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The BackCountry News



Volume 29, Issue 2

The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

Summer 2017

MLU Sponsored Student Packers Win World Championship – Again!

The winning UC Davis team consisted of four Animal Science and Management majors (left to right in picture): Jacob Unfuzzy, Dean Among, Holly Downer and Bobbi Sue Dizmang. The students are sporting their new team shirts in the UCD colors of gold with blue embroidered lettering down the sleeve: UC DAVIS on the right sleeve and BCHC-MLU on the left sleeve.

The top row in the picture are Andy Asserted (the team's MLU packing coach), his dog Tucker, and Dan Senet (Animal Facilities Coordinator, UC Davis Dept. of Animal Science). Also, supporting the team but not in the picture is Dr. Amy McLean (Equine Operations Supervisor, UC Davis Animal Science Horse Barn).



The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

Editor · Lisa Deas

Backcountry Horsemen of California Official Website:

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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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Jan. 15, 2018	Jan. 2018	Winter	
March 31, 2018	April 2018	Spring	
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<u>Number of Issues:</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	
Full Page	\$150.00	\$142.50	\$135.00	\$127.50	} Cost per Issue
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President's Page



Welcome everyone to the summer edition of all the BCHC news that's cool. The weather has not been cool; at least not here in the central part of California. I have this problem- I can't figure out how to quit working. My work gets done, but not much else. So, for me, there have been no mountain trips yet, just a couple of short runs to Aspen Meadow Pack Station, where two of my mules, at least, get to spend the summer.

I'm sure that lots of work is being done around the state. I see a few emails that tell me this. Here in the central part, we have been pretty slow in getting out on the trails. The snow was rather deep, so we are off to a slow start. In just the past week or so, we have been able to get to our higher horse camps.

The pack station at Aspen Meadow is just this week starting to get groups back to some of the lakes in the Emigrant Wilderness.

We just completed our Executive Board summer meeting at the famous Pea Soup Anderson's in greater Santa Nella. The board discussed many issues and ideas to bring to the October Board of Director's meeting, which will be October 13th and 14th. I hope all units can work out their schedules and make it to Santa Nella.

Bob Magee is working on an email system to send out mass mailings of important information. Check your emails and see if you're getting something from BCH of California. Some will just be for information and some for political advocacy. If you feel the subject is important to you, a word to your congressman would go a long way in helping him know what your position is and those of like minded people around you. When writing or calling your congressman, it is not necessary to be wordy and long- winded. Short notes with a clear message are the best.

I hope all is well with everyone from one end of this state to the other. Please call or email me with anything you think I should know about, or if there is something you would like me to do.

Your humble servant, Lloyd.....

My contact info: **Cell, 209-761-3942**
Email lloyd.erlandson0@gmail.com

OPPOSE BIKES IN THE WILDERNESS by *Ruth Gerson*

HR1349 has been proposed in the House by Tom McClintock to allow bikes in Wilderness areas.

Please use the following points to contact your representatives to OPPOSE the bill and to uphold the Integrity of the Wilderness Act.

Bikes in wilderness would be a safety hazard, as well as creating a negative experience for visitors seeking the primitive, recreational aspect of wilderness. Hikers and stock users are visitors who slowly meander through wilderness to savor the experience.

The safety hazard of speeding, silent bikers on winding, steep, and narrow trails would make the trails extremely dangerous for others.

There would be safety hazards for pack strings taking supplies to agency and volunteer workers repairing trails if meeting bikers suddenly. on curves or narrow switchbacks or steep trails with nowhere to move.

There would be safety hazards for groups of novice and handicapped riders on horses and mules to visit primitive areas.

The solitude, primitive or unconfined recreational experience would be

lost if hikers & equestrians had to continually scan the trail ahead and also look back over their shoulders for rapidly approaching bikes.

There is less than 3% of the land designated wilderness in continental US. That 3% is all that hikers and horsemen have to be assured of a primitive, recreational experience. The Forest Service states that 98% of all the trails on land it manages is open to bikes. Further, the FS and other agencies regularly create and open new bike trails across the nation. Therefore, it is obvious that not allowing bikes in wilderness does not harm or restrict public access.



BCHC NEWS

Mother Lode Unit Student Packers continued from cover story

The Mother Lode Unit is pleased to announce that the collegiate pack team from University of California in Davis won the “World Champion Interscholastic Pack Team” competition at the Bishop Mule Days during the 2017 Memorial Day weekend.

The team has been sponsored by MLU for the last three years and this is their second consecutive winning of the championship. Sponsorship credit is shared with Craig London (owner of the Rock Creek Pack Station) who provides all the pack stock and tack for all the collegiate teams who compete during Mule Days.

This year the competition consisted of nine intercollegiate teams. The standings were:

First 88 points

Second 82 points

Third 72 points

The students compete in five team events:

#168 Team Packing

#169 Team Pack Contest

#170 Pack Team Scramble

#171 Comedy Class

#172 Pack Relay Contest

Additionally, they participated in events focused on encouraging young packers:

#158 Youth Individual Packing Contest

#159 Youth Diamond Hitch Contest

#160 Youth Box Hitch Contest

#161 Youth Individual Scramble Contest

Text by Lucy Badenhoop, Photo by Dr. Amy McLean



How are you doing in developing a National Forest Trail Grant proposal?

Is the cash match a stumbling block for your organization?

Here are 10 quick ideas for coming up with a matching amount.

