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The BackCountry News



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SUMMER 2020

MEET MICHAEL KING, BCHC PRESIDENT



By Kathy Zumbrunn, Mid Valley Unit

On January 1, 2020, a new person stepped into the position of Backcountry Horsemen of California State President. Michael King from Mid Valley Unit was elected at the October 2019 State Board of Directors meeting in Santa Nella to take over from retiring BCHC President Lloyd Erlandson.

Michael lives in Turlock with his wife, JeriAnn, two dogs and a multitude of cats. He has been a member of BCHC Mid Valley Unit since 1992 and has served on the Mid Valley Unit Board of Directors for many years, including serving as President for five years. Michael feels very strongly about BCHC, how it is functioning and where it is going in the future. That is what led him to run for and become BCHC President.

Let's go back and really get to know who Michael is, where he came from and what brought him to Backcountry Horsemen.

Michael was born in Santa Paula, California, on March 1 in the middle of the last century (Michael quipped, "Hey, it's not THAT long ago!"). Since he was the first son after four girls, his dad was totally overjoyed at his arrival! Michael was finally joined by his brother, James, eight years later. He grew up helping whenever possible on his grandfather's 6,000-acre cattle ranch in Piru, California, starting to ride horses at about age six. He still has a quirt, hand made by family friend Louis Real who gave it to him to judiciously encourage the old ranch mare, Candy, to keep up

See MICHAEL KING, pages 6-7

The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

Editor Carol Jo Hargreaves with Jeanna Santalucia

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Who is BCHC? The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of California, March 13, 1990, with a 501(c)4 education foundation established in 2007. The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc., reserves the right to refuse any advertisements and/or articles that are inconsistent with the Backcountry Horsemen of California's objectives and purpose statement. Other material will be printed at the Editor's discretion.

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Reader Submission: The Backcountry News welcomes reader contributions, event and calendar dates, and unit news. These will be printed on a space-available basis. Submissions should be sent in a Microsoft Word format to include author and photo credits. Longer articles are subject to edit for space at the discretion of the Editor. Photos may not be returned.

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

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Fall 2021 Edition	October 22, 2020
Winter 2021 Edition	January 15, 2021
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Summer 2021 Edition	July 15, 2021

Advertising Rates per Issue: Rates effective January 2012. All ads must be paid in advance.

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

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

President's Page

Greetings, Backcountry Horsemen of California members.

Michael King here, your new BCHC President for 2020 and 2021.

I want to start by extending great thanks to Lloyd Erlandson for his service as BCHC President. With a steady hand and even keel, Lloyd guided BCHC well for the past three years. I can only hope to match his leadership example and I pledge to try to do just that. Thank you so much, Lloyd.

After a long hiatus, we are now back in business with our State newsletter, The Backcountry News. Mid Valley Unit member Carol Jo Hargreaves stepped up to the plate to become the new editor. I thank Jeanna Santalucia for her valiant effort and offer condolences on the recent death of her mother.

No newsletter is able to operate in a vacuum. Good quality articles are always wanted, so be sure to share informational articles about your unit's activities for publication in The Backcountry News. The email address for article submission is: bhcnewsletter@gmail.com

Well, now, time for some commentary. Stepping into this new job, the year appeared to start off innocently enough. With preplanning in place, things were running pretty smoothly, which was okay with me as I got my new job under control. Plans were in place for Rendezvous and all systems were go. Then came March and a very small bug with a huge impact.

Hello to the novel coronavirus. Wreaking havoc worldwide, it ultimately caused cancellation of the 2020 Rendezvous. Try as we might, we could not make it work. Part of wisdom is knowing when to quit whipping a dead horse. Once the Rendezvous Committee and Executive Board of Directors realized the 2020 Rendezvous was not going to happen, they immediately turned their attention to the future.

Planning is already underway for next year's Rendezvous in Tulare, March 26 to 28, 2021. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. We have a lost year to make up for and we ARE going to have a GREAT TIME next year! I sure want to see you all there and I don't want to hear later, "We wish we had attended." So, fair warning, be there, okay? Good!

A word of thanks to the Red Bluff Rendezvous Committee. I have firsthand knowledge about how much work it takes to plan and host a Rendezvous. To have it fall apart at practically the last minute, through no fault of your own, has to be a great disappointment. I know it's small consolation, but the entire BCH membership thanks you for your huge effort. Believe me, it has not gone unnoticed. We know it would have been great.

Besides the Rendezvous, the coronavirus continues to impact planned individual unit activities and work projects. I know we are an independent lot by nature and prone to want to "do it our way." The public agencies we work with have other ideas though and many areas remain closed to access. We need to plan for openings of work areas but remain flexible enough to work with the fluid vagaries of the rules. Some reopening guidelines have been sent to BCHC unit presidents to help get us moving forward on our mission again.

While waiting, this is a great time to check over our equipment, sharpen those saws, review job hazard analyses and get first aid cards up to date. Although less than ideal, in my humble opinion, first aid classes with printable certificates that satisfy the agencies can be obtained online. Make sure your own health checks out as well. For example, is your tetanus booster up to date? That is an important one as we are operating in a tetanus rich environment. Planning ahead and preparing means ensuring that you are personally good to go, too.

As we wait for life to return to normal, remember to check on each other also. This is a very difficult time for many. A short phone visit, a kind word or sharing some extra food might just brighten someone's day. BCHC is an extraordinary group of people doing extraordinarily good works. I want you all to be safe and healthy and to be here for a long time to come.

~ Michael King



BCHC NEWS

NEW MEETING FORMAT BEING TRIED DURING COVID 19

By BCHC Secretary Susie Patton

The Executive Committee met on August 25 to discuss options for holding our October 10 Board of Directors meeting.

Due to COVID 19 and the numerous mandates about gatherings, travel and dining, our usual venue in Santa Nella was not available for a meeting with so many people. We explored several other options, but none allowed the required social distancing and in October being outside is a little iffy. Some Directors expressed concern about attending an event with so many people, especially if it was to be held indoors.

We discussed Zoom, but after our first attempt at a Zoom meeting with the Executive Committee we realized that many people do not have the equipment, or Internet services to be able to participate in such a large meeting, nor do any of us have enough experience with Zoom to run the meeting in the proper manner. Zoom may be an option in the future, but not without time to learn and prepare.

We have, therefore, decided to carry out a very streamlined meeting over email. Directors will get the normal 30-day notice with the agenda and, instead of listening to reports, will receive them by email.

We will include a voting sheet for each of you to cast your votes on bylaw changes, etc., by email. If you have any questions about a report or a voting issue, you can call or email the person in charge of that subject.

As with every October BCHC meeting, there will be an election of officers for the coming year. You will receive a recommended slate of officers from the Executive Committee, but as always, should you have a willing candidate, you will be able to submit their name(s) for the various offices. We will send a ballot out with the names nominated for each office for you to vote.

This is a unique and developing process. Please bear with us as we navigate through the issues and challenges.

DEADLINES FOR UNIT DIRECTORS:

September 9, 2020 – 30-day notice goes out

September 30, 2020 – Names of nominated candidates are due to State Secretary

October 1, 2020 – Ballot for election of officers will be sent out

All votes will be due by email to the BCHC State Secretary by October 10, 2020, at 6 p.m.

SINCERE THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS PEOPLE WHO DONATED THEIR 2020 RENDEZVOUS FEES TO BCHC:

Chestine Anderson
Terri Arington
Lucy Badenhoop
Gary & Pami Bogner
Jeanne Bonomini
Beth Boyst
Rich & Patti Camgros
Lynn Joiner
Stacy Kuhns
Troy & Susie Patton
Christine & Kim Rounds
Lynn Saunders
Larry & Rosemarie Shuman

FAKE EMAILS! ALERT TO ALL MEMBERS

Please be aware that many members are receiving fake emails from Unit Presidents, Board Presidents and other officers asking them to either send a check to an address specified or to purchase gift cards and mail them to a specified address.

THESE ARE NOT FROM THE PERSON NAMED.

Although some are pretty convincing, do not trust them. Delete them. If you are unsure, check the email address of the person sending the email by hovering your cursor over the name – if the email displayed does not match the email in the directory or the email you have on file for that person – delete it.

They are picking up email addresses from the BCHC website and links there to your Unit websites.

Also, if you have a Unit Facebook page, it is imperative that you monitor what is posted and what comments are made. You need to set the options so all postings must be pre-approved. That way the person in charge can accept or deny the post. It is suggested that you have at least two admins for your Facebook page. There are some non-profits that are being targeted with a lot of negative information and they will twist what is said. Your Unit person must be extra vigilant right now and delete any negative posts or comments – do not try to answer them.

BCHC NEWS

BCHC STRATEGIC PLAN Don't Put It On the Shelf!

By Chip Herzig

The Strategic Plan is a living document that should become part of every BCHC unit meeting. The seven topics are the things we ALL need to be working on to make them better, which, in turn, will insure the continuation of BCHC..! (See page 6 for a list of the objectives.)

All of the plan's topics were reviewed at our State Board meeting and your input was listened to and incorporated as improvements to the seven topics. Thus, the Strategic Plan really belongs to all of us!

As a matter of fact, I have asked our state secretary to develop a standardized report that each unit will be required to submit at every BOD meeting. The report is a summary of what you have accomplished in each of the seven areas of the PLAN!

So, please take the PLAN off the shelf and get at it!

SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Chip Herzig initiated BCHC's strategic plan after he went through a similar plan development process for the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) led by Rob Eskridge, president of Growth Management Center, Inc.

As Chip participated in the PCTA process, he began to fear that BCHC was in its death throes as an organization and did not realize it. Chip selected 10 dedicated BCHC members to help develop a plan.

Over a period of eight months, Eskridge conducted Zoom meetings regularly and effectively brought the group up to speed. A member/group was assigned to each of the seven topics to develop the issues and possible solutions. Rob gently critiqued the work and effectively drove the group to the end product.

BCHC State Directors' input was solicited at a State Board meeting. Copious notes were taken for incorporation into a working document, BCHC's Strategic Plan, 2018-2023. The final document was distributed in February 2020.

Committment from all BCHC units is needed to successfully work all seven topics. Each unit will follow a standardized format for reporting at future BOD meetings. The BCHC Executive Committee is responsible for tracking and monitoring progress.

IMPORTANCE OF BYLAW REVISIONS

Keeping your Unit Bylaws up to date

By Chip Herzig and Susie Patton

As the Executive Committee has been reviewing the organization of BCHC and watching us grow into a better, more professional organization; we have realized that just changing the bylaws at the State level does not always filter down to the Units.

We became aware that several important bylaws changes have been approved at the State level that the Units really need to incorporate into their Unit Bylaws. They are the bylaws about **membership and removal of a member.**

We have added two new membership categories to BCHC:

- 1) YOUNG ADULT – a membership for young people 18 to 24 – an individual membership entitling them to one member vote in the Unit.
- 2) YOUTH – Membership is defined as a non-voting individual member between ages 12-17 years. This membership requires parental/guardian written permission to participate in BCHC events and the appropriate signed release forms.

Because we realize that BCHC needs to recruit new, younger members we created the new memberships at reduced membership rates. The Executive Committee would like all Units to update their bylaws to include these memberships.

Unfortunately, sometime situations arise that force a Unit into asking someone to leave the Unit. This is not to be taken lightly, but as very serious matter that can be very stressful for a Unit. We have created a bylaw whereby Units can get through this process in a straight forward, legal way. It is therefore very important to follow specific steps. All Units have been asked to incorporate this bylaw, word for word into their Unit bylaws.

On August 12, 2020, all Units received a letter from President Michael King asking them to incorporate these two State bylaws into their Unit bylaws and sign a certification that they had reviewed their bylaws and they were in compliance with the State bylaws.

BCHC NEWS



THE SEVEN PRIORITY OBJECTIVES OF BCHC'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Seven objectives form the core of BCHC's strategic plan. In the plan, each objective is accompanied by a description of desired outcomes and an action plan units can follow to implement the objectives.

Each unit will negotiate its implementation selections and responsibilities after the strategic plan has been formally adopted by Board vote.

The seven objectives are:

1. Enable more trail maintenance and trail support projects
2. Make program of best practices available to local units
3. Rebuild Rendezvous attendance
4. Youth program development
5. New member development and retention
6. Website and social media transition
7. BCHC services available to local units

For more information, see your unit or state leaders.



MEET MICHAEL KING, continued from page 1

as they gathered cattle. That quilt is now over 60 years old. In addition to helping manage the cattle ranch, Michael's father was a heavy equipment owner/operator and his mother was a hard-working homemaker, instilled with a Midwestern work ethic. She was practical and thrifty, making full use of what she had to work with. For example, if more fruit hit the house than what could be consumed fresh, the canning jars came out and canning was underway! She raised all six children with a firm but loving hand.

Michael attended high school in Fillmore where he majored in Ag Sciences and eagerly joined the FFA. During his freshman year, Southern California experienced a major flood during January and February 1969. The ranch, which normally experienced 15 to 20 average inches of annual rainfall, saw 80 inches that winter. Michael reports that the spillway lip at Lake Piru is 475 feet wide and, when the water finally spilled in February, the water was running six feet deep. That is a lot of water!

There was much damage everywhere, including to an 80-acre golf course in Fillmore. As there was no interest in reopening the golf course, Michael's Ag teacher came up with a plan for a school farm on the property. A bond issue was proposed and passed, and the property was purchased. Michael spent many hours helping to clear and re-level the land, build fences, corrals and pens, plant crops and repair the original clubhouse building, which is now an onsite classroom.

After graduation from high school in 1972, Michael attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where he majored in Ag Business Management. He took a one-year leave from school to work and make some money so he could continue college.

Back in college in 1974, Michael signed up for the 12-unit, quarter long horseshoeing class taught by accomplished farrier, Gene Armstrong whose class was so popular and in demand there was a two-year waiting list to get in. Michael finally made it for the spring class of 1976 and reports having a great time learning a new skill and making some fantastic new friends. One of his classmates was Lee Roeser, now an organizer of BCHC's Wilderness Intern Program.

Michael says the horseshoeing class, plus two previous quarters of lousy (with a capital L) registration times, set him back about a year in advancement toward his Bachelor of Science degree. Not to worry, the light academic schedule allowed him time to work and earn funds for school.

Michael graduated from Cal Poly in the fall of 1978 and went into the Farm Credit System's loan officer training program. He spent time training at the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank in Sacramento, then was off to field experience stints in Salinas, Southwest Cal and Imperial-Yuma Production Credit Associations (PCA).

At Imperial-Yuma PCA, Michael was stationed at the El Centro office for four weeks in June. It was extremely hot there with daytime temperatures of 120 degrees. Michael exclaimed, "Wow! I grew up in hot country, but nothing like that!" After completing the six-month training program, he was offered a position at each of the three associations where he trained, but wisely chose

BCHC NEWS

the cooler climate of Salinas.

Michael worked at that job for 16 years and then decided to move to Turlock where he took a job at Central Valley PCA's Patterson Branch. After a couple of years there he began looking for a change of pace. He saw a job opening flyer with the National Park Service doing backcountry maintenance that really caught his interest.

There were many requirements for the job, all of which Michael met, including horseshoeing. The one prerequisite he lacked was a Class A driver's license. After submitting the application, he immediately got his learner's permit and started taking truck driving lessons. Just before he received his permanent license, he received a rejection letter. In a call to the Park Service contact person inquiring as to the rejection since there was such an eclectic set of prerequisites, Michael said, "Surely there can't be that many people who met all of your requirements." He was told, "Well, there was one person," and Michael instantly realized they wrote the job description around someone they wanted to hire! Since he was tired of his old job and now had his Class A driver's license, he decided to "keep on truckin'." He continues to drive truck to this very day.

Michael was introduced to packing by his brother, James, who had recently been on a pack trip with a friend. James invited Michael on a deer hunting pack trip and he was hooked. He later heard of a BCHC Rendezvous in Visalia or Porterville, decided it sounded interesting and attended. He really enjoyed the event, thought BCHC was a great organization and decided to become a member then and there. When Michael moved to Turlock in 1992, he joined the Mid Valley Unit.

Michael faithfully attended unit board meetings and joined in some of the activities when time allowed. One day Lloyd Erlandson asked Michael if he would be interested in running for the unit's Board of Directors. Michael replied, "I'm not sure I'd know what to do, but why not?" So, he put his name on the ballot.

The night of the election was the unit's annual Christmas party accompanied by a fundraising drawing for a horse. Election results were announced but Michael didn't win. He also didn't get drawn for the horse. Later that evening, a Mid Valley Unit member asked Michael if he felt badly about not being elected to the board. Michael replied, "No, not really, but I am disappointed about not winning the horse!"

Michael went on to be elected to Mid Valley Unit's Board of Directors the next year and has served for many years since then. He was encouraged to run for unit presidency and, in 2010, he was elected and served two consecutive two-year terms. In 2018, he came back as president for another year.

Besides being a unit officer and a director, Michael has been very involved in many projects and activities. He has been on several backcountry pack trip work parties, helped with packing demonstrations at the County Fair and organized a Membership

Retention Committee to help involve and keep the unit's newer members.

In 2012, Michael's brother James shared a fundraising idea that was a big money maker for his group, the Native Sons of the Golden West. Later called the Lucky Calendar project, a colorful calendar and raffle ticket were sold. Drawings were held many times throughout the year and money was won. A final big payout was held New Year's Day.

Michael brought this idea to the BCHC State Board of Directors meeting. The directors were skeptical and feared it could not work. Never tell Michael that something cannot be done. He proposed the idea to Mid Valley Unit's board and said, "Let's do this and show them it CAN be done and WILL make money." The first year 1,000 calendars were printed and sold. Mid Valley did it again the following year - another 1,000 sold! The Lucky Calendar fundraiser brought in \$22,000 to Mid Valley Unit and proved it could be done.

The third year the fundraiser was handed over to State BCHC as originally intended. Even though enthusiasm to sell the calendars varied among units and not all the calendars were sold each year over the three years of the project, over \$70,000 was raised for BCHC! Combined with Mid Valley Unit's success, the calendar project brought in more than \$92,000. To this day, Michael still says that with a little effort it was a very easy way to make money for BCHC and have fun while doing it, too!

This brings us to the present day. In 2019, Michael was approached by Past BCHC President Chip Herzig and asked if he would consider running for the State BCHC presidency. Michael was interested in the idea, but said he had to talk about it with his wife first. "I'll let you know," he told Chip. Michael jokingly related how his wife might kill him for taking on another responsibility, as she was very aware of the time and effort he poured into unit activities. Not to worry. They talked it over and JeriAnn gave her blessing. The rest is becoming history!

