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The BackCountry News



Volume 33, Issue 3

The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

SUMMER 2021

BCHC'S STRATEGIC PLAN: HOW IS YOUR UNIT DOING?

By Chip Herzig, VP of Membership

The **purpose of strategic planning** is to set overall **goals** for our organization and to develop a **plan** to achieve them. It involves stepping back from our day-to-day operations and asking where our organization is headed and what its priorities should be. It gives us a sense of direction with measurable goals plus a means to evaluate our progress even if we change our approach while moving forward.

The **strategic planning** process also helps you uncover ways to improve performance. It can, for instance, spark insights about how to restructure our **organization** so that it can reach its full potential.

Here are the top benefits of strategic planning:

- It allows organizations to be proactive rather than reactive
- It sets up a sense of direction
- It increases operational efficiency
- It can make an organization more durable

So, all that above is the “why” we undertook to develop our BCHC strategic plan. Now we are asking each and every unit to partake of all that goodness and tell us how they are doing reaching its goals.



See **THE SEVEN PRIORITY OBJECTIVES OF BCHC'S STRATEGIC PLAN - #4**. Priority Objective: Youth program development, page 6

The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

Editor Carol Jo Hargreaves

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BCHC Official Website: www.bchcalifornia.org

Printed by The Manteca Bulletin

Publication Information: The Backcountry News is the official journal of the Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc., published four times per year. All rights reserved. It is an independent publication with news and information of interest to Backcountry Horsemen members, with an average circulation of approximately 2,500 per issue. Annual subscriptions are \$15.00 for non-members. Nonprofit postage paid at Modesto, CA.

Who is BCHC? The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc. is a 501c3 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	September 24, 2021
Winter 2022 Edition	January 15, 2022
Spring 2021 Edition	April 15, 2022
Summer 2022 Edition	July 15, 2022

* Subject to change

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

<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
Half Page (h/v)	\$100.00	\$95.00	\$90.00	\$85.00	
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For more BCHC information, see our website: bchcalifornia.org

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

GRAVITATING BACK TO NORMALCY

Greetings, Backcountry Horsemen members,

I hope this message finds you all well and staying somewhat cool during this protracted heat spell. Sometimes it doesn't even need to be that hot to get your attention. Recently I was in Napa and the temperature that day was only 64 degrees, but the humidity was 74 percent. Needless to say, any real exertion had one wringing wet pretty quickly. In your day-to-day activities watch for signs of overexertion and heat distress and take a break. Or, if possible, put the task off for later. Not many things are important enough to cause you health problems or your life.

While we are on the subject of heat, all of us are painfully aware of the summer heat and current extreme drought conditions. In 1976 and 1977 in Southern California, and probably for the entire state, those two winters were exceedingly dry. In 1977, for example, I remember it rained a little bit in October but nothing after that. This current drought may not be any worse, but it's sure close.

One problem is a vastly increased population and comparatively few, if any, additional water storage facilities. In my work I drive up and down the state a lot and I have the opportunity to look at many areas and the local water storage facilities. The water levels in all reservoirs are very low, with no immediate prospect for replenishment. Everyone needs to be mindful of unnecessary water use. We are already in trouble, and we have no clue as to when any relief will come.

Being so dry, the risk of wildfire is extremely high and will not abate until conditions change (i.e., wet weather and/or cooler temperatures). The heat certainly exacerbates the problem of dry conditions and the occurrence of wildfires.

After the last few years of wildfires throughout California, one would think there is little left to burn. But there is. Make preparations now to protect your property by vegetation trimming/removal. Keep your trailers in shape and ready for quick attachment to pulling units. Keep gas tanks full and batteries charged. Have your rig pointed in the right direction for quick exit. Practice loading your stock so it's second nature to them. Keep sufficient halters and lead ropes at hand and always in the same place.

A few days ago, I saw what I thought was a good idea worthy of passing along. In the event of an emergency, write your phone number on your stock's hooves with an indelible marker (Sharpie). In case you are separated from your stock or if you have to leave them behind, it gives authorities a lead to their owners.

Assemble or copy your important papers, make a plan on who will do what task, etc. The main point is just to be prepared. Fires can ignite and blow up rapidly. Be ready. Add to these ideas those that apply to your individual situation; ignore what doesn't apply.

And, by all means, be careful with campfires while in the backcountry!

Now, on to brighter news and thoughts. Life is slowly gravitating back to normalcy, at least to the degree that it's able. Units are starting to function again; events are once more being planned.

One such event is the Backcountry Horsemen of California Rendezvous. Due to the past COVID circumstances, the normal springtime Rendezvous will be held in October this year. Tulare will be the venue. This is BCH's annual get-together where we connect with old friends, learn some new things, do a little yarn spinning and eat some delicious food.

Don't forget the wine and cheese tasting either! There are bound to be some yarns and stories come out of there. I wouldn't want to miss that!



**BCHC President
Michael King and "Bella"**

Bring your wallet, too. Great items are up for auction and are a terrific way to support Backcountry Horsemen and the good work we do.

This year's Bishop Mule Days Celebration was held as normal on Memorial Day weekend and went off without a hitch. The Mule Days organization worked closely with the health authorities and made the venue and event as health conscious as possible. They most likely set the template for how a large gathering should be handled in this COVID era.

I didn't get to see much of the Intercollegiate Packing competitions as I found myself assisting in the meal preparations for the youth packers. What a great group of young people! I am so proud of being part of an organization that is helping to develop these young people's packing skills. My hope is that now that their intrigue has been piqued, they will be the ones who will be the future of Backcountry Horsemen.

To all of the teachers, coaches, judges and all others who helped make this happen, you deserve a huge hand and thumbs up for your portion. Through the small parts of many, a huge accomplishment occurred. Everyone here is a winner.

Resuming momentum can sometimes be a challenge. Sort of like getting a large freight train moving again. We are moving again and now need to pick up our speed. A great way to do this is to come to Rendezvous in October. We have a lot of catching up to do, and I'll be looking for you. See you there!

Michael King
BCHC President

BCHC NEWS



BCHC Editor
Carol Jo Hargreaves

THE BACKCOUNTRY NEWS IS YOUR NEWSPAPER!

I have served on the BCHC Bylaws Subcommittee since last fall and through the process of revising all of BCHC's bylaws, have become keenly aware of the duties and responsibilities of each officer and advisory person within our organization.

I was appointed "Newsletter Editor" by the BCHC President. As paraphrased in the latest revision of the (c)3 bylaws, mine is an advisory position with no vote. I am responsible for production of four editions of the newspaper every year. The purpose of the paper is to keep members and others (public lands personnel and lawmakers) aware of units' activities and to provide articles and reports of general interest to members throughout California. In fact, because every BCHC member does not use social media or frequently visit the BCHC website, this newspaper is the only communication tool BCHC has to reach ALL of its members.

So, what does the Newsletter Editor do? My job description says I set and meet deadlines; solicit and receive articles and photographs; determine what will be included in each edition of the paper according to space available; proofread articles and correct spelling, grammar and punctuation; lay out pages using Adobe Creative Suite InDesign software and Photoshop editing tools; obtain mailing labels and lists of special members from the VP of Membership; arrange printing and mailing; coordinate payment for printing and mailing with the BCHC Treasurer, and provide the final digital copy of each edition to the VP of Membership and the BCHC Webmaster. One thing you did not see in that list of duties was "write articles." That's where I need to rely on YOU.

