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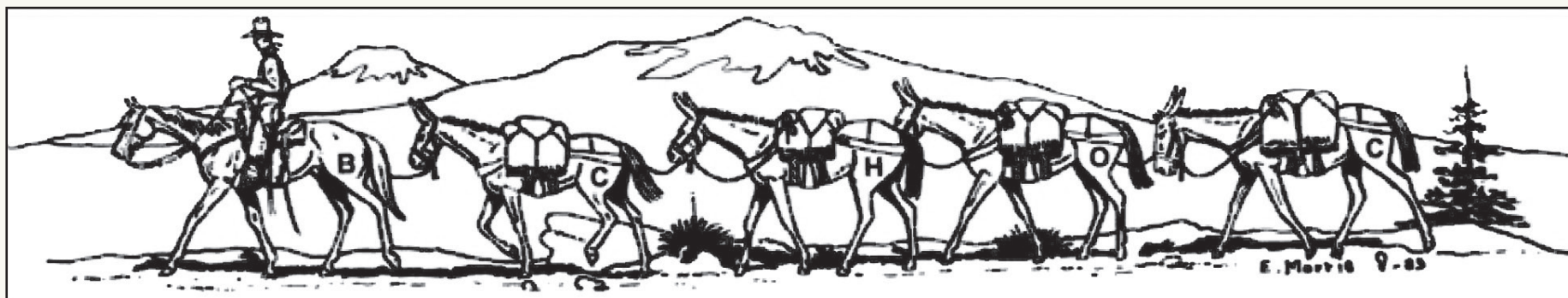
BCHC

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The Backcountry News



Volume 26, Issue 4

The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

WINTER 2016

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA PRESENTS



Featuring
Friday Night
Dinner &
Concert With:
Belinda Gail
America's
Western
Sweetheart

We are gearing up for the **29th Annual Rendezvous**. This will be our second year hosting the Rendezvous in Angels Camp. We'll be gathering the weekend of March 18th, 19th, and 20th.

If you haven't been to Rendezvous before, let us tell you what you can expect.

BCHC member volunteers will arrive on the Wednesday before the event to start setting things in motion. We'll be setting up corrals to stable all the equine that will be arriving for the weekend and lining out all the camping and vendor booth spaces. We'll get the BCHC Office, the Registration Trailer, and the signage set up. On Thursday, the vendors will set up their booths so everything will be in place when the event starts at 9:00 AM on Friday.

During Rendezvous, dry camping is available on-site at the Calaveras County Fairgrounds, known by most as the "Frogtown Fairgrounds". (The Jumping Frog Jubilee has been a part of the Calaveras County Fair since 1893, which is one of the longest running consecutive events in the State of California. A walk down historic, Angels Camp's Main Street shows you the names of winning frogs throughout the years.) If you're not into dry camping, there is an RV Park adjacent to the fairgrounds and hotels/motels in town. You can also come for just one of the days - but with so much going on, you might have trouble deciding which day!

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE OUR TRAILS
THE 29TH ANNUAL RENDEZVOUS
March 18 - 20, 2016
Calaveras County Fairgrounds

continued on Page 5

The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

Editor · Lisa Deas

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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)4 education foundation established in 2007. The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc., reserves the right to refuse any advertisements and/or articles that are inconsistent with the Backcountry Horsemen of California's objectives and purpose statement. Other material will be printed at the Editor's discretion.

Disclaimer: Articles and advertisements that appear in The Backcountry News do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of BCHC or its officers and members. Nor does publication of said articles and advertisements constitute an endorsement of the views or of the goods or services offered therein that they may express. Accuracy of all material is the sole responsibility of the authors. BCHC is not responsible for unsolicited material of any kind.

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.

Deadline	Publication Date
August 14, 2015	October 2015 Fall
January 15, 2016	January 2016 Winter
April 15, 2016	May 2016 Spring
July 15, 2016	Aug. 2016 Summer

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

Number of Issues:	1	2	3	
Full Page	\$150.00	\$142.50	\$135.00	>
Half Page (h/v)	\$100.00	\$95.00	\$90.00	
Quarter Page (h/v)	\$80.00	\$76.00	\$72.00	
Bus. Card (h/v)	\$25.00	\$23.75	\$22.50	
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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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For more BCHC information, see our website: bchcalifornia.org

President's Page

Most of California has been getting welcome rain and snow. It looks like we will have a good water year. One of the results of the drought followed by the wet windy weather is down trees.



On a recent ride in the coast range I came across seven downed oaks in a two mile section of trail. Units should plan to recon, locate and working with the appropriate agencies, log out the down trees on our trails through the spring and summer.

Fortunately the long waited for national saw policy is now scheduled to be signed in March. This will allow a much easier certification process for sawyers. This policy will cover both crosscut and chainsaw use. We will keep members informed when the policy goes into effect, and when and where saw certification clinics will be held.

Yosemite National Park is conducting its new wilderness steward plan. <http://www.nps.gov/yose/getinvolved/wsp.htm>. This is critical for all stock users. There is a small but very vocal minority of users who want stock use restricted. Combine this with the apparent anti stock proclivity of the park superintendent and stock users face a serious threat, closure of trails, closure of meadows, restrictions on numbers, etc.

