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

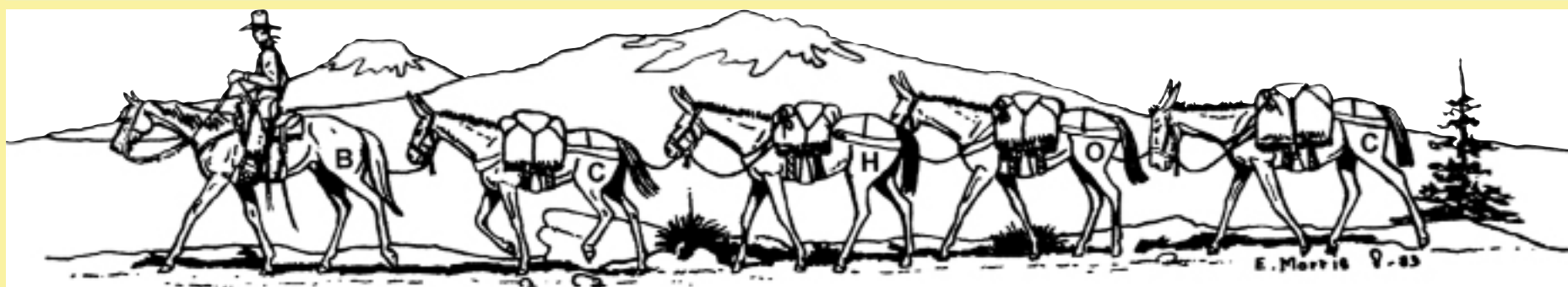
BCHC

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The Backcountry News



Volume 18, Issue 3

The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

Winter 2012

Mark your calendars for the **BCHC Rendezvous: March 30, 31 & April 1, 2012**

The Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) will hold their 2012 Rendezvous in Red Bluff, California, Friday, March 30, through Sunday, April 1. The Rendezvous is a three-day event that focuses on educating BCHC members and the general public on trails and trail issues. BCHC has been providing education via the Rendezvous since 1991.

The Rendezvous in Red Bluff last year was very well-received; approximately 2000 people attended the three-day event.

This year we have expanded the schedule by four hours on Sunday and hope more people will attend. The additional hours will allow time for more classes, seminars, and contests. Rendezvous seminars focus on trails and packing, equine care and health, and the principles of "Gentle Use" and "Leave No Trace". Highly-regarded horse and mule trainers, Jerry Tindell and Barry Krohn, will offer guidance on improving owner-animal relationships and dealing with behavior problems, as well provide tips on equine care, groundwork and riding techniques.

Backcountry Horsemen of California
RENDEZVOUS
Building Wilderness Skills
MARCH 30 - APRIL 1, 2012
Red Bluff, CA
Tehama County Fairgrounds

FREE Admission to Fairgrounds

Events	Seminars
Horse Trainers • Contests	Packing 101 • Trail Trials
Vendors • Kids Activities	Gentle Use Skills
Dinner, Dance and Auction	Wilderness Safety
Wine & Cheese Fundraiser	Equine & Human First Aid
Cowboy Church • Raffle	Dutch Oven Cooking
United States Marine Corps	Public Lands Access
BLM Adoptions & More	Saddle Fitting & More

Open to the Public! Fun for the whole family!
Advance Your Backcountry Riding & Packing Skill!

For more information, visit www.bchcalifornia.org or contact Larry Shuman at (530)527-4907 or (530)526-0590 or email: Lshuman62@gmail.com

The Rendezvous includes classes, contests and activities for all ages - kids as well as adults. California State Horsemen's Association will conduct "Trail Trials" all day Friday and Saturday during the Rendezvous and we'll have a Dutch Oven cooking competition. Last year was a fun time for all; this year should be even greater!

Admission to the BCHC Rendezvous is free so please plan to attend the 2012 event. Mark your calendars for March 30 to April 1, 2012.

If you have questions or would like more information about Backcountry Horsemen or the Rendezvous, please contact Larry Shuman at 530-526-0590 or by email at Lshuman62@gmail.com or go to www.BCHCalifornia.org

See Pg 14 for tentative event lineup.

The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

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Who is BCHC? The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc. is a 501c4 nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of California, March 13, 1990, with a 501(c)3 education foundation established in 2007. The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc., reserves the right to refuse any advertisements and/or articles that are inconsistent with the Backcountry Horsemen of California's objectives and purpose statement. Other material will be printed at the Editor's discretion.

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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 may be sent on disk in a Microsoft Word format, emailed or sent by regular mail. Longer articles are subject to edit for space at the discretion of the Editor. Photos may not be returned.

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

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
August 19, 2011	September 2011 - Fall
December 16, 2011	January 2012 - Winter
April 20, 2012	May 2012 - Spring/Summer

Advertising Rates per Issue: Rates effective January 2005. All ads must be paid in advance. Multiple insertion discounts apply to ads placed in consecutive issues.

<u>Number of Issues:</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	} Cost per Issue
Full Page	\$150.00	\$142.50	\$135.00	\$127.50	
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	

Advertising: All ads must include all fonts and images used in artwork. Ads must be at a resolution of 300 pixels per inch at the actual size used in the artwork. Mail payment to the BCHC Treasurer. Checks returned from the bank will have a \$25.00 return check fee. No advertising will be accepted from advertisers with outstanding balances. Liability by The Backcountry News shall not exceed the space occupied by the error. Never shall The Backcountry News be liable for any general, special or consequential damages. All claims for adjustments must be made within 30 days of the first publication of said ad.

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President's Page



Season's Greetings fellow Backcountry Horsemen,

Here we are at the end of another great year. Where did the time go? It seems like I was just elected president, but it's the second time! As I look back at the year I recall we had great Rendezvous in Red Bluff. Then we were all chomping at the bit to get into the back country after an exceptional snow pack.

The season started late but for me it was one of the most productive I've had. We did 2 trips on the Kibbie Ridge trail in the Emigrant cutting out 230 logs on trails that had not seen a saw in many years. We did 2 trips to pack in and out PCT crews. In between we had our summer executive committee meeting at Greys Meadow in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Then I trekked up north to the majestic Trinity Alps to participate in the partnership trip with the CCC's, Forest Service, and the Shasta Trinity Unit. It was refreshing to see the youth of today living and learning the skills to maintain our back country trails. The CCC's are great asset that we partner with to keep our trails open and we are exposing them to our heritage as packers. Some of them even wanted to sign up with BCHC in the future. This is yet another way of spreading our message and creating interest in what we do!

We found out at our fall meeting that membership has been dwindling. This is a constant battle in our tough economic times in which we have to struggle. I proposed a membership contest in our previous newsletter where we recognize the largest percentage increase in unit membership based on the end of the year roster. The unit with the largest increase will receive 5 packets to the Rendezvous and the runner-up will receive 3 packets. Hopefully we can start our membership back on positive growth. We need to go out to promote membership to all horsemen as we have to bolster our standing and to accomplish our purpose of keeping our public

lands open to all stock use. Let's think outside the box to grow our organization.

Membership relates to our fund raising efforts. I have appointed a committee to further investigate the calendar fund-raiser that the Board of Directors suggested we do. We should have some results at our January meeting to see if we can make this a new source of funds. We have to be constantly looking outside of our organization to solicit funds to be prepared for future needs. If anyone has other fund-raising ideas please let us know! At our last board meeting it was suggested that all units start building a war chest for future needs that are definitely on the horizon.

As we look to 2012 we have made some changes. Our state meetings that were held at the rendezvous will now be held in January 20, & 21 in Visalia at the Holiday Inn, the same place as our fall meeting. This will allow the members to be free to participate and enjoy the gathering of fellow BCH'ers at the Rendezvous. There will be no state meetings at the rendezvous. Larry Shuman and crew have been working hard to insure this rendezvous will include more activities to get us educated and have some fun.

It's that time of year to get your volunteer service project reports into Carrie so she can tabulate and send them to BCHA. Please help her by getting these done as soon as possible. Be sure to record your projects in pictures and share them with your membership to promote our cause to the public. It's always interesting to see what our membership has accomplished and to see how next year we can do more for the back country

The winter season is upon us and now is the time to get your tack repaired and oiled. It's also time to meet with your local agencies to plan and coordinate next season's projects. Planning and getting to know your agency personnel is key to having successful projects.

Have a Happy New Year,
President Dennis M Serpa



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BCHC Winter State Board Meeting
Holiday Inn, Visalia, CA
January 20 & 21, 2012

BCHC Rendezvous 2012
Tehama District Fairgrounds, Red Bluff, CA
March 30 - April 1, 2012

BCHC

YOUTH COORDINATOR REPORT

By Karen Lopes, BCHC Youth Coordinator

Hello and Merry Christmas! Hope you are finding time to ride your beloved horses and mules during these short and busy winter days. I have some information I'd like to share with you about the 2012 Rendezvous, as well as share some new ideas to get your youth more involved in your Unit's events.

First, I'd like to share some ideas that came from one of our own Youth Members, "CeCe." We've exchanged a few e-mails,

and she says that it might be a fun and interesting activity to partner up a youth rider with a more experienced, competent trail rider. No offense parents, but I know from experience that it is much easier (for most kids) to learn new things from an adult that isn't your parent. This would be a great activity at a camp-out or trail ride excursion that your unit has planned in the future. Ask a few knowledgeable riders to see if they would be willing to take a youth out with them and a small group on a short, safe trail ride. Even if the parent really feels they need to ride along, go ahead and ride with your son or daughter, but allow the designated leader to be the one to coach your child as needed. If you try this idea out, please send an e-mail or give me a call... I'd love some feedback!

CeCe had another idea that can be easily implemented at your next DOG or camp-out. S'mores at the campfire and/or some "kid-friendly" snack from the Dutch Ovens! I personally love pretty much anything that comes out of a Dutch Oven, but I can see how some of the younger kids wouldn't always be so high on the stews and vegetables. How about some chocolaty dessert? I'm sure some of you already do this but, let's advertise and designate something "just for the kids!"

Now, Rendezvous 2012! I will be setting up a "Youth Booth!" I will have tables with awards that the youth will earn by attending the youth classes. The more classes you attend, the better choices of awards that you have to choose from! There are some of the familiar classes being offered, and there will be some new ones added this year. (I

am still looking for a few members to help out with some of these classes!) After a youth finishes a class, they will have the instructor sign their paper, and when they are finished with all of their classes, they

can come to the "Youth Booth" to turn in their paper and pick up an award. In addition to the classes, there will be a few interactive activities located at the booth to make it more fun and inviting. Please, get the word out to all of your Unit members; bring your kids, grand kids, nieces, nephews, and the neighbors kids to the Rendezvous. There will be fun and educational activities for them to participate in on Saturday and also on Sunday morning.

Now, as I previously mentioned, I need some help. I need a couple of people to take over a few classes. I'm sure there are many of you out there that are well-equipped to teach one of these classes!! Please contact me if you could help organize and facilitate any of the following: Pack Box Balancing, LNT For Kids, Kids Art Contest, or if you would be willing to just help out with the Youth Booth.

Again, give me an e-mail at karenlopeshorses@att.net, or give me a call at (209) 357-3055. I'm looking forward to much more youth involvement at this year's Rendezvous!!



Introducing the New Vice President of Public Lands - Bob Magee

I am a native of the great and generally cold state of Montana. I was born in Lewistown, Mt and raised in Great Falls, Mt. During the summers I worked on ranches in the area performing those skilled tasks of plowing fields with the tractor, mucking out stables, shoveling grain, giving shots to calves, or just standing around looking like I knew what I was doing. I spent one summer working as a fire fighter for the Forest Service, having the privilege of helping to put out a fire in the Bob Marshall Wilderness before it was designated as a Wilderness.

Just out of school I worked for a construction company building missile silos for intercontinental missiles aimed at the Soviets. I spent some time with the US Navy working as an engineman on a ship and did two tours of duty in Vietnam. Following that I was hired by Carrier Corporation, a major manufacturer of Air Conditioning. I spent 40 years with them working in various management positions.

When I retired, I bought a horse and decided to spend as much time as possible riding and taking in the great beauty of the state of California. I joined BCHC Mid Valley Unit about five years ago and earlier this year I started working as their Public Lands Liaison. I'm married with no children.