Think of yourself as a "stringer reporter." In journalism, a stringer is a freelance journalist or photographer who contributes articles, reports or photos to a news organization on an ongoing basis. YOU are out in the field going to meetings, doing volunteer service projects, educating members and the public, being aware of what's going on in your unit, maybe even your region. Therefore, I need to rely on YOU because, although it would be fun, it would be impossible (and prohibitively expensive) for me to attend all BCHC events and activities throughout the state. In return for your time and efforts as a reporter, you will receive the satisfaction of seeing your unit's projects shared with all members, you might feel a sense of pride seeing your name and article or photos in print and you might get pleasure from making a vitally important contribution to BCHC.

Just like in journalism, stringer reporters and editors for BCHC must meet deadlines. The stringers' deadlines are the 15th day of the first month of each quarter. That means the 15th of January, April, July and October. Only four times a year. Please be on time (or early!) with your submissions so I can proofread and lay out the paper for printing within one week. Let's work together as a team to meet the deadlines so YOUR newspaper gets out on time.

Thank you for your cooperation and support of the Backcountry News!

~ Carol Jo

BCHC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MOVING FORWARD FOR MEMBERS

By Susie Patton, BCHC Secretary



BCHC Secretary
Susie Patton

Your elected officers have been hard at work over the last months working on the day-to-day business of BCHC.

The Bylaws Subcommittee has completed revisions for both the c3 and the c4 sides of BCHC. These will be presented at the October meeting so the c4 bylaws can be approved by the State Board of Directors. Many thanks to Chip Herzig, CJ Hargreaves and Tammy Bozarth. I also was able to give some input on this committee.

We have also formed a Subcommittee under 1st Vice President, Jamie Wilson, to explore insurance coverage for officers of BCHC against any type of legal action. We will have more information on this in October.

Back in August 2020, the Executive Committee held their summer retreat and decided to have monthly Zoom meetings due to COVID. The committee has been meeting most months and we have worked on the bylaws, Rendezvous, approving work on the BCHC-owned trailer, the Wilderness Intern Program, manning the State Booth at Mule Days and reviewing and creating policies that needed to be put in place or updated. We held our last monthly Zoom meeting in May and are looking forward to our in-person summer retreat to be held August 6, 7 and 8 in Mt. Meadow. Thank you to Bob and Carolyn Gilmore (Mother Lode Unit) for allowing us access to this private area.

At our summer meeting this year we have a long agenda of things to finalize before they are presented to the State Board of Directors in October. Rendezvous in Tulare is top of the list as well as Rendezvous 2022. We will also be doing a final review of the proposed bylaws. Election of new officers for 2022 is also on the list. The officers up for election in the upcoming even year are: President, 2nd Vice President (Service), Treasurer, one National Director, VP of Youth Education, and VP of Education. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact me at bludog46@gmail.com prior to the August meeting. We will be discussing a proposed slate of officers at the summer meeting. Also remember that nominations will be taken from the floor at the October State Board meeting.

Your Executive Committee is working hard to elevate BCHC as a professional, hardworking organization of volunteers, who strive to preserve and maintain trails as well as to educate users of the backcountry. We thank all BCHC units who are a huge part of this effort and thank members for your support as we move forward on this journey.

BCHC NEWS

TIPS FOR LOGGING VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS



**BCHC 2nd Vice President
Cindy McMurry**

By Cindy McMurry, BCHC 2nd Vice President

With the recent lifting of restrictions for gatherings, I trust many of our units are getting back to some semblance of normalcy and resuming meetings, project work and social gatherings.

With that in mind, I would like to remind you all to log your volunteer hours, early and often. I find myself forgetting exactly what I did a couple of months ago and missing vital information.

As a reminder:

Log all public meetings with agencies as well as your unit meetings, phone calls related to BCHC interests, e-mails even if it was just something you read (I assign 15 minutes to any e- mail I spend time on and it seems to average out over time), unit trail rides (recon), prep time and clean-up for events and meetings and hours spent teaching a class or attending a class. Remember to log all money spent on supplies such as ink, paper, paper goods for meals or anything else you used on behalf of BCHC and weren't reimbursed for as a donation.

Travel is logged as time and mileage. If you drove you log both, if you rode with someone you log time only. If you haul your stock, log it under stock hauling. If you hauled someone else's stock, the driver logs that stock, too. Just remember that stock time (days) on the trails is logged by the person the stock belongs to.

Some folks want to log time at Rendezvous in 24-hour increments. Sorry, you can't log sleep time! Instead, log travel as you would any other event, log time spent in clinics and workshops as attending or teaching a class and log the value of any goods you donate for raffles or auctions as a donation.

Some suggestions for making it easier for your Volunteer Service Hours Coordinator (VSHC) are:

Use a copy of the saddle bag report or Excel spreadsheet found on the BCHC website for logging hours and mileage, etc., at each project or meeting. You might have a copy pre-filled with every member's name and just have attendees fill in their service hours information for the event.

Use a custom sign-up sheet that has places to log names, travel time, mileage and donations of goods and supplies and remember to send that information on to your VSHC.

Collect hours from members three or four times a year. This may help with accuracy and holding folks accountable.

Wilderness Riders, also send your information for *teaching* events to Stacy Kuhns. Everything else goes to your VSHC.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding logging hours at mcmurrycindy@gmail.com

Have a safe, enjoyable and productive summer and I will see you at Rendezvous!

BCHA NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

By Randy Hackbarth and Carol Jo Hargreaves

BCHC's two National Directors, Dennis Serpa and Randy Hackbarth, attended the BCHA National Board Meeting via Zoom this year, as you might have too. An orientation was provided Sunday, April 25, to familiarize attendees with both Zoom and conference call etiquette.

Monday, April 26, Executive Committee reports were given covering the period from May 2020 through March 2021. The Treasurer and committee chairmen also gave reports. Committees included Contracts, Chapter Support Grants, Education, Expansion, Fundraising, Media/Marketing, Membership, Public Lands, Public Liaison & Partnerships, Volunteer Hours, Youth and Nominations. (All presentations and reports may be found on the BCHA shared drive). It was noted that volunteers are needed for all committees. If you see something of interest, let that committee chairman know.

Tuesday, April 27, was devoted to Directors Discussions by region: Southeast

(AL,GA, FL, SC, NC, VA, TN, KY, AR), Northeast (MO, IA, KS, MN, WI, IL, MI, IN, NY), Rockies (MT, CO, SD, SD, WY, UT, NM), Far West (WA, OR, ID, CA, AK, NV, AZ). California is having the same issues as other states. Discussion followed on networking and forming alliances and partnerships with other user groups.

The final day, Wednesday, April 28, contained a BCHA Past Chairmen Panel Discussion wherein all available past BCHA Chairmen addressed the history of BCHA during their tenure. The Chairman from British Columbia discussed the development of his province's chapter. The prestigious Double Diamond Award was presented to BCH of Virginia - Golden Horseshoe Chapter. Final nominations and elections were held for BCHA officers. Newly elected were: Sherry Copeland, Chair; Mark Himmel, Vice Chair; Latifa Rodriguez, Treasurer, Brad Pollman, Non Director, Executive Committee member, and Jim Allen, Director, Executive Committee member.

The 2022 National Board Meeting will be held in Kansas City, Missouri.

BCHC STRATEGIC PLAN



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.



HERE'S MORE DETAIL:

4. Priority Objective: Youth program development

Success Measures: Build a continuous flow of new members from the next generation(s) who appreciate and care for wilderness hiking and equestrian trails.

Strategy: Develop local and statewide relationships with youth organizations which will introduce youth to our units' work in the outdoors, to the essential skills needed, and to the use and care of horses and pack stock. Comply with California law regarding background checks and fingerprinting for adults who lead youth activities.

Policy: Youth policies have been developed and distributed to all units.