The deadline for submissions for the

FALL 2021 EDITION

of The Backcountry News is: **OCTOBER 22, 2021**

Send submissions to:

BCHC Editor

BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com

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



PHOTOS NEEDED OF NON-EQUINE HORSE CAMP USE

Use of horse camps by non-equine campers is becoming a bigger problem than it has in the past within US National Forests. This is a situation that is occurring more and more throughout the country. BCHA is planning to address this situation with a strong push that will most likely take years to resolve. This is due to much of the problem being that there is no rule within the Forest Service that restricts non-equine campers from using horse camps. So they are in need of photos of non-equine use of horse camps to support this campaign. Please send any that you have to me so I can get them to BCHA.

Thanks,
Bob Magee
bhcemail@gmail.com

PS: The President of BCHC comments on this:
"This problem won't go away on its own folks. When you see instances of what Bob is talking about here, provide BCHA with the evidence it needs to fight the problem. Take photos, note the location time and date, and how long the offenders were there. Forward this information to Bob as soon as you get it."

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP?

By Dennis M. Serpa, BCHA Ad Hoc Membership Chair

If you want to have an organization that is healthy and progressive, you need an aggressive membership campaign. BCHA's motto, "Keeping Trails Open for All," is why we need more members to carry out the never-ending work of making it so. How can we INCREASE MEMBERSHIP? We have an abundance of recommendations on how to find, recruit and get new members involved in BCHA. Just copy the following link for the BCH Washington Membership Handbook: <https://cdn.ymaws.com/bcha.site-ym.com/resource/collection/B8795F31-254C-4E4E-A56E-EB1766DCF2B8/BCHWA%20Membership%20Development%20handbook.pdf>

Once we get new members, then comes the job of retaining them for years to come. One of the best ways to keep them is to create a mentoring program to show them all the benefits of BCHA. Whoever brings in a new member should ensure the new member has access to everything BCHA offers. Bring them with you to meetings and activities to get them involved and meet other members. Making them feel welcome and engaged is important to convert a *new* member to an *active* member. These activities and more can be sustained with a unit Membership Development and Retention Committee. If your unit has not started a committee with a focus on members, please go to the BCHA Membership Development and Retention Committee's recommendations at the following link to help you get started: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=14IDUb-jZxRk8kaA8HMJUzqJbllipzQJE>

If anyone has other ideas on membership, please share them with me so we can share with our membership committees: dmserpa@velociter.net or phone 209-531-5175. Thank you!

National Public Lands Day is September 26, 2020! What does it mean to you?

Join BCHA by sharing your love of our public lands. Tag BCHA in your social media posts at #BCHA and @BCHofAmerica

BCHA NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Back Country Horsemen of America recently asked if you would be willing to NOT receive their newsletter as a hard copy but, instead, obtain the newsletter on the BCHA website.

For example, you can find the recent copy of the newsletter here: <https://www.bcha.org/blog/2020/07/01/summer-newsletter-2020/>

Thanks to all who have responded. If you have not done so already, please advise Membership Coordinator Chip Herzig if you are willing to make this change.

Remember, the national newsletter will NOT be emailed to you. You will need to go to the BCHA website to view the newsletter. Chip suspects BCHA will email us to let us know the quarterly newsletter is available online.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

YOUR TIME IS WORTH MORE THAN YOU KNOW!

By 2nd Vice President of Service Cindy McMurry

So, you want to know what all the hype about Volunteer Hours is about? Here is a short discussion on how all this information is used and why it is so important.

The data we collect from all of our project work, education events, trail riding, meetings and administrative work is gathered, first at the local level (your unit) then sent to Backcountry Horsemen of California's 2nd Vice President of Service where it is checked for accuracy and the Pay Schedule Formulas in the Excel form are updated with the newest Federal Government Contract Rates.

The totals for each unit are then transferred to a new document where they are summarized and then transmitted to BCHA where the information from all of the State Chapters is totaled to give us a picture of how our membership spends their very precious time in serving our communities and assisting local, state and federal agencies to provide access to our public lands and educate users in Wilderness/Outdoor Ethics on a national level.

At this point, all that information can now be used in various ways. At the local level, federal agencies use the information we provide them to demonstrate partnerships in the community, identify project needs, apply for funding for special projects and document work done on local trails, etc. We, BCHC, use the information to demonstrate the need for additional resources or project work we would like to see in our local area. Many units also use the information to determine who receives their Top Hand Award. We can also use this information to gauge our progress and commitment to our community from year to year.

At the state level, the information is used to lobby for special projects or needs such as rulings on trail classifications and uses. BCHC uses the information for determining the Education Award and demonstrating our commitment to our Mission Statement with our agency partners.

When the information is sent on to BCHA, it is used for all of the above but, particularly for lobbying purposes.

If this isn't enough to get you excited about documenting your hours, here is another way to look at it: For every hour of basic work you do, setting up for an event, administrative work and meetings attended, cooking for a trail crew, lopping brush on a trail, picking up trash (basically unskilled work), your time is worth \$24.69 per hour. Multiply that by, say 10 people on the project, and your time is worth \$246.90 per hour. As you can see, the value can quickly add up to an impressive total.

WORKING EASY

Tips on Collecting Volunteer Service Hours

By Jennifer Best, San Joaquin Sierra Unit

I'm a pretty active rider and volunteer. I live nearly adjacent to Los Padres National Forest, ride Montana de Oro, Pismo and Morro Bay, the riverbeds of North County. I'm also a hiker, a mountain biker, a four-wheeler, a fisherman and lifelong camper. I was raised to understand all these interests share a common theme: if we want places to play in special places, we need to volunteer to maintain them. Last summer, I had the best opportunity ever to balance my interests and record ample volunteer hours.

Though my volunteer service last year began with a Central Coast, in July an opportunity arose for me to serve as paid camp host in the Sierra National Forest. Of course, I jumped at the chance to be paid to camp (and clean restrooms, register campers and act occasionally as dorm mother to less mature campers of any age). After all, it would put me six hours' drive closer to a variety of wilderness trailheads I could explore on any given afternoon and every single weekend.

I've done some solo packing into the Sierra's Dinkey Lakes Wilderness in recent years, but the hosting position put me in line to further explore the Dinkey as well as test the waters in John Muir Wilderness, Ansel Adams Wilderness and more of the Sierra National Forest backcountry. The lakes and meadows were spectacular and every ride was a reconnaissance mission with few to no riders or hikers along the way. In six weekends of backcountry exploration, I came across seven other individuals, all on foot, and two leashed dogs. I witnessed indescribable beauty and peace and benefited from historically significant trail builds clearly completed by skilled hands.

Picking up volunteer hours was a cinch. It started with repairing fence in the pasture where I would keep my horse part-time, the largest single undertaking with local cowboys offering help, but never showing up to follow through with this crazy woman and her fence tool. It took two full weekend days and every afternoon after work for a week to get that old fence back in order. Honestly, it would have been quicker and easier to build an entirely new fence, but I didn't have the supply funds so I made do with donations of my own: a spool of wire I picked up in town, T-stakes from our pile at home, my own tools, energy and sweat. My "skilled work" column numbers got a good boost, my horse had a home, and campers and I enjoyed her company.

From here on in, the volunteer efforts were, well, almost effortless and exemplified just how easy volunteer hours can be. As I was voluntarily reporting back to the volunteer rangers at High Sierra Ranger Station any trail conditions I found, every hour on the trail counted in my "trail recon" column. Inevitably, I'd find trash, an illegal fire ring full of broken glass, a downed sign, a downed tree. It didn't take much space to carry a compass, GPSr and maps that helped me resituate downed signs, plastic bags to gather trash and stuff in my saddlebag, a hand saw to trim branches that blocked the trail. Most of these incidental efforts required little time to fix Or clean up, adding to my "basic work" column.

Back at camp, during my personal time, I rolled rocks in the river to create a better horse/human crossing to access a trail to the ranger station. It was a mixed

See *WORKING EASY*, page 13

PUBLIC LANDS

PUBLIC LANDS UPDATE

By Co-VP Public Lands Troy Patton

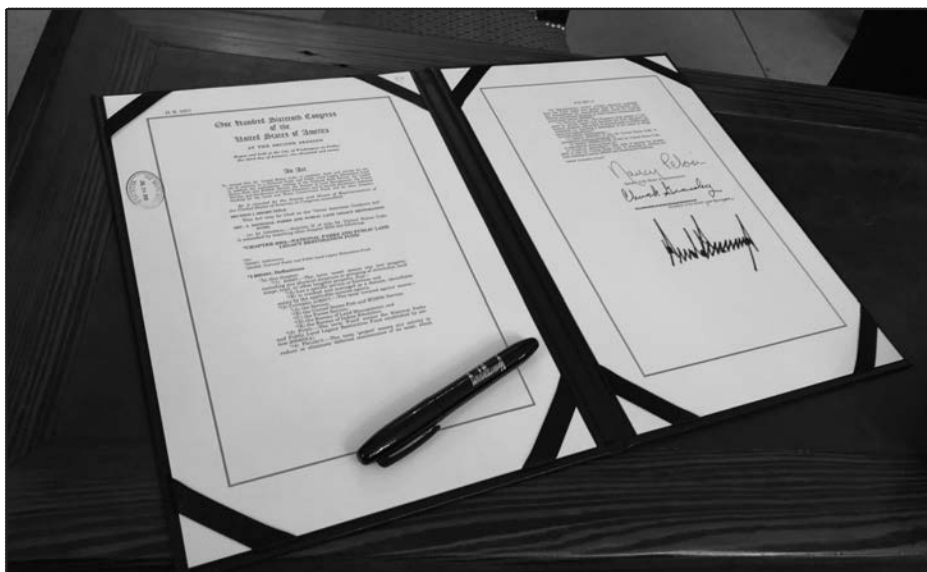
GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

On July 22, the House approved the Great American Outdoors Act and sent it to President Trump who signed it into law in early August. This was a great victory for backcountry lovers across the nation. The bill will fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million annually. It will also provide \$9.5 billion over five years for deferred maintenance for the Forest Service (\$1.4 billion), National Parks (\$6.6 billion), Bureau of Land Management (\$4.7 million) as well as allocating monies for Fish and Wildlife and the Bureau of Indian Education.