I am looking forward to working for you in the position of Vice President Public Lands. I believe that we have a wonderful opportunity to work with the Forest Service on the Trail Classification Program started by BCHA and clearing up any concerns we have about how they have classified trails that might infringe upon our goals of keeping them open for use by stock users.

Regards,
Bob Magee



The young man is Garret Dollarhide from the Mid Valley Unit

BCHC

Wilderness Rider Experience: Back Country Horsemen of CA 2011

By: Roland Schmitz

In April 2011 at the Backcountry Horsemen of California Rendezvous in Red Bluff, California, I interviewed for the honored "Wilderness Rider" position that choose 10 individuals every 2 years to participate in this program. The program teaches individuals to go out and educate the public about "Leave No Trace", "Gentle Use of the Land" and "Pack It In, Pack It Out" practices and principles. I felt I would be a good representative for this program because I truly enjoy speaking with others about BCHC and how important it is for us to support this organization to fight and ensure our future for horseback riding in the back country. I felt that being a part of the Wilderness Rider group I would have more education as well as avenues for sharing my passion for our open spaces and beautiful riding country. After a lengthy interview process and background check of all of my references, I was accepted into the program. I was told that in September, I would be going into the Sierra Nevada mountain range to do some training and that I would need my horse and a pack mule-- and that is where my adventure began!

Honestly, I really had only a slight idea of what this trip entailed. I was sent a packet of where I was supposed to go and when. Also, information on what I was supposed to present to the group and what I needed to bring. Other than that, I just did what I usually do: just "go with the program" and have an open mind to enjoy this experience for what it was.

After speaking with a fellow member from San Diego, Tammy Alsman, we decided to caravan up to Granite Creek in the Sierra National Forest/Ansel Adams Wilderness Area. Upon arriving, we were immediately met my Ruthie Heuer-- coordinator for the Wilderness Rider Program, and Camp Hostess: Denise Robinson, also a fellow Wilderness Rider. Others also arrived shortly after and some had already been there and had been out on a trail ride. After tending to our animals, we all began to mingle and introduce ourselves over dinner and a camp fire. The instructors also informed us of what to expect in the upcoming week and what was expected of us. After, we all went to get some rest... to get ready for the next day.

Morning arrived with a filling breakfast provided by our cook, Dave Moser. We also were introduced to Donna Meier and Jo Johnson, our "Train the Trainers" Trainers who formally introduced us to Ruthie Heuer--all four of these individuals are Stock Masters of Leave No Trace Instruction. We also met Ken Graves, a professional packer from the U.S. Forest Service. We then went around and introduced ourselves and began the "Train the Trainer" course. Each Wilderness Rider student had to present a "Leave No Trace" topic that

was pre-assigned to us. Valerie Lantz spoke about "Plan Ahead and Be Prepared"; George Archer spoke about "Trailhead Manners and Etiquette"; Jerry Heitzler spoke about "Stock Management" and Mary Odell spoke about "Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces." The next day after breakfast, I spoke about my topic: "Disposal of Waste Properly"; Tammy Alsman spoke about "Leave What You Find"; Mike Kohlbaker spoke about "Minimize Campfire Impact"; Cindy McMurray spoke about "Food Packaging and Preparation" and Thor Bodtker spoke about "Respect and Awareness of Wildlife."

I anxiously awaited for the next day, which included what I was looking forward to the most: PACKING! The plan was to pack-in to the Knoblock Meadow and it would be my first "real" packing trip! I had my young Haflinger mule, "Spice Girl" and it would also be her first pack trip. I had practiced "packing" her at home with an unpacked pack saddle and ponied her off my Haflinger horse, Wyatt, all over town and a few times in the hills and mountains for a few hours at a time. Ken Graves came over to help me secure my pack down as it was my first time adding weight into my packing gear. I was eternally thankful for his input and help! We left for a three hour ride to the meadow, which included a crossing of "the Niche"-- a steep and narrow trail with a few two foot rock "steps" that our animals had to climb across. I was so proud of all of our animals, including my young mule, who all traveled this treacherous terrain with flying colors!

Upon arriving at our destination, we settled in: opening up our tents, high-lining the animals, putting up the latrine, and most importantly: the kitchen: I was HUNGRY! Our meals were very memorable-- some were prepared and some were not. What I mean by that is, we experienced various dehydrated foods that needed just boiled water. After 10 minutes of steeping in the boiling water our meals were ready. I was pleasantly surprised that the dehydrated meals were actually pretty good! I ate Spanish Rice with chicken.

At the campfire, we had a special USF guest arrive, packer for the Sierra National Forest: Debbie McDougald. She talked about the history of the meadow and the surrounding region. After the campfire, we all went to bed-- we were thoroughly exhausted!

The next morning we packed up our gear and headed back. The animals were in high gear knowing they were on their way back "home". We stopped at Chetwood Cabin, approximately 100 years old, and looped back to our original trail taking us back over the treacherous "Niche". All made it through and back at home camp safe and sound. We had two more days of lessons on packing and education on how to prepare

and present what we all had learned on this trip to the public. We had two other educational guests from the Sierra National Forest: professional packer, Vince Parker, and volunteer for trail maintenance, John Glenn, who spoke about cross cut saws. There was lots more education and hands on training and we "graduated" as "Wilderness Riders" and "Leave No Trace" educators. We celebrated our accomplishments down at the creek and took a lot of pictures to remember our time and experience there.

The last day was spent breaking down the camp and cleaning up... although I was able to leave early in exchange for writing this article as it was my 5th Wedding Anniversary and they let me leave early in order to get home to my wife! Apparently Denise was pleased with how the camp was cleaned up afterwards-- it should after all of the training we received!

In addition to making new friends, I learned so much on this trip-- I really had only in inkling of what being a Wilderness Rider entailed and how detailed and important it is to "Leave No Trace" when camping or packing in the backcountry. What will stick in my mind most is the term, "Charmin Lilies"-- a term used to describe toilet paper left in the back country. I look forward to finding opportunities to educate the public about the "Leave No Trace" principles and practices with our local agencies and public forums. I am grateful and thankful for this opportunity and experience and for the amazing people that are so passionately dedicated and involved in this program. I would also like to thank the Sierra National Forest, the Ansel Adams Wilderness and Granite Creek camp and hostess, Denise Robinson, Ruthie Heuer, Jo Johnson, and Donna Meier. I also want to personally thank instructor Ken Graves, from the USFS, for his personal attention and help with my mule, Spice Girl. And, our awesome cook, Dave Moser. I also want to thank all the participants for making this experience fun and memorable. And, also to BCHC for choosing me to be a part of this program and represent our organization as a Wilderness Rider. Last but not least, I would also like to thank the Bureau of Land Management, the National Parks and the National Forest for giving us the opportunity to represent and teach the "Leave No Trace" and "Gentle Use" principles.

Story submitted by Dan Horn



BCHC/BCHA

STATE BOARD MEETINGS JANUARY 20 & 21 in VISALIA

The upcoming Winter State Board Meeting will be held in Visalia at the Holiday Inn Conference Center Saturday, January 21, 2012.

Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center
9000 West Airport Drive, Visalia 93277
\$79/night + tax. Let the hotel know it is for the Backcountry Horsemen meetings.

Hotel Phone Number: 1-559-651-5000

Reservation phone #: 1-800-465-4329

Hotel website: www.visaliaca.holiday-inn.com

Don't forget to use the BCHC travel site to make your reservations.

There is also a restaurant available on site for your meals.

Executive Committee Dinner Meeting

Friday, January 20, 2012
5:00-9:00pm
Plaza Room

Education Committee Meeting

Saturday, January 21, 2012
9:00-11:30am
Birch Room

Public Lands Committee Meeting

Saturday, January 21, 2012
9:00-11:30am
Plaza Room

State Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, January 21, 2012
1:30-5:00pm
Plaza Room

This year there will be **no Saturday night dinner.**

Directions:

Take Hwy 99 to the Visalia exit. The hotel is literally right there on the cusp of Hwy 198 and 99.



OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE

of the BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA (from the BCHC Bylaws)

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

Introducing the BCHA National Director - Pete Kriger



Pete will also be a Pomona Horse Expo Speaker

As a volunteer with Backcountry Horsemen, Pete has been offering educational presentations since the early 1990s. His simple explanations of highline construction with mountain climbing gear have been well received at many venues in several western states. A Leave No Trace Master Educator, and BCHC Wilderness Rider, Pete will offer a Gentle Use approach to exploring America's public lands with equines.

With a strong allegiance to mules, Pete likes to share what mules can do. Riding and packing in the mountains, deserts, beaches, and forests has offered unique challenges and opportunities. Mules offer a few lessons of their own... the humor of the mule's personality, and their strong loyalties are often part of a successful and enjoyable adventure. Pete will be conducting a class at the upcoming Prepare to learn and plan to be entertained.

Class Description:

Beyond the fence-lines...explore ways to safely and securely contain your horse, mule. Whether you're out on the trail, and camping with minimal facilities, it's best to learn the pros and cons of stock restraints. This course will review hobbles, picket stakes, high-lines, and electric fences.

BCHC/BCHA

Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Friday, January 20, 2012

Plaza Room, Holiday Inn, Visalia, California

BCHA Trail Classification Program

Submitted by Bob Magee

Vice President – Public Lands

- A. Call to order: Dennis Serpa
- B. Record of Attendance: Kaye Bruns
 - please sign in
 - guests sign separate sheet
- C. Approve/Correct Past Minutes: October 14, 2011
- D. Secretary's Report, Correspondence: Kaye Bruns
- E. Reports:
 - 1. Treasurer: Lynn Joiner
 - 2. BCHC Action Reports: Ann Lange and Pete Kriger
 - 3. Insurance Report: Richard Waller
 - 4. Membership: Chip and Linda Herzig
 - 5. Education: Lisa Deas and Dan Horn
 - 6. Public Lands: Bob Magee
 - 7. Public Service: Carrie Johnen
 - 8. Youth Coordinator: Karen Lopes
 - 9. Webpage: Lisa Deas
 - 10. Newsletter: Rhonda Strickland
 - 11. Travel site:
- F. Old Business:
 - 1. Policy Review Committee: Lynn Joiner
 - 2. State/Unit Fund-raiser: James King
 - Calendar/calendar committee
 - 3. Rendezvous 2012 Update: Larry Shuman
 - 4. Rendezvous 2013: Roland Schmitz
 - 5. Ex. Committee unit visits:
 - 6. Missing unit reports: Kaye Bruns
- G. New Business:
 - 1. Historian appointment: need names
 - 2. BCHC/PCT: Dennis Serpa
 - meeting from December 10th
 - 3. BCHA- pictures and reports from work projects: Pete Kriger
 - 4. Mother Lode: by-law revisions: attachment
- H. Announcements/Other Business:
 - next meeting is:

**** Closed Session- Board members only at this meeting.**
- I. Adjournment

The Philosophy and Purpose of the Backcountry Horsemen of America and California, states that the organization will, "work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use." In other words, one of the reasons we exist as an organization is to work for the future generational stock users to ensure they have the same opportunities that we have on the public lands. The Trail Classification Program is an opportunity to perform that task for their benefit.

What is this program? In 1999 the US Forest Service changed from three classes of trails to a five class trail system. In 2004, Backcountry Horsemen of America filed suit against the Forest Service for the following reasons:

1. The system changed trail parameters without involving the public.
2. It replaced the original system with a newer system that created trail classes that would not accommodate pack and saddle animals.
3. For a trail class that previously accommodated pack and saddle stock, managers might assign a hiker class, or a class that would not accommodate pack and saddle animals without first going through the legally required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and public involvement.

The judge's ruling stated:

"The managed and designed use of a trail are established by individual forest staffs... with the public's active assistance, and any changes require a public involvement process and land management planning determinations, including appropriate NEPA review."

As a result, the Forest Service and BCHA got together and discussed how they might work together on this issue. The Forest Service put on a training program on how they go about classifying trails, and the two agreed to work with each other to validate and update trail data. For those who are interested in how the Forest Service classifies trails, go to this website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/trail-management/trail-fundamentals/>

This resulted in the Forest Service providing information on how all of the trails and roads in all of the National Forests are classified. This information was distributed by BCHA to all of the State organizations, who were then to get it to all of their units who were to review the data and meet with the Forest Service personnel and clear up any items they found that were a concern.