Randy Rasmussen our BCHA Wilderness Advisor, working with Troy Patten has written an excellent letter sent

to the park as part of the scoping process. In it they worked to head off all possible arguments against stock restrictions. They have asked that the park base all its decisions on sound science, not emotional declarations by that small anti stock minority. They have also asked the park to use us as partners in planning and implementation of stock related facilities and activities. I imagine we members will jump at the chance to help, camp and ride in the park in support of park management.

Jacque Murphy, our web guru and all around tech queen brought up an interesting idea at our exec board meeting. Her unit has used the Facebook 'boost' advertising for unit events, and significantly increased interest in the unit events. You may want to consider doing the same for your unit events, the cost is minimal the effect can be 'viral'.



I built a set of pack boxes to carry chain saws, gas, oil and accessories, based on a set built by Lee Roeser. I made mine out of plywood. I am going to contact our local high school FFA groups to see if they have members who would like to construct metal boxes, and also become part of BCHC. The pack box construction could be a lever toward gaining younger members. This is something I think all units could do.

And finally, Rendezvous at Angels Camp promises to be an excellent event, it is well worth attending. I hope to see you there.



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PARK WATCH REPORT

Submitted by: Janet Peterson



It is a bright, sunny, crystal clear day in the Sierra foothills and a perfect time for riding and reflecting. Just you and your horse and nature. It is a glorious experience. Then, **KAH-BANG!** You find yourself lying on the ground and your horse is stampeding off down the trail. What just happened?

On January 3, 2009, two equestrians were riding at Folsom State Recreation Area (Folsom, CA) on a designated and posted horse only trail. They were confronted with 3 motorcycle riders, their horses bolted. Both riders were thrown and sustained severe head injuries, bruised ribs and general trauma.

“Toby”, a 4-year –old Appaloosa/Quarter Horse, got only ½ mile down the trail but in that short distance he experienced injuries so severe he was euthanized on the spot. The other horse, ”Bailey”, a 20 –year-old Morgan, traveled more than 5 miles from the incident site and was eventually located, thankfully, uninjured.

The Folsom Lake State Recreation area is located in a semi-urban area and has designated riding areas for horses, mountain bikes, 4-wheel OHV and hiking. Even so there is conflict from time to time and this incident became the flash point for change in the Sierra Foothills of California. A determined group of park volunteers, bird watchers, mountain bike riders, hikers, equestrians and park management convened. They set their sights on conflict prevention and they would start by improving connectivity between trail users and park management.

This Ad Hoc group wanted a simple and convenient method for passing information between trail users and park management. It had to be available 24/7, simple to access and use, remain unobtrusive and available to everyone. This solution had to target safety issues and work to address problems preemptively.

The motorcycle riders had entered the trail system from private property through a cut fence. With the benefit of 20/20 hindsight it is plausible that an intact fence might have denied the motorcyclist access to the horse only trail. Local equestrians were aware of the cut fence, but in the Sierra foothills public land is managed by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, CA State Parks and multiple cities and counties. Whose jurisdiction did this fence fall under?

The web-based service now known as ParkWatchReport was born out of the Folsom Lake tragedy and a direct line of communication between land managers and the trail-using public.

The FREE phone app provided by ParkWatchReport can take a report from a trail user and forward it to the appropriate land manager in 2 minutes or less. It is available 24/7 and 365 days a year. The app automatically records the date, time and the GPS coordinates of the report site. Site photos can be uploaded (a picture is worth a thousand words to a land manager) and it records a detailed (or brief) description of the condition being reported. Hit “SEND” and the report is forwarded real time to the land manager with jurisdiction based on the GPS coordinates.

Trail users can now report cut fences, trails blocked by fallen trees, weather or trail use related erosion, dangerous trail conditions, or trails being used illegally no matter where they are in the US and Canada. At <https://www.parkwatchreport.com/> there is a list (which is rapidly expanding) of parks that currently subscribe to ParkWatchReport in order for their park to be featured but the actual reporting system works independently. A report can be filed from any trail anywhere anytime.

As trail riders you are already the “boots on the ground”. With ParkWatchReport downloaded on your smart phone you become a vital part of the day-to-day communication exchange that has added a new and significant level of safety to all trails.

The free smart phone app can be downloaded at Apple Store and Google Play. For PC and Mac users a desktop version is available at <https://www.parkwatchreport.com> . For more information contact Park Watch Report, LLC Headquarters at (530) 878-4750 or email janet@park-watchreport.com .



BCHC RENDEZVOUS

Rendezvous continued from cover page

Throughout the Rendezvous, beginning on Friday, March 18th, there will be Clinicians, Competitions, Seminars, Western Art Show, and lots of vendors to visit. There will be food vendors where you can pick up some breakfast or lunch, and catered dinners on Friday and Saturday nights.

The Friday night dinner includes a concert by Belinda Gail. (If you're not familiar with Belinda, check out her website belindagailsings.com). Saturday night dinner will be our annual awards, raffle, and auctions - both silent and live. All of our BCHC Units, as well as a number of vendors, will be contributing items to the raffle and auctions. There will be lots of great items to bid on! The no-host bar will open at 5:30 PM and dinner will be served at 6:00 both nights.

BLM will be joining us again this year with their Wild Horse and Burro Adoption. As always, they will have some great animals in need of good homes. (If you think you might be interested in adopting, get the requirements ahead of time from the BLM website so you are prepared when you arrive.)