This money is not taxpayer generated. It is from the fees and royalties paid to the government from oil and gas drilling offshore in federal water. This funding could be fragile depending on how future legislators handle environmental concerns.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides funds and grants to federal, state and local governments for the acquisition of land and water plus the easements for the access to land and water to benefit all Americans. The main emphases of the fund are recreation and the protection of national natural treasures in the forms of parks and protected forest and wildlife areas.

We are hopeful this bill will allow us, as volunteers, to assist our land managers in working on the massive backlog of maintenance issues.



ELECTRIC BIKES

As most of you know, the lawsuit against the Tahoe National Forest was settled with them removing their proposal to allow electric bikes on miles of non-motorized trails. Backcountry Horsemen were leaders in exposing behind the scenes efforts to legitimize the use of motorized electric bikes (e-bikes) on non-motorized trails. We have consistently made the case that

e-bikes do not belong on trails used by hikers and horseback riders – that safety is paramount.

We then confronted an attempt in April by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to amend the management rules so that e-bikes are considered the same as any other bike; a bike is a bike whether it has a motor or not. In other words, e-bikes are not considered a motorized vehicle. This allows them to bypass the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that requires public comment and environmental protection studies. Thank you to the many BCHC members who stepped up and sent numerous letters and emails to BLM decrying this change as a huge safety and liability issue. There has been no further information issued on this since the closure of the comment period.

We are confident that the lawsuit and settlement have shown that BCHA, BCHC and the Wilderness Society will challenge agency decisions when made outside of law and prevailing agency policy.

The California Fish and Wildlife has come out with a report that the biking community will not like. This report states that bikes venture off of designated trails and create more unauthorized trails than any other recreational users. They recognize that unauthorized trails have a negative effect on the plant and wildlife of any area. They also report that wildlife leaves their habitat 70 percent of the time when recreational users are on a designed trail. Wildlife leaves their habitat 96 percent of the time and moves even further away from their habitat when recreational users are on an unauthorized trail.

HORSE CAMPS

BCHA has been involved in the use of designated horse campgrounds by other forest users. There have been surveys done and it is not surprising that this is a problem all across the nation. In fact, 44 percent of the people returning the survey (over 3,000 people) say they have observed non-equestrians using a designated horse camp. The survey reported that 93 percent of the time other campers will not vacate a horse camping spot to allow equestrians to use it. In Tahoe National Forest only 3.8 percent of the camps are designated for horses. Now most of those camps are being used by anyone who wants to camp there.

This is a national issue and, hopefully, the Forest Service will respond to our calls for keeping these horse camps for equestrian use. It is important that we do our part and try to use the horse camps as often as possible.

Special thanks to all the BCHC members out there who have notified me about Public Lands issues in their areas. The things we have accomplished this year show what we can do by working together. Without your alertness and ears to the ground, I could not do this job.

Remember – this country was explored, surveyed, mapped and settled by people using horses and pack stock. We have a strong historical background in the development of our nation and we should not be pushed into only riding in Wilderness areas.

EDUCATION

WINTER SAW CLASS

By BCHC Saw Coordinator Dan Horn

Over the weekend of January 11-13, 2020, Tony August (Instructor Trainee) and I drove down from Santa Rosa to Lopez Lake in Arroyo Grande to conduct a chainsaw class for Los Padres Unit.

The class had been arranged by Greg Feinberg, Vice President of LP Unit and one of our saw Instructor Trainees. We camped at Lopez Lake in the equestrian campground which is really a great facility. Lopez Lake is a county park with many campsites and full trailer hookups - just about every camping style you would want. The equestrian camp has full corrals with water and room for every size rig. I was really impressed.

On Saturday we did the classroom portion of the class which was about six hours. There were 16 students - about half BCH members and the other half park rangers. Thanks to LP Unit for providing lunch to all of us. The facility where we held class was an old Boy Scout Camp that the county bought and added to the park. Huge dining room, beautiful kitchen with a full walk-in refrigerator and a lawn area with a gazebo where they hold weddings. Greg told us the unit can use it for events. I was a bit jealous; we don't have such a nice set up in our area.

The class was so big that we had to split Field Evaluations to do half on Sunday and the balance on Monday.

Sunday's group was mostly the BCH members. There was some good talent in the group, a few that probably could make "C" Sawyer with some practice. We worked through the list - axing, limbing - and then started bucking the trees. We set up some good binds to challenge the students.

Monday's class was mostly all the county park rangers. A huge oak tree had come down in one campground Saturday night, so the rangers asked if we could work on it to help them out. It had limbs so big and twisted, we had trouble finding binds. At the end the rangers said it was one of the best trainings they had attended.

In February, Tony and I held a chainsaw class here at home on Army Corps at Lake Sonoma. Six students. We got lucky with no rain for those days. We had another class in the works for March, but you all know what happened with this COVID-19 shut down.

Remember: "We have books and saws, will travel!"

Image by Franz W., Pixabay

SAWYER PROGRAM CHANGES

By BCHC Saw Coordinator Dan Horn

This past spring, Mike Lewis stepped down as BCHC Saw Coordinator. Dan Horn was appointed by BCHC President Michael King to finish the two-year term position.

Dan Horn has also accepted a position as BCHA National Saw Policy Coordinator.

Also new this year is the creation of a BCHC Sawyer Steering Committee made up of Dan Horn, Chairman, Chip Herzig, Dan Chartier and Dave Moser (technical advisor). Chip Herzig serves as BCHC Safety Officer.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT FOR CHAINSAW

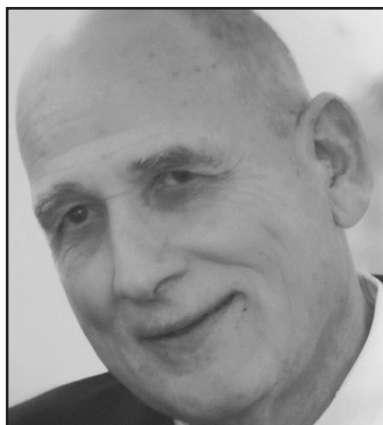
SAWYER & SWAMPER

(from bchcalifornia.org)

This is a list of approved equipment that is needed to use Chainsaw or Cross Cut in the forest. *(For specific detail, see BCHC website, Saw Training tab.)*

1. Chaps - It is required that chaps go down the leg to the boot, most people wear a 36" chap. UL certified to ASTM standards
2. Axe - The Dayton style head is perfect for cleaning out undercuts and the 5 lb square back head will drive wedges with power.
3. Wedges - Three (8, 10 and 12 inches).
4. Hard hat
5. Hearing protection - muffs or foam ear plugs
6. Safety glasses
7. Boots have to be 8 inch high
8. Clothing must be in good condition and free of hanging strings

IN MEMORIAM



JERRY STARLING LEDBETTER

August 25, 1938 - April 4, 2020

Jerry Ledbetter, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle and friend went peacefully home to be with his Lord, Saturday morning, April 4, surrounded by his family.

Jerry was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on Thursday, August 25, 1938, to Burel and Jerene Ledbetter. During World War II, his father joined the Coast Guard and moved his family to the San Francisco East Bay Area where Jerry eventually met the love of his life, Barbara Ann Kelly, at church.

Jerry and Barbara were married in 1956 and eventually made their home in Hayward, California, where they purchased their first home and began raising their young family, Rita (born 1956), Geri (born 1957) and Kelly (born 1960). Jerry worked as a carpenter for his father's construction company until he joined the Alameda County Sheriff's Department in 1960. In 1965, he left Alameda County and moved his family to Arnold, in Calaveras County, where he joined his father in a business, BM Ledbetter Cabinets, building custom cabinets. Although he loved living in the mountains among the trees, his desire to work in law enforcement was stronger than his love for the open outdoors, so he joined the Sacramento Police Department in April 1968. He retired from Sacramento PD in April 1994, after 26 years, at the rank of deputy chief.

In 2000, Jerry and Barbara sold their home in Elverta and moved to Somerset. He loved his home in El Dorado County, telling everyone that he felt like he woke up on vacation every day.

Jerry never lost his love for the great outdoors and shared that love with his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He spent time camping, traveling in the back country on horseback, backpacking and fishing. He and Barbara have spent their retirement years taking cruises and traveling in their fifth wheel to almost every corner of the United States. Their favorite trips, however, were spent with family and friends at Bishop Mule Days celebrating Memorial Day and on the beach in Pismo over Thanksgiving week each year.