Unit Action Plans:

- Membership categories have been developed for youth 12-17 and 18-24. Youth activities will follow the approved policies.
- Background checks and fingerprinting for youth leaders. Finalize policies and forms rolled out to all units.
- Include 4H and FFA in Rendezvous (Planning Committee)
- Unit relationships with 4H and FFA local chapters are important
- Units outreach to local youth organizations (Scouts?) to jointly sponsor events

The BCHC Vice President of Youth Education is Tammy Bozarth. If you have ideas for or questions about BCHC's work with youth, contact Tammy by email at spashiners@yahoo.com or by phone at (661) 322-2545

BCHC NEWS

MULE DAYS A SUCCESS!

Article and photos by Susie Patton, BCHC Secretary

Bishop Mule Days Celebration was an up and down roller coaster ride – *Yes, it is on. No you can't have crowds of people. Yes, they can camp. Masks are required and you must sign a COVID waiver.* After all was said and done, Mule Days seemed to be very successful. Lots of vendors, lots of competitors, lots of visitors and lots of fun.

BCHC Eastern Sierra Unit members Troy Patton, Susie Patton and Sarah Sheehan worked with the Mule Days Committee and were able to set up the BCHC booth. We put out the call for help and it was answered. Lynn Joiner and Bonnie Searcy (Kern Sierra Unit) came and helped set up and worked in the booth. Chip Herzig, Bill Carter (Eastern Sierra) and George Boone set up the iron mules and sawing tables. Randy Hackbarth, Norma Kohlbaker and Lucy Badenhop (Mother Lode Unit) helped man the booth. Thanks to Bonnie (even with a broken foot) each vendor was contacted about our October Rendezvous in Tulare and given a flyer inviting them to come and have a booth with us.

The saw area was extremely popular with kids and adults. Chip Herzig, George Boone and Bill Carter showed numerous people how to saw a “cookie” they could take with them using the two-man crosscut saw. There were even some competitions going on between parents and kids.

Troy, Lloyd Erlandson (Mid Valley) and Mike Kohlbaker worked with the iron mules showing hitches and discussing different types of pack saddles.

We were able to share the BCHC message and promote Rendezvous with numerous visitors as they walked into Mule Days. I was amazed at how many people said they knew of our organization and efforts and encouraged us to “keep up the good work.”

Several members of Mid Valley Unit also came to visit as they were there supporting their Intercollege Pack Teams in the competition. This was a great opportunity to share who we are with the public and we look forward to a bigger and better Mule Days Celebration next year.



BCHC VP of Public Lands Troy Patton mans the state booth at Bishop Mule Days Celebration



BCHC Safety Officer Chip Herzig teaches use of a two-man crosscut saw at Bishop Mule Days Celebration

PUBLIC LANDS



VP of Public Lands
Troy Patton

PUBLIC LANDS UPDATE

By VP of Public Lands Troy Patton

First Ann Lange Public Lands Award to be given out during Rendezvous

basically took away trails from one user group to give to another, even though public lands belong to all.

Another issue with the Tahoe Forest is Forest Order #17-21-01, Forest Camping and Campfire Restrictions. The following are prohibited within the Tahoe National Forest, effective April 4, 2021 through April 4, 2024:

1. Dispersed camping for more than 14 days in a calendar year
2. Camping in a developed campground for more than 14 days in a calendar year

A violation is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 per individual or \$10,000 for a group, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.

This new Forest Order will severely impact any group trying to do trail projects in the Tahoe Forest. I am hoping that other Forest Supervisors do not decide to follow the Tahoe.

The Sequoia and Sierra National Forests are updating the Final Forest Plans and Final Environmental Impact Statement based on changed conditions from the 2020 fire season and comments received during the September 2019 comment period. More information on these updates will be posted to the web in the coming weeks. They are revising their forest land management plans using the National Forest System Planning Rule, completed in 2012. The 2012 Planning Rule provides a framework for U.S. Forest Service land management plans across the nation.

The ongoing problem of non-equestrians in horse-only camps seems to be a national issue. Unless every horse camp has a concessionaire with enforcement authority or the online reservation systems change, we don't see much happening. The BCHA Public Lands Committee is focusing on this issue at the national level.

I want to remind units that the first Ann Lange Public Lands Award will be given out during Rendezvous 2021, October 29-31 in Tulare. I will be sending out nomination forms to each unit this week. We are looking for a person who has gone above and beyond in the area of public lands.

THE SEVEN LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Center for Outdoor Ethics | LNT.org

We recently received news that our Region 5 Director Randy Moore will now serve as the 20th Chief of the U.S. Forest Service beginning July 26, 2021. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack made the announcement on June 28. Randy served as the Regional Forester in Region 5 since 2007 where he oversaw 18 National Forests covering one-fifth of the State of California and over 700 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. Randy has been a great supporter of BCHC. Under his leadership we were able to establish the BCHC Sawyer Program. He also supported the two Centers of Excellence which we are proud to have in California and saved the USFS pack strings in Region 5. Much success to you, Randy, in your new position - you will be missed in California.

Once again Mike Lee (R-UT) is trying to push forward his mountain bikes in the wilderness agenda with SB1686 – The Human Powered Travel in the Wilderness Areas Act.

Nada Culver, Deputy Director of Policy and Programs for BLM, and Chris French, Deputy Chief of the US Forest Service for the National Forest Systems, both testified against this bill during Senate Subcommittee hearings. They stated that this bill would undermine the basic principles of the Wilderness Act which was intended to preserve designated areas in their natural conditions.

You may remember a few months back I asked members to contact their representatives to approve the Recreational Trails Program. I was able to contact my representative, Jay Obernolte, regarding the funding for HR1864 which would provide proper funding and transparency of the important Recreational Trails Program to ensure these scenic trails are appropriately maintained. He replied with a letter to me saying that he is a co-sponsor of this bill and will fight to insure its passage. He thanked me for the support and assured me that as an avid outdoorsman he supports the outdoor experience and wants it to be there for future generations.

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) is a timber company based in Anderson, California. The company owns and manages over two million acres of timberland in California and Washington. They announced on June 30 that, due to drought conditions, they were closing their forestlands to public access until further notice. You may not use SPI roads to access recreation areas. The closure is expected to remain in effect until Fall 2021. I know this closure affects the area Mother Lode Unit works in. It may also affect some of you in the north part of the state.

Although we put forth a mighty effort, Tahoe National Forest approved their plan to allow electric bikes on 87 miles of what were formerly non-motorized trails. They

PUBLIC LANDS

From: FS-Office of the Chief <SM.FS.Chief_Office@usda.gov>
 Date: Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 2:28 PM
 Subject: Secretary Tom Vilsack announces the 20th Chief of the Forest Service
 To:

Good afternoon from the USDA Forest Service. We have big news to share.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced Randy Moore, Regional Forester in the Pacific Southwest Region as the 40th Chief of the Forest Service today. Current Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen will step down from her role on July 26. Chief Christiansen and Regional Forester Moore will continue to collaborate on an intentional leadership transition between now and then as the Forest Service gears up for a tough summer of predicted elevated fire activity across the Western United States. Please see more information in the press release and employee letter.



Backcountry Horsemen of California

DATE: July 15, 2021

TO: Randy Moore

FROM: Troy Patton, Vice President Public Lands, Backcountry Horsemen of California

First, I would like to congratulate you on your promotion. Though we will miss you here in California, we know that you are talking a vast amount of knowledge and experience with you. At the National level, your experience in dealing with eighteen forests and over seven hundred miles of the Pacific Crest Trail in a state with the second largest population in the nation will serve you well.