1. Talk with your local outdoor retailers about supporting your proposal. Many of them may see volunteer participation as a source of new clients or increased sales. Maybe they would sponsor your activities including providing cash for the grant along with some name recognition, equipment donations, and participation in work days by their local employees.
2. Consider working with city and county recreation departments to develop a proposal that connects local populations to the National Forests. Cash or inkind that they provide for trail work would contribute to the match.
3. Many Outdoor product companies have donation programs or allow their employees to participate in volunteer activities in their local areas. Members of the Outdoor Alliance especially have an interest in outdoor volunteer activity. You can check their member list here to see if there is a company near you to contact. <http://www.conservationalliance.com/members/>
4. Enlist the support of other local community organizations that have an interest in your trail system to partner with. They may have other sources of funds available for a cash match.
5. Set up a community Go Fund Me account, or use some other crowd funding platform to ask for donations from the community towards the trail grant.
6. Host a fundraising event to raise the cash match. Even a bake sale can generate several hundred to a thousand dollars to go towards a cash match. Any amount will help further your proposal's progress.
7. Host a member garage or equipment sale to raise funding. Everyone in your group probably has some outdoor equipment with a little life in it for reuse.
8. Many employers have donation programs and/or allow their employees to contribute volunteer time to projects. Solicit your membership for these opportunities and get the ball rolling.
9. Create a funding challenge, ie a tough hike, or a strenuous endeavor, and solicit donations from the community for accomplishments. You could even go so far as ask community members to donate per mile of trail maintenance work completed by your group as part of your proposal.
10. Use social media connections to share the need and solicit donations for your proposal. This is also a good way to raise a volunteer army to get the work done.

Have those brain cells churning? I'm sure you'll find a way to raise your cash match. And if you didn't remember, inkind matches are also acceptable.

Good luck with your National Forest Trails Stewardship Grant proposal.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at:

randy@wildernessalliance.org or 801-808-2167

National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance
<http://www.wildernessalliance.org/>

BCHC NEWS

BCHC's New Safety Protocol

by Karen Lopes

If you have ever been involved with working on a trail crew, or participated in a group trail ride, (that's pretty much ALL members of BCHC!) then listen up! As a means to help our members be as safe as possible, while engaging in activities that are, well, not the safest way you can spend your day; BCHC has adopted new safety protocols that will help achieve this goal. Working around stock, and working on trails in the backcountry come with inherent dangers. Riding and pack stock that are not well trained, or lack experience can become a hazard to any person within the group. Falling limbs, rolling logs, sharp cutting blades, axes, chainsaws and grip hoist cables are all serious hazards that volunteers must know how to handle while they are working on the trail. Even a fun social ride in the front country could become disastrous if certain precautions are not heeded should an emergency occur. The name of this new safety protocol? Emergency Evacuation Plan, also known as EEP.

How will these new policies affect you?

As a regular volunteer or rider at a BCHC event, there are just a few things that you will need to be aware of: First, every person should have a Personal Emergency Information form, and that form needs to be turned in to the organizer of the event; whether it is a trail ride or work project. Second, if you are planning to participate in a sanctioned event, it is imperative that you arrive on time, and are present for the Tailgate Safety Session/TSS (a discussion covering the Job Hazard Analysis/JHA). The person in charge also must complete this form, summarizing what was covered, and all participants must sign. Also covered during the TSS will be the Emergency Action Plan/EAP. This form is used to designate various members of the group with specific roles. This form is completed by the Crew Leader prior to the trip, and then during the TSS, designated lead people are named. The "Situation Manager" is the person in charge; typically, also the Crew Leader. There is also an Alternate Situation Manager named during the TSS. The most medically experienced person is named the First Aid Lead, and carries the first aid kit with them. Finally, a Communications Lead is also named, and they are in charge of calling for help using radio, satellite phone, or whatever means of communication is being utilized. The Situation Manager or Crew Leader keeps this form(EAP), and should an emergency arise, the form contains guidelines to help everyone follow safety protocol. If you are running late; just plan on staying in camp and cleaning fire pits, because if you miss the TSS, you won't be allowed on the work project. As volunteers, we find it VERY difficult to say "NO" to a fellow volunteer; but if you missed the safety meeting, you are putting others at risk and that is just not fair or right. Please respect the time of all people involved by being on time and present for the entire Tailgate Safety Session.

In addition, each member of trail work projects should plan to bring their own Personal Protective Equipment(PPE): Safety glasses (ANSI Z87.1), hard hat (ANSI Z89.1), gloves, long sleeved shirt, pants and boots. Specific safety equipment, such as chainsaw chaps and earmuffs, will be provided by the unit.

Now, if you are a chairperson, or leader of a sanctioned trail ride and/or work project...there are a few more things you need to know:

There are several additional forms that need to be completed to help prepare you in the event an injury or illness occurs to someone in your group. If we have never experienced a fellow member becoming seriously hurt or injured while in the backcountry, and then it happens...we will not be making the soundest judgements in the heat of the moment. These additional forms are part of LNT's "Plan Ahead and Prepare", and should be completed prior to the work project and/or trail ride. The first of these is the Tailgate Safety Review (TSR), which outlines the safety information that needs to be covered for each particular outing. The information on the TSR determines what is covered through the TSS. Another one of these forms is the Trailhead Communication Plan (TCP). This covers how one will best be able to communicate to the outside world in the event of an emergency. Again, the crew leader will complete this form ahead of the trip, and will record information specific to that particular trip, such as departure and return dates, as well as contact information. Two copies are needed; one stays with the designated Communications Lead, the other goes inside the first aid kit; and should an event occur; it is transported out with the patient.

As mentioned earlier, all members of work projects and trail rides will need to complete a Personal Emergency Information form, which is then accounted for and inserted into the group's First Aid Kit. Again, this form would stay with the person should an evacuation take place. In the event of an emergency where an injury occurs; the Crew Leader must complete the BCHC Incident Report and submit it to the public land agency within 24 hours. This form must also be submitted to the BCHC Safety Officers, Dan Horn and Chip Herzig.



Although most of us do not enjoy filling out more paperwork than is necessary; these forms are crucial in BCHC's continued partnership with our Forest Service and other public land agencies. They are intended to help us get the job done, so at the end of the work project and/or trail ride, all of our BCHC members can go home, safe and unharmed, to their family. That is what it is all about.