I recently started working on this project for the units in California. I am trying to ensure that each unit that works with a Forest here in California, gets the data on the trails for that Forest and gets enough information and support to determine what action if any needs to be taken

So far the people in Public Lands for the units have been very supportive of this program and are working well on the project. As might be expected, there are some Forests that we have more concern about than others. We will attempt to clear up these concerns and work to ensure we continue to have the access for stock users that we have had historically.

Bob Magee

Vice President – Public Lands

e-mail: sanbobs1@live.com

Working to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

Executive Meeting Minutes Draft

**DRAFT BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
October 14, 2011
Holiday Inn, Visalia, California**

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:25pm by President Dennis Serpa.

B. Record of Attendance: Sign-in sheet was circulated. Members absent were: Lisa Deas, Ruth Gerson, and Dan Clifford. There were 10 guests.

C. Minutes: Minutes from July 29, 2011 were discussed.
-issues about the comments made at the July meeting
-vote was taken with the 501(C)4 board, and should have been with the 501(C)3 board. Revised motion was done through email.
-Motion by Dan Horn, second by Bruce DeMott. Lynn Joiner voted to approve.

-the three lines of the minutes of July 29, 2011 will be redacted.
-Motion by Dan Horn to strike the information, and move to the C3 Minutes. Second by Sam Burrows. Motion carried.

-Motion to approve the Minutes of July 29, 2011 as amended by Dan Horn, second by Bruce DeMott. Motion carried.

D. Secretary's Report: Kaye Bruns reported on correspondence that was taken care of from July 25 to October 13, 2011. A copy of the report is attached in the Secretary's notebook.

E. Reports:

1. Treasurer's Report: Lynn Joiner presented her handouts. No discussion was held. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Dan Horn, second by Michael Murphy. Motion carried.

2. BCHA Action Report: Ann Lange reported:
-BCHA working on a new way to do business. Trying to find a new CEO, more information will be in the next newsletter.
-need to operate in a way where BCHA can get more funding/donations.
-Alan Hill is the main person involved in writing a new set of by-laws and procedures

Michael Murphy reported:
-issues in parks, guidance being given by Dennis Daily
-BCHA Public Lands have a Google Group site up and running
-BCHA offering discounts on products
-BCHA National meeting booked until 2015

3. Insurance: Sam Burrows reported:
-if animals and public are involved you need insurance
-insurance form needs modifications to improve it, needs to be on website where units can complete the information and send it in.
-there are three (3) units that have designated an insurance coordinator
-9 of 23 units had no insurance requests
-information packet attached with Secretary's notes

4. Membership: Chip Herzig reported:
-there will be 1-2 more months of forwarding available. Still getting 2 - 3 letters a week at the old address. All units need to make sure they have correct BCHC address in their newsletters and applications.
-membership dropping: January approx. 3205, October approx. 2897
-Chip is sending out rosters showing memberships that are close to expiring or have expired.
-there are now 792 emails, which are saving about \$400
-major membership problems: *not getting renewals, big units have major turnover. unit presidents should talk to people who walk out the door;*

membership chairs should be talking to members too.

-need ideas for getting members

5. Education Committee: Dan Horn reported:
-coloring book on website to see
-cost for 1,000= \$1.95 plus 5% shipping, 500= \$2.28 plus 5% shipping
-need prepaid orders from units
-not making any money on books, want units to have them
-need orders by December 15th to get them for the January meeting
-information is from Leave No Trace Manual
-all royalty free, no copyright problems
-can download pages PDF file on website
-merchandise for Rendezvous 2012
-tire covers with large decal \$15.00
-large decal \$10.00
-small decal \$ 5.00
-hats \$20.00
-Project Resource Guide will be a new page on the website
-each unit to send annual education report to the Education Committee to show what they have done.
-Wilderness Riders Class was held September 3-8, 2011
9 students finished the class
-link to Canadian Education page for virtual website
-calendar for 2012: cowgirl theme. Need photos by December 1 or will not have a calendar.

6. Public Lands: Bruce DeMott reported on:
-his passion for Public Lands for the last 20 years
-not getting feedback on Public Land issues
-any Public Land issue he received is on the Forum
-Officers Training Manual revised 2011- Public Lands excerpt is in there
-we need to work together, not just doing our jobs separately
-his letter is attached with Secretary's notes

7. Public Service: Carrie Johnen reported:
-change in rates for skilled labor to \$30.00
-send reports to her and she will fix the amounts for each unit and send them back to the unit
-Directors will receive a report for their unit that was sent to BCHA
-clarification: do not count sleeping hours
-DEADLINES: January 1- directors will get collection sheet
January 20: individual hours are due to unit
February 1: need hours emailed to Carrie

8. Website: Lisa Deas was not at meeting
-suggested that President and Vice President of each unit have their emails on the front webpage where prospective members can contact them.

9. Newsletter:
-looking for volunteers to do the newsletter
-possibility of helping:
-Rhonda Strickland: Redshank Riders
-Corky Lane: Mother Lode
-Jacquie Murphy: Redwood
-Mary Odell: San Joaquin Sierra
-still want three per year?
-deadline is December 19th

Executive Meeting Minutes Draft (cont'd)

10. Travel site:

- collected \$26.00 for the year
- Motion made by Dan Horn to keep the site, second by Bruce DeMott
- Motion carried.

11. Youth Coordinator: Karen Lopes reported:

- need to get more youth involved at Rendezvous
- high website: for kids to show their videos on backcountry

adventures

-board approved and funded awards for kids that attend classes at Rendezvous, certificates will also be given out.

- Ruthie will teach kid's classes
- Kaye will do youth packing on iron mules
- need more ideas for kid's classes

F. Old Business:

1. Policy Review: should have it ready for January meeting. Really need a Historian to keep track of all the awards given out each year.

2. State Fund-raiser:

- Kaye Bruns presented information on the V6 Ranch in Parkfield.
- Wine and Cheese money is to go to the 501 (C) 4 account.
- Calendars: selling calendars for \$25.00. Michael King from Mid Valley will be talking about this fund-raiser at the BOD meeting.

3. Lifetime memberships: Dennis Serpa presented information and it will be discussed at the BOD meeting to see what they want to do. Handout attached to minutes.

4. Rendezvous 2012 Update: Larry Shuman reported:

- vendor letters went out
- re-designing the layout of booths
- increased amount of Vet classes
- 8 hour class in 2 hour segments: how to prevent getting lost in the backcountry
- AMA sanctioned event: judges are paid, need volunteers to set things up
- Marines???
- same trainers as last year: Jerry Tindel and Barry Crone
- possibility of Pat Parelli- he wants to switch to trail riding
- most jobs are covered by the local units
- Cowboy Action Shooters, 75% sure they will attend
- Ride for Life
- rental fees went up about 10%

5. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation update: Dennis Serpa reported:

- BCHC will participate, cost about \$300
- Arizona and Nevada also participating
- February 2-4, 2012 in Las Vegas
- about 20,000 people attend this convention Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- goal is to protect the backcountry, fish and game
- very supportive of stock u se
- Jim Atkinson is the executive director

6. State booth: Chip Herzig and Thor Bodtker to look in to the cost of a new board

- 10 x 10 or a 10 x 20 booth
- need about 15-20 photos for the booth

G. New Business:

1. Nomination of 2012 Officers: information presented by Larry Shuman

- only new nominations are:
 - 1st VP: Richard Waller
 - VP of Public Lands: Melba Leal and Bob Magee
 - BCHA National Director: Pete Kriger and Michael Murphy

2. January meeting to be held Jan 20-21 or Feb. 11-12. Lynn will check with hotel.

3. PCT problems: there will be a meeting in December with Forest Service, PCTA, BCHC for Region 5.

4. Executive Committee Summer Meeting:

- unit visits, need to start doing them
- check with BOD tomorrow- who needs help and wants a visit

5. Rendezvous 2013 down in Norco. Information will be presented at the BOD meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:52pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kaye Bruns
BCHC Secretary



DRAFT BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 15, 2011

Holiday Inn, Visalia, California

A. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 1:24 pm by President, Dennis Serpa.

B. Roll Call: Attendance was taken as Unit Directors signed in.

The following members were not present:

1. Ruth Gerson
2. Lisa Deas
3. Dan Clifford
4. Director from Eastern Sierra: William Carter
5. Director from Ohlone Riders: Martha McNeil

C. Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of April 1, 2011 was made by Toby Horst, Second by Bill Knispel. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence: Kaye Bruns reported the correspondence from July 25- October 13, 2011. (attached to the minutes)

A. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 1:24 pm by President, Dennis Serpa.

Secretary's Report:

Treasurer's Report: Lynn Joiner reported:

- Rendezvous 2011 made money because of the cost of the facility.
- Motion to approve Treasurer's Report made by Kay Brickner, with a second by Thor Bodtker. Motion carried.

BCHA Action Report:

Ann Lange reported:

-proposal: restructuring of BCHA to allow funding from big businesses.

-BCHC good representation from Alan Hill. Sherry Jennings, a Professor in Washington, teaches this idea of funding. Will try this idea for 2-3 years

- Executive Committee- 8 people in charge of day to day organization. They will work under the direction of the National Board.

-funding is a problem at the national level. Need to get money for trails.

Cont'd on Pg 10

State Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Draft

Cont'd from Pg 9

- this will not be a change in by-laws, it is changing policy.
- BCHA legal fund has \$60,000-\$65,000
- problem coming up in a few years: monitoring conditions in the forest
- indicators and measurements for each condition they want to monitor
- it is going to effect trails
- will not go through public comment

Michael Murphy reported:

- Ken Aust: founder of BCHA from Montana, asked to get new policies together.
 - corporate sponsors
 - youth involvement; BCHA newsletter with children's section
- Dennis Daily: BCHA stand on bicycles
- BCHA with BCHC and PCT on how to work better on trails
- BCHA meeting with Wilderness Society, helping each other
- American Horse Council- powerful in Washington, D.C.
- BCHC hosting the BCHA National meeting in 2015 with board approval.
- BCHC needs to get together with Chamber of Commerce to show why the meeting needs to be in Sacramento.

Insurance Report: Sam Burrows reported

- insurance form needs to be modified- send him ideas
- PDF to word document so that it can be downloaded, filled out and emailed back.
- when any stock is involved in an activity, you need a public day
- to purchase extra public days, approx. \$51.00 each day
- each unit needs to designate an insurance person
- 9 of 23 units have not requested a free day
- recommendation: units to continue to fund their own insurance
 - \$4.00 per person for a \$1 million insurance coverage
 - if units raise membership dues to help cover the insurance costs the extra money must be kept separate from BCHC dues.

Toby Horst made the motion to have units continue paying own insurance. Second by Dave Regoli. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Chip Herzig reported:

- only 2 months left on the forwarding address. Need to mail dues to PO Box 535, Beaumont, CA 92223
- there are 792 emails recorded, savings of almost \$500.00
- members need to send their own email to Chip, permission is then given to use email.
- January 2011 membership: 3200, October 2011: 2800
- expired memberships- person/family is not a member and CANNOT ride
- use phone calls, personal contact to get members to rejoin

Education Committee: Dan Horn reported:

- Wilderness Riders 2011 was held September 3-8, with 9 graduates
- Project Resource Guide: eventually to be added to the website
 - giving how to directions, material lists, photos
 - will also include the Forest Service Manual
 - website: coloring book for 10-12 year old children, in PDF form
 - order 1000 = \$1.95 plus 5% handling fee
 - order 500 = \$2.28 plus 5% handling fee
 - units need to pre-order and pay by December 15th to get the books for the January meeting. Contact Dan to order
 - merchandise: will be available at Rendezvous
 - small vinyl decals = \$5.00
 - large vinyl decals = \$10.00
 - black vinyl tire cover with large decal = \$35.00
- Cowgirl calendar: need photos by Nov. 15th, only have 4, need 8 more

Public Lands: Bruce DeMott reported:

- has spent the last 20 years passionate about public lands
- Melba Leal has accepted nomination, Bruce will help her out.
- Addressed the executive board on being a team and subject of unit
- Books, CD's were given to PL chairs to do their jobs at the local level
- Copy of his letter is attached in the Secretary's notebook

Public Service: Carrie Johnen reported: Rate changes:

- basic labor \$21.36
- skilled labor \$30.00
 - **send in reports and Carrie will fix and send a copy back to unit.
- administrative work 3% of rate, hours getting ready will be @ hourly rate
- portal to portal: EXCEPT sleeping hours
- deadlines for submission of unit volunteer hours reports:
 - January 1: Directors will be sent a collections form
 - send it to the person doing the report
 - January 20: need to have hours to the unit person who is collecting and recording the hours
 - February 1: need to send unit report to Carrie
 - March 1: BCHC volunteer hours report due to BCHA and the Rendezvous committee.
 - saddlebag version is on the website to keep track of your hours

Website: Lisa Deas was not at the meeting, so no report

Newsletter: CJ Hargreaves was not at the meeting, so no report

- Discussion about the newsletter was held:
 - at executive meeting in July 2011, it was recommended that this position be a volunteer position, along with all the other positions.
 - what do we want 3 or 4 editions of the newsletter
 - C4 board can make recommendations to C3 board on issues with Rendezvous, newsletter and the Wilderness Riders
 - motion made by Steve Rennebu to retain CJ Hargreaves as newsletter editor, in a paid position, until a new non-paid/volunteer person is selected. Second by Toby Horst. Motion carried.