You saw the importance of the pack strings and made sure they were funded. You realized how versatile they are in the forests while leaving the least amount of impact in an area. They can help with firefighting by delivering equipment, tools, food, water, and clothes to the ground crews. This frees up helicopters to do water drops, get a hot shot crew into an area, and more importantly, move a crew out quickly if they needed to be evacuated.

You supported and funded and the two Center of Excellence Training Centers and have always supported keeping trails open and maintained. Most importantly to BCHC, you supported the BCHC Sawyer program allowing us to train and certify on both crosscut and chain saws. You also have acknowledged the value of partnerships. I attended a Zoom meeting where you spoke and stated how important partnerships have been in the past and that the Forest Service will need to rely on them even more in the future. I hope you can reinforce this at the national level.

In closing, I would like to thank you for all you have done for public lands in California and wish you great success in your new position.

From: **Moore, Randy -FS** <randy.moore@usda.gov>
 Date: Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 5:09 PM
 Subject: Re: [External Email]THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK
 To: Troy Patton <outdoortroy46@gmail.com>

Troy, Thank you so much for your kind words of encouragement as I move forward into this new position. I have always and will Continue to support our pack strings and our partner to accomplish the important work that we all do together. Please feel at liberty to stay in touch and let me know how things are going.

Randy Moore
 Regional Forester
 Forest Service
 Pacific Southwest Region
 p: 707-562-9000
 randy.moore@usda.gov
 1323 Club Drive
 Vallejo, CA 94592
 www.fs.fed.us
 Caring for the land and serving people

"Looks like Region 5 is a winner!" ~Chip

EDUCATION

BCHC PACKING INTERN SCHOLARSHIP

By Stacy Kuhns, BCHC VP of Education



VP of Education
Stacy Kuhns

Proudly introducing BCHC's intern for the 2021 USFS Pack Stock Center of Excellence Apprenticeship: Justin Giusti!

Justin lives in California's Central Valley. He has studied range ecology and management restoration and has a degree in range management. He is involved with many groups (i.e., Farm Bureau and Cattlemen's Association). His long-term goal is to be a BLM Ranger

Justin will participate in a 12-week all-inclusive training program in the use of pack stock as a traditional tool, humane stock handling and packing procedures. Mule and horsemanship as well as safety, are the cornerstones this training is based on. Also included in the program: Leave No Trace (LNT) practices for stock users, wilderness management, trail maintenance and all the details that go into a safe, productive and efficient packing operation.

Behind the scenes in 2020-2021, the BCHC Intern Committee has worked closely with Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps (ESSC) and USFS. We researched the interaction of us with these groups regarding the program. We have strengthened the relationship and discussed how to make it better. The comment from the committee is there has never been such a great response with wonderful candidates. We received applications for this position from some amazing young people looking for some fantastic career opportunities. Welcome aboard, Justin Giusti!



**WELCOME
ABOARD,
JUSTIN
GIUSTI,
2021
PACKING
INTERN!
NEW
MEMBER
OF HIGH
COUNTRY
UNIT!**

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UNIT NEWS

MOTHER LODGE:

MLU SAWYERS (GRIP) HOIST THEIR SKILLS

By Lucy Badenhoop

In 2018, a grant from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance allowed the Mother Lode Unit to purchase \$2,270 worth of equipment for moving large rocks and trees off the trail. Although the equipment is not needed on every MLU trail maintenance work party, there are times when it is absolutely essential (bucking and removing a 4-foot diameter log or a boulder that topples onto the trail) during the annual spring snow melt.

Initial training on the new equipment was provided by a volunteer from the Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA), Clay Grubb. Since that initial training class, new sawyers have been certified and a refresher for the original sawyers was deemed wise. It was conducted on May 15, 2021, at a makeshift trailhead on the Pony Express trail near Kyburz, California, where there were lots of boulders and trees on which the students could practice their lessons.

Once the admin and safety briefings were completed, and just as Clay and his co-instructor (Don Bailey) were getting started, a horse trailer pulled in with two Pony Express riders planning to spend the day clearing the two sections of trail they would ride on the June 2021 annual re-ride. When they learned what we were doing, they complained about a large rock impeding their trailer on the driveway. The instructor made note of the problem and stopped class long enough for the horses to pass through the training area (see top right photo).

The morning session was mostly flip chart information on how to assess a particular obstacle and site in order to design a strategy for moving it safely to a more desirable location. (see center photo). This was coupled with a display of equipment and explanation of how the various pieces could/should be used to accomplish the task. There is an infinite combination of equipment choices that might be needed depending on where anchors are situated (trees or large boulders), the slope of the terrain, and what direction and distance the obstacle must travel. In some cases, the equipment may need to be re-rigged multiple times for long distances and/or change of direction.

After lunch, the training shifted to hands-on familiarization with the equipment, especially the peculiarities of the specific grip hoist being used. (see bottom right photo). The MLU equipment was unpacked so students could train on the equipment that would be available in the field. Students took turns moving a large rock and spinning/rolling a log. Then the instructors made a real-life challenge for the finale - move the rock on the driveway that impeded the horse trailer. Students readily accepted the challenge and did some creative problem solving as a team, using the assessment strategies learned in the morning session to move the rock about 20 feet uphill.

A special thanks to the TRTA instructors and the two Eldorado National Forest Rangers who helped make this "hoist" in skills possible. Scott Rogers from the Placerville Ranger District provided the authorization to conduct the training at the chosen site and Dustin Bell from the Pacific Ranger District recently authored a new Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) for the grip hoist equipment.



Mid Valley Intercollegiate "A" Pack Team = World Champs

MID VALLEY BCH SPONSORED PACK TEAMS WIN AT BISHOP

By Carl Perry

The Intercollegiate Pack Team won the silver buckle at Bishop Mule Days. Silver actually means they were crowned the 2021 World Champion pack team. This "A" team went to Bishop to defend their 2019 title (see top photo at right). Team members were Garrett Dollarhide, Kaitlyn Rumsey, Thies Thoming and Justin Black. It wasn't with ease though as they had a penalty on the first go around. They were fourth in line after that and had to climb to the top with flawless performances. They won the second packing event with ease and the scoreboard was changing rapidly. With only the final event remaining, they were sitting in second place.

This year Mid Valley sponsored two teams in the competition. The other team was the "B" team (see center photo at right). Team members were Blake Tobler, Ashley Stott, Cody Andrews and Cheyenne Mason. We actually had an alternate this year, Kaitlyn Warren, who participated on a team created by John Raede's son. The "B" team was on fire in the first event and won it with a clean load. They came in second in line to our "A" team in the second event. Wow! They were sitting in the first position after two events. All they had to do was overthrow the "A" team on the final event and they could have been World Champs.

As it turned out, the Mother Lode Unit-sponsored team (UC Davis) came storming from nowhere to win the final event. The "A" team streaked across the finished line second with the "B" team finishing a close third. This changed the whole total points system and the deliberation of the calculations started. There was no announcement of the winner from Bob Tallman as we were listening for the call of who would be the World Champions. The students were all tensed up and eager to see who would be declared the winners.

There was a final awards dinner for the group with tacos being the dinner of choice. Everyone gobbled down their tacos with the anxiety of the announcement. John Raede dragged out the awards program as he knew the results and wanted to keep the Intercollegiate students on the edge. John presented several individual awards first and aggravated the patience of the teams. Everyone was waiting for the results. We knew that there could be a three way tie for first and didn't know how the cards would fall.