BCHA National Board Meeting

Report on the BCHA National Board Meeting 4/20-23/2017

Bob Magee - California Alternate National Board Director

It was a pleasure to attend the National Board meeting of Back Country Horsemen of America. The meeting was held in Great Falls, Montana, the town where I was raised. I attended along with Lloyd Erlandson, our current President and Dennis Serpa the other National Board Director from California. The group of Directors is really a varied group of people covering 32 states, 180+ chapters (units), and a membership over 13,000. This past year 2016, volunteer work by BCHA added up to a value of over \$13.7 million for all of the country.

The Chairman Don Saner and the Executive Director Jim McGarvey reported they were very active in meeting with other groups and organizations to spread the word of what we do and how we can work together to get things accomplished. They met with the US Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, The Certified Horsemanship Assoc., The American Horse Council, The American Quarter Horse Assn. Randy Rasmussen the Director for Public Lands and Recreation met with and worked on many legislation issues, MOU's, The Forest Service and National Park planning. One big piece of legislation passed was the National Forest Trails Stewardship Act. This legislation was passed by the House, then by the Senate with a few changes and then back to the House for a final vote and signed by the President into law on November 28, 2016. This law we helped to write was supported by many organizations but the principle ones who we worked with were The Wilderness Society, The Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, and The American Horse Council. They all participated in the annual Hike The Hill lobbying week in Washington DC meeting with Legislators and agency representatives. BCHA has been asked by many groups to do presentations to their groups on what we do and the various subjects that we stand for.

The BCHA headquarters now is operated by a group of folks that work for Association Resources. BCHA pays a fee for this service. The staff includes: Erica Fearn, Executive Administrator, John Aliberti, Administrator, Jan Hesketh, Finance and Marcy Green who handles needs for the National Board Meeting. They handle all administrative functions, maintain and implement procedures for membership, paying bills, monthly review of financials, establishing best practices for financial reporting, approval of invoices and GAAP accounting. They also handle insurance, executive meetings, National Board Meetings, Donor support, communications and publications, newsletter, member services, membership maintenance and lists. A professional management company providing accounting, data collection, financial, membership, communications, and other professional services is necessary to maintain an effective organization made up of volunteers.

There are many issues and needs throughout the country that Back Country Horsemen can get involved with and are supported by BCHA through the BCH Foundation and our activities at a local level. It was pointed out that attending to these needs requires obtaining funds through donations, grants and special fund raising activities. We were told that the BCH Foundation in the past has provided many chapters (units) throughout the country with financial grants. It was reported that this year the Foundation does not have a lot of funds to share with those in need and will have to choose wisely on the number of grant requests funded. It is important to point out that many of the grants that are available to BCH from others have some sort of requirement for matching funds. We have organizations now that want to provide us with funding grants though we do not meet their requirements for matching funds. That means that our membership providing donations or giving rights to property is essential in obtaining the financial goals to support the work we do at the local level.

Throughout the meeting it was stressed that there is a need to use as much of the social media sites that are available to share with others what we do and what we need. That be from increasing membership, to donations and other funding to support our causes.

Communication with our membership is essential. Ensuring that BCHA can contact as many members as possible through email and Facebook for example is needed to make sure that the problems we face and how we resolve them is done with as many of the membership being informed as possible. We need to work to have our membership provide email addresses to get this accomplished. California is one of the states that has not given BCHA access to their members' emails. This needs to change so all of the membership can get needed information as it develops and provide guidance on how to approach issues.

There were various guests from the US Forest Service that attended the meeting and gave presentations, with question and answer periods following. Leanne Marten, Region 1 Forester talked about the \$314 million of deferred trail maintenance throughout the National Forest System and the need for volunteer work of people like BCH who have helped with that problem. Nationally, 25 percent of the trail system, or 39,500 miles of the 158,000 miles of trails in the system, meets design standards. Increased need for funding for fighting wildfires greatly effects the ability to maintain trails. President Trump's proposed budget reduces the Agricultural Departments allowance by 21 percent for this next year. We can expect that this reduction will flow down to the Forest Service.

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BCHA National Board Meeting

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Jaime Schmidt who is the Forest Service's National Trail Program Manager talked about the National Forest Trails Stewardship Act, and how they are working to put it into place. They have a requirement to put into place plans to deal with priority areas of need, a maximum of 15, by June of 2017. They have received many number of proposals over that requirement of 15 and look forward to working on selecting the best proposals. Another is identifying 20 forests where outfitters and guides would be able to pay their permit fees in sweat equity on trail maintenance. Seed funding of \$250,000 also will be made available for local not-for-profit groups to apply for \$2000 to \$25,000 grants for trail work. That funding would require a match from those groups.

Joni Packard, USFS volunteer coordinator for Region 1 said the agency already relies heavily on volunteers. In 2016, 105,274 volunteers put in 4.3 million hours and 1.2 million of those hours were devoted to trails.

Presentations were made by people from groups that BCHA is working with to deal with legislation that we are very concerned with. It is great to see that BCHA is working with these people on the attempt by some legislators to pass legislation to Transfer Federal Lands to others. The objective of these attempts to sell off Federal Lands is to benefit others in various ways that would keep the public from having access to these lands we use today. Many of these legislators work to keep the budgets of agencies low to show that agencies cannot properly administer these lands. Whereas if they were funded as needed they would be doing a better job than they do now. Another issue is a bill that was introduced in the House of Representatives that would allow the use of Bikes and other devices within the Wilderness. This bill introduced by Tom McClintock representative from California, brings to bare major concerns about safety, environmental problems, and intent of the original Wilderness Act. These and other issues were discussed by people from The Back Country Hunters and Anglers, The Wilderness Society, and American Horse Council. We were very impressed with the organization Back Country Hunters and Anglers, and I suggest that our membership join them so we can share in our mutual goals.