Backcountry Horsemen of California Leave No Trace Master Educator Stock Course

April 4th through 8th, 2016

Mann Ranch
Bishop, CA 93514

Stock Course, Trail Head Camp
NO PERSONAL STOCK, NO DOGS

Price: \$550.00
(*price subject to change*)

Contact:
Ruthie Heuer (559) 568.1260
rmheuer@gmail.com

If you're interested in participating in any of our competitions, you can get the registration forms and rules from the BCHC website.

There will be a Trail Challenge on Saturday and Sunday. (Carlena Kellogg, Mid-Valley Unit, will be doing seminars about Trail Challenges on Friday where you can learn how the challenges work and how the scoring is done.) Also on Saturday, there will be a Pack Scramble, an Odd Load Packing Competition, and Hitch Competitions. (Packing 101 seminars will give you an up close and personal look at, and a chance to practice, hitches) Sunday morning will be the Dutch Oven (D/O) Competition. (Watch Vicki Whisler's D/O Demonstrations on Friday and Saturday to get a better feel for the skills and techniques you'll see demonstrated during the competition) And of course, all BCHC Units are encouraged to participate in the Table Decorations Competition. (Tables will need to be decorated before 5 PM on Friday, so the judging can occur before we all sit down to dinner.)

After all the excitement of the day on Saturday, you can relax and enjoy Wine, Beer, and Cheese tasting in the afternoon, from 3:00 - 5:00. At this activity, you'll receive a complimentary glass (wine or beer) and share in some great fellowship with other BCHC members from across the State before heading off to dinner.

Are you artistic or crafty? Do you paint, sew, work with leather or metal? You can enter your work in our Western Art Show! We have some very talented members in BCHC. Come see for yourself. Some of the items you see might even be available to bid on during the Auction on Saturday night!

We hope we've painted a good enough picture here so you know what fun you can expect to have at the 2016 BCHC Rendezvous!

You can get your Rendezvous Registration Packet from the BCHCalifornia.org website, or from your Unit President.

The fees for the dinners, Wine Tasting, stall rental, and camping are all lined out in the Registration Packet. And you can order a Rendezvous shirt or BCHC ball cap. Get your registration in early! And share this with your friends and neighbors! There is no entrance fee to watch the daily activities and Rendezvous is open to the public!

If you would like to volunteer some of your time to help out, just include that information in your registration, or you can contact the 2016 Rendezvous Committee Chairpersons (Mike Kohlbaker, 916-214-6505 or 4horsen@sbcglobal.net, and Lloyd Erlandson, 209-761-3942 or lloyd.erlandson0@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you in March!

ANNUAL UNIT REPORTS

ANTELOPE VALLEY UNIT ANNUAL REPORT

Rides:

- The year started with a training ride in Griffith Park. The weather was clear and beautiful. We could see in all directions, and clearly see downtown LA. It was a great opportunity to desensitize our backcountry equines to tunnels, bicycles, the freeway, and a wooden suspension bridge over the LA River, hikers etc.
- In March we rode out of Orcas-Gabrieleno Equestrian Center (Hansen Dam) in the LA Foothills, where there was lots of water to practice in.
- Our annual beginners' (new members) pack trip to the Golden Trout Wilderness was canceled this year due to heavy smoke causing unsafe air quality in the Trout Meadows.
- We have two more rides scheduled this fall.

Public Rides: Membership Drive and Education

- In April, we had the first of three public rides to promote membership and provide education. Due to the drought and lack of poppies, our annual Poppy Ride was moved to Leona Valley. Twenty-eight riders enjoyed the wildflowers and lunch. After lunch, many stayed for demonstrations on how to high line and a packing demo.
- Our next public ride was Saturday the 4th of July. This time we had a late afternoon ride and pot luck BBQ. Our new members enjoyed the ride and more people joined that day.
- Our third public ride is scheduled October 18th at the Lazy T Ranch. We hope to continue our membership drive and provide backcountry education.

Co-sponsored Activities:

- Antonovich Trail Dusters Ride: Tejon Ranch
Co-sponsors: Tejon Ranch; ACHC AV Unit; ETI Corrals 9,21,8, and 138; North County Mounted Assistance Unit; and LA County Sheriff Mounted Unit Parks Bureau.
As a co-sponsor, we attended the planning meetings, pre-rode the trail, and served as outriders on the actual ride. Over 200 riders participated. Our job to help out riders as needed. LA County Supervisor Michael Antonovich has supported the equestrian community, and promoted trails for many years. This was an opportunity not only to network, but

to thank him.

Guzzler Project

- Co-sponsors: BCHC AV Unit; PCTA; and authorized by the BL in Ridgecrest
We provided funds to buy materials to repair a guzzler which provides water for livestock on a very dry section of the PCT. Jerry Stone from our unit coordinated six volunteers for three full days. Two thousand pounds of rock was transported by bucket brigade from the vehicles to the project site. See photos on our web site.

Golden Trout Trail Maintenance

- Co-sponsors: FFA Carpinteria High School; US Forest Service; BCHC Sequoia Unit; BCHC AV Unit; BCHC Education Fund; the Miles family; and volunteers. We donated funds to this worthwhile education and work opportunity for young adults. AV Unit member Paul Frisbey provided pack animals and help.