During his years living in Somerset, Jerry became an active member of Backcountry Horsemen, serving on many committees and teaching classes. He also worked tirelessly to preserve the horse trails in El Dorado County.

Jerry was preceded in death by his grandson, his father and his mother. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Barbara; his sister and brother-in-law; three children and their spouses: seven grandchildren and spouses, and eight great grandchildren. Jerry was the center of his family, is greatly loved and will be forever

missed and remembered fondly every day.

Jerry was laid to rest Thursday, April 9, at Westwood Memorial Park. When virus restrictions are lifted, a memorial and celebration of his life will take place around his 82nd birthday, August 25 of this year.

Jerry's family gives a special thank you to Snowline Hospice for the compassionate care and support given to him and his family and especially to their nurse, Pam.



MARIS HAWKINS

Maris Hawkins died over Easter weekend and her passing has left a huge hole in our hearts and in our Redwood Unit, and in BCH as an organization.

Maris was an active member of Redwood Unit since 1992.

She had a great sense of humor and was always ready to make any event a

fun place to be. She had a terrific smile, was always kind and helpful.

She served as Redwood Unit treasurer from 1995 through 1997 and resumed those duties in 2004 until her passing in April 2020. Maris was very conscientious about the duties of the position of treasurer and made sure all funds were properly accounted for. Bills were paid on time and her monthly reports were accurate and clear to understand.

Maris also kept on top of the Redwood Unit budget and informed the Unit of all aspects of it.

Maris was a very important member of the Redwood Unit Half Ass Flat Catered Ride fund-raiser. She helped with the shopping and collecting registration fees and paying all the bills accrued by the ride committee.

She was an active participant in other Redwood Unit functions: the Annual Pack Clinic, our members' only Pack Clinic, the Trail Challenges, work parties at Stanshaw and Ten Bear Trail Heads, monthly conditioning rides, Cowboy Canned Food Drive, and our annual Christmas dinner, to name a few.

Maris also served for many years as one of our Redwood Unit Directors to State Board meetings.

Darrel and Carole Polasek have known Maris since 1992. She has been to the Marble Mountain Wilderness with us many times. One memorable year she brought her twin sons, Jesse and Lee, with us and our grandsons, Cody and Kyle, to Hancock Lake in the Marbles. It was a great trip and all four boys were about the same age and played baseball at the lake together. They fished and swam in the lake and rode the equines and had a wonderful time.

In 2013 the Back Country Horsemen of America published a Membership Directory in honor of their 40th Anniversary. Maris submitted the photo that was used as the cover for this directory.

Maris was also an avid Los Angeles Dodgers baseball fan and attended several of their games over the years, including some during spring training.

EDUCATION

THE INTERN PROGRAM - UPDATED REPORT

By the BCHC Intern Program Committee

We had multiple Zoom meetings with BCHC, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps (ESCC). Great partnerships and better understanding of the program. There have been multiple changes in the documents since we started this committee. As you will notice, we added statement of "being an ambassador for BCHC." We also added the statement, "The mission of this program is to recruit and train an Intern that may become the new generation" and made the term "Intern" to be throughout the document. Our job on the Intern Program Committee was to look at how the pieces of the puzzle fit. This program is multi organizational with USFS, BCHC and ESCC. Backcountry Horsemen of California + US Forest Service with Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps present the USFS Pack Stock Center of Excellence Apprenticeship Intern Program. All changes made to this document were discussed with all the partners during meetings.

We have been hearing about our partnership with ESSC and during the meetings we all had an aha moment. They are such an important piece of the puzzle, more than any of us knew. If you have a few minutes, please look at the ESSC website (<http://www.easternsierracc.org>). They are a very impressive group.

We would like to share some of the successes of the committee, they are as follows: Our job on the Intern Program Committee was to look at how the pieces of the puzzle fit.

We have in place other options (researching grants) to help fund the program.

We have a plan in place where we can expand our search for candidates.

We have a plan to do in-person interviews at Rendezvous with the partners on the final candidates.

We found that the intern will be an employee of ESCC and USFS Eastern Sierra Conservation Corp. is a fantastic leadership program the Intern is involved in, in addition to the programs the USFS has for the intern.

We can't make changes to the agency program protocols re USFS and ESCC and their procedures and interactions with Interns. we found the FS supervisors have a comprehensive and detailed program of training that includes expectations for the interns' condition of employment including a disciplinary action plan that all employees follow.

This program is a great asset for future leadership and supporting our passion of ensuring future generations become good stewards of our public lands and the passion of helping future generations. The USFS has had great success with Intern programs in the past, with students being involved with employment in the agencies. Michael Morris and Agnes both praised the students that have been through their programs in the past. They discussed the success of the partnerships and programs.

Michael Morris has reported to us that six of the eight interns have been employed by the agencies. We have listed a few of them below.

Katy B has taken the BCHC Wilderness Riders Master Course program last year and is being groomed for the liaison position with USFS and BCHC. She was employed with BLM and now is with USFS.

Tyler is now a permanent employee at the Trinity Center of Excellence (COE).

KristiAnne is working for the McGee Pack Station this year while enjoying being a new mom. She does intend to make FS Packer a career.

Throughout the West, a large percentage of FS Packers are reaching retirement age and there is a need to accelerate the number of interns going through training in order to meet the coming shortage of quality packers. The benefits to our organization are many

faceted including providing us with talented young partners dedicated to being good stewards of our public lands. Not all will make the high quality packers we would like to work with in the future but many of them will and this is how we help the FS find the kind of quality employees their program requires and deserves. This summer's extreme fire season has illustrated just how valuable these FS employees are.

We are thankful to the BCHC Executive Committee for allowing us to dig in to this topic and discuss the programs with the agencies and share what we learned with you.

Please let the committee know if we can answer any questions:

Dennis Serpa (dmserpa@velociter.net)

Cindy McMurry (mcmurricindy@gmail.com)

Stacy Kuhns (stacykuhns@aol.com)



Mules on fire duty hauling fire proof wrap to save a cabin

WORKING EASY, continued from page 9

reward: volunteer hours, service to campers and myself, and a great way to cool off on hot afternoons for someone who just can't seem to sit still. I picked up trash on my walks up the trails for after-work dips in the local lakes. I gathered for the lost-and-found box folks' clothes from the hot springs where, presumably during their late-night dips, they'd somehow forgotten to grab their pants on the way out.

Volunteering doesn't have to be this involved. For those who can't get out to ride, there are newsletters to edit and distribute, paperwork to be done, volunteer hours to gather, membership chair duties to coordinate. For those ready to hit the trail, simply keep an eye out for work that needs to be done. Report it back to our unit, local rangers or facilities managers. There's your recon. If you have the skills, time and energy, fix it yourself; there's the problem solved and some basic trailwork hours recorded. Most of all, record these hours and turn them in to our volunteer coordinator to help BCH better quantify the value of having mounted volunteers on the trails. We use them. Let's show we care about them.

UNIT NEWS

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA

SHAVER LAKE HORSE CAMP OPEN TO OCTOBER 31

By Ruth Cramer

Have you been dreaming about getting out and riding? Here is a suggestion... BCHC San Joaquin Sierra Unit again makes the Shaver Lake Horse Camp available for use by BCHC members and associate members wishing to enjoy camping and riding at Shaver Lake.

Shaver Lake is situated at 5,300 ft. elevation within the Sierra National Forest on scenic recreational land. There are ample riding destinations, as the camp itself is adjacent to the 12.5 mile Perimeter Trail that surrounds the lake. Also in the vicinity are the Ely Mountain and Balsam Forebay Trails.

The camp is located behind a locked gate, one mile east of Highway 168 on Dinkey Creek Road. It is a dry camp with portable sanitary facilities. There are three tables, a fire pit and three stalls. Fire regulations apply; gas cookstoves can be used on the table top. And, of course, campers must Leave No Trace.

California's Greatest Lakes.com describes Shaver Lake as "one of the most enjoyable vacation lakes in California," with a "balmy, 78-degree average high temperature." This writer has enjoyed many pleasurable hours riding and appreciating a picture-perfect view at every turn. Make your plans and reservations now to enjoy a perfect mountain experience for both you and your horse.

The camp will be open June 13 through October 31, 2020, for SJSU members only.

Cost is per membership—\$10/day for camping, \$5/day for picnic use.

Other units are welcome to use the camp after joining as Associate Members (\$15 additional).

To make reservations, contact: Ruth Cramer (racramer@outlook.com) or 559-417-3878



LOS PADRES



RINCONADA TRAIL WORKDAY

By Melody Fountain

The Rinconada Trail is located approximately 15 miles east of Santa Margarita on Pozo Road. This multi-use trail is very popular with hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. Motorcycles and other vehicles are not allowed on this trail. The trailhead and trail are managed by the Santa Lucia Ranger District of the Los Padres National Forest.

On January 18, 2020, Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers (3CMB), organized a volunteer workday to do maintenance on the Rinconada Trail. To support the effort, Backcountry Horsemen of California, Los Padres Unit (BCH), provided lunch for the volunteers. Twenty three people showed up and about one-third were horseback riders! Kathy Redden of 3CMB, BCH and Atascadero Horsemen's Club organized everyone into groups and went over the Job Hazard Analysis. All but three grabbed their tools and walked up the trail to clean drains, fix erosion problems and trim vegetation.