Finally, John had to present the results and announced that the "B" team placed third. This was a first-year team that made all the other teams work hard for positions. They were super excited as a large round of applause went out to them. I'm not sure why John was so secretive on the World Champs and the Reserve World Champs but I think he had to dim the lights and here we go was his theme. He finally announced the Modesto "A" team as the twice World Champions and Davis College Reserve World Champs.

I want to congratulate them all. The team participants sacrificed a tremendous amount of personal time for practices and were all dedicated to the program. Congratulations to all nine of you and coaches Doug Dollarhide, Carl Perry and David Rumsey! (see bottom photo at right)



Sierra Freepackers Win President's Volunteer Service Award

In 2003, the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation founded the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) to recognize the important role of volunteers in America's strength and national identity. This award honors individuals whose service positively impacts communities in every corner of the nation and inspires those around them to take action, too.

The PVSA has continued under each administration, honoring the volunteers who are using their time and talents to solve some of the toughest challenges facing our nation.

To be eligible for this award one must be a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States (i.e., green card holder), at least five years old, complete eligible service within a 12-month period (for annual Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards) and over a lifetime (for Lifetime Achievement Awards).



Congratulations to...

Denise Robinson

Enduring
Service Award
Winner

President's Volunteer Service Awards - Gold

Individuals	Groups
<p>Lisa Lee</p> <p>Chai Xiong</p> <p>David Alarcon</p> <p>Patricia Vallentyne</p> <p>Ben Gracia</p> <p>Tim Lee</p>	<p>Back Country Horsemen of California - Sierra Freepackers Unit</p> <p>High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew</p> <p>Stewards of the Sierra</p>

President's Volunteer Service Awards - Silver

<p>John Wagoner Sierra Free Packers BCHC</p> <p>James Cypher Miami Lookout</p> <p>Alice Kitmen Miami Lookout</p>	<p>Steve Cowdrey Stewards of the Sierra</p> <p>Gene Hanchett Stewards of the Sierra</p> <p>Ed Mann Stewards of the Sierra</p>
<p>Southfork Trailblazers - Mariposa Trails Association</p>	

President's Volunteer Service Awards - Bronze

<p>❖ Michael Price</p> <p>❖ Jerry Harbottle</p> <p>❖ Marlis Rohrer</p> <p>❖ David Howse</p> <p>❖ Mary Odell</p> <p>❖ Cathy Miller</p> <p>❖ Frank Deleon</p> <p>❖ Bruce Lee</p>	<p>❖ Richard Marvin</p> <p>❖ Alex Mendez</p> <p>❖ Bruce Brokaw</p> <p>❖ Donald Cohn</p> <p>❖ Edgar Hawthorn</p> <p>❖ Barbara Thormann</p> <p>❖ Tom Chavira</p> <p>❖ Layne Clifton</p>	<p>❖ Patrick Clifton</p> <p>❖ Stephen Hanchett</p> <p>❖ Daniel Hanson</p> <p>❖ Marilyn Hanson</p> <p>❖ Torm Kristensen</p> <p>❖ Russ Martin</p> <p>❖ Mark Sobel</p> <p>❖ Bruce Walker</p> <p>❖ Mike Wubbels</p>
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UNIT NEWS

SAN DIEGO:

LOS VAQUEROS RAMADA REBUILD AND ANNUAL CAMP CLEAN-UP

By Theresia Jorgensen

The spring of 2021 saw the BCHC San Diego Unit up in the mountains of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, starting and completing the much-anticipated rebuilding of the ramada at the group horse camp at Los Vaqueros. This was a huge project to take on and, with the help of many BCHC members, it was accomplished over two long weekends plus another eight to 10 days of smaller groups getting specific tasks completed safely. The list of repairs included a full re-roofing, complete removal of old siding on all four sides including the gables and installing new siding, removal of about 18 inches of dirt from inside the building and placement of hardware wire and 10 yards of gravel, all of which was compacted with a vibrating plate. The gravel was continued outside of the building's edge to promote improved drainage. The inside timbers below grade were sprayed with an eco-friendly solution to prevent mold and damage to the beams.

While this was going on, another group tackled the picnic tables. We gave them the same treatment as we did the ones at Vern Whitaker, which was to pressure wash them, scrub them with TSP solution, pressure wash again and then paint them with a water repellent sealer. The tables sparkled after that. Last season's wood ash was cleaned out of the large fire pit. The bench seats around the fire pit were scrubbed clean and re-sealed as well.

Still another group were the weed whacking experts and mowed down miles of fiddle neck weeds and other undesired grasses. This was done around all 45 corrals and the area between the ramada and the bathroom/shower building, in addition to several feet around the perimeter of the parking lot. Now you can safely walk and tack up your horse without fear of surprising any slithering wildlife.

Then, just as we felt we were getting close to the end, there was a problem with the hot water heater for the showers. Geez, by this time we all really needed a hot shower. So, off to Home Depot we went. New water heater installation took most of another day by several people doing parts of the job. Once the new water heater was installed, we all enjoyed hot water that evening only to find out the next day that two of the batteries with the hot water solar system were bad and the water cooled down overnight. People adjusted their schedules and we made sure to get showered before the sun went down.

All of this could not have been done without the dedicated planning of several members and the hard work of BCHC members from not only San Diego Unit but also Santa Ana River and Redshank Riders units. It was truly a collaborative effort by everyone. Donations to fund purchase of supplies came from every equestrian organization in San Diego County plus several individuals. California State Parks provided supplies and the use of an extra five spin trimmers. The collaborative effort of volunteers and land managers will benefit everyone.

Those who have camped at Los Vaqueros this season have remarked at what a great improvement it is. If you are spending some time there this summer, take a look at the building.

After two big service projects, Vern Whitaker last November and now Los Vaqueros in May, you might think we have run out of projects. Oh, no. We have our sights set on several improvements to be done at Green Valley Horse Camp in the coming months. The projects are in the final planning stages with California State Parks and our unit president, Walt Kirkwood. The ultimate goal is to make the camp more user friendly for equestrians and to provide easier access to equestrian trails.

Come join us in the next project for a day or several days. We will send announcements to the various units and post information on our unit Facebook page when dates are established and reservations open.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



UNIT NEWS

SAN DIEGO:

Hello, BCHC members!

After several months of planning, it's time to start making reservations for a unique camping weekend at Vern Whitaker Horse Camp, November 5, 6, and 7, 2021

While we are now dealing with the heat of summer, we all could use something great to look forward to, like a camp out this fall. San Diego Unit board members have been working with our local State Parks staff to get our local horse camps spruced up a bit and needed repairs completed. We have done this at both Vern Whitaker Horse Camp in Anza Borrego and Los Vaqueros Horse Group Camp in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Now we can celebrate and enjoy the area.

We have put together a magical weekend to include three days of camping with unlimited riding along with catered Dutch oven meals and a special concert by Dave Stamey. This all-inclusive weekend will be our first social gathering together in a long time. We have all missed seeing friends and sharing stories and now we can safely do that. This event is for us to reconnect with each other and share some good times. The cost of the event is just what it will cost the unit to put it on; it is not a fundraiser. If we do generate any funds not used for the event itself, the funds will be held in an account for continued improvement to our horse camps.

So, mark your calendar, print the attached flyer and mail with your check (made out to BCHC-SD) to reserve your campsite. Mail to BCHC-SD / Terry Jorgensen, 1124-3rd Street, Ramona, CA 92065

VERN WHITAKER FESTIVAL - Friday, Nov. 5 through Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021

Most unique camp out of the year



The Vern Whitaker Festival in Anza Borrego State Park will be an all-inclusive weekend with 3 days of camping in historical Coyote Canyon. The camp has 12 developed sites with picnic tables, fire rings, large saddle rack, water and shade trees. There is an overflow area that will accommodate up to 12 large rigs. The camp has a modern shower building with all the creature comforts needed. Dutch oven prepared meals provided on Saturday night and Sunday morning. You can ride the trails that were traveled by Juan Batista de Anza and his soldiers as they traveled from Mexico to California at your leisure or join a small group with a ride leader. Friday night, gather around the campfire to hear of the more recent history of how the horse camp came to be and other historical events of the area.