"Insuring Access" - Kern Sierra BCH 2015 Highlights

*** *We make a difference: It's OUR land for OUR use****

- Community Participation to publicly educate:
- Pioneer Museum, Wind Wolves Conservancy,
- Cowboy Christmas, Member Meetings
- Business input for support:
- Local support via animal and vet groups
- Trail film / documentary to facilitate multi users
- Trail Access Projects for future generations:
- BCHA, State, Federal Grants, Parks & Recreation,
- Local BCH Unit projects, Leave No Trace Program
- Active Outings and Member Recruitment
- Fall and/or Spring rides & BBQ's
- The clowns are veterinarians in disguise
- Membership Projected Plan & Improvement:
- 3 years - 300 members. Currently improving! (Increased from estimated mid 80's to approx. 113)
- ETI, Rides to engage member, educate public,
- Hikers & Rafters, Mule packers, Triple LLL Riders
- Scholarships to selected associated groups:
- One Spade Packers and students

ANNUAL UNIT REPORTS

HIGH SIERRA UNIT ANNUAL REPORT

Hi! 2015 has been a busy year for our unit. We have undertaken many projects to help preserve and promote backcountry use. We started out the year by setting our priorities and unit goals. When a new year starts so are the lists of High Sierra's things to do. This year we emphasized backcountry access on public lands and our search of where and when to have our Trail Rides. With each season there is a ride planned by Bill See and crew, and everyone looks forward to going to a new destination filled with good times, food and education. This has also been a successful way to get new members. With each ride there is usually a speaker invited or a topic to discuss. Whether it being a local veterinarian, a local Pack

Team, the discussion of Saddle Fitting or an up and coming Work Project there is always something to come away with.

Board Member Dena Flores successfully organized a Play day. Many enjoyed this and there are always members asking when the next one will be. Bill See also sponsored a tack swap to give members the opportunity to get rid of any surplus gear they may have accumulated.

This year our unit emphasized outreach and public awareness by participating in the Woodlake, Porterville, and Bishop Mule Days Parades. We spread the message of gentle use and leave no trace principles while showcasing working pack strings that allowed the public to see some of the tools and techniques we use in the backcountry. We were rewarded for our efforts by winning awards in the Woodlake and Mule Days Parades.

Our Public Lands Committee, headed by Dick Cochran, has been an invaluable asset to our unit. They have spent numerous hours in meetings with Park or Forest officials and numerous hours of their own time researching issues, with one intention, preserving our historic right to use stock in the backcountry. They have been passionate and staunch advocates of representing our cause to the public agencies that manage our local resources. SEKI has recently published their Wilderness Stewardship Plan, and implementation of that plan is being watched closely. The Sequoia National Forest is redoing their Forest Plan, and that process is being followed and commented on as well.

The Work Project Committee has been equally committed to putting our goals into action. They have helped organized bear box placement, and provided extensive resupply logistic support to American Conservation Experience work crews in Sequoia National Park and an FFA pack team getting their first taste of the backcountry. We want to show our agency partners that we can be depended on to help with the actual work of maintaining our precious resource.

Manning an informational booth at the Woodlake Lions Roping event has also emphasized Backcountry Education and our commitment to its preservation. We still have another ride, play day, and Fall Festival coming up to round out the year. I am proud of our members and what they have accomplished this year. They deserve lots of thanks and praise.

EASTERN SIERRA UNIT ANNUAL REPORT

The Eastern Sierra Unit had three work parties this year so far.

They worked in the Red's Meadow area near Mammoth clearing trail with the PCTA.

They took a large party into Black Rock and split into two groups to clear trail in the Inyo Forest. This was a four day trip.

Another smaller work party returned to Red's Meadow to do some work there.

The Unit also held its annual fund raiser at the Elks Club with a catered dinner, live entertainment, silent auctions, and calendar sales.

ANNUAL UNIT REPORTS

LAKE-MENDO 2015 UNIT REPORT

2015 was a very productive and also a devastating year for Lake County Lake-Mendo BCHC Unit.

To start off we installed a much needed Water Tank and Trough at the Boggs Mt. Horse camp and made repairs to the rock fire ring and table. Unfortunately we do not know the condition of this tank or trough given the recent Valley fire in Cobb Mt. and Middletown. We can only hope it survived. This area has been closed indefinitely and there is no time frame for re-opening. We have lost one of the best riding areas in this County due to this fire. The Cowboy Camp, Judge Davis, and Cache Creek areas have also been damaged by fires but are open. They are in need of erosion and fire related work.

We have furthered our alliance with BLM and Mendocino National Forest with continued trail clearing and work in the Cache Creek at the Redbud Tail, Yolla Bolley Wilderness, Snow Mt. Wilderness and Knoxville Fish & Wildlife recreation areas. The redbud trail was totally blocked and a work day cutting down trees opened this trail to hikers including the 'Secretary of the Interior, Congressmen Mike Thompson, Barbara Boxer's Aids, and Tuleuyome Members. Over 15 miles of blocked trails from down trees were also cleared in the Snow Mt. Wilderness. At the Summit Springs trail head the blocked water line to the horse trough was also repaired. The members have continued efforts to replace signs in the Green Springs area of the Yolla Bolleys installing 4 signs on one pack trip. A list has been supplied to the Forestry Dept. for signs needing replacement in the Snow Mt. Wilderness. The signs are being made and installing them will be one of our upcoming work projects.