Much of the meeting is made up of dealing with the day to day needs of the BCHA organization, such as reviewing and approving the financial reports, establishing a budget, hearing committee reports, accepting a business plan, etc. The awards committee told us about who won what awards and the Mid Valley Unit of California was highlighted as the winner of the Double Diamond award for their work on the Rose Parade. The education committee shared information of various items, and provided a guide for how to deal with the Forest Service. The expansion committee talked about the actions they have taken to bring additional states into BCHA, though there are some states that do not have federal or state lands available, nor do they have a suffi-

cient number of people who would like to join. The Media/Marketing committee stressed the need for communication with our membership. Public Lands talked about the many state and federal issues we face. The committee shared that they were working on improving the development of regional public lands forums. I personally joined the Public Lands Committee and plan to work with them as needed.

At the end of the meeting there were elections held and we now have a new Chairman, which is Freddy Dunn from Utah. Notably the first female to be elected to the Chairman position of BCHA.

A Message From Chairwoman Freddy Dunn

To: BCHA Members

RE: BCHA Office Move and AHC Survey

BCHA Office Move: Last month Erica Fearn, BCHA's Executive Administrator, proposed to Association Resources (AR) that she spin off BCHA and two other AR clients to create the foundation for her new association management company, Mainspring Association Management LLC. The process for this involved requiring approval from client boards. AR asked BCHA to consider approving the transfer of their management contract to Erica and her new company.

Over the past few weeks the BCHA Executive Committee considered the option of transferring our management contract with AR and decided in favor of this move. The decision to transfer the contract was made in the best interest of BCHA. This will allow for continuity with BCHA's program of work, YourMembership™ database, and strategic growth. Erica will be the key staff person providing service to the BCHA account. Our physical address will change; phone and email will remain the same. John Aliberti, our Association Administrator, will not be moving with Erica. He will remain at AR. The transfer to Mainspring Association Management LLC occurred on July 1, 2017. AR has assured BCHA leadership and Erica that it is committed to assure a smooth transition. The new address for BCHA is 59 Rainbow Road, East Granby, CT 06026.

AHC Survey -Second Phase of Study Link Distribution to Begin June 26: The American Horse Council Foundation (AHCFC) is pleased to announce that the survey link for the update of the economic impact study is now available! Individuals will be able to share this survey with others involved in the industry, as well as post the link on social media to encourage others to take the survey.

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BCHA

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“We were advised to do the rollout of the survey link in two phases,” said AHC President Julie Broadway. “The first phase included AHC member organizations and their affiliations which served as our initial sample frame. The survey link needed to be sent to a known population size so we can accurately judge the response rate. For example, if we send the survey link to 500 people and 100 reply, we know that the response rate is 20%, and the results must be increased to characterize the full population according to statistical survey methodology.”

“Phase two will consist of an open link that will be sent out via social media, press releases, email blasts, etc. This invites anyone that wants to complete a survey the ability to do so using the social networks of our member organizations to increase participation in a ‘snowball’ effect,” continued Ms. Broadway. “The questions are exactly the same as in the phase one survey link, but the URL for each survey link is slightly different so The Innovation Group can distinguish these responses from the control group. We certainly want as many people as possible to complete the survey, it just needed to be done in phases so the statisticians and economists can interpret the data correctly.”

The main survey is designed to capture the impact of individual horse owners (whether commercial or recreational) and industry suppliers of equine-related goods and services. To take the horse owner & supplier survey please click here: https://innovationgroup.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0oaYvVhgaWHgpvL?Source=Request

Please note, all personal information collected in the survey will be confidential and will not be distributed. The AHC encourages Individuals to share the study link above via email, social media, etc. in order to ensure maximum participation. The survey link will close July 18th.

The 2017 Economic Impact Study will contain expanded demographics with youth participation and additional segments of the industry, including Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies, Equine Sanctuaries and Rescues, Equine Academic Programs, and Equine Youth Organizations. If you are interested in receiving one of these survey links, please contact the AHC at info@horsecouncil.org.

If you are a member of an equine association and have not received an invitation to participate, please check your Junk or SPAM folder. Individuals interested in receiving the main survey link may also email economic_impact_study@horsecouncil.org to receive a link.

BCHA News Bits.....

Every month there is a conference call inviting the state presidents, vice president, and national board members to hear a presentation by the President of BCHA on the various things that are going on with BCHA. Randy Rasmussen the Director of Public Lands and Recreation, and others also present up to date info.

There was a Presidents Call this week 7/28/17 with BCHA where Dennis Serpa and myself attended for California. We were advised that Freddy Dunn the President was in the hospital for an item where she should recover soon. So the Vice President, Darrell Wallace presided over the call.

We were told that the management contract that BCHA has with Association Resources, Inc. is to be terminated and that Mainspring Association Management is now the company that will be handling the office and those assorted duties for BCHA. Though the person in charge, Erica Fearn will still be in the office, which has relocated to a different address; 59 Rainbow Road, East Granby, Ct. 06029.

BCHA has decided that they will not be taking any firm position of the issue of the National Monuments Review process. Due to varying opinions of BCHA states, they decided not to issue a letter from BCHA. They are encouraging the states to individually comment directly as they see fit.

A large number of items were addressed by Randy Rasmussen where he has been involved. He brought up the issue of the federal budget proposal that reduces the funding for Forest Service trails by 84% and asked that the states work with him to contact members of the House and Senate Appropriations committee's with a letter he will be developing. He discussed the need to work to stop the Bikes in the Wilderness bill (HR 1349). He also talked about many other items specific to areas around the country. Alan Hill had requested a policy letter to prevent the NPS from restricting stock use in the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, with the Shasta Trinity BCH Unit letter and BCHA letter.

They had submitted a grant request to REI, to support a 5 day packing and wilderness skills class for women in Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Those are some of the items that I thought you might like to know about.