Saturday evening there's a special performance by cowboy singer/songwriter *Dave Stamey*.

Listen to Dave sing of the desert winds and the unique beauty of the open desert, especially at night in the fall. Maybe the local coyotes will join in with him, too. After breakfast on Sunday, visit the camp museum or ride another trail.

Questions ?? contact Terry at (760) 789 5185 / tlh9749@yahoo.com

Names: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Total number of people in your campsite : _____ Total number of stock: _____

Size of rig : _____

BCHC member: YES NO Unit _____

Developed campsite for 2 people, meals, concert and unlimited riding \$250.00

Overflow parking site for 2 people, meals, concert and unlimited riding \$225.00

Add up to 2 extra people to your campsite with all the amenities..... \$50 per person

Saturday night concert and dinner, no camping or riding\$50 per person TOTAL PAID: _____

Mail to: BCHC-SD / Terry Jorgensen, 1124 3rd Street, Ramona 92065

UNIT NEWS

SANTA ANA RIVER:

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!

SANTA ANA RIVER UNIT TAKES ON 2021

Article and photos by Alan Sanderson

For 25 plus years, the BCHC Santa Ana River Unit (SARU) has supported the “Adopt a Meadow Program” in the Sequoia National Forest at Big Meadow West and North, east of Kernville, California (Lat: 35.8802265, Long: -118.3428607). Each year, volunteers would visit the meadows to string perimeter fencing to protect the pristine environment from range cattle brought up from the Lake Elizabeth area for summer grazing and, when the cattle are removed in late fall, SARU team members returned to remove the fencing in order to prevent wildlife from getting entangled in the fencing.

Over the past few years with excessive flooding, followed by drought, wildfire closures and finally COVID 19, the fencing has needed more than casual repair. As a result, a team of intrepid workers from the SARU, with support from Bob Frenes, Assistant Recreation Officer, Sequoia National Forest, Kern River District, who provided tools and supplies, developed a multiphase plan to repair and improve the fencing.

Phase 1 took place from May 9 through 11, 2021, when the team put up and repaired fencing in main (west) meadow and north meadow. Using railroad ties provided by the USFS, built two H-braces for main meadow fences, one on the southeast corner fence and one on north fence near northeast corner to include building a new cattle gate for the southeast fence corner.

As weather and use had taken a toll on the main metal gate leading into the meadow, the existing H-brace system was taken down, new post holes dug and bracing rebuilt, not to mention the seven split rail posts found leaning or loose were pulled, new holes dug and reset.

During this trip, additional work needing to be done was identified for our Phase 2 effort.

Phase 2 work party commenced on June 25-28, 2021, with replacement of single post anchors with rail road tie H-Brace and corner double H-Brace systems, enabling more permanent fence anchors and making for easier access through the fence to the meadow for hiking and horseback riding.

Just west along the fence line was an access “cowboy gate” which had become unusable. It was replaced with a H-Brace making the gate functional again.

With the planned work completed, **Phase 3** is tentatively scheduled for October 2021, with continued work at Big Meadow West and Big Meadow North.

Only through a collaboration between the BCHC-SARU and the USFS has there been a successful effort to retain a portion of Big Meadow in its natural state.



UNIT NEWS

SHASTA TRINITY & HIGH COUNTRY:

FISH PLANT

By Larry Shuman, Shasta Trinity Unit

Two years ago, we were approached by California Department of Fish and Wildlife to consider planting trout fingerlings in four lakes in the Caribou Wilderness east of Lassen Park. Since we had done this before in the Trinity Alps Wilderness until it was stopped 10 years ago, we thought no problem. Well, it was not that simple. We had about a 40 to 50 percent loss rate. The practices we used in the Alps Wilderness were not as successful in the Caribou Wilderness.

After meeting with Fish & Wildlife we devised different procedures to plant in warmer lakes and tackled seven lakes in 2020. The new procedures worked. We planted 8,400+ fingerlings and had less than .001 percent loss.

With that success Fish & Wildlife asked if we would tackle 18 lakes in the Caribou Wilderness from three different trailheads. Of course, we said yes. Since this Wilderness is on the border of the Shasta Trinity Unit and High Country Unit, we decided to make it a joint venture. We picked three different days to tackle the project of planting 18 lakes with 40,000 fingerling trout. The Shasta Trinity Unit would provide hamburgers and hot dogs each night and those participating would bring side dishes as we decided to make this not just a work project but a time to get together and enjoy the outdoors.

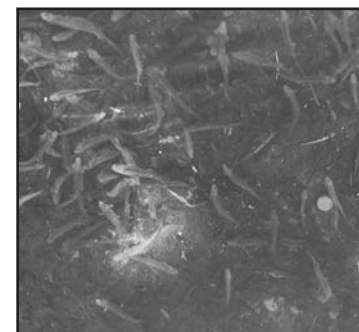
Our first date was June 9. We had 16,000 trout to plant in four lakes. We met at Cone Lake Trailhead the day before so we would be prepared for the hatchery truck at 9 in the morning. We had 14 people and 11 head of pack stock. Each head of pack stock carried 1,000 to 1,600+ fingerlings depending on which lake they were going to. The day turned out great, everyone was successful with the lake they were assigned, and we lost, maybe, 20 trout total.

We stayed the night as the next plant was the next day and was a combination of lakes from Cone Lake and Caribou Lake trailhead only seven miles away. We packed 9,500 fingerlings on 10 head of stock. Again, all went well as far as the plant itself. We lost, maybe, 10 trout total. We did lose a mule for a short time. It was headed back to the trailhead when it was found.

Our last date was June 30 and we met at the Hay Meadows trailhead the night before. Again, the unit supplied hamburgers and hot dogs, and everyone brought a side dish. Fish & Wildlife met us at the trailhead at 9 a.m. and off we went with 12,500 assigned fingerlings on 10 head of stock. We had great success again with, maybe, a loss of 20 fish except for one lake. Hidden Lake #5 was shallow along the shore and since it was later in the month the water was warmer. We lost about 200 in that lake. We are looking into how we can plant Hidden Lake #5 more successfully.

Overall, the fish plant was highly successful. On June 30, Paul, a Fish & Wildlife biologist, went with us and observed what it took to get the fish to the lakes. It was great having Paul along as he helped with the fish planting and we got a chance to talk about the logistics and organizational procedures to make it work. We even discussed the possibility of more lakes at other locations in the future.

One last thing. The numbers quoted add up to 37,900 trout and I said 40,000. They always bring a few extra each day. Based on the weights of the trout, we were pushing 40,000+. We are already looking forward to next year.



UNIT NEWS

KERN RIVER VALLEY:

DOMELANDS WILDERNESS WORK PARTY

By Pat Shreffler, Public Lands Director, Kern River Valley Unit

The USFS and Kern River Valley Unit have been working to clear the trails of the Domeland Wilderness in the Sequoia Forest for years, and in the last two years we have been losing ground. This is due to drought mortality and fires killing trees that have been coming down. At the same time, brush in burned areas has been growing at a much higher rate than normal. The Dark Canyon trail has been blocked by trees for over six years now, the Woodpecker Trail has been blocked by white thorn since last year and trails are in danger of forever being lost much like the rest of the Wilderness areas in California. Therefore, the Kern River Unit planned a project out of Paloma Meadow Horse Camp/Pasture.