With all the fires in Lake County, the ROCKY FIRE, JERUSALEM FIRE, AND THE VALLEY FIRE we have offered our assistance in the areas affected including Cowboy Camp, Judge Davis Trail Head, Cache Creek, and Knoxville Wildlife Area. Erosion control, trail clearing, and culvert replacements will be needed and BLM sees this as a three year project. Substantial help will also be needed in the Boggs Forest with trail clearing and proposed replanting of the forest. This will also be a very long term project. Friends of Boggs recently had bike bells made with their name and Lake-Mendo Unit, to pass out. This project is also on hold. We understand this area is planning clear cutting and logging to clean up the fire damage. We may need repairs to the outhouse and water system recently installed.

Finally the Lake-Mendo Unit is very proud to have had 3 members form our Unit selected to attend the 2015 Wilderness Rider Program, Chris Vallerga, Paul Villanueva, and myself. For such a small Unit we feel very fortunate to have such a large interest in this program and are striving to promote the 7 LNT principles and interact with the public.

Our ongoing and future activities include involvement with the Tuleyome Group in forming the Berryessa Snow Mt. Trials Initiative which our Pres. & Public Lands VP Paul Villanueva has been selected to be on the core group heading this initiative. We have been requested by US Forestry to be involved with the planned introduction event with US. Forestry and BLM in partnership with BCHC to commemorate the new Berryessa Snow Mt. Monument. We have been asked to participate in this event and supply Stock to pack in dignitaries for an overnight pack trip into the Snow Mt. Wilderness from Summit Springs and speak on our involvement in the monument area at the dedication ceremonies.



TOP OF THE STATE UNIT ANNUAL REPORT

With the help of RAC (Resource Advisory Committee) dollars received from the counties of Shasta, Trinity, and Siskiyou, the Top of the State Unit was able to log out 180 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail along with 50 miles of feeder trails that lead to the Pacific Crest Trail. The Top of the State packers also supported the Lyons Pride Pacific Crest Trail Association Crew and PCTA's ACE (American Conservation Experience) crew, who worked on fire damage from the 2014 fires in the Klamath National Forest.
Doug Kaufner, President, Top of the State Unit

ANNUAL UNIT REPORTS

LOS PADRES UNIT REPORT - OCTOBER 2014 - OCTOBER 2015

On Oct 11, 2014, our unit rode in the Paso Robles Pioneer Parade. Several members participated.

On the weekend of October 24, 2014, we had our annual Fall Campout at Live Oak Campground. We had approximately 120 people attend this event. It is always a fun event as we have music, both Friday and Saturday nights, furnish food Friday and Saturday nights, and breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings. We have costume prizes for both adult and children and pumpkin carving contests.

On November 19th we held our elections.

The unit had a holiday dinner for the board members at the Santa Maria Elks Lodge on December 6th. That was the end of 2014.

Richard Waller organized a ride at Chimneas Ranch for members only on January 10th.

Several members participated in the USFS Training held every year at the Los Prietos Station on January 24th and 25th. This training is to educate volunteers the benefits of volunteering for the Forest Service so work parties will be under the umbrella of workman's compensation. They explain the use of sat radio and the importance of a JHA.

Several members participated in a non-BCHC event on February 1st, cleaning the trails at Montano de Oro - this is an annual event coinciding with the CCCMBA and SLOPOST.

Our delegates were present at the State meeting in February at Santa Nella on February 25th.

On March 6th, Richard Waller again organized a Members Ride to Indians above Hunter Liggett - approximately 30 members attended this event.

The Rendezvous was held in Angels Camp this year on March 13-15. Several members attended this event and helped with the State Booth and purchasing items for the Live Auction.

On April 10-12, the unit organized its annual Spring ride at American Canyon - this was a members only activity and approximately 50 members signed up for this event.

On May 2nd, Richard Waller organized a celebration at Biddle Park for the Garcia Portrero Trail- Different organizations in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo set up booths to display their information. There was a band and free food for everyone in attendance.

Once again, the unit had a Youth Summer Campout which was held at Lopez Lake the weekend of June 26-27th. This was open to non-members. There were safety demonstrations held for the children to learn. The Forest Service brought their reptiles and creepy crawlies to show the children. That was definitely their highlight!!!

Also in May, our unit participated in a huge Dutch oven cookout to benefit the Nacitone Museum in Lockwood. This was a very impressive cookout - there were approximately 180 Dutch ovens - quite the event.

In August - September, Richard Waller finished his journey on the Old Spanish Trail Trek. This was quite an accomplishment for several of our members.

Our unit also participated in the Harvest Festival in Arroyo Grande on September 26th.

Again, our delegates attended the State meeting held in Santa Nella on October 3rd

KERN RIVER VALLEY UNIT ANNUAL REPORT

The Kern River Valley unit is a small unit in the Kern River valley just east of Bakersfield. We have about thirty three members. Each year we are responsible for putting up and taking down the barb wire fence at Cannel Meadow in the southern sierras. This happens in the last week in June and the last week in October after deer season closes.

