natural” toilet paper such as grass, sticks, and snow can be surprisingly effective, and should always be buried deeply in the hole. Always pack out feminine hygiene products because they decompose slowly and attract animals. We do advocate packing out used TP but still give folks an out if they’re too disgusted by the mere thought of it, i.e. bury it deeply in the cathole.

We never recommend burning trash regardless of the length of trip. We recommend repackaging food (and other items that could generate trash) before the trip to ensure the least amount of garbage and trash will be hauled into the backcountry, thereby mitigating the need to burn trash. The reason we don’t recommend burning trash is that it generally takes a hot fire to completely burn trash to ash, which presents its own set of issues. Additionally, partially burned trash and food is usually a magnet for scavenging wildlife, which can lead to wildlife becoming habituated to human foods, i.e. animals lose their fear of humans and seek them out to obtain food. When this occurs, wildlife almost always loses in the end

The second is, the wag bag system. I bought ours at Walmart. It consists of a tripod toilet seat and a pack of wag bags for your deposition. These bags have what is called Poo Powder which turns the deposited material inert, the bags are sealable and can be tossed out with the garbage (probably not the recycle bin). I place ours in the horse trailer at camp, which gives a roomy private restroom, also good place to take your solar shower.

URL, <http://www.walmart.com/ip/Reliance-Folding-Portable-Toilet/23760414>

You can also set the unit out in the woods, or in a potty shelter.

I hope this was helpful.

SAVE TIME AND MONEY BY SHOPPING ONLINE!

Earn **cash back** while shopping from home! Search for deals such as free shipping, instant savings, coupons, and more by visiting www.zamzuu.com/bchc

Some of the key features you’ll find on the BCHC shopping website include:

- Apparel and Accessories\
- Automotive
- Electronics
- Health and Beauty
- Home and Garden
- Movies, Music and Entertainment

The Ultimate Shopping Experience!

Please help to make this exciting new program a success for the Backcountry Horsemen of California!



Start shopping on-line at:

www.zamzuu.com/bchc

Howdy Partners

We would like to invite BCHC members to receive a **10% discount** on all of our New Products at **Gaar's Tack Shop** and a **5% discount** at our Animal Rescue of Lathrop Non-Profit Used Store. We use these sales to help support our efforts to rehab all of the horses we receive here.

Della Gaar, President
 1360 Frewert Rd, Lathrop, CA 95330
 8 am to 5 pm Monday thru Sat. - (209) 982-1699

Please Check us out on FaceBook Animal Rescue of Lathrop Inc. 501(c)3.

<https://www.facebook.com/AtRanch/?fref=ts>



BCHC Membership Application

**Backcountry Horsemen of
California**



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

**MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION**

New **Renewal** or
 Change

(indicate changes)

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

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

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

MEMBER'S NAME—No Business Names; Print Clearly

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

Street Address / PO Box

City

State

Zip Code (full 9 digits, if known)

Area Code Phone

Email Address: _____ (please print legibly)

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

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Check No. _____

Parent Unit Membership Types: (CIRCLE ONE)

Individual \$50 Family \$60 - 2 year Individual \$90 - 2 Year Family \$110 - 3 Year Individual \$125 - 3 year Family \$150
Young A dult (18-25 years old) \$15 - Benefactor \$100 - Patron \$250 - Mt Whitney \$500

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

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

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

Please write additional choices on back.

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

Parent BCHC Membership Types

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

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

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

Associate Memberships

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

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

Associate Memberships may be initiated at any time during the term of your Parent Membership.

Associate Memberships must expire concurrently with the Parent Membership and are renewable only at the time of renewal of the Parent Membership.

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

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a new –

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

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

My Total Remittance: \$ _____

My Check Number: _____

Date Mailed: _____

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



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