First, we held saw classes for BCHC April 17 and 18 and May 15 and 16 so we could certify sawyers. Then we proposed a project date of May 17-22 where the Kern River Unit would set up a base camp and kitchen, buy food and provide breakfast, dinner and other logistical support for the volunteers. We then put out a call to all BCHC units for volunteers and certified sawyers, advising the Kern River Unit and USFS we would provide logistical support.

We had hoped to have 20 members respond to the call. We actually had 24 BCHC members offer to help. Unfortunately, several had various illnesses, minor injuries, etc., before the trip but we still had 18 folks show up for the project, which was wonderful. The BCHC Kern River Valley Unit wishes to thank all who responded to the call, even those who had emergencies and could not make it.

The 18 volunteers who showed up were outstanding workers and we really kicked butt! We divided into three crews. We worked the following trails: Woodpecker, Sirretta, Dark Canyon, Domelands, Rock House, Machine Creek, Boone and Paloma. We cleared a total of 24.08 miles of these trails, including 5 miles of white thorn brush, and we cut 41 trees.

We experienced camaraderie and fun while gathered around the campfire for outstanding meals cooked by Lynn Joiner and Bonnie Searcy from the Kern Sierra Unit. All in all, it was an extremely successful and fun trip. A big thanks to the folks who worked so hard. I believe this is a great model other units could use to accomplish tough projects.



Lynn Joiner's mules wait patiently while trails were cleared, white thorn brush removed and 41 trees cut during the Domelands Wilderness work party.



AMERICAN
HORSE COUNCIL

American Horse Council Action Alert Contact Your Federal Lawmakers, Co-Sponsor Trails Bills!

Even after passing the landmark "Great American Outdoors Act" last year, trails legislation continues to gain traction in Congress. On April 21, Sens. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Shelley Moore-Capito (R-WV), introduced the "Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation Act" (S. 1229). This legislation would streamline the recreation permitting process. Importantly, it would also consolidate permits for a single trip on public lands managed by multiple agencies. On the House side, Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO) has introduced a companion bill, H.R. 3670.

On May 27, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) introduced the "Recreation Not Red-Tape Act" (S. 1874). Like the "SOAR Act," this bill would streamline the recreation permitting process. It would also promote voluntarism to address backlog trail maintenance projects. Rep. Blake Moore (R-UT) has introduced a companion bill, H.R. 3527.

IN MEMORY

In tribute to a Backcountry Horsemen of California member who has died, we welcome units to submit a brief obituary/story and photograph for publication in The Backcountry News. Please send submissions by email to BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com

In addition, the BCHC Member site (bchcalifornia.org) contains an "In Memory" tab. This is another place where a photo and obituary of longtime members may be placed. To share stories and pictures, email to BCHC Webmaster Jacque Murphy at brennaluet@hotmail.com

Also, on the BCHC site, you will find a "Donate" button. If you would like to pay tribute to a deceased BCHC member or even to a beloved horse or mule, you are encouraged to do so on BCHC's website. The "Donate" button takes you to PayPal, a safe and easy way to make online contributions. The BCHC Education Fund Inc. is a 501(c)3 charitable organization; all donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

We thank Justice Elizaeth A. Baron of Atascadero, California, for this excellent idea.



BCHC sincerely thanks the following 2020 Rendezvous sponsors for their generous support:



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BLUFF DODGE,
CHRYSLER,
JEEP**



The deadline for submissions to the
FALL 2021 EDITION

of The Backcountry News is: **September 24, 2021**
(earlier than usual due to Rendezvous)

Send submissions to:
BCHC Editor at BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com

**THE BCHC EDUCATION FUND
IS A 501(c)3 NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION**

A donation in the amount of your choice is tax deductible. You can now donate easily and quickly, using a major credit card or PayPal. Simply go to the BCHC website (bchcalifornia.org), scroll down to the bottom of any page, press the DONATE button and help us in our many efforts.

THANK YOU!

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,

4/16/2021 through 7/15/2021

BENEFACTOR (\$100)

Eastern Sierra	Bill Carter Troy Patton
High Sierra	Ruth Gerson Jacob Hamstra Karl Pendegraft
Kern Sierra	Brad Allen of Rosedale Farrier Supply Mylon Filkins, DVM Larry Mumford
Lake-Mendo	Richard Knox
Los Padres	Kaye Bruns Robin Cederlof William Chaides Eve Devine Laura D. Wimer
Mid Valley	Tony Alamo Karen Barindelli Jay Barnes Gary A. Cain Bob Cooper Carol Jo Hargreaves Rian Hudson Debra Lewis Bob Magee John V. Marshall Jennifer Marshall
Mother Lode	MID VALLEY UNIT Randy Powell John Schaapman
North Bay	Donna Jones Furlow
Redshank Riders	Lynn Cominsky Renee Aberle Allison Renck Ron Robertson
Redwood	Darrel & Carole Polasek
San Diego	David Roy Chevallier

San Diego	Lee Kelly-Gillen Walt J. Kirkwood
San Joaquin Sierra	John Cunningham Larry Nishma Knapp-Yosemite Trls Pk Sta Stephen Naylon
Sequoia	Jamie Wilson, DVM Larry Young
Shasta Trinity	Lyle Charter Ken Hartman
Sutter Buttes	Corky Layne Jerry Walters

PATRON (\$250)

High Country	Lynn Saunders
High Sierra	Richard Cochran Trish Pendegraft Sonia Shepard McLellan
Kern Sierra	Robert L. Anderson Willi Coeler Lynn Joiner
Los Padres	Otis Calef
Mid Valley	Sarah Rivers
Sequoia	Kathryn C. Bennett Jim Holly
Shasta Trinity	Bruce McGowan

MT. WHITNEY (\$500)

Eastern Sierra	Sarah C. Sheehan
Kern Sierra	Roger Whitaker
Mid Valley	Dennis M. Serpa Terri Arington Lloyd Erlandson
Mother Lode	Timothy Durbin
Pacific Crest	Craig Bugajski
Shasta Trinity	Dean Angelides

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

The following new members joined BCHC from
4/16/2021 through 7/15/2021
THANK YOU, NEW MEMBERS
We look forward to meeting you!

High Country	Susan Gibbons Justin Guisti Hattie Wimer
High Sierra	Steven & Susan Ritter
Los Padres	Richard Clifford LeAnn Qualls Mackenzie Vaughn
Mid Valley	John Andrews Kyle Clogston Jessica De Moura Fernando Florez, IV Kim Yates
Mother Lode	Skylar Campbell David Drewry Sonja Dreyer Sarah Finch Joy Lanzaro Dove Larsen Kerri McAlister Tanya Veldhuizen Tina Wickeraad
Redwood	Inger Avery Laura Clary Hannah Hasler Tonya Kaser Kristina Lorenzen Miranda Mayfield Matt Rees Tanya Villers Amber Woodward
San Diego	Brenda Baker Ken Bonus Robin Wood
San Joaquin Sierra	Cathy Albertson Eric Person
Sequoia	Donald M. McMillan Louisa Munger
Shasta Trinity	Bruce McGowan
Sierra Freepackers	Shay Perryman Meredith Wendt
Top of the State	Gail Schmidt Aly Schmidt Clint Whitchurch

WHY JOIN BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA?

(From bchcalifornia.org)

As a member, you'll:

- Get to participate in state and unit activities
- Learn valuable backcountry skills and outdoor ethics
- Gain new friends in our wonderful members
- Receive the BCHC newsletter
- Be kept up to date on public lands issues
- And more!