We are also responsible for trail maintenance at the Mill Creek trail head. Due to the drought, we have not been able nor has it been necessary to accomplish any maintenance at Mill creek due to lack of use. Anticipating a good rainfall this year, we hope to get out and repair the aforementioned trails.

Our unit also hosted a "Trail Trials" event in May of 2015 in the BLM Keysville area as a fund raiser and also incorporated the use of the One Spade Packers group to assist us in this event.

We have not had many things going on this year mostly because of the drought. Many people are not taking advantage of the high country because of the fires and threat of fires and the inability of being able to have camp fires at their campsites.

Respectfully submitted;
Stephen Horst, President Kern River Valley Unit

ANNUAL UNIT REPORTS

MOTHER LODE UNIT ANNUAL UNIT REPORT

MLU Meetings:

Beginning this year, MLU Board meetings were held on the 4th Monday of even numbered months, and General meetings were held on the 4th Monday of odd numbered months.

State Directors Meeting: Four MLU members attended the State Directors Meeting in February, and four members will attend the October meeting as well.

BCHA National Board Meeting: The NBM was held in Sacramento in April 2015. The MLU assisted Mid-Valley in supporting the event. Seventeen (17) MLU members volunteered throughout the event, including serving at the Welcome Reception at the Railroad Museum on Wednesday evening, cooking and serving at the Dutch Oven Event and Pack Scramble on Thursday evening. Five (5) members from the Davis Pack Team attended the evening at the Stovall Ranch; two of them participated in the Pack Scramble demonstration put on for the National

RECOGNITION:

- Jon Erickson, Wilderness Program Manager, Volunteer and District Trails Coordinator for the Pacific Ranger District presented members of the MLU with USDA Lunch bags in appreciation for our volunteer support in the El Dorado National Forest. Jon also gave the Unit two (2) McLeods.
- Jerry Heitzler was awarded the Presidents Top Hand Award for his Hard work and dedication in 2014.
- Double Diamond Award: Lucy Badenhoop submitted the Caples Creek Project to BCHA for the Double Diamond Award.
- Mike Kohlbaker was awarded the Wilderness Rider of the Year buckle for 2014

BUDGET:

The MLU is setting aside a percentage of income from fundraisers to build the following funds:

- 10% to the “Legal Fund”.
- 5% to the “State Grant Fund”.
- 5% to the “ Education Fund”.
- 5% % to the “ Youth Support Fund”.

EDUCATION/TRAINING:

- MLU put on a Pack Clinic in April which included information brought back from the Rocky Mountain Regional Specialty String training and the Forest Service Wilderness Academy.
- MLU members attended the PCTA Trail Skill College in July.
- Forest Service Wilderness Academy: MLU members attended the Wilderness Ranger Academy in June in the Shasta Trinity.
- A number of MLU members were certified/re-certified in First Aid and CPR.
- BCH Member Lucy Badenhoop completed the BCHC Wilderness Rider Program in September.

PUBLIC LANDS:

- MLU and the USDA Eldorado National forest Pacific Ranger District signed an Updated Volunteer Services Agreement.
- MLU and the USDA Eldorado National forest Amador Ranger District signed an Updated Volunteer Services Agreement.
- MLU is working with El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and County Parks Dept. Regional Trails council (3 counties).
- The Unit has adopted a section of the 28-mile, multi-use El Dorado Trail and have a fall clean-up day scheduled.
- MLU is supporting the El Dorado County acquisition of the El Dorado Ranch for development of a multi-use venue.
- RAC Funds Meeting: MLU members sat on the RAC Fund committee supporting local projects for MLU.
- MLU member, attended the Tahoe Rim Trail meeting in Reno.
- The Unit has been monitoring the SMUD Renewal Process to ensure the Brockless Bridge is included in the project.
- MLU donated \$250 to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County for a Wildlife Crossing On Highway 17.
- MLU Members regularly attend the Trail Advocates Of El Dorado County (TAOEDC) meetings. Cronin Ranch Meeting.
- MLU sent a letter of support to Randy Rasmussen to give to Representatives Lummis and Walz on behalf of the MLU.
- MLU sent a letter of support to Tony Benedetti, President of the Western State Trail Foundation, in support of the restoration of Hodgson Cabin.

ANNUAL UNIT REPORTS

Mother Lode continued from Page 10

MEMBERSHIP:

- Current membership is 117 as of August 2015.

TRAIL PROJECTS:

- In January, MLU members met with Justine Kooyman, PCTA; Jacob Quinn, USFS-Lake Tahoe Basin; Morgan Fessler, Tahoe Rim Trail Association; and Jon Erickson, UFSF-Desolation Wilderness for their annual Project Planning Meeting.
- In January, MLU members also met with the USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit to discuss plans to re-build the corrals in Meiss Meadow.
- In June, MLU performed trail clearing work out of the Tells Creek Horse Camp.
- In August, Tevis Emergency Vet Support: An MLU member manned the Tevis Vet Stop at Hodgson Cabin to assist in packing the Veterinarian or Tevis Riders (Disqualified) out.
- An MLU member created Trail Junction Signs for the Wrights Lake Recreation and the archeologist has approved all but a couple of the locations. We will put together a work crew spring 2016 to pack the signs in for placement using GPS coordinates.
- MLU members provided pack support in the Tahoe Forest for the PCTA -2 days - 3 members with 6 animals.
- In August, MLU members packed tools into Armstrong Pass for the Tahoe Rim Trail Association.
- MLU Members provided pack support in the Mokelumne Wilderness – 2 days – 3 members with 5 pack animals on the pack in and 3 members with 5 pack animals on the pack out.
- MLU Members provided pack support in the Desolation Wilderness – 2 days – 3 members with 7 pack animals on the pack in and 4 members with 7 pack animals on the out.
- Caples Creek Trailhead: MLU working with Cathy Bounds of the El Dorado Forest Service has installed 6 hitching posts, picnic tables, a fire ring, barbeque, and bulletin boards at the equestrian trail head; and reestablished trails which had over grown in past years.