Bob Magee - California Alternate National Board Director

PUBLIC LAND UPDATE

Public Lands Report

by Troy Patton & Thor Bodtke

There are a couple of issues in the Public Lands arena that all BCHC members should be aware of at this critical time. The first issue is HR1349 introduced by Tom McClintock (R-CA). The purpose of this bill is to amend the Wilderness Act to remove the long-standing prohibition on “mechanized travel” in Wilderness. This bill would allow wheelchairs, wheeled carts, and bicycles in the Wilderness. Congressman McClintock is the Chairman of the Federal Lands Subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources and as such could move this bill forward if he chooses. He currently has five cosponsors. It is imperative that all BCHC members call, write or email their Congress member and let them know that as equestrians you do not support HR 1349 and ask them to oppose this bill and to not sign on as a co-sponsor. If you do not know how to reach your Congressman call 202 224-3121 and ask the switchboard to connect you to your legislator in Washington D.C. Everyone please call as soon as you can.

The President’s Budget is another hot topic as he is proposing to cuts to the budgets for land management agencies and programs that are critical to trails and public access. These cuts include an 84% cut to the U.S. Forest Service trails budget, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. At our Executive Board meeting, we agreed to sign on with BCH A and several other national partners to oppose these deep cuts. So, when you call your Congressman about opposing HR 1349 also tell them that outdoor recreation is important to you and ask that they do not support these cuts in the budget. Remind them that the outdoor recreation economy supports 7.6 million jobs across the U.S.

As to the monument review currently taking place, the Executive Board voted to take no action at this time as it is unknown what direction this review will take. It is good to note that all previous challenges to the Wilderness Act have not been successful. We will be closely watching this review and take action at the appropriate time.

We are also currently working with the PCTA on the West Mojave Route Network Project in trying to stop the illegal off highway vehicle use on the PCT in the Mojave area and close another area called Middle Knob to OHV use and designate it for hikers and equestrians only. The Executive Board voted to sign on with the PCTA, Wilderness Society and California Wilderness Coalition to support these actions. More information will be given at the October meeting.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, be safe on the trail and watch out for other trail users.

Why Even Mountain Bikers Should Oppose HR 1349

by Richard Waller

HR 1349 is the bill to allow mountain bikes in federally designated wilderness introduced into the House of Representatives by Congressman Tom McClintock of Roseville. This bill has six co-sponsors, Duncan Hunter and Dana Rohrabacker of California. Rep. Bruce Westerman, Arkansas. Rep. Stevan Pearce, New Mexico. Rep. Kevin Cramer, North Dakota. Of these Congressmen only Dana Rohrabacker gets more than a 4% score from the respected League of Conservation Voters, and he gets only a still meager 10% score.

So why this interest in public lands issues by Congressmen who have a history of little to no interest in public lands issues? These guys may all have awakened one day and said to themselves, “by golly, mountain bikers should have the same right to ride their bikes in federally designated wilderness as horse people!” But, if you believe that I have some great “buildable” land in south central Florida I’d like to sell you. Rohrabacker and McClintock are on record as supporting Cliven Bundy.

On January 8, 2017, Duncan Hunter voted to allow the federal government to give away public lands. Westerman, Cramer and McClintock voted yes on HR 2406, “This bill includes language that could allow the use of motorized vehicles, road construction, and other forms of development within protected wilderness areas, and it blocks input from public stakeholders in National Wildlife Refuge management decisions” Pearce, “criticized Teddy Roosevelt’s “big ideas of big forests and big national parks,”

You get the picture I reckon. These folks are basically, anti-public lands. HR 1349 has little to do with mountain bike access to federally designated wilderness, and everything to do with the assault on the national treasures that are our public lands. Death to our public lands by a thousand cuts is the goal.

The “so called” review of national monuments is aligned with this. The goal with that is that using seemingly rational reasoning to remove protections from protected land allows for the disposal of those lands.

We BCHC members as outdoor recreationists should be up in arms defending the very landscapes where we ride, where we pack, where we sit around campfires and tell stories, where we maintain trails, where we love to be.

If, we allow our public lands to be chiseled away, we allow our access to land to be chiseled away. Make no mistake. If our national treasures are given, or traded, or sold, we will not be able to ride, to camp, to work on them. This is why even mountain bikers should oppose HR 1349.

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Tackling Backbone.....

Reprinted from the Santa Monica Observer

By Kate Kuykendall, National Park Service July 25, 2016

Backbone Trail Cowgirls Complete Ride, One, Ruth Gerson, is 82 years old *(Ruth is a former BCHC Public Lands VP)*

They began their journey on 7/18/2016 at Point Mugu State Park.

The trail, which goes from Pt. Mugu State Park in Ventura County to Will Rogers State Historic Park in the Pacific Palisades, was officially designated as a National Recreation Trail by US Secretary Sally Jewell and National Park Service director Jonathan Jarvis on June 4, 2016. By averaging about 11 miles each day, their journey will cover the 67 Backbone Trail miles of mostly rugged terrain with some pretty hefty elevation changes along the way.

This trip was spearheaded and organized by Ruth Gerson, 81 yr, who first rode the trail almost exactly 25 years ago. She will be riding her 19 yr old Mustang, Crystal. The other participants are Jeanne Wallace, with her 21 yr old Quarter horse, Dill; Janet Peterson, 63 yr, with her 19 yr old Peruvian Paso, Sunny; Tracey Potter, 53 yr, with her 9 yr old Red Roan, Scooter; and Kimberly Gustafson, 45 yr, with her 12 yr old Spotted Draft Quarter Cross, Chief.

These ladies have chosen to do this ride for 4 reasons: to publicize the Backbone Trail as a National Recreation Trail, to inspire others to be adventurous, to demonstrate that age is only a number for horses and riders, and to illustrate the need for equestrian and hiker trail camps in the Santa Monica Mountains!