Back at the trailhead, the lunch crew had coffee, tea and hot chocolate available for all. After the trail workers left, the lunch crew picked up some litter, moved the branches from a downed tree off the road, fixed a few drains to get water off the road and drove to Santa Margarita to get gourmet sandwiches and cookies. Thank you, Jennifer Best, for making the arrangements with Calliwalla, the new grocery store in town. About noon, everyone came back for lunch and to report their accomplishments. All were in great spirits, had a good time and loved the sandwiches.

In addition to the trail work, BCH arranged for a donation of a truck and trailer load of road base from Weyrick Sand and Gravel, to be brought in on January 24, to fill some of the ruts in the road. Fixing the road completely will take bigger equipment and is beyond our volunteer capabilities but, hopefully, it will make driving in a little better. Thank you also, to Atascadero Horsemen's Club members and Forest Service volunteers, Ashley and Joe Dillard, who brought in their tractor to move the road base around.

Keeping our trails useable is a true group effort! Make sure you do your part, especially if you use them. Pick up after yourself and others to make sure horse use is always seen as positive! Thank you everyone!

UNIT NEWS

LOS PADRES

PACKING SCHOOL - CAL POLY SLO

Submitted by Lou Moore-Jacobsen

With the packing industry going through so many changes over the years it is refreshing to see new faces being introduced. In 2016, Cal Poly University, San Luis Obispo, put together an independent team to compete at Bishop Mule Days in the interscholastic competition with the help of Rick and Lou Moore Jacobsen. It was so successful from both a student and spectator standpoint, and had such good feedback from alumni that witnessed them Mule Days, that the Packing Enterprise was offered for the 2017 academic year. The first class offered had 22 students enroll and three teams compete at Mule Days that same year and the class has been full every quarter since.

The team has been generously sponsored by Backcountry Horseman Los Padres Unit, making it possible for them to go and compete. They have also had numerous people and groups donate equipment such as pack saddles, bags and boxes, lash cinches and ropes, and a dummy (named Willard) that they can use to practice on in their free time. All that generosity paid off in 2018 when one of the three teams tied for the Interscholastic Packing championship with Modesto Junior College. The members on that team, twin sisters Irini and Eleni Pateras, Maddie Perry, and Annika Moe formed a lasting friendship that, even after graduating, they are making plans to come to Mule Days and compete individually.

A number of the students from the enterprise have now gone on to work at different pack stations in California as well as in Montana and Wyoming. In addition, the Packing Enterprise hosted Sheila Gow from Yosemite Hospitality for a recruitment day on campus where they had a nice turnout where all the available jobs, including trail guides and packers, were presented and explained to the group. It was a successful day and the students are planning more public service days in the future.

We hope you wear your green and gold and come cheer on the Cal Poly teams at the 50th Anniversary of Bishop Mule Days! (*Editor's Note: 2020 Mule Days was cancelled due to COVID-19.*)



HIGH SIERRA

WOLVERTON STOCK CAMP OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Article submitted by Dick Cochran. Photo by Bob Herrick



The Wolverton Stock Camp, located in Sequoia National Park in the Central Sierra Nevada Mountains in Central California, is now open to private stock users. This camp, the first of six stock facilities provided for in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP) issued in 2015, provides private stock users with two improved campsites as well as two corrals. There is ample parking for stock rigs as well.

The facility will be open from approximately June to October each year. A system was established to make reservations for the facility. To access the system, a user will need to go to the official website for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI), go to the Camping portion of the site and then to the part describing Wolverton Stock Camp. The user will then be directed to access a further part of the website in order to get more details about the facility and to apply for a reservation. There is a \$22 fee per day to use the facility.

The Wolverton Stock Camp (WSC) is located near the giant sequoia trees for which the park is famous. The nearby General Sherman tree is among the largest living things on this Earth.

A former commercial pack station was located at the same location. There are multiple trails that can be accessed by riders.

The WSC is best accessed by coming from the north through Kings Canyon National Park from Highway 180. There is a scenic drive between the two parks to be enjoyed. Another way to access the WSC is up Highway 198 from Visalia but this route has numerous hairpin turns and steep grades and is difficult to navigate pulling a horse trailer.

The High Sierra Unit has been working with management of SEKI to get the WSC up and running and is collaborating with SEKI management to implement the remaining five facilities.

(*Editor's Note: The campground is presently closed due to Covid 19.*)

UNIT NEWS

MOTHER LODE

MLU SPONSORS BSA TROOP 186 ON THE XP TRAIL

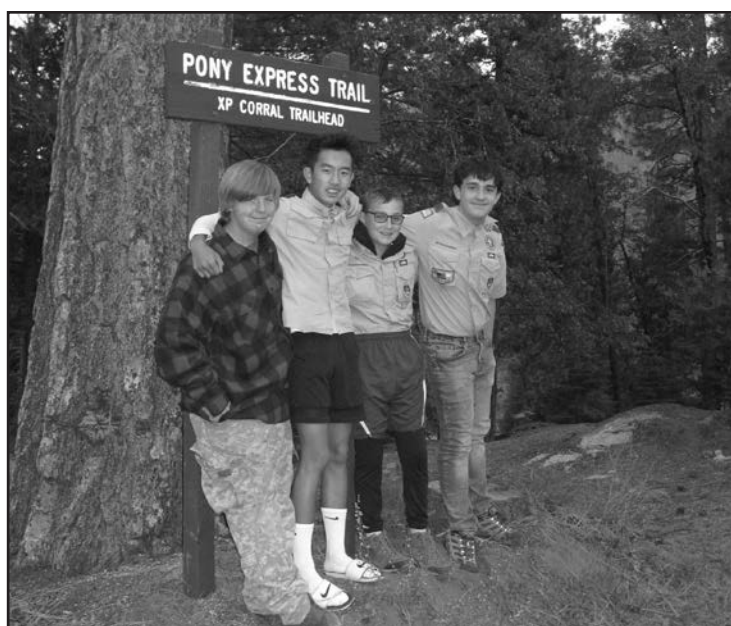
By Lucy Badenhoop

In 2018, volunteers restored the XP Corral Trailhead by grading the site to correct drainage and erosion issues; then installed compacted gravel. The gravel was purchased with a grant from National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA) and donations from BCHC Mother Lode Unit (MLU) and the Pony Express Assn., CA Division (XP-CA).

In 2019, a contractor installed the 15-foot asphalt swale at the entrance on Wrights Road to remove the last impediment to street vehicles accessing the trailhead over the heavily eroded drainage ditch. MLU obtained a grant from Bass Pro Shops that paid for the asphalt entry and a portion of the gravel driveway.

Providing hardened surfaces of gravel in the trailhead and asphalt at the entry significantly improved public access to the XP Trail in two ways. First, street vehicles are now able to access the trailhead, which is adjacent to the XP Trail. Second, volunteer work parties have a staging area for trail maintenance.

One of the most active volunteer groups on the XP Trail is BSA Troop 186 from Elk Grove, California. The 20 members of the troop adopted 11 miles of the XP Trail in 2018 and use the trailhead to conduct a spring work party for pruning and a fall work party for cleaning the many culverts. They also assisted in trailhead construction by placing rip rap (cobblestones) to control erosion at six locations, three of which protect the seasonal creek. MLU purchased tools for the scouts to perform these trail maintenance activities.



As a result of having access to the trailhead and the XP Trail, BSA Troop 186 simultaneously benefited the general public with 11 miles of improved trail for hiking or riding and empowered their own scouts to earn BSA merit badges, fulfill rank requirements, and earn rank advancements.

Every one of the 20 scouts fulfilled rank requirements for trail maintenance, conservation, and public service, resulting in a dozen rank advancements from hundreds of man-hours of Scout service. Additionally, as a direct result of work on the trail, five Scouts advanced to Life Rank (the second highest rank in Scouting), and four advanced to Eagle Rank (the highest rank in Scouting). The 2018-2019 seasons were very productive for BSA Troop 186.

One of the Eagle Projects resulted in a digital map of their 11 miles of the XP Trail for the US Forest Service to develop a Recreational Opportunity Guide (ROG). The USFS will add driving directions and narratives describing the scenic points along the trail. ROGs are handed out to trail users who stop at the various ranger stations. This ROG is planned to be ready for spring 2020.

LOS PADRES

PULLING TOGETHER: HORSES, MULES AND PEOPLE PUT UP PICNIC TABLES

By Sharon Jantzen (originally published in SLOHorseNews.net)

Horses, mules and people pulled together to solve this dilemma: Get picnic table and tie-rail materials up the new Canyon View Trail at Montana de Oro. Skilled human labor would be on hand to build the picnic benches, but just how would the materials get to the overlook spot specifically picked out for the picnic benches to sit? It took a coordinated effort of several trail user groups along with a work crew comprised of horses, mules and people to pull this project together.

Using funds from an REI grant, the materials, manpower and connections were in hand from members of the Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers (CCCMB). Materials were to be delivered by California State Parks to the trail head. The big question was how to get the materials two miles up the trail and up to the chosen lookout point which is inaccessible by truck or car. The answer? Horses and mules to the rescue.

Through coordination with the California State Parks, two consecutive workdays were already in the CCCMB books for this project which was carried out in November 22-23, 2019. The bulk of the location prep was done on Saturday by 25 volunteers. Nine volunteers were on hand Sunday for the materials delivery and building of the picnic tables.