TRAINING RIDES:

- December Week Day Ride: Salmon Falls
- December Day Ride: Sly Park
- January Week Day Ride: Hidden Falls
- January Campout/Ride: Camp Far West
- February Week Day Ride: Granite Bay
- February Campout/Ride: Comanche Lake
- March Week Day Ride: Will be on 3/18/15 at Empire Mine.
- March Campout/Ride: No campout/ride due to Rendezvous
- April Week Day Ride: Cronin Ranch.
- April Campout/Ride: Dru Barner.
- May Week Day Ride: Fleming Meadows.
- May Campout/Ride: North Bay Spring Ride or Sayles Canyon.
- June Campout/Ride: Campout at Dru Barner.
- July Campout/Ride: Mountain Meadows FUN Ride.
- August Day Ride: Thunder Mountain
- August Campout/Ride: Jack Brook Horse Camp
- September Day Ride: Sayles Canyon.
- September Campout/Ride: Caples Creek.
- October Ride: Pt Reyes National Seashore.

FUNDRAISERS:

- Third annual FUN RIDE - netting over \$1100.00 and gaining several new members.
- Jack Brooks Ride - netting over \$600.00 and gaining a couple new members.
- BCHC Lucky Calendars.

GRANTS / DONATIONS

- The Unit donated \$1,000.00 to the Caples Creek Equestrian Trailhead Project.
- BCHA gave MLU \$1,000 for the Caples Creek Equestrian Trailhead project

OUTREACH

- Rendezvous: MLU Co-lead on 2015 & 2016 Rendezvous. MLU had over 30 members volunteer to work part, or all, of the weekend in 2015.
- BCHA Newsletter: Routinely submit MLU articles for publication in the BCHA newsletter
- Two MLU Wilderness Riders presented LNT and Working around Stock discussions during Amador Volunteer Training.
- Mule Day's: MLU supported the UCD Collegiate Pack Team at this year's Mule Days by providing \$400 for expenses. BCHC-MLU banner hung in the UCD Barn at Mule Days and the team carried it in the parade.
- Mule Day's: invited all the vendors to participate in 2016 Rendezvous
- Members of the Unit set up a Gentle Use Camp display at the 2015 Horse Expo to showcase BCH. This year members from the Shasta Trinity, Sutter Buttes and Mid Valley Units also volunteered their time.

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ANNUAL UNIT REPORTS

Mother Lode continued from Page 11

- Three MLU Wilderness Riders presented various LNT programs during Horse Expo.
- Members attended local equestrian club meetings to present BCHC principles and encourage membership in the MLU.
- MLU members assisted with evacuation of animals from fire areas and put together an Emergency Fire Call list of members who are willing to assist. BCHA at the NFR: MLU members will volunteer at the BCHA booth at the NFR in Las Vegas in December.

Speakers at Meetings:

- Jim Harville, Director of Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad, INC, spoke about the history of the railroad in the El Dorado Rail Corridor, the vision for the corridor, and the section of trail adopted by MLU
- Janet Peterson spoke about the Park Watch Report app for cell phones; its uses, and how to download it.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Rendezvous MLU donated a raffle item that brought in over \$200.00.
- The Rock Creek Pack team, which includes 3 MLU members, took the World Championship again this year at Bishop Mule Days (third year in a row) MLU family member, Bryan Kaiser was awarded the individual "World Champion Packer".
- MLU Purchased a new Unit Banner similar to the new BCHC Banner..

MID VALLEY YEAR END REPORT

- October 2014 - Hosted a playday and potluck @ Diamond Bar Arena
- December 2014 - organized and totally commanded the All equestrian Columbia Christmas parade - Held annual Christmas dinner - Members
- Set up and participated at the BCHA booth @ the NFR in Las Vegas
- February - held a Valentines ride-trail skills day-exhibited our unit with horses and pack mules at the Almond Blossom parade in Ripon
- March - Hosted a Mt Diablo ride - co hosted the Annual BCHC Rendezvous
- April - a member taught the train the trainer class-Mid Valley dutch oven cooked all the main course food for the BCHA annual meeting and provided the mule scramble entertainment
- May - attended Sonora Parade-supported TRRP work days-meet our 2015 forest intern-taught a packing class for beginners - Hosted our annual Spring Campout
- June - Cleared trails at Clarks Fork-Hosted our annual Youth Camp annual trail clearing at Pine Valley Horse camp - displayed a booth at Commanche Adventure days
- July - Hosted a Ride and Dutch oven competition at Clarks Fork - Had a pack-in trail clearing work party to Cow Meadow - cooked Dutch oven desserts for Tuolumne Farm Bureau-won 1st place in Salinas parade
- August - Packed in to Buck Lake the winners of the BCHA fund raiser auction-Hosted a Pine Valley ride - Entertained a general meeting at Kennedy Meadows in Sonora
- September - Cleared trails at Coyote meadows-hosted a trail challenge at Gateway Park-attended the Newman parade

ANNUAL UNIT REPORTS

SAN DIEGO UNIT REPORT 2015

Last report was October 1014 so we shall go from there.