Travel Site: CJ Hargreaves was not at the meeting, so no report

- discussion was held
 - made \$26.00 for the year
 - doesn't cost us anything to use the site
 - executive committee recommends we leave it there

Youth Coordinator: Karen Lopes reported:

- youth involvement needed
- use of video clips of kids in the backcountry
- post on Ihigh, which is a monitored site
- get videos of our youth and Lisa will get it on the website
- will need a release form from parents to allow the video on the website
- kids classes at Rendezvous

-incentive program:

- class sheet signed by the instructor
- redeem for prizes
- attend all classes, get better prizes and certificate
- new ideas for kids classes
- balance loads: hands on class, why it's important for animal
- stick horse obstacle course
- stick horse rodeo
- wild animal encounters
- send your ideas to Karen

D. Old Business:

1. Policy Review Committee: Lynn Joiner reported:

State Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Draft (cont'd)

- removed old history and minutes
- kept policy information
- still need to check all the old minutes for any policy changes
- hope to have ready for the January meeting with supporting documents with minutes that show policy changes
- found out we need a Historian to keep track of HCHC history and award recipients from each Rendezvous.

2. Second Reading of the Discipline: Proposed Bylaw Revision:

Kaye Bruns read the proposed bylaw revision. Motion to accept by Kay Brickner, second by Toby Horst. Motion carried.

3. State/Unit Fundraising: Dennis Serpa reported:

- Rendezvous 2011 did well, but we still need to get other sources of income, since our membership is down.
- Mid Valley Unit: James King presented an idea on fundraising calendar

Motion by Bill Childes to form a committee to look into this further, and have the calendar ready for 2013. Second by Becky Wolk. Motion carried with one no vote.

4. Life term membership: discussion was held, and item was dropped for now.

5. Rendezvous 2012 updates: Larry Shuman reported:

- we made money in 2011 because the facility costs were cheaper and no hidden costs presented after the fact.
- attitude: get the people to the Rendezvous, and it will bring in money
 - camping was free, education classes free
- fund-raiser costs: dinner, auction and raffles
- units helping: Shasta Trinity, Top of the State, Redwood, these are the local units near Red Bluff. Each unit will be helping with at least one job.
- Sunday, extend the hours to 4pm because the vendors and community want it.
- classes for 2012:
 - how to keep from getting lost, an 8 hour class in 2 hour segments, being presented by Washington BCH
 - cowboy mounted shooting- might be there
 - Lawdaws and Pistoleros of the Olde West:- reenactment of real events of the area
 - more vet classes: backcountry first aide for safety
 - AMA (American Mule Association) sanctioned events
 - possible Pat Parelli
- all but two vendors from 2011 will be back
 - new vendors
 - increasing vendor booth size
 - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 - Backcountry Anglers and Hunters

Job Assignments:

1. Sponsors- \$500:
 - Barry Krohn: Sequoia Unit
 - Jerry Tindel: Redwood Unit
 - USMC: North Bay Unit
2. Table decorations contest: Mother Lode
3. Emcee:
4. Friday night social:
5. Youth Activities: Karen Lopes, Youth coordinator
6. Western Art Show: Mid Valley
7. State Booth: Dennis Serpa, coordinator, need volunteers to spend some time
8. AMA- needs volunteers to help set up and work with:
 - Ken Graves, Garry Stauber, Pete Kriger
9. Saturday night dinner: open seating, mix the tables with local people and units

10. Send your unit flags to be flown in the eating area.

11. Thursday night dinner will be available for \$15.00 for those who come early

6. Certificate of Deposit update: Lynn Joiner reported

-we would make less money with CD then we are making in the savings account.

7. Rendezvous 2013: Roland Schmitz from the Santa Ana River Unit presented information.

-Norco, Riverside County, Horse Town USA

-city is excited about it,

-needs to get prices for the event from the city

8. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation: Dennis Serpa reported:

-BCHC will have a booth at the convention in Las Vegas, February 2-4, 2012

9. Backcountry Hunters and Anglers:

-very involved in protecting trails and habitat

10. Summer executive meeting: wants to have more communication with units

-what do units want to say to the executive board, how can the board help units.

E. New Business:

Nominations and Elections of Officers for 2012:

Larry Shuman presented the slate:

President: Dennis Serpa

1st VP: Richard Waller

2nd VP: Carrie Johnen

Secretary: Kaye Bruns

Treasurer: Lynn Joiner

VP of Public Lands: Melba Leal and Bob Magee

Co-VP of Education: Dan Horn and Lisa Deas

BCHA National Director: Pete Kriger and Michael Murphy

Each unit received their ballots according to the number of directors they had:

Results:

VP of Public Lands: Bob Magee

BCHA National Director: Pete Kriger

All other officers remain for 2012

Ballots are sealed in an envelope with the Secretary's files

F. Announcements/Other Business:

1. Presidents will get an email from Secretary, Kaye Bruns, to have their end of the year unit report sent to her.
 2. Secretary needs current and updated information of Unit Officers.
- G. **Adjournment:** meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm

Saturday Lunch for the Meeting(s)

The following lunch will be available to pre-order:
Shaved Deli Sandwich

Choice of Roast Beef, Turkey Breast
or Smoked Ham on a French Roll

With Shredded Iceberg Lettuce,
Tomato and Swiss Cheese

Includes: Pasta Salad, Chips & canned Soft Drink
Price: \$11.00 plus tax and service charge (approximately \$13.97)

Call or E-mail Kaye to order lunch, and let me know what type of sandwich you want. Payment will be collected at lunch, checks payable to BCHC

Home: (661) 944-4927

Mail: kowgrl@juno.com

Public Lands

Public Lands Work for the Years 2010 and 2011

Ruth Gerson

2011 BCHC Public Lands Co-Chair

During the past two years Public Lands (PL) Co-Chairs Bruce DeMott and Ruth Gerson made the following efforts on behalf of Backcountry Horsemen of California. The problems that equestrians in California face are varied and complex because the state is so long and so large. It became increasingly clear that the different units needed tools to deal with access and the right to ride problems in their own areas. The individual and particular units needed the authority to do business with federal agencies on a government-to-government basis. This was provided by the congressionally mandated process of Coordination, which provides local governments just such an opportunity of being able to work with federal agencies on an even basis. This is an extremely powerful tool and has successfully been implemented in Shasta, Modoc and Tuolumne Counties. El Dorado County is in the process of developing its own government-to-government Coordination policy.

During March of 2010, Bruce visited the following Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) areas and presented a policy in progress that is being worked on by Tuolumne County. This policy development followed some of the efforts of sister counties in Shasta and Modoc. The policy in progress had much language in favor of equestrians and was presented to representatives of BCHC units at the following areas during March 2010. The PL presentations were offered as an incentive towards policy development in their own areas. The areas covered were Southern, Southern Central, Central, and Northern. Each area was visited separately on consecutive weekends.

The PL Co-Chairs realized the benefit of a high profile presentation to the greater community during the Merced BCHC rendezvous. With the cooperation of the Merced police department and city officials, the PL Co-Chairs arranged a parade from downtown Merced, across Highway 99 and into the Merced County fairgrounds. The effort performed by the Merced police department was highly appreciated, and their escort activities ensured BCHC equestrian and public safety.

A visit to Washington, D.C. by Bruce was very successful; he met with the Chief Deputy of the Forest Service, Joel Holtrop and his staff and that resulted in an agreement that will be beneficial to equestrians for years to come. The direct result of that visit and agreement was a visit from Washington, D.C. by a staff member, Art Jeffers to the Merced BCHC rendezvous. At our rendezvous he made a presentation to the Public Lands unit chairs and some general members. Attending were several Forest Service representatives including Marlene Finley of Region 5, and several adjacent area forest supervisors.

Bruce's one-month visit to the Southern, Southern Central, Central and Northern units resulted in interest in the Coordination process. However, due to its apparent complexity it appeared rather overwhelming to many. To assist with understanding the process, the chief advocate of the process, Fred Kelly Grant, gave a 1-hour presentation to the Public Lands unit chairs. The presentation was designed to be brief and not last more than 1 hour to reduce information overload. A professional videographer was hired and filmed the Fred Kelly Grant presentation. The DVDs were presented to all the public lands unit chairs to assist with their understanding of the process and in their pursuit of the process in their own unit areas.

During the award presentations at the Merced Rendezvous, Dan Clifford was presented the first time ever Public Lands award for Emeritus service. Dan's supportive attendance at the meeting in Washington, D.C. with the Chief Deputy of the Forest Service and his staff was highly appreciated.

Ann Lang and Jerry Ledbetter gave a presentation on the Trail Classification process and the need for input by the units' public lands chairs.

In April 2010, the state PL co-chair Bruce DeMott attended the BCHC Public Lands meeting in Branson, Missouri. At that meeting the one-hour DVD of Fred Kelly Grant's presentation was shown on a large screen to the many state Public Lands chairs from 26 different states along with a short primer. The primer demonstrated the major differences between Cooperation and the Coordination process.

Back Country Horsemen of America asked Bruce to participate in a Public Lands

development strategy group composed of representatives from the various states. The business was conducted by several conference calls. Bruce's input was largely directed towards the Coordination process.

In search of a local government agency in the Tuolumne County area, Bruce found a friendly audience with the Tribal Chairman of the Mi-wok Indians and his staff. The Mi-woks were involved in the Coordination government-to-government process and had recently been visited by the Deni (Navajos) from the four corners area concerning its implementation. Bruce made a graphic presentation on the important differences between Cooperation and Coordination and it was very well received.

In response to a promise made to the 2010 Rendezvous PL chairs of the units, a forum was developed. This forum was designed to enable the PL folks with the ability to discuss issues in their different areas and exchange the "how to proceed" ideas. All PL e-mails pertaining to PL issues were posted, as were requests from Congressmen and Back Country Horsemen of America. Important items posted were:

- Trail Classification
- Trail Building Standards
- Coordination in Tuolumne County, including formal policy adopted by Tuolumne County
- Bill to limit funding of environmental lawsuits against equestrian groups
- Giant Sequoia National Monument
- New Forest Planning Rule, including final BCHC official response
- Many other topics

Tuolumne County development of the Coordination process invited Bruce to assist in BCHC input. The policy development was being guided by a Tuolumne County group named Tu-Care. This development was pursued by Bruce with several meetings and a final development meeting with an advisory group to the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors. The Tuolumne County advisory group agreed to withhold final development of the recreation section until hearing input from a collection of equestrian groups. A collection of three different pack station owners, namely Aspen Meadows, Kennedy Meadows, and Mather Pack Station, along with an equestrian group from Groveland and a representative from the California State Horsemen Association, all attended a meeting; and it was conducted at a facility graciously hosted by Carl and Julie Perry in Hilmar, California. Splitting into 4 different groups, they discussed issues that were important to them from a 180-page document. Philosophical statements had to be deleted in compliance with the policy chairman's development direction. However, due to the participation at the Perry's by the different equestrian groups, three major statements were added to and recognized in what is now the official Tuolumne County Coordination Process Policy, a 22-page document.

During the meetings with the Southern, Southern Central, Central and Northern area BCHC unit Public Lands chairs, the need for a mission statement became very apparent. At the Visalia training meeting for officers, Ruth Gerson and Bruce De Mott facilitated the development of the BCHC Public Lands Mission Statement. The statement developed was by consensus of those attending as unit chairs of Public Lands.