Scott Couture of CCCMB reached out to Kathleen Phelps of Backcountry Horsemen of California – Los Padres Unit (BCHC) for help. BCHC not only provided the horses and mules to pack the materials in, more manpower came with the package. Kathleen, who has extensive packing experience, lined up the horses and mules along with their owners for the job.

UNIT NEWS

Kathleen inventoried the materials needed for the project, “We needed to pack pieces for two six-foot long picnic tables, 240 lbs of concrete (six bags), 10 gallons of water, tools and one six-foot long horse tie rail. Skip Dyke, who manufactured the tie rail, built it to screw together on-site so it could be carried in pieces. Skip added an eye on the ends which get buried, to provide a way to tie the poles when on the mules.”

Once on-site several hands engaged in a variety of jobs. Rich Phelps, a mountain biker, hung out at the top of Canyon View trail ahead of the pack horses and mules coming along. Karen Larson, a horse rider, stationed herself at the bottom of Canyon View trail. The posted people informed other bikers of the goings-on and asked them to take another route. All bike riders asked to turn away were very cooperative and understanding.

Since there was no tie-rail, yet, horse handlers, Mike and Karen Larsen and Kathy Longacre hiked into the site. Their job was holding the horses and mules while the materials during the unpacking and building of the picnic tables.

The tools and some equipment had to be packed out upon the completion of the picnic tables and tie-rail, so some animals remained on-site. Later, Mike, Karen and Kathy returned on horseback to view the project’s completion.

Six packing mules and two horse packers plus six riding horses and one saddle mule packed materials up the trail. Most of the packers are seasoned and experienced, yet two were newer to packing.

Pack leader, Otis Calef, explains packing for this project, “Members of BCHC have packed in the Los Padres Forest and the Sierras for volunteer trail projects and for pleasure. Most of the animals were experienced with odd loads – something more than a pair of soft panniers that make no noise. This project required loading six-foot boards and pipes, plus miscellaneous hardware and tools.”

The pack train leader was Otis Calef riding his mule Pretty Boy Floyd followed by his pack mules Honey and Annie, who are two of the seasoned packing experts. In fact, Honey is a Grand Champion log puller – a title earned at the 50th Anniversary of Bishop Mule Days.

Pack mule Gina, owned by Kathleen Phelps packed the 240 lbs of concrete with no complaints. Kathleen rode her horse Izzy.

Greg Feinberg and his two horses, Nugget and Liz packed the 10 gallons of water.

Tote, a pack mule, toted up the 6-ft. lumber pieces and the post hole digger while the mule Pistol carried up the picnic table legs and braces. These two mules are owned by Rick Jacobsen who rode his horse Quinn.

Shirley Rasmussen of the BCHC rode drag (the last horse up) on her horse, Fudge.

Kathy Redden of Atascadero Horsemen’s Club brought lunch to the volunteers on Sunday.

All the equines were amazing helpers. Packing the odd loads safely and securely was the biggest challenge of the day. This took some time to figure out, but the equines did their job superbly. Rick Jacobson of BCHC provided essential experience of packing lumber and strong stock to solve the odd loads issue. His two pack mules brought in the picnic table pieces and tools on lumber bucks.

Pulling together, the horses, mules and people representing several local trail user clubs (CCCMB, BCHC, Coast Mounted Assistance, CA State Parks) all worked together to accomplish something bigger than themselves.

Kathy Longacre remarked about the day, “This project was a great example of cooperation with different user groups and California State Parks.”

Shirley Rasmussen appreciates the coordinated effort not only for this project, but for the multiuse of the trails. She had this to say, “We are grateful for CCCMB to make trails we can share. The bikes can scare horses and they can get into a dangerous wreck when the horses are surprised.” Here in SLO County the groups enjoy working together so all can appreciate riding the trails at the same time. Many SLO County trail locations are multiuse, which is unique. Shirley went on to say, “I’m proud to share the trails with others, especially CCCMB.”



RENDEZVOUS NEWS

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TULARE

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UNIT NEWS

HIGH COUNTRY

A HISTORY OF EAST CREEK EQUESTRIAN CAMPGROUND AND TRAILHEAD

By Alan Cain

In considering the process by which the East Creek Equestrian Campground & Trailhead came in to being, one must look back at another successful project that was very similar in nature. Specifically, the Pepperdine Equestrian Campground and Trailhead, created just a few years prior on the northern end of the South Warner Wilderness, a Modoc Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) funded project sponsored by the High Country Unit (HCU) of BCHC. The Pepperdine project was initiated by the evidenced need for a larger facility for equestrians and their newer and larger trucks and trailers, most of which could not safely utilize the existing Pepperdine campground and trailhead parking lot.

At the south end of the South Warner Wilderness the Summit Trail was served by an older trailhead and dispersed camping area known as the Patterson Trailhead and Campground. This sat adjacent to the historic Patterson Guard Station. Patterson had a couple run down board corrals, one water faucet, a one seat vault toilet, and there was a small meadow with a riparian area running through its center. About a half mile to the west of this facility one found the East Creek Trailhead, a small and simple parking area for trail users. With the success of Pepperdine as a model and stimulus, and the deteriorated corrals and user abuse of the meadow and riparian area, the idea came in to being of another larger, equestrian friendly campground and trailhead that would both alleviate the pressure on the original Patterson trailhead and campground, as well as serve as a joint trailhead for both the Summit and East Creek trails.

Much of the credit for vision and drive to construct both the Pepperdine and East Creek Equestrian Campgrounds and Trailheads goes to Warner Mountain District Ranger Edie Asrow. Edie spurred on the Pepperdine project as a measure to mitigate the pressure that was being put on the old trailhead facilities at Pepperdine as well as to quell public sentiment against the Forest's desire to take the old Pepperdine Pack Station out of service and remove its structures. The result at Pepperdine was a testament to collaboration between agency and user groups, as well as to the value of RAC funding that came from the Secure Rural Schools Self Determination Act, dollars that were allocated to rural counties who had previously been dependent on timber sales for economic stimulus.

With Pepperdine now the talk of the trail riding community across Southern Oregon, Northern California and Nevada, coupled with the success of the project that brought it to fruition, confidence was now realized that the same could, in fact, be accomplished at the south end of the wilderness. As is often the case, the trail riding community was actually quite comfortable with the existing Patterson facilities, and Edie's suggestion to consider a replication of Pepperdine as a replacement for the Patterson facilities raised eyebrows and frowns. Not until a few members of High Country Unit spent a day examining the deterioration and mis-use at Patterson, and then considering the fairly open forested area adjacent to the East Creek trailhead, where we stand today, did the notion that a new equestrian friendly campground and trailhead begin to make sense and come in to focus.

Those of you who know Edie know what I mean when I say that momentum was once again spurred on. As a member of both High Country Unit of BCHC and the

Modoc RAC, I had the privilege, albeit with fear and trembling, of approaching the RAC for funding of "another" state of the art equestrian campground to serve the South Warner Wilderness. HCU was, once again, the project sponsor as well as a partner in the layout and design of the proposed campground. Utilizing USFS staff in the NEPA and EIS process, engineering and budgeting, the proposal for the East Creek Equestrian Campground and Trailhead was developed and brought before the RAC during that years round of grant funding. I can't begin to tell you how important and valuable it was to have the Modoc National Forest Supervisor as an ally in this process. Although his position with the RAC was one of oversight and consultation, the supervisor certainly could set the tone for the outcome of such a proposal as ours. The notion of a second, fairly expensive facility catering primarily to the trail riding community was not as easily embraced by the RAC as was the Pepperdine project. In appropriate manner, Supervisor Stan Sylva quietly but steadily let the RAC know of his endorsement of the East Creek project. I can still clearly recall how Stan's countenance would brighten, his eyes twinkle, and a smile would crease his face when this project came up for discussion, and ultimately approval.

One feature of the East Creek Campground that differed from Pepperdine was the need for drilling a well for water for the campground. Pepperdine was blessed with an existing spring that required only additional pipe to reach over to the new campground. East Creek not only required a well be drilled but then a solar panel and pump be installed to bring the water to the surface for use. This, of course, added a substantial amount to the grant request as compared to the Pepperdine project, another balking point for the RAC.

Alas, as we have already had several years to enjoy the results of the East Creek Equestrian Campground project, and stand here today viewing a facility that will be enjoyed by many for years to come, there is a sadness that the man who envisioned what this would be is not with us to see the fruits of his labor. My hat's off to Stan Sylva for daring to support a project when it so much needed that support.

Lastly, one would be remiss if one failed to remind us of the importance of the support and man-hours of labor that members of HCU put in to both Pepperdine and East Creek Equestrian Campgrounds. At Pepperdine, members created a 5/8 mile connector trail to the original trailhead, as well as installed metal corrals and security posts that were donated by the High Desert Trail Riders, Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon. At East Creek, members aided in the design and layout, installed the metal corrals and security posts, and re-established the 1/2 mile connector trail to the existing Summit Trail.

A legacy has been left for those who will follow in our footsteps. A legacy of vision, collaboration, and determination to leave this place better than we found it.