Even if you don't ride or aren't an active member, your dues contribute to our cause! You'll be helping pay for work projects, educational materials, training and insurances. Help support our efforts to keep trails open to equestrians!

JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE

1. Fill out the ONLINE MEMBERSHIP FORM, save it and print a copy for your records.
2. Submit the online form. A copy will be sent to Chip Herzig. VP of Membership. IMPORTANT: Youth Memberships MUST also print, sign, and mail these forms. Youth memberships will NOT be valid until the forms are received.
3. Pay with your Paypal

JOIN OR RENEW BY MAIL

1. Fill out the MEMBERSHIP FORM on page 23, make a copy for your records. IMPORTANT: Youth Memberships MUST also print, sign, and mail these forms. Youth memberships will NOT be valid until the forms are received.
2. Mail the completed form(s) and check* to:

Chip Herzig
BCHC Membership
1280 State Rte 208
Yerington, NV 89447

*Please make checks payable to Backcountry Horsemen of California. You may also pay via Paypal.

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
(559) 334-7731
danbdrafthorse@yahoo.com

KERN RIVER VALLEY

PO Box 2179
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
4HRanch@earthlink.net
Steve Horst
(661) 867-2777
horststephenc@yahoo.com

KERN SIERRA

16347 Stephenie Rd
Bakersfield, CA 93314-9669
Robert Anderson
(661) 978-9630
lazya01@yahoo.com

LAKE-MENDO

6980 Potter Valley Rd
Ukiah, CA 95482
Traci Glentzer
(707) 972-6256
blackhorsetack10@gmail.com

LOS PADRES

Box 472
Atascadero CA 93422
www.bchc-lpunit.org
Ryan Turner
(805) 286-0850
rt91.ltec@gmail.com

MID VALLEY

PO Box 1709
Modesto, CA 95353
www.bchcmidvalley.org
Doug Dollarhide
(209) 605-2403
bootsandspur@att.net

MOTHER LODE

PO Box 702
North Highlands, CA 95660
Randy Hackbarth
(530) 626-0571
trlryder@pacbell.net

NORTH BAY

PO Box 9435
Santa Rosa Ca. 95405
www.northbayunit.com
Dan Horn
(707) 544-4543
bearstrap@msn.com

PACIFIC CREST

PO Box 720684
Pinon Hills, CA 92372
Jennifer Sponsler
(760) 868-1588
jnjspon@aol.com

REDSHANK RIDERS

PO Box 383
Aguanga, CA 92536-0383
www.redshankriders.com
Mike Lewis
(951) 760-9255
mike@stumblinranch.com

REDWOOD

PO Box 6023
Eureka, CA 95502-6023
www.redwoodunit.com
Carole Polasek
(707) 786-9637cell: (707) 599-8021
muleride15@gmail.com

SAN DIEGO

PO Box 833
Descanso, CA 91916.
www.bchcsd.com
Walt J. Kirkwood
(619) 445-3555
walterjkirkwood@gmail.com
suzannekirk@gmail.com

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA

PO Box 25693
Fresno, CA 93729-5693
www.bchcsjsu.org.
Joe Kaminski
(559) 733-9170
kaminski clan@gmail.com

SANTA ANA RIVER

PO Box 306
Norco, CA 92860
www.sarubchc.org
Mike Williams
(951) 340-1789
socialhorsemn@yahoo.com

SEQUOIA

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

SHASTA TRINITY

16900 C Rd
Cottonwood, CA 96022
www.bchcshastatrinity.org
Greg Mittelstadt
(707) 330-3314
donar_723@yahoo.com

SIERRA FREEPACKERS

PO Box 64
Oakhurst, CA 93644-0064
www.sierrafreepackers.com
Patricia Vallentyne
(559) 683-8099
pcvallentyne@gmail.com

SUTTER BUTTES

2568 Lake Hills Dr
Butte Valley, CA 95965
Gary Paul
(530) 693-0420
muleguy54@gmail.com

TOP OF THE STATE

PO Box 461
Etna, CA 96027-0461
www.bchc-tos.com
Michele Machado
(817) 308-0258
meechele418@gmail.com

Questions? Membership Matters

BCHC VP of Membership is
Chip Herzig.

He will be happy to address
your questions or concerns.

Chip may be reached
Monday through Friday.

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

Email: chipherzig@gmail.
com

Phone: (775) 463-3634

Planning a Trip? Use



You will find the same airlines, hotels, rental cars
and cruises as on other travel websites!

You'll get great travel prices!

Each time you book travel a portion of the travel
commissions will go to support BCHC!

**BCHC EARNS 60%
OF THE
COMMISSIONS!**

It's that simple!

www.ytbtravel.com/bchc

MEMBERSHIP

**Backcountry Horsemen
of California**



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

**MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION**

New Renewal
 Change

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

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

DCTR (Your Membership Number): _____

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: _____

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

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Check No. _____

Parent Unit Membership Types (Check One)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual \$90 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family \$110 | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (12-17 years old) \$15* | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual \$125 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family \$150 | *Youth members MUST fill out BOTH Youth Membership forms (available online) | |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> 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/Unit
Unit Name (from above list)

Associate Membership for: _____ \$15/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 if 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.

Youth Memberships

Youth Memberships MUST be accompanied by a signed Youth Membership Permission Release and Youth Parent Permission Form. A Youth Membership is NOT valid until BCHC or the Parent Unit has received signed copies of these forms.

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"/> 1 Year Individual | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual | \$90 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual | \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family | \$60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family | \$110 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family | \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old) | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (12-17 years old) | \$15* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Whitney | \$500 |

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

My Total Remittance: _____ \$ _____

My Check Number: _____

Date Mailed: _____

Verification of BCHC Membership

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
- 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 VP of Membership (Chip Herzig) with each units' data AND it will be put on the BCHC web page in the password protected section.

BACKCOUNTRY HORSMEN OF CALIFORNIA RENDEZVOUS



**October 29,
30 & 31, 2021**

**TULARE
COUNTY
FAIR-
GROUNDS**

**620 South K
Street**

**Tulare,
California
93274**

RENDEZVOUS UPDATE

By Marily Reese

This year's Rendezvous is shaping up to be a great event! The theme of the 2021 Rendezvous is "Preserving Our Trails for Future Generations." Our clinicians this year are Lee and Jennifer Roeser, JoDe Collins, Loni Langdon (Masterson Method), and many more. We have planned a trail challenge for adults as well as children. As part of the trail challenge, we are going to include a pack-n-trail which is a packer and one pack animal. Numerous packing contests will be available for packers which will include the box hitch, diamond hitch and odd load. A Dutch oven cooking demonstration will be presented as well as other demonstrations. The Friday night dinner will be hosted by the San Joaquin Sierra Unit with music from Gary Gagnani. A "Kids Corral" is being planned to entertain our younger attendees, and vendors are welcome and encouraged to sign up (vendor packets are currently available). Saturday night's dinner will once again be hosted by the San Joaquin Sierra Unit with a live auction to follow, including a gun and pack saddle raffle.

Registration forms may be downloaded from the BCHC website at www.bchcalifornia.org.

Overnight camping will be available for RVs as well as tent camping. We hope you make plans to attend and make this event a great success!

Putting on a Rendezvous takes many hands and we are thankful for the talented and experienced help from the following units: High Sierra, Kern Sierra, Mid Valley, San Joaquin Sierra, Sequoia, and Sierra Freepackers.

For more information, check out the BCHC website at: www.bchcalifornia.org or call Dan Baumgardner at (559) 334-7731.

Hope to see you there!