Their trip will begin at the Ray Miller Trailhead in Pt. Mugu State Park on Monday, July 18, 2016 and finish on Saturday, July 23, 2016. They will camp near the trail each night and have their horses in corrals or high lining them. No hotels for these women! They have a support team of friends

who have volunteered to take on various tasks such as pre-riding parts of the trail to identify obstacles, clear brush and downed trees, drive the rigs from campsite to campsite, bring dinners in the evening, meet with water for the horses where the trail crosses roads if it's very hot, and help in any other ways needed.



Ruth Gerson



COWGIRLS—Left to right: Jeanne Wallace, Janet Paterson, Ruth Gerson, Tracey Potter and Kimberly Gustafson complete the 67-mile Backbone Trail.

These women will be riding across the spine of the Santa Monica Mountains. The views will be spectacular, not to mention the wildlife and wildflowers. It won't be easy, but they all share a common thread, a sense of humor and a sense of purpose.

California State Parks, National Parks Service and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy are all strong supporters of this ride and have made every effort to ensure that all goes well.

There are 2 non-profit organizations also supporting the ride: Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council (SMMTC – <http://www.smmtc.org>) and Recreation & Equestrian Coalition (REC – <http://www.gotorec.org>). Park Watch Report (PWR – <http://www.parkwatchreport.com>) is a website and phone app for State Parks that is used to improve trails and address safety issues by engaging the public; they are also supporting the ride.

Biographies of the five ladies:

KIMBERLY

Kimberly, 44, was born in Cleveland, Ohio. Kimberly has a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Toledo and an MBA from the University of Michigan. Kimberly moved to California in 2002. She has been riding her horse in the Santa Monica Mountains for about 9 years and enjoys trail riding with her husband. She takes great pleasure in riding with friends, learning new trails, and exposing her 12 yr old draft cross Chief to new experiences. Kimberly is a strong advocate for the preservation of trails in the Santa Monica Mountains. She has been a member of ETI Corral 36 for 9 years and has served on the board for 4 years as the membership chair. When Kimberly is not riding or doing home improvement projects, she works as a consultant in the Oil and Gas Industry with Pricewaterhouse Coopers. Her Motto: Work hard/play hard!!

.....on Horseback

RUTH

I was born in Brooklyn, New York 81 years ago. I came to San Francisco in 1946 by train, at a time when you could walk between the train cars by pulling open the heavy doors, feeling the wind as you hopped across the connections and opened the door to the next train car – all of which disappeared when OSHA and the insurance industry changed everyone's lives. Attending 10 schools just to finish the 8th grade was an education in an adjustment to living in many varied places and getting along with new kids all the time. I never lived anywhere longer than 5 years until I built this house. I'm here almost 40 years, but I thoroughly enjoyed all of the past moving around to new places with new people.

When I arrived in Marin County, CA I began riding horses. I had 5 lakes, a mountain, friendly ranchers, and 2 beaches for riding as well as Muir Woods. I bought my first horse for \$100 without first riding her; and I have bought several more also without first riding them. I have been very fortunate to have enjoyed the partnerships with some wonderful horses, all of whom taught me something along the way.

I went to Pomona College for 2 years majoring in non-academic activities of tennis, fencing, swimming, skiing, shooting, flying airplanes, riding horses for Kellogg Ranch and other pursuits. From UCLA I received a BS in psychology with a State teaching credential; and afterwards, I taught at UCLA's Fernald School.

After many interesting years, I was revitalized when Grant found me. With my wonderful husband, now deceased, we had a fabulous life together filled with love, humor and fun. We rode our horses locally and in the Sierra, and we traveled to many places. I have been involved with trails in the Santa Monica Mountains for the past 50 years. Besides boarding horses, I have 4 great horses – a 19 yr old Mustang mare, a 10 yr old Buckskin mare, a 31 yr old Sorrel mare (Tevis 100-mile Ride), and a 29 yr old Spanish Mustang gelding.

I am doing this ride for 4 reasons---to publicize the Backbone Trail as a National Recreation Trail, to show how grateful I am that at 81 yrs I can ride this far, to inspire others to be adventurous, and to call attention to the lack of trail camps for horses in these mountains and especially along the Backbone Trail.

JANET

Janet introduced herself to horses when she purchased her first horse at a charity dinner in 1998 and Janet's life changed forever. The horse, named Precizjon, was an Arabian mare and took Janet over hundreds of trail miles until she died in 2015 at the age of 30.

Janet lives near Auburn, Ca, with her husband and a menagerie of rescue animals. The Sierra Nevada is her back yard and her favorite place to ride. As an industry leader in foodservice procurement, she held numerous executive positions with popular chain restaurants. Her move to Auburn from Irvine, CA, was to signify retirement for Janet, but her entrepreneurial spirit and love of trail riding crossed paths when a tragic motorcycle vs horse incident on a nearby trail signaled the need for better communication between trail

users and park management.

Her goal now is to encourage every trail user to step up their commitment as park stewards and use ParkWatchReport to keep park management updated on trail conditions and safety issues.

JEANNE

I'm a 74 yr. old California Native born 2 hours away in Long Beach. My love of horses started at a very young age. Walking home from school, my sister and I stopped in every field to pet the horses. We learned a box of sugar cubes brought them to us. In 1950 my dad moved our family to Idaho Falls thinking it would be better to raise his kids on a farm. There I met Brownie a horse owned by the farmer next door. The farmer gave us permission to ride Brownie whenever he wasn't out pulling a wagon. We rode double as often as possible. Fast forward and we are back in California. In 1967 my son's grandfather bought our boys each a pony. 1968 still not knowing much about horses my husband bought me an 18 month old filly that I started riding at 2yrs. old. She came with a free breeding to a Doc Bar Stallion, so at 5 yrs. old I bred her and got Abby, the mom of Atticus 25yrs and Dill 21yrs. Dill is the quarter horse I will be riding on the first organized Backbone Trail ride to highlight its recognition as a National Recreational Trail as well as the Trail's accessibility and need for campsites along the way.