BCHC Public Lands Mission Statement

- Work and assist to maintain accessibility into, through and on public lands for all traditional, historical, educational and environmentally sensitive uses of pack and saddle stock.
- Understand existing laws and case setting precedents.
- Promote inter- and intra- cooperation of all open spaces.
- Use Coordination of federal, state and local government in planning, maintaining and management of public lands while promoting conservation of the lands.

The Public Lands co-chairs were directed by the unit Public Lands chairs and the Board of Directors to develop a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) response to the new Forest Service planning rule. A lengthy, comprehensive, item

Public Lands

by item response was made by Bruce DeMott within the limited time constraints imposed and sent to the appropriate recipient.

A request for a BCHC response to the Sgt. Allan Mc Donald Cavalry Trail was prepared by PL Co-chair Bruce DeMott. The response concurred with the pertinent county planning commission recommendation and was favorable to preserving the trail and its historical equestrian uses.

A \$40,000 RAC Grant was procured by Bruce, and it was utilized on trail maintenance in the Emigrant Wilderness during this last summer of 2011. The monies were expended towards paying CCC's crews.

Last but not least, all attending unit Public Lands chairs were given Coordination workbooks at the 2011 Rendezvous. During the meeting a workshop was conducted and pertinent sections were underlined to facilitate reading and understanding. The workbooks contained:

- Congressional authorities
- Agenda development by successful counties in Kansas and Texas
- County letters and paper trails to government agencies (Forest Service) with invitations to Coordinate
- Successful notification of congressional mandates to Coordinate; and imminent referral to the Justice Department by the counties should agencies (Forest Service) refuse
- Ultimate success of Kansas and Texas counties

We have enjoyed serving as Public Lands Co-Chairs, and we have done our best to encourage everyone to work toward accomplishing the organization's mission. We wish everyone the greatest success in pursuing continued equestrian issues in your particular units as well as in the whole state.

Sincerely,
Ruth Gerson s
BCHC Public Lands Co-Chair

WHY PUBLIC LANDS

By Bob Magee VP of Public Lands BCHC

The article below was in the Whittier Daily News (see link below) discusses a movement to include the San Gabriel Mountains, San Gabriel River and a portion of the Puente Hills in the National Park Service vs keeping them managed by the US Forest Service. The primary objective according to the article is to obtain better funding for recreational use of these areas. In Melba Leal's e-mail below, she argues against this action.

It would be good to hear from those in the Los Padres, Antelope Valley and other units that use these areas regarding how they feel about this discussion.

What are the implications of having the NPS take over areas currently managed by the USFS?

Congress to decide between Park Service or Forest Service

By Steve Scauzillo, Staff Writer Whittier Daily News

Posted: 11/27/2011 06:04:10 AM PST

Submitted by Bob Magee VP of Public Lands BCHC

Six years of studies costing more than \$500,000, two months of public meetings and years of debate are over.

The question of whether the National Park Service should step in and co-manage the San Gabriel Mountains, San Gabriel River and a portion of the Puente Hills is headed for Congress in December.

But the complicated proposal which marries one federal agency with another, belies a more fundamental question: Will the region get more funding for recreational uses under the NPS? Or should the region stick with the U.S. Forest Service alone?

Most who've attended public hearings and are following the issue favor the NPS. These are the environmentalists, members of Congress and nonprofit groups who have worked the system to get to this critical stage.

Others, who've seen it both ways, also seem to favor declaring the region's precious greenbelt a National Recreation Area co-run by the National Park Service. The new "NPS park unit" would stretch from the tip of Mount Wilson to Whittier Narrows and Santa Fe Springs and eastward into the dark canyons of the Puente/Whittier Hills.

Why bring in another layer of the federal government?

The answer may be as simple as what's in a name, and as complicated as the workings of the federal bureaucracy.

What's in a name?

Experts interviewed for this story point out that the U.S. Forest Service, charged with managing the Angeles National Forest, is an arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is charged with a multi-use mandate of resource management, which can include logging and mining federal lands, fire suppression and prevention, and last, visitor management.

In contrast, the National Park Service simply preserves habitat and historical areas for Americans to visit, enjoy and appreciate. In short, the word "park" is in its name and that can make the money flow from D.C. to the SGV faster and deeper than from any division of the Agriculture Department.

"The Forest Service doesn't get the funding the way the Parks Service does - from inside the Department of the Interior. For whatever reason, people are real sentimental about parks so they (NPS) get a much more direct funding stream," said Gordon Bonser, 62, a private consultant who studies funding for NRAs and national monuments.

One of the proposals was simply to leave everything the way it is, something favored by Barret Wetherby of the California Trail Users Coalition in Glendale. One questioner attending the NPS hearing at Cal Poly Pomona last week asked: "Can't we just leave the management system alone and get Congress to send more money to the Forest Service?" It's an option Wetherby's group favors, but not many else.

The overwhelming majority of proponents want to see Alternative D, a 581,500-acre National Recreation Area that would be infused by National Park rangers, common signs linking all uses, biologists and resource specialists helping cities to better connect residents to the rivers, hills or forest. By helping low-income residents in El Monte, Bassett, Azusa, West Covina and Montebello get better access to hiking, biking and fresh air, cities believe they can slow the onslaught of childhood and adult-onset diabetes.

Martha Crusius, project manager, said the NPS is better at making
Cont'd on pg 14

Public Lands

Congress to decide between Park Service or Forest Service

Cont'd from pg 13

parks: "The National Park Service has been more successfully funded in recent years. The NPS has a line item budget for each park, unlike the diffuse U.S. Forest Service funding."

Bonser, a former U.S. Forest Service employee whose wife works for the NPS, said the funding from the Park Service versus funding for recreation from the Department of Agriculture is like night and day.

"They (Forest Service) are like the little cow that is last in line at the feeding trough," Bonser said.

The NPS, as well as the Sierra Club, San Gabriel Mountains Forever, the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council, Rep. Judy Chu, Sen. Barbara Boxer and the author of the originating legislation in 2003, former congresswoman Hilda Solis who is now the U.S. Secretary of Labor, all want to see a substantial NPS role in the San Gabriel Valley.

Even the Forest Service, according to NPS officials, favors the NPS coming into the region to help with trail building, maintenance, cleanup, signage, access and education. However, the Service has declined to answer questions from this newspaper about the proposal.

"The Forest Service doesn't have enough staff or funds to manage the 3.5 million visitors it receives each year," said NPS landscape architect in charge of the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study, Barbara Butler.

"The U.S. Forest Service, more and more, its budget is going into fire protection rather than visitor management," she added.

Does it work elsewhere?

Making a cohesive recreational experience amid 17 million people in Southern California is exactly what President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative dictates. That's why Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is reportedly personally in favor of creating a local NRA and sending in the Parks Service.

Proponents need only look west to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area for a model.

This 150,000-acre NRA, established in 1978, is managed by the NPS in cooperation with 12 cities, the state parks department and the local Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

"If you use the Santa Monica Mountains (NRA) as a model of what could possibly happen, absolutely, it has brought more resources to the area," said Woody Smeck, superintendent of the SMMNRA.

"Governments working together can achieve a lot more than they could in isolation," Smeck said.

The SMMNRA's operating budget as supplied by the NPS in 2009 was \$8.6 million, and that included a staff of 99 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, according to the NPS study on the San Gabriel NRA. Other areas where an NRA was created in an urban setting include: Boston Harbor Islands, \$1.2 million budget and 14 FTEs and the Mississippi NRA, \$2.1 million and 28 FTEs.

According to a 2007 study from the U.S. Forest Service, forest recreation sites in the Angeles received \$1.65 million in assets from appropriated funds and fees, while annual operating and maintenance costs were \$2.3 million. The Forest Service had a deferred maintenance backup of \$9.1 million.

The report, which was withdrawn, proposed cutting back on recreation uses. It included suggestions to close dozens of picnic grounds and campgrounds in order to help balance its budget.

Today, many campgrounds remain closed. The Crystal Lake campground, which became accessible when Caltrans finished Highway 39 to the Crystal Lake turnoff in March, is still not officially open. Anecdotal evidence says some people camp there but the Forest Service does not advertise the campground on any reservation-based website, nor has it been able to find a concessionaire to manage it.

NPS vs. USFS

Jim Blomquist, a veteran of preservation battles up and down the state, went to the Cal Poly Pomona meeting to support the creation of an NRA as a way to get the San Gabriel Valley additional park funding, not just from the feds, but from corporations and private nonprofits.

The NPS should start with co-managing the Angeles National Forest.

"This is the forest that is closest to the largest number of people in America. What better opportunity than this!" he said.

Blomquist, now a consultant with Friends of the River, a Northern California nonprofit group, said the proposal will set in motion long-awaited improvements to wild areas, from bike trails to cleaner mountain streams to easier access points.

First, it would force the National Park Service to create a recreation management plan for the San Gabriel River, mountains and Puente Hills. This new "park unit" would have a line item in the NPS budget, something that has never happened with the U.S. Forest Service, nor the mishmash of agencies overseeing the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River restoration.

"The mandate in the bill would be to increase recreational opportunities," Blomquist said. "Right now, there is no mandate. Now, there is nothing to increase recreational services with the Forest Service."

Bonser, who lives in Crescent City, says the decision to establish an NRA along the pristine Smith River but allow management by the Forest Service (since it rises to 10,000 feet in elevation) was a mistake.

"The Forest Service management ... has been an unfunded mandate," Bonser said. "The tiny staff does the best it can, but lacks the resources to do more than passively maintain a minimum number of visitor facilities."

He is recommending the NPS take a strong role in the San Gabriel river and mountains park unit. He warns San Gabriel Valley residents not to make the same mistake.

"How much better off would we have been if we had been made into an independent unit with National Park Service supervision? I can only speculate," Bonser said.

To see article online go to Whittier Daily News at http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci_19420995#.TtVbS1er3Aw.email#ixzz1hQCv0tuK

Public Lands

Two large wind energy projects win approval despite opposition

By JAMES BURGER Californian staff writer

Tuesday, Oct 25 2011 08:04 PM

This is a follow up article on an issue introduced earlier in 2011 in the Current Events for the Kern Sierra Unit

Kern County supervisors approved two large wind energy projects by massive developer Terra-Gen Power Tuesday.

The larger of the two, the massive 530 megawatt Alta Wind Energy Infill project stretching across 5,185 acres just west of the small desert community of Mojave, got heated opposition from area residents.

According to county staff reports, the project would place 205 towering 3 megawatt wind turbines in a miles-long arch running south from Highway 58 north of town to well south of Mojave.

Mojave residents complained that the project would convert "pristine desert landscapes" to an industrial "wasteland."

"The town of Mojave is not very big," said Mike Fortuna of Mojave. "This project is an extension of an earlier project that extends almost to (Highway) 14. This severely limits the growth of the town of Mojave."

Tim Kuster said the environmental review of the project was flawed and that supervisors cannot, without guilt or shame, approve the project -- or expect to be re-elected if they do.

"I'm a huge supporter of responsible alternative energy," he said. "This is not responsible."

Terra-Gen officials touted the company's commitment to Kern County where its many projects generate about \$30 million in tax revenues and hundreds of jobs.

Terra-Gen workers talked about their commitment to flow revenues from the projects into the Mojave economy.

After listening to extensive comments from the community, supervisors took very little time to approve the project with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Zack Scrivner said he believes that all the issues raised by opponents -- such as animal habitats and fire dangers -- are being raised by people who just don't like the idea of

losing their views to the turbines.

He said the economic benefits to the county outweigh the impacts to the community.

Supervisors also approved the Morgan Hills Wind Energy project, a 230- megawatt project powered by 76 wind turbines spread over 2,160 acres in the mountains seven miles southeast of Tehachapi along Oak Creek Road.

The location is much more remote than that of the larger Terra-Gen project but brought equally passionate opposition from people who live or have family homes in the mountain valleys and meadows.

Speakers talked about the serenity of the land and the beauty that captivated the parents and grandparents of speakers when they bought the land.

Supervisors empathized with the feelings of individuals.

But Scrivner took the same stance on the Morgan Hills project that he had with the Mojave project.

"I believe that the overall benefits to our community from this renewable project cannot be overridden," Scrivner said, by the impact to the speaker's property.

The vote to approve the project was unanimous.