Kenny Graves packing trail crew out of East Creek Equestrian Camp

Recognition of Special Individuals

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

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS, 1/1/2020 - 8/31/2020

BENEFACTOR (\$100)

Eastern Sierra	Carter, Bill Patton, Troy Waggoner, James B.
High Sierra	Gerson, Ruth Hamill, Nancy Hamstra, Jacob Pendegraft, Karl Pendegraft, Trish
Kern Sierra	Allen, Brad, Rosedale Farrier Supply Anderson, Robert L. Filkins, DVM, Mylon Mumford, Larry
Los Padres	Bruns, Kaye Cederlof, Robin McGarry, James
Mid Valley	Hudson, Rian Alamo, Tony Barindelli, Karen Barnes, Jay Cain, Gary A. Cooper, Bob Doornenbal, Rien Hargreaves, Carol Jo Magee, Bob Marshall, Jennifer Marshall, John V. MID VALLEY UNIT Peterson, Dan Rivers, Sarah
Mother Lode	Action Coalition Cooper, Tom Furlow, Donna Jones
Redshank Riders	Aberle, Renee Renck, Allison Robertson, Ron
Redwood San Diego	Polasek, Darrel & Carole Chevallier, David Roy Kirkwood, Walt J. Sterns, Lynda

San Joaquin Sierra	Cunningham, John Nishma, Larry, Knapp-Yosemite Trls Pk Sta Naylon, Stephen
Sequoia	Ansorge, Werner Bennett, Kathryn C. Ladrigan, Steve Wilson, DVM, Jamie Young, Larry
Shasta Trinity	Charter, Lyle Mosher, Alicia
Sutter Buttes	Layne, Corky

PATRON (\$250)

High Country High Sierra	Saunders, Lynn Cochran, Richard Shepard McLellan, Sonia
Kern Sierra	Joiner, Lynn Zaninovich, Vincent
Los Padres Mid Valley Mother Lode Santa Ana River Sequoia	Calef, Otis Erlandson, Lloyd Durbin, Timothy Goodwin, Marilee Holly, Jim

MT. WHITNEY (\$500)

Eastern Sierra Mid Valley	Sheehan, Sarah C. Serpa, Dennis M. Arlington, Terri
Shasta Trinity	Angelides, Dean

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

The following new members joined BCHC from
1/1/2020 through 8/31/2020.
THANK YOU, NEW MEMBERS
We look forward to meeting you!

Antelope Valley	Duecker, Bonnie Glynn, Tenaya Ruark, Lauren and Kathy Rairden
High Country	Cullins, Pat and Sid Moire, Donald and Jeff Chessher
Kern River Valley	Donoho, Jess Kinch, Archer
Los Padres	Bergstrom, Diana Franke, Cheryl Galindo, Kambria and Alfred Geronimo, Marlon and Lea Killingsworth, Gina La Rovere, Liz and Tom Ladley, Peggy Sue and Ray Lynch, Martine Lyon, Debby and Jeff Herten Reitz, Ginette Shurtz, Randy and Kimberly Musacchio Turner, Ryan Weyrick, Candy
Mid Valley	Barlow, Nathan and Lindsey Brown, Deborah and Scott Carlisle, Max Eaton, Darren and Kristen Feriani, John and Juliana Fox, Dan and Debi Hahn, Wendy Joosten, Katinka Lewallen, Terry Martindale, Nico and Shannon Beard McNicoll, Andrew and Toni Rogers, Shasta, Chris & Rayna Sailer, Jamie and Isaiah Stephens, Denise and Dave Suttles, Cathy and Brent Kone Thomas, Kenneth and Kendra Tinnefeld, Roswitha Tobler, Blake Webb, Cheryl and Dan Wheelock, Tracy

Mother Lode	Burkland, Constance Consumnes River Horsemen's Association Debets, Jacqueline Fagan, Kristine Pauley, Chris Waid, Erin
North Bay Pacific Crest Redwood	Moreda, Shelina Beeman, David Henschell, Audrey and Basho Parks Lynass, Grace Pope, Donna S. and Shirley Soderman Quintrell, Laurie Sher, Ed Shields, Pamela
San Diego	Denny, Cyndi and Steve Krummenacher, Desiree Myers, Jerrilynn Wendt, Don
San Joaquin Sierra	Badertscher, Renee Bernard, Cheryl Crawford, Amy and Hannes Terlinde Hamar, Susan Henderson, James and Nicky Ibara, Lupe Shanley, Calli Stout, David and Charlene Van De Walker, Becky and Gene
Santa Ana River Sequoia	Bickley, Cleo Loop, Sheri Reed, Barbara
Shasta Trinity	Estrada, Albert and Kelly Gillespie, Bruce and Kathy Bowers Grasser, Karla Maxwell, Allen and Monica Frank Mosher, Alicia Paiva, Michael and Annette Peterson, Jeffrey Phillips, Laurie Rose, Katriina
Sierra Freepackers Sutter Buttes	Imrie, Bryan and Victoria Archer, Paul and Velma Day, Diann and Kaydance
Top of the State	Bobo, Stewart

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

BCHC Units Around the State

ANTELOPE VALLEY

PO Box 84
Pearblossom, CA 93553
Marcy Watton
(661) 878-1791
HorsingRound@aol.com

EASTERN SIERRA

PO Box 157
Olancho, CA 93549
Troy Patton
(760) 764-2850
outdoortroy46@gmail.com

HIGH COUNTRY

PO Box 161
Milford, CA 96121
Cindy McMurry
(530) 640-0429
mcmurrycindy@gmail.com

HIGH SIERRA

P. O. Box 6632
Exeter, CA 93221
www.highsierraunit.org
Dan Baumgardner
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LAKE-MENDO

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Shirley Rasmussen
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MID VALLEY

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www.bchcmidvalley.org
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MOTHER LODE

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Randy Hackbarth
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NORTH BAY

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Gail Inman
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president@bchc-sequoia.org

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PO Box 64
Oakhurst, CA 93644-0064
www.sierrafreepackers.com
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SUTTER BUTTES

2568 Lake Hills Dr
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TOP OF THE STATE

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Etna, CA 96027-0461
www.bchc-tos.com
Robert Robustellini
(530) 468-5636
muletracks@sisqtel.net

Questions? Membership Matters

BCHC 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](mailto:membership@bchcalifornia.org)
Phone: (775) 463-3634

Planning a Trip? Use



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MEMBERSHIP

**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)

New Renewal
 Change

(indicate change)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antelope Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> Kern Sierra | <input type="checkbox"/> North Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Ana River |
| <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"/> San Joaquin Sierra | <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 | \$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

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 BCHC web page in the password protected section.

The coronavirus pandemic has altered our lives. It is important to be aware of the changes to the way we spend time outside. How to keep ourselves, our communities, and our outdoor spaces safe and healthy during this time, please consider these recommendations from The Center (LNT.ORG). There are great tips to how to negotiate going places. Many services are closed and this will help PLAN AND PREPARE. You just learned the first Leave no Trace principle!

Stay healthy,
VP Education Stacy Kuhns



The Leave No Trace Recommendations for Getting Outside During Covid-19

The coronavirus pandemic has altered all of our lives. The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics aligns with the CDC recommendations to help slow the spread of the virus. Let's keep ourselves, our communities and our natural world healthy.

1 You and Your Outdoor World

You may be asking: *Can I go for a hike or walk on the beach right now?* Your personal vulnerability, the health of others in your community access to local and uncrowded spaces and more play into this decision. Then there are communities and states with either lockdown, shelter in place or stay at home mandates. Where Covid-19 is spiking, it may not be possible to get out at all, so pay dose attention to guidance in your community before heading outside. Then fallow physical distancing guidance, meaning staying at least six-feet away from anyone not living with you.

2 Expect Closures

As businesses limit services or direct their staff to work remotely, closures should be expected. The result could be a lack of water, restrooms, campgrounds, or other facilities—or even entire areas closed to the public. Many experts are recommending that you refrain from using public restrooms and other open facilities at all right now. Take necessary precautions like bringing extra food and water, learning how to go to the **bathroom outdoors** and being ready to pack all your trash out with you.

3 Pack Out Your Trash

With limited staff and services likely in many parks and protected areas, trash and recycling receptacles may not be emptied as often as normal or at all. This can result in trash overflowing from receptades which becomes litter and can ha wildlife. instead, pack your trash and recyclables out with you ail the way home and utilize your own receptacles.

4 Avoid Times and Places of High Use

Absolutely avoid crowded parks, trails, and beaches. Physical distancing applies in the outdoors just as it does anywhere else. To avoid being part of the creation of large crowds and groups at popular outdoor areas, spread out to less popular spots, and avoid times of highest use if possible. **Follow guidelines at [usa.gov/state-health](https://www.usa.gov/state-health) about group size restrictions.**

5 Proceed With Caution

Keep in mind that as our healthcare system becomes mare overwhelmed, it's important to reduce potential accidents that would add to the stress on first responders and medical professionals. As much as possible, stick to activities and areas that are within your regular routine and take it easy.

6 Don't Forget the Leave No Trace 7 Principles

Just because times are tough, doesn't mean the Leave No Trace **7 Principles** fly out the window. Our outdoor spaces will likely be receiving less attention from staff and volunteers tight naw. This means our shared spaces need us to act as stewards mare than ever. Remember, it is still just as important to prepare for spring weather conditions, stick to trails, dispose of out waste properly, minimize fire impacts, leave what we find, keep a safe distance from wildlife, and generally da your best to eliminate impacts.

7 Be Considerate and Kind to Other Visitors

We are all in this together. Be considerate of others in the outdoors by ensuring that you practice physical distancing, Be particularly kind to park staff during these challenging times. Help them do their job by doing your part to take care of each other and out beloved outdoors.

We will see
you out
there on the
other side!