TRACY

Born and raised in Connecticut, I moved to California in 1997. I have a daughter, Isabella, who lives in Hollywood, a Chihuahua named Rico Suave, and Scooter, a 9 year old Red Roan horse. I have been in medical sales for over 18 years and currently sell products for cataract surgery. I moved to Agoura across from Paramount Ranch in 2013, and then realized that I wanted a horse to ride on all the beautiful trails that surrounded me. That's when I walked into Ruth Gerson's ranch and asked her to teach me to ride. And she did!!! She also helped me find the perfect trail horse, Scooter, just several months ago. He is trail savvy and takes really good care of me. I'm excited to be part of this adventurous experience with 4 women who have so much knowledge about horses and the history of the Santa Monica Mountains! I believe I'm the least experienced, but I will be the one who gains the most out of this trail ride!!!



SADDLE UP—Gerson, second from left, and her Backbone Trail Cowgirls.

PUBLIC LAND ISSUES

continued from Page 9

The goal, and this has been verified in conversation with one of the afore mentioned Congressman by a source who contacted me, is the removal of wilderness protections from our public lands, allowing the disposal of those lands made easier.

Each member of BCHC, each unit, each state chapter of BCHA must get involved, must work to prevent the loss of one square inch of our protected lands, protected and reserved for us!

If you care about our land, if you care about your access and your children's and your grandchildren's access to our land. You must act, contact these congressmen, contact the Administration, and let them know you oppose the loss of protection and the loss of our land.

I highly encourage you to read the following three books to create a factual baseline as to how our public lands and their protection have come about.

These are available on Amazon and other booksellers:

Theodore Roosevelt, Wilderness Warrior, by Douglas Brinkley

Rightful Heritage: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Land of America, by Douglas Brinkley

America's Public Lands: From Yellowstone to Smokey Bear and Beyond, by Randall K. Wilson

Our slogan should be as Winston Churchill said (slightly changed by me):

“We shall defend our land, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender the national treasures that are our protected public lands.”



Oppose the Sale or Transfer of Federal Public Lands

by Richard Waller

Federal Lands are a national treasure and belong to all Americans. They are a network of treasured places of all varieties and designations used for a vast range of economic, cultural, and recreational activities.

They support thousands of jobs in gateway communities across the country. Public lands provide diverse outdoor recreation opportunities

They preserve invaluable habitat for fish and wildlife.

They provide world-class hunting, fishing and horseback riding opportunities.

They produce essential ecosystem services.

The public lands contain places of cultural and religious significance to American Indians and Alaska Natives, such as ancestral burial grounds, fishing sites, and lands that supply traditional foods and medicines.

You get priceless wilderness and solitude from these public lands

They have valuable energy, forestry, and mineral resources. And the billions of dollars of revenues from developing those resources are shared evenly with the States.

If those Federal public lands are unsustainably developed, many of those varied and invaluable attributes are lost indefinitely.

The history of America's Federal public lands provides understanding of their ownership and the authority to regulate and dispose of those lands, which has been affirmed by the Constitution and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Back Country Horsemen of America has passed a resolution opposing the sale or transfer of Federal public lands.

Do your part to keep public lands in public hands.

Contact your congressman and ask them to co-sponsor: House Concurrent Resolution 27. From the 115th congress Most of the wording above is from this resolution. To get your own copy go to:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hconres27ih/pdf/BILLS-115hconres27ih.pdf>

A Tale of a Trail

by Richard Waller

For thousands of years, a trail led from Santa Barbara to the Central Valley. This trail climbed over the Santa Ynez Range, crossed the Santa Ynez River and ascended Mono and Alamar Creeks crossing the high point at Puerto Suelo, then down from Madulce Camp to Santa Barbara Canyon then to the Cuyama River, at some point bending to the right and dropping down to the Central Valley near Maricopa.

This trail was used by Indians from time immemorial, then in historic times by Spanish Padres and soldiers who chased down the Mission Indians, who fled over this trail to the valley. The American trapper Jedediah Smith found Spanish speaking Indians in the valley in 1826, escapees from the Santa Barbara Mission who had fled over the trail.

After the California became part of the United States the trail was used by the military. After the California became part of the United States the trail was used by the military, hunters, trappers and cowboys, foresters and other adventurers crossing from Santa Barbara to points north.

The trail was adopted and formalized by the US Forest Service as several named recreation trails. Over the past 20 years maintenance on the trails has dropped to nearly nothing.

The Los Padres Forest Association has taken on the task of rehabilitating much of the trail. This is a big job done by volunteers with assistance from the California Conservation Corp and other groups as funding is available.

The trail crews hike in to remote camps where, thanks to the work of the Backcountry Horsemen, Los Padres Unit packers, Otis Calef, Kathleen Phelps, Susie Thielman and Richard Waller, food, kitchen gear and tools are packed in on our members pack stock. Volunteers love to work on the trails, and to eat the fine gourmet dutch oven meals prepared in his wilderness kitchen by Richard Scholl, chef extraordinaire.

Los Padres Forest Association volunteers have for the past two years worked their way up the Santa Barbara Canyon Trail 15 miles south east of Cuyama. This is a 7 mile highly scenic trail, crossing Santa Barbara Creek dozens of times, working its way deep into the wilderness, culminating in a steep ascent to Madulce Camp on an ancient dozer fireline infamously known to all who have hiked it or ridden as 'Heartbreak Hill' climbing nearly a thousand feet in less than a mile.

LPFA held its most recent "working vacation" at Madulce camp. Volunteers, including our own Everette Lambert walked in with backpacks containing their personal gear (yes, Everette backpacked in!