Source: <http://www.bakersfield.com/news/local/x860822597/Two-large-wind-energy-projects-win-approval-despite-opposition>

.....

HIGH SIERRA HORSE CAMP OPENS

In case you missed this news: High Sierra Horse Camp opened on June 1, 2011 in Kingvale. It is located at Interstate 80 at the Kingvale Exit.

There are 80+ camp sites with such amenities as water, bathrooms, campsites and corrals.

To make your reservations please contact Pam Mendosza at (916) 804-6203.

Cost starts at \$10.00 per person, per day.

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- Tools for Trail Building & Maintenance
- Crosscut Saw Use
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Equine Classes:

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- Legs & Leg Issues
- Colic - What is it?
- General Equine Health
- Equine Dentistry
- Saddle Fitting
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- US Marine Corp Packing Demonstration
- Predators
- Livestock Poisoning Plants
- Manure Management
- Pasture & Paddock Management
- Barn Yard Economics
- Livestock Law
- Security & the Family Farm
- Grazing/Fire Suppression
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- Environmental Pasture Management
- Breeding for Mules

Packing Classes:

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- Packing 101 with Stock
- Advanced Packing Skills
- Odd Load Packing
- Highlines and Picketing
- Packing Knots & Their Uses
- Pack Saddle Types & Use
- Pack Stock & Packing Techniques in Wilderness

Gentle Use Classes:

- Gentle Users Plan & Prepare
- Gentle on the Trail
- Gentle Stock Management
- Gentle Use of Campsites
- Gentle with Plants & Animals
- Gentle Concepts

Miscellaneous Classes:

- Dutch Oven Cooking
- Trail Head Horse Camping
- Wilderness First Aid for People
- Trailer Safety
- Leather Working for Adults
- Miniature Donkey Demo

Contests:

- Western Art Show
- Trail Trials
- Dutch Oven Cookoff
- Odd Load Packing Contest
- Gentle Use Camp Contest
- Kids Art Contest

Kids Classes:

- Youth Safety with Horses & Mules
- Leather Working for Kids & Adults
- Plan & Prepare for the Backcountry Trip with Kids
- Survival 101 for Kids
- LNT for Kids
- Kids Costume & Stick Mules Contests
- Animal Footprints
- Kids Art Contest
- Youth Iron Mule Packing
- Balancing & Matching Bags & Boxes
- Wild Animal Encounters
- Stick Horse Obstacle Course
- Stick Horse Rodeo

March 30 - April 1

2012 RENDEZVOUS TRAINERS



Trainer, Barry Krohn

Barry and his wife Amy both come from equine back grounds, Amy on the Oregon Coast with her horses, then moving to Corvallis in 1986 going to OSU and completing Ferrier school in 1991.



Barry growing up in Colorado working for different Ranchers, Outfitters, packing in hunters and trail crews, training horses and mules. Moving to Oregon in 1987.

Barry and Amy met in 1992 and starting Valley Mule Company shortly after that. They have been training mules together ever since.



What you will learn at the 2011 Rendezvous

Demo 1, understanding and fitting tack, looking at the good, the bad and the ugly tack, and what it can do to your animals, proper bit use, a look at good and bad bits, fitting britchens, breast collar, riding saddles and pack gear

Demo 2, Understanding mule mentality and your training techniques, breaking the myth that mules are harder to train, don't put all mules into the same category, the same training technique will not work on all mules, be willing to break your training down so your mule understands what you want it to do.

On the web at: <http://www.valleymulecompany.com>

These are Proposed Events. Keep an eye on the BCHC Web Site for the Final Schedule coming in January www.BCHCalifornia.org



Jerry trains driving animals as well as saddle stock.



If the saddle slipped on YOUR horse or mule, would he stand this quietly and patiently?

The owner must recognize and be aware of the level of training at which their animal currently functions when he is brought to school.

Issues to be considered include temperament, previous schooling and attitude.

Considering these factors, the time commitment for your expected result will vary from animal to animal.

In other words, 90 days with one horse may not produce the same level of performance as 90 days with another. Jerry will evaluate your animal and discuss with you your wishes and expectations, and he will devise a training plan to help you reach your goals. In many cases, this will include training for you as well as your animal.



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Sponsored by the Redwood Unit www.redwoodunit.com

Visit Jerry on the web: www.jerrytindell.com



I hope everyone will join me in saying a big **THANK YOU** to CJ Hargreaves for the many years of time & hard work she has put into the BCHC newsletter!!!

2012
HAPPY NEW YEAR

BCHC / BCHA *in the News*

**Southern Appalachian
Back Country Horsemen
Brook Trout Restoration Project**

Area: Southwest Tennessee and North Georgia.



SABCH brook trout restoration project workday occurred back in October. This project involved relocating Rainbow Trout from Sycamore Creek to the Tellico River and capturing Brown Trout for breeding purposes.

The objective being to repopulate Sycamore Creek with the offspring of the native Browns at a later date. As usual, Back Country Horsemen responded to the request for packing gear and fish. We all had a great time. My horse "Sunny" enjoyed the outing and smoozing with Tammy Beck's kids. There are a lot of good shots in the video... gotta love the mule hugs. Ya' need to show 'em a little affection if you want them to work for you!

To see a video of this project go to their Facebook page & click videos: <https://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=10150351429621933>



INTRODUCING OUR NEW STATE VICE PRESIDENT -- RICHARD WALLER --

On October 15, Richard Waller was elected as our new State Vice President, taking over Sam Burrows' position. Richard is married to Laurie Waller and has three children all currently in Universities. He was born on the Central Coast and spent his youth hiking and camping in the hills of the Central Coast. He served four years in the United States Navy during Vietnam. He earned a baccalaureate in History at a University on the GI Bill and also gathered another 100 credits or so in Education. He worked for the United State Forest Service as a fire-fighter and fuels management technician. He also worked as a ski instructor, a ski patrolman, a ski mountaineering guide, a guide on ERI mountain bike trips in Death Valley, and has operated a commercial llama packing outfit leading trips in the

Nevada wilderness and the Eastern Sierra. He spent many years as a member of the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue team, specializing in rescue and recovery of lost and injured victims in the winter Sierra environment.

He was a school teacher and still substitutes occasionally. HAWAII He and his family lived on their 26 foot sailboat sailing the coast of Mexico and exploring the Natural, Cultural and Historical history of the areas of Mexico.

He is the director of the SLOCREST Trail committee, designing and mapping a multiple use trail from the Carrizo Plains to Morro Bay, and also the Coast Range Trail which will run from the Pacific Crest Trail in southern California to the Pacific Crest Trail in northern California.

He is currently serving on our board as the South County Trail leader, planning and carrying out many trail maintenance projects.

Visit his web site at www.wanderingthewest.com



BCHC Membership Application

- NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** Backcountry Horsemen of California
- RENEWAL APPLICATION**
- CHANGE - () PARENT UNIT () ADDRESS/PHONE/EMAIL () MEMBERSHIP TYPE**



MAIL TO:
 BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN
 OF CALIFORNIA
 PO Box 535
 Beaumont CA 92223

DCTR (YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER) _____

****NEW MEMBERS WILL BE ASSIGNED NUMBER BY MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR**
PARENT Unit Affiliation): (Select and CIRCLE ONE Unit as your Primary Unit Affiliation)

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Antelope Valley | Mid Valley | San Joaquin Sierra |
| Eastern Sierra | Mother Lode | Santa Ana River |
| High Country | North Bay | Sequoia |
| High Sierra | Oblone Riders | Shasta Trinity |
| Kern River Valley | Redbank Riders | Sierra Freepackers |
| Kern Sierra | Redwood | Sutter Buttes |
| Lake-Mendo | San Diego | Top of the State |
| Los Padres | San Geronimo | |

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You're the Greatest	\$50.00

MEMBER'S NAME -No Business Names; Please Print Clearly		SPOUSE/MEMBER'S NAME -MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS	
ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE
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TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____	CHECK # _____	DATE SUBMITTED: _____	

BUSINESS NAME - DONATIONS ONLY:

PARENT UNIT MEMBERSHIP TYPES: (CIRCLE ONE)

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*BCHC shares portion of dues with Back Country Horsemen of America

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

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

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

Please write additional choices on back

Please clip form along dashed line - KEEP BELOW INFORMATION FOR YOUR RECORDS

PARENT BCHC MEMBERSHIP TYPES
 Individual, Family (Shared*), Benefactor, Patron, and Mt Whitney. A Parent Membership is affiliated with a single Local Unit. BCHC members may NOT hold more than one active Parent Membership.

*A SHARED Membership is for two adults with differing last names, each sharing a common address.

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

- You may sign-up for as many Associate Memberships as you like.
- Associate Memberships may also be initiated at any time during the term of your Parent Membership.
- Associate Memberships must expire concurrently with the Parent Membership, and are renewable only at the time of renewal of the Parent Membership.

Complete information regarding BCHC Membership is available on the MEMBERSHIP page at: <http://www.bchcalifornia.org>

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS
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<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$ 40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (Shared) Membership	\$ 50.00
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<input type="checkbox"/> Mt Whitney Membership	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation - Packer	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mule Skinner	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> You're the Greatest!	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership	\$ _____
Total Remittance	\$ _____
Check Number	_____
Date Mailed	_____

Questions: Contact membership@bchcalifornia.org

Unit News

IMPORTANT REMINDER

The forwarding address for BCHC membership will soon expire.
The new address is:

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PO Box 535
Beaumont CA 92223



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THE PASSING OF A BCHC ICON Mr. PCT (Pacific Crest Trail)

Dr. Ben York died this past October. He was a president of both BCHC and the PCTA organizations who will be sorely missed. His last years on earth were not too pleasant so rather than dwell on that I'd like to share some happier moments. You had best be ready to roll when Dr Ben mounted up heading out with a pack load for the PCT crews. We were fairly new to this organization when we volunteered to help out on a PCTA project based at Fobes Ranch.

Early morning found us scrambling to get ready and follow Dr Ben. Well, he mounted up and disappeared over the first hill up from the ranch. He rode a gaited horse and packed two or more mules who kept up with the gaited fast pace. We never saw him again until we got to the workers on the trail. He was there relaxing awaiting our eventual arrival. Not once did he turn about to see if we were following... "you had best know where you are going and what you are doing" as he so succinctly pointed out when we arrived. Good advice and wise counsel. I never forgot that.

"You do not get off your horse when you are packing their supplies." Linda was supplying, food, tools and some support gear to the trail crew when she was lured off her horse by that rascal Pete Fish and provided a pair of loppers for some trail work. In the meantime Dr Ben had gone on dropping water caches up the trail for the crew. He returned stopping real close to Linda where all she saw was horse legs and heard a terse "you don't get off your horse". She quickly remounted following him down the trail for the next resupply venture.

We were camped at Garner Valley for an event and Ben shows up sans food, chair or any camp gear. We were up early fixing a pork chop breakfast when Ben wanders by. We invite him over to share breakfast but we do not have a chair for him. He says "I'll be right back" returning with someone's chair commenting that they weren't using it right then anyway. He was a wealth of knowledge and dry humor that I enjoyed immensely.

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Unit News

A great Summer read or present for mountain lovers!



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Wandering Into New Territory

Submitted by Joyce Granger-Sierra Freepackers Unit

Often times when out riding, exploring new trails and territory can be a fun but challenging experience. The Sierra Freepackers Unit is doing just that as we have begun seeking out grant money for the Kelty Meadow Horse Campground. A pre-application grant was submitted to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and was accepted. We have now been invited to submit a full application. The goal of the grant is to put in a spring box for permanent stock water for the campground along with hitch rails and bear boxes at each campsite. We are most pleased that this is a cooperative effort between the Sierra Freepackers and the Forest Service. Aimee Smith who is a rangeland management specialist has been a great contributor and supporter of this project.

Just as with many trails there are challenges, obstacles, and points of interest we are finding that true with this endeavor.

On another note, our December meeting brought new officers to the table. Those serving for the upcoming year are Joyce Granger-President, Denise Robinson-Secretary, and John Granger-Treasurer. We truly appreciate those who have been serving and want to say THANK YOU for the time and talent given for the benefit of the Unit.

THE 6TH ANNUAL VALLECITO DAYS

March 9, 10 & 11, 2012

*Vallecito County Regional Park & Stage Station
37349 County Route S-2, Shelter Valley, California*

The original Vallecito Stage Station will once again be opened to the public and filled with artifacts and displays that tell the story of this vital area and the people who lived there or passed through in the 1850's and 1860's.