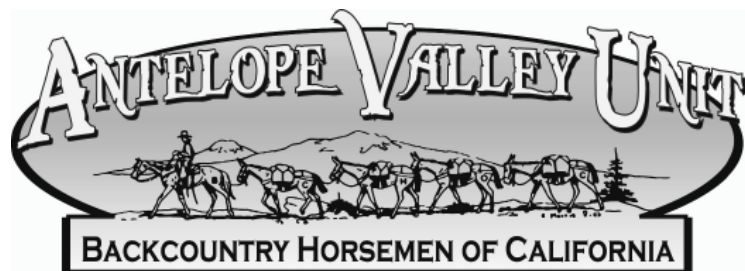
No slouch he!) Kathleen and Richard packed in the initial load of supplies, nearly 700 lbs. of food, beer and gear.

Susie was able to come in mid-week, Kathleen made several trips in and out. Richard returned for the pack out at the end of the project. Backcountry Horsemen, Los Padres Unit packers make these projects doable, we are pleased to be part of the effort to open and keep open our trails.



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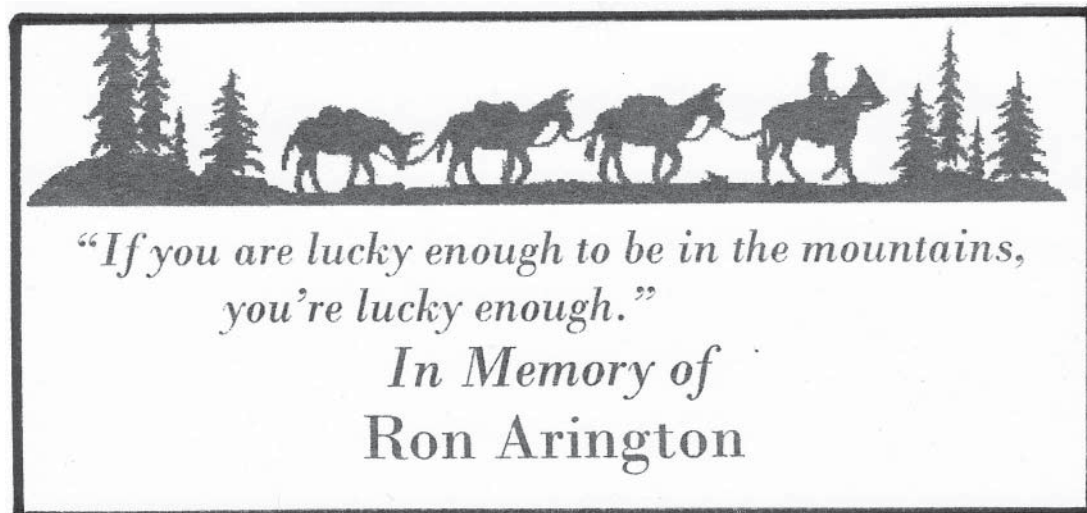


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you’re lucky enough.”*

*In Memory of
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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

Planning a Trip? Use www.ytbtravel.com/bchc

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Backcountry Horsemen of California



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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

DCTR (your Membership _____)

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

Street Address/PO Box _____

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

Email Address: _____ (please print legibly)

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

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Check No. _____

Parent Unit Membership Types (Check one)

- Individual \$50 Family \$60 2 Year Individual \$90 2 Year Family \$110 3 Year Individual \$125 3 Year Family \$150

Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15 - Benefactor \$100 - Patron \$250 - Mt. Whitney \$500

Associate Memberships: An Additional \$15 PER UNIT is added to your Parent Unit Dues

Associate Memberships Unit Affiliations MAY NOT BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT

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

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

Add additional choices here

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

Parent BCHC Membership Types

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

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

*A SHARED Membership 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.

Complete information regarding BCHC Membership is available on the MEMBERSHIP TAB at

bchcalifornia.org
or call (775) 463-3634

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a new -

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 | \$ 250.00 |
| <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

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.

Rebuilding a Monument to Hikers

Reprinted from Currents Magazine By Mike Teegarden

Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail is a bucket list activity for long-distance hikers. Since January 2016, visitors to the southern terminus of the PCT have been greeted by a new monument marking the trailhead.

Pacific Crest Trail Association volunteer Mike Lewis of Anza, California, built the marker in his garage. He modeled it after the original monument installed in 1988. The long and scenic path stretches 2,650 miles, from the U.S. border with Mexico to the U.S. border with Canada. It is a grueling adventure along the Sierra-Nevada and Cascade Mountain ranges.

The monument project began in mid-2015 when PCTA Southern California Regional Representative Anitra Kass asked Mike if he could get the job done by the first of the year. After more than 25 years of exposure to the harsh Southern California climate, the original marker—made of five 12-by-12 fir timbers—was falling apart.

A carpenter by trade, Mike had the skills, tools and patience to handle the task. “I like doing that kind of stuff,” Mike says. “I love working on the trail. I like doing things that are out of the ordinary.” Mike found detailed drawings of the original design in a museum and used them to recreate the same look.

He made several trips to the marker—a 200-mile round trip from his home. “I wanted to duplicate the original design,” says Mike. “I hand-built a jig for doing the lettering.” That attention to detail continued with the marker placement. Most hikers begin their trek early in the morning, so Mike adjusted the angle of the marker so hikers posing for photos would have the best possible light and background.

Now that the project is done, there is talk of Mike building a new marker for the northern terminus. But he hopes he never has to replace the southern monument again. “I have started a yearly maintenance program,” he says. “I’ve decided once a year I’m gonna go down there, fill the cracks and re-stain the top. The problem is the tops take a lot of abuse. People stand on them, sit on them, get their pictures taken.”

This isn’t Mike’s first volunteer project for PCTA. For the past 10 years, he has been a regular on the trail, much of the time hauling equipment to work sites with his pack mules through his work with the Trail Gorillas. Those days are sometimes 16 hours long.

To honor Mike for his work on the monument and the trail, PCTA awarded him the Alice Krueper Award in 2015.



Above, Pacific Crest Trail volunteer Mike Lewis of Anza, California, stands in the barn where he sharpens one of the tools of his trade. He built the marker for the southern terminus of the PCT, which is on the California-Mexico border. Below, Mike, seated, poses with the crew that installed the new marker in 2016.