This annual event is the result of a cooperative effort between California State Parks, San Diego County Parks, the Ramona Trails Association and the Backcountry Horsemen of California ~ San Diego Unit.

This year is the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. We will be commemorating California's Civil War history with a variety of activities for people of all ages. Equestrians will retrace part of the route of the Great Southern Overland Trail from California to New Mexico. Mountain man & military reenactors will have encampments set up for the public to tour and participate in. The public is encouraged to wear period-appropriate dress while enjoying all the festivities.

For more info contact Terry at 760~789~5185 or email: tlh8749@yahoo.com



Unit News

North Bay Unit News

Point Reyes National Park Gravel Project

By Dan Horn

This fall, we were invited to demonstrate the use of Pack Stock in hauling some gravel to do trail repair work in the Wilderness Area of Point Reyes National Park. Donna Meier, Thor Bodtker and I went out on a Wednesday and met up with Shawn Maloney, trail maintenance supervisor for PT. Reyes NPS.

Donna and I brought only one saddle mount and one pack stock each. After a short orientation and the fitting and laughter of a required helmet, we headed up to work site.

Donna and I rode up the trail, while Thor, Shawn and the trail crew drove to a location that provided them a down hill walk to the gravel pile.



The gravel pile had been dumped there many years before that area was added to the Wilderness. Shawn brought some 3 gallon buckets to get the gravel on trail so it could easily be loaded in dump bags.

Thor and one of the trail crew stayed to load bags as we shuttled the loads on down the hill to Shawn and the rest of the crew.

After a little on the job training of the Ranger crew, they got the hang of dumping the bags between the legs of



stock. One of the boys was a bit nervous having never worked with stock before. The mule was a real show on the first bag {didn't have the camera ready}. After only a few hours, we had moved around two yards of gravel and repaired 3 sections of trail with very little human effort. As one of the NPS crew stated, "Much easier than pushing a wheel barrow up and down the hill".



Shawn has been trying to restore the horse program at Point Reyes and this was a step in that direction by showing how easily working stock can be used in maintaining trails. We are trying to schedule a much larger stock crew with more dump bags for a future date, so stay tuned for details if you want to get involved. We not only need pack stock, but also more ground crew.



We are working on setting up a week-end camp over work party some time soon. Thanks to the crew Donna Meier, Thor Bodtker and Shawn Maloney and his crew.

Mules help build bridge in Bob Marshall Wilderness... One piece at a time

Article By Great Falls Tribune Staff Writer Karl Puckett November 11, 2011

Old-fashioned mule power and new construction techniques and tools were used to reconstruct the 128-foot-long Gates Park Pack Bridge spanning the North Fork of the Sun River in the Bob Marshall,6 Wilderness.

The combination eliminated the need for heavy-lifting equipment on site — and helicopters to get it there. U.S. Forest Service officials said the project is an example of how bridges in quiet backcountry areas can be successfully rehabilitated with less noise and a lighter construction footprint when compared with traditional methods "We're pretty excited about it," said Alex Gavrishoff, operations staff officer with the Helena and Lewis and Clark national forests. "It's never been done before."

The Forest Service previously rehabilitated bridges in the backcountry, but the Gates Park bridge in the Lewis and Clark National Forest is the first to be overhauled without using heavy-lifting equipment and helicopters, Gavrishoff said. He came up with the concept of overhauling the bridge using a new assembly

technique dubbed "one-piece-at-a-time." It involved using a light-weight portable jacking system — instead of a large system weighing 500 pounds — and assembling bolt-laminated timbers on site.

Mule trains — 198 mule loads in all — were used to get materials and tools to the site, with the Forest Service returning to its early mode of backcountry transportation to accomplish the new assembly plan. "Here we are in the 21st century, and yet we're using 18th century techniques to accomplish this work," Gavrishoff said. The first string of Backcountry Horsemen and pack mules crossed the newly completed bridge Aug. 16. Hunters and hikers use the bridge to cross the North Fork of the Sun River 30 miles northwest of Augusta to reach hunting areas or the popular Chinese Wall. The bridge — the oldest suspension bridge in the forest — was rated a 4 out of 9 in an annual inspection in 2004. Gavrishoff now is sharing the one-piece-at-a-time idea nationally. On Oct. 25, Gavrishoff and Karl Yakawich of Great West Engineering in Helena presented the technique to the annual meeting of the Association of Conservation Engineers in St. Louis.

The Forest Service hired Great West to do the engineering work for the project, and Yakawich modified

Gavrishoff's original idea, as did Rich May Construction, the California-based company hired to rebuild the bridge. Dave Cunningham, a spokesman for the Lewis and Clark National Forest, said the Forest Service could have applied for a waiver to use helicopters, which normally are banned in the wilderness. But the one-piece-at-a-time approach, eliminates the impact of repeated helicopter trips to haul materials into remote areas of forest, he said. "From Arizona to Alaska, it's a technique that can be replicated," Cunningham said. There are 28 suspension trail bridges in national forests in Region 1, which includes Montana, northern Idaho and the Dakotas, including 12 such bridges in areas designated wilderness.

The one-piece-at-a-time approach already is being replicated for the Medicine Springs Bridge, which also is located in the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Survey and design work on that project began last month. The Gates Park contract design criteria required that bridge materials or construction tools be no longer than 8 feet or they could weigh no more than 100 pounds. "What we have is pieces that can be carried by a pack



Unit News

mule," Gavrishoff said. The materials first were transported 7 miles by barge to the head of Gibson Reservoir. Then the mules took over, transporting remaining 12 miles to the site. A four-man crew began construction July 15th.



Typically, helicopters haul in a 500-pound jack and cranes to jack up the bridge in order to replace old towers on each end of the structure. Cranes also would be needed to move the heavy equipment on the site. Gavrishoff said the job proved that a bridge could be rehabilitated using a portable light-weight jack packed in pieces into a site. "We invented a way of doing it," he said. There were other options for rehabilitating the old bridge. Helicopters could have hauled in a prefabricated steel bridge, or a new timber bridge and a heavy jacking system. When Gavrishoff first came up with the one-piece-at-a-time idea in 2008, he sketched it out and presented it to Region 1's top engineer, who gave the OK to the concept. The contract criteria emphasized performance and innovation, not the lowest bid, he said. The transportation of materials and equipment accounted for \$55,000 of the total budget of \$156,200. The transportation costs would have been similar — or more — had helicopters been used instead of mules, Gavrishoff said.

From SCPG Nov 11 Newsletter ~ Reach Tribune Staff Writer Karl Puckett at 406-791-1471, 800-438-6600 or kpuckett@greatfalltribune.com.



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN LAKE-MENDO UNIT



The last week of Oct. was very busy for the Lake Mendo Unit. A number of dedicated members showed up at the Judge Davis Trail Head on the Colusa Lake County line off Hwy 20 on Oct 26th. With close to 20 head of stock, they saddled and packed to carry supplies for a drop camp into the Cache Creek Wilderness for the BLM. The project was organized and lead by Gary

Sharpe of the BLM with volunteer wranglers organized by Lake Mendo Public Land member Bill Knispel. The main task ahead was to organize and weigh all the tools and supplies to allow a week stay in the wilderness. The job at hand was cleaning up a Marijuana growing operation that was recently raided in the Cache Creek Wilderness. The odd loads and supplies were a bit of a challenge to organize and pack. The packing and organization went well and riders headed out. The workers did carry personal gear in back packs. All went well until one

worker found his pack to be too heavy and his shoulders became very sore. His pack was transferred to the top of one pack horse that was green at packing. Doing fine with side



panniers the horse wanted nothing to do with a scary 100 lb. top pack. What a site seeing a fully packed horse blow up and buck past all the riders down a canyon and disappear into the brush and oak trees. After a 1 hr. delay everyone finally arrived at the camp destination.

A week later with even more stock and riders, the pack out with left over supplies and some debris went well. Not only did the Lake-Mendo Unit have a great response to this task but we also picked up six new members who recently joined and attended our Christmas Party that had a unexpected great turn out of close to 40 members. This was fantastic for our small Unit of less than 60. On going projects for the Unit include working with the Mendocino Forestry to install a new horse camp with corrals and fire ring at Summit Springs Trail head to Snow Mt. Wilderness. The unit also just received a \$10,000.00 Dollar grant from Cal Pine Geothermal for a new Out House at the Boggs Mt. horse camp, which is a on going project.

Paul Villanueva
Unit President



Upcoming Events

Pomona Horse Expo Feb. 2-4th
www.horseexpoevents.com

2012 BCHC Rendezvous Mar, 30, 31 & April 1st
www.bchcalifornia.org/2012-rendezvous.html

Western States Horse Expo - Jun 8-10th
www.horseexpo.com

Unit News



Yreka Horse Day

TOP OF THE STATE UNIT

Article & Photo by Penny Wells-Thomas

On Saturday, October 15th, Mackenzie Allen organized an event called the Yreka Horse Day for her Yreka High School Senior Project. I volunteered to represent the BCHC at her function. Dale Payne also offered to demonstrate the how-to's of packing. There were five other participants demonstrating leather care, horse shoeing by Ralph Dillon, Pat Parielli principles by Erin Fowle, dressage and vaccinations by Dr. Tish Chism.

We had a small but enthusiastic crowd. Dale did an excellent job demonstrating packing skills with the iron mule and answering questions. He was assisted by his son-in-law Mike.

We were treated to a wonderful lunch and Mackenzie awarded door prizes after



REDSHANK RIDERS - BCHC

PACK CLINIC

SUNDAY - JANUARY 15, 2012

AT 9:30 - ?

MIKE & PEBBLES LEWIS HOME

52820 ELDER CREEK RD

AGUANGA, CA. 92536

This is a BCHC Education Event

Must be a BCHC Member - If you're not you can join that day

Please call Mike at (951) 760-9255 if you are attending

With number who will be in your party

Lunch will be provided

We will be going over;

How to Pack Proper Loads and Tie Hitches

Proper Gear and Hitch for Load

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Odd Loads and Load Balancing

BRING YOUR LEAD ANIMAL, WE WILL PROVIDE PACK ANIMAL

AND TRAIL COURSE TO TEST YOUR SKILLS

IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN ANIMAL COME LEARN ANYWAY

every speaker. The final door prize was a load of hay but unfortunately neither Dale or myself won the hay. We had a great time, sold some wine glasses and recruited a new member.



Unit News

Lower Willows Project

By Cheryl Wegner, BCHC San Diego Unit

In early November we came together once again for the 15th Annual Lower Willows Project out of Vern Whitaker Horse Camp. Volunteers from San Gorgonio Pass Unit, Redshank Riders Unit and San Diego spent two days clearing the trail for the season along the riparian area of Coyote Canyon in the northern part of the Anza Borrego State Park. This work event entails the collaboration of a few brush sawyers and a bunch of "swampers" to get the trail open for the season. On Saturday a few of us from camp headed up and over the mountains to attend the memorial service for Ben York, who was a friend, leader and mentor to many in BCHC and the Pacific Crest Trail Association as well his church, Rotary, and beyond. Saturday evening we were once again treated to a splendid dinner prepared by Linda Marshall and her helpers. We enjoyed the warm company around the campfire while sharing our memories of Ben. We did get a bit of rain, but were blessed with seeing snow on the Santa Rosas on Saturday morning. Put it on your calendar for next year, the first weekend in November.



Volunteers from San Gorgonio Pass Unit, Redshank Riders Unit and San Diego spent two days clearing the trail.

www.TRAILMEISTER.com is "The Horse Rider's Resource" with free trail maps, clear and accurate camp, trailhead, and driving directions. All trail information is validated by "hoof on the trail" and by land managers and trail user groups. In addition to monthly trail columns in national and regional equine publications, TrailMeister also provides horse trail previews with great trail photos and video, gear reviews, and "how to's" for horseback riders, horse campers, and trail riders across the U.S.A.

The website has a great area called "**TIPS**". They are tips from *TrailMeister*, and readers like you. They can make your rides more enjoyable and perhaps even safer. Here's one I thought was great:

Take a moment right now to put "ICE" by the names of the people you'd want called in case of emergency. ICE is an acronym that stands for "in case of emergency," and it is a great idea that's spreading around the world.

The point is to let rescue workers, police, or doctors check your cell phone and reach the people you would want contacted if you're in an accident or other emergency.

BCHC COWGIRL CALENDAR RETURNS FOR 2012

By Lisa Deas, Co-VP of Education/Webmaster

The 2012 BCHC Cowgirl Calendar is now ready for purchase. A great way to support BCHC. Go to www.BCHCalifornia.org & click on the LuLu link to purchase!! Happy Holidays! (actual calendar is in color)



Unit News

GROUND POUNDIN WITH THE SCA (on the PCT)

(Or why I left my mules at home)

Story & photos by: Michael Lewis ~ Redshank Riders Unit

In the past few years, our packers have hauled thousands of pounds of tools & supplies along hundreds of miles of trails, over all kinds of terrain in all kinds of weather and I am very glad to be a part of that. One of the groups we have



packed for on numerous occasions is the Student Conservation Association, or the "SCA". Last month I got invited by Sam Commarto to help out an SCA crew on a retaining wall project in our area known as Tule Springs.

The project was less than a mile from a dirt road so I had to leave my pack animals at home, traded spurs, chaps, and a cowboy hat for work boots, gloves and a hard hat. Also, instead



of rising at 4:30 am to feed and ready the stock I got to sleep in till 6:30. When I arrived and started meeting the crew I found I had packed for them a couple of times this summer, Mission Creek and Apache Springs.

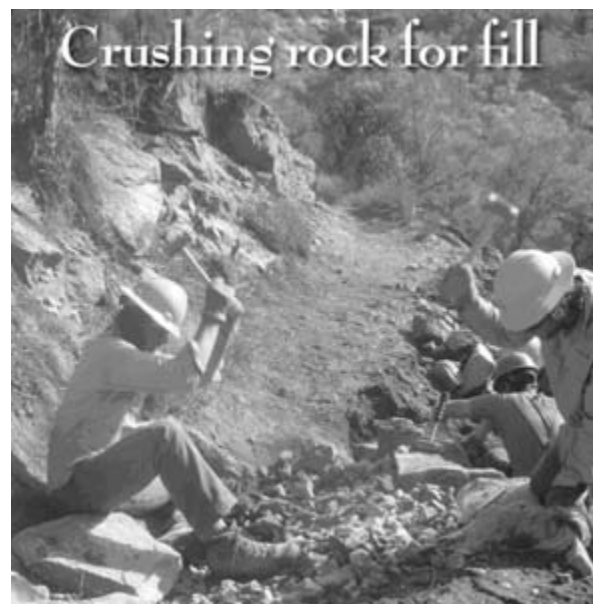
These kids come from all over the US to work on these projects. Massachusetts, New York, South Carolina, Washington, to name a few. After intro's we went to work, some on numerous check steps and others including me on out-sloping sections of trail. When Sam arrived a group of us, along with Sam, headed for the washout where the retaining wall would be. It was a mess and I had no idea what it would take to fix but Sam already had a

plan. We went to work digging the foundation and gathering rocks for the wall. Sam pointed to some very large stones a ways down the wash that he wanted brought up and I thought, are you kidding me? Well, he wasn't.

Using a grip-hoist to move boulders



I got the opportunity to use a grip-hoist to drag up some of the larger stones (more appropriately boulders if you ask me). Now I have packed a few of these things (grip-hoists), and it was nice to see one in action, even if it was me on the handle. It's amazing how large of a rock you can move with one of these things. In the few days I spent on this project I learned a lot about building check steps and retaining walls that will last through all types of weather and stand up over time. This was a hard working crew and had my turn with the grip-hoist, pick, shovel, rock bar, sledge



hammer, and even did some shaping with a hammer and chisel. Makes me appreciate the time and effort it takes to maintain a trail like the PCT. These guys and gals spend weeks at a time living in tents in all weather and work without complaint. Most of this crew hiked over the PCT from Mt.

Laguna in San Diego

County to get to this job. From day one they accepted me as one of their crew and included me on their decisions and in turn listened to my suggestions on how to make the trail more equestrian

Unit News

friendly. It was hard work but it comes with a great amount of satisfaction. Most of the crew I will probably never see again, but every time I ride down that section of trail I will remember



them all and know I had a hand (literally) in keeping that section open. I hope I have the opportunity to work with whatever crew next year brings to our area. Thanks again to Sam Commarto,

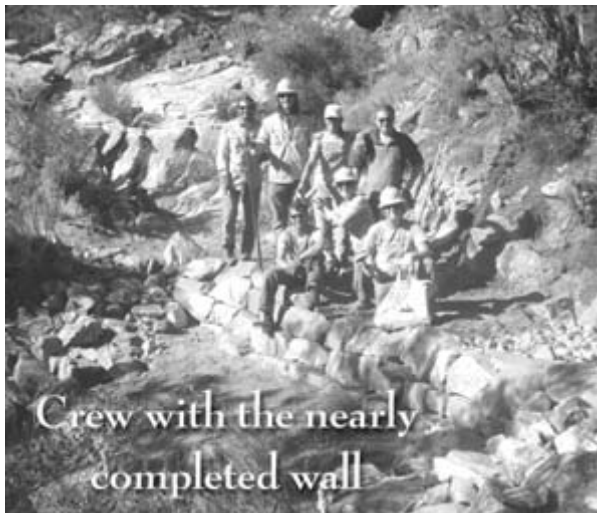
Sam made it a point get our ideas on ways to make the PCT more equestrian friendly. He was also the reason five of our members got crosscut saw certifications by pushing to have a training class in our area. He also held, on his own time, a trail building and maintenance class. PCT funding for Sam's position was for two years and his hitch ends the end of December. He will be sorely missed. Anyone who has worked with Sam may want to e-mail the PCTA and let them know how much he was appreciated. You can use this link: http://pcta.org/contact_us. We all need to make sure our relationship with the PCTA continues into the future.



Sterling, Nate, Whit, Andrea, Jesse (aka Gertrude), Alana, Chas, Paddy, and Danny.

A bit about Sam; He and three others were hired by the

PCTA two years ago to help build the PCTA's volunteer base. Through the hard work of our former president Bob Jones and Sam, members of our group have begun to get involved. mostly with packing trail crews.



The deadline for submissions for the
SPRING / SUMMER EDITION
of the Backcountry News is:
FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2012
Send submissions to BCHC.News@gmail.com
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Restless Designs
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Information



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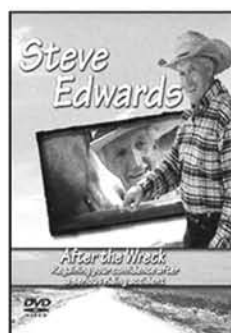
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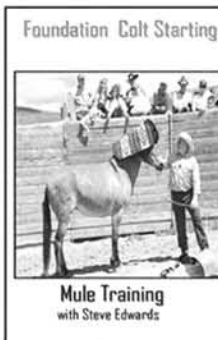


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Announcements

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

The following new members have joined BCHC Oct - Dec 2011

High Country	Laurel Marsters Harry & Jean Weir
High Sierra	Joni Carrasco and Jeff Ragan Ronnie Coelho and Dottie Gauntt Paula Cottle and Donny Dodds Sheri Ed, Cassie & Josh Flores Rick and Patty Peeren Kevin and Melissa Saylor Gregory and Anna Shonk Brenda and Jerry Tyler Michelle Wagner
Kern Sierra	Jeanette Baybo Marie Bryson
Lake-Mendo Los Padres	Kelly and Julie York Robert Bishop and Sandy Maevers Jimmy Dodson and Lauri Stoneburner Ingrid Hoffman Kathi Kullgren Karen and Michael Larson Pamela J. Rhodes Harry Robertson and Noreen Raza Sheila Ryan
Mid Valley	Ali Stephenson David Bricknell Ellen H. Bridges Nina Cash Margaret Coleman Troy Ewing and Joseph Trindade Brian Frontella and Estella Frontella Johnah Harper Raul and Linda Perez Christina MacLauchlen Amy Pederson Karen Pursley Jennifer Ruffolo Annette Saberniak Joan Stampfl Mary Stramer Mischele Rangel-Tennis and Carl Tennis Jackie Williams Kaitlyn Zaborsky Diane Zietlow
Mother Lode North Bay	Gail A. Kennedy Betty Box Jamie Seaton
Redshank Riders	Cheryl Brandes Marie and Richard Getz
Redwood	Dale and Glenda Hay Kimberlee Korobi Hannah Minikel Marcelle Olsen and Steve Kosack Renita, Belli & Jessica Snow Trista Terry Nancy R. Trine
San Diego	H. Elizabeth Broome and James F. Kirk Levi Lertique Glen and Diane Rick

NEW MEMBERS, *continued*

San Diego (cont'd)	Valerie Schmidt
San Gorgonio Pass	Susan Dearth Whitney Gattuso Shawn and Mike Gilham Steve McMahon Mary Parker and Erin Sumler
San Joaquin Sierra	Kim Bunch Cindy Mueller and Doug Stevens Janet and Dave Wright
Santa Ana River	Dave Wright
Sequoia	Richard Micke and Janine Krause
Shasta Trinity	Sharon Bahr and Crystal Wendland Joe and Stephanie Gagliardi
Steinbeck Country	Lynnette Smick and Tonya Rivera Kathy Zinman and Bob Eaton
Top Of The State	Rebecca Richman MD

Hello to everyone, I am your new editor for the BCHC News. My name is Rhonda & I am a member (and web tech) for the Redshank Riders unit.

This is my first time using new software to create this newsletter so please bear with me if the layout is a bit jumbled. It will get better as I become more familiar with this process.

I hope you enjoy it... I want to thank everyone, especially CJ, for all the great submissions everyone has sent. I truly appreciate it.

Rhonda

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THANK YOU!

Announcements

THANK YOU!!

Benefactor Funds are used in a variety of ways to support BCHC's Public Lands activities. Uses of Benefactor Funds 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.

BENEFACTORS

Antelope Valley	Carlos and Laurie Cabeza De Vaca Heidi Furer & Latha Hylton
Eastern Sierra	John D. Brown, III & Susan L. Harms Bill Carter Michelle Layne Vince and Doreen Patrizio James B. and Judy L. Waggoner
High Sierra	Richard and Dena Cochran Ruth and Grant Gerson Dennis and Cathlyn A. Keller
Kern River Valley	Ken and Betty Finch
Kern Sierra	Boyce 'Buzz' R. & Joann F. Caffee Mylon and Pat Filkins Edith Frick Don and Donna James
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North Bay	Victoria Harris Alan and Carolyn Mahoney
Ohlone Riders	Robert Ferrand
Redshank Riders	Elaine E. Hill & John H. Schoettler Gregory and Deborah Long Ken and Allison Renck
Redwood	Maris Hawkins
San Diego	Susanne Holenstein

BENEFACTORS, *continued*

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San Joaquin Sierra	Ernest C. Burroughs John and Jenise Cunningham Kenneth and Diane Dalby Toby and Katie Horst Linda Steiner Jamie Throgmorton
Santa Ana River	Pat and Maia Wolff
Sequoia	Charles and Dahne Airoza Jamie Wilson, DVM Larry and Jody Young
Shasta Trinity	Douglas and Shawna Powell
Sutter Buttes	Corky Layne Shirley Sherwood

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Top of the State

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Joe Croteau
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jjcroteau@sismetel.net

Please note: This page to be updated when 2012 data is available



WANT TO START A NEW UNIT?

If there is no unit in your area and you are interested in starting one, contact BCHC Secretary Kaye Bruns for more information.
(661) 944-4927

Membership Matters

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

Chip & Linda may be reached Monday through Friday.

By mail: **BCHC Membership**
PO Box 535, Beaumont, CA 92223

By email: membership@bchcalifornia.org

By toll free phone: (866) 748-2033.
In 951 area code: 769-3781

BCHC STATE BOOTH

The BCHC State Booth is badly out of date and no longer reflects what BCHC units really do.

We need new photos showing current events and activities. Every unit should be represented in the traveling BCHC display.

Please send photos to Lynn Joiner. You may email digital photos to Lynn at lynnjoiner@sbcglobal.net or snail mail paper photos to her at 16347 Stephanie Road, Bakersfield, CA 93314-9669. Your photos will be returned only if you send a stamped, self-addressed envelope when you submit photos to Lynn.

Thank you for your help with this important project!

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