November 6-9 Vern Whitaker Service Weekend

The Unit hired two CalFire crews from La Cima Fire Camp to clear out the Lower Willows. La Cima went in Thursday and Friday and cut most of it, and on Saturday and Sunday we went in and cleaned up and stashed the cut brush, as well as cutting what the prisoners missed. It was hot and sweaty work and we only had one mishap when Machete Boy bounced his blade and it struck him in the shins. But he now has a scar and a great story to tell his grandchild. (Already the size of the blade has increased with every repeat of his story.) State Parks really appreciates this and as always was very supportive.

December 7th was the monthly BCHCSD ride out to Eagle Rock. It was very cold and the hot toddies that Terry made afterwards were much appreciated!

January 10th was a volunteer Day and members helped Ramona Trails Association clean up a section of Santa Maria Creek that had been a homeless shanty town. Several tons of trash were cleaned out.

January 17 was the officers' training in Norco. Three of us went and we learned a lot. Thanks to Stacy and Pete and Terry for organizing it.

January 30 was the Horse Expo and a couple of our members went up and participated, manning the booth and handing out information.

February 13-16 was the Units monthly ride at Vern Whitaker. We camped and rode out on the Chocolate Ride. It was beautiful weather and it gave us a chance to admire our hard work from November.

February 26 was the first meeting of a collaboration of horse groups. This group is now known as the San Diego Trails Alliance in which our VP Marty Jorgensen is a board member.

February 27-28 was the State meeting where Marty and I went.

March 13 – 15 was the Rendezvous, and although we were unable to go I was able to secure Dave Stamey and his room, which was no doubt the easiest task. But then 2 days before his concert I called the hotel confirm and they had lost his reservation! I scrambled around to find his accommodations in a town that was already packed.

March 15 was our monthly ride at the Grasslands, led by Terry Jorgensen.

March 27-29th was our Vallecito Days where we reenact the Overland Stage Route from Vallecito County Park. This is where the

Vallecito Stage station still sits.

April 18 was our monthly ride out of Los Penasquitos Canyon. Our Treasurer Jeanie had food and drinks and entertainment ready for the riders.

April 26th Patty Heyden did a WR presentation to 2 Boy Scout units on GU and LNT

May 1-3 was our annual service weekend at Los Vaqueros Campground. We do trail work and this time we worked on the Stonewall Peak Trail. Although there were only 6 of us, the ranger said we did more work than most trails crews.

May 9 was our monthly ride out from the Sweetwater staging area into the Cuyamaca. It was pretty cold but it had just rained and the air was crisp.

May 16 was training in Tulakes for the USFS. Our member Cheryl Wegner joined our volunteer group.

May 19 was another meeting with the San Diego Trails Alliance

June 13 was our monthly ride at Eagle Rock. It was a beautiful day and there were still some poppies blooming

June 30-Aug 3 was our planned SoCal Units Heartbar campout and service weekend. Unfortunately the beautiful forest burned and while Heartbar was spared the trails remained closed. So the alternative was to go to McCall, which turned out to be very interesting. We had hail the size of a quarter which broke my vents and for the first time I had my horse colic.

August 12, Patty and Terry did a LNT (WR) presentation to the Pine Valley Mountain Riders

August 22 was our joint Beach Ride at Border Field Sate Park. Several local equestrian groups rode and then pot-lucked afterwards

September 3-6, a handful of us camped at Garner Valley and did some trash cleanup. We also discovered where someone had tied their horses to trees for a long period of time, and the horses had dug all of the dirt away from the base of the trees, the manure was still there and nothing had been done to reverse the damage. We took the time to repair the area..

ANNUAL UNIT REPORTS

San Diego Unit continued from Page 13

September 19 was our Santa Margarita ride in Fallbrook. It was very refreshing!

September 20 was the memorial ride for our dear friend Garry McClintock. 72 riders rode out across the private Corte Madera Ranch. It was very emotional. Our VP, Marty was very good life-long friends with Garry and he helped to coordinate this ride.

We are planning our ACTHA ride for October 10, with some amazing prizes! There is a small group who has been working so hard on this fundraiser. Kudos to our Treasurer, Jeanie Buchanan, and Tammy and Terry for their hard work.



REDSHANK RIDERS - 2015 UNIT REPORT

Education: This year our unit has been involved in a number of educational opportunities. Our first BCHC So. California officers training which I believe will be a great event to continue to have yearly. Other trainings our members have been involved in include Forest Service Volunteer Association training, PCTA's Trail Skills College, PCTA Trail Gorilla Tool School. We hosted a very well attended packing clinic, set up and manned a number of educational and informational booth at events in our area as well as well as participating in a few state booths at larger So. California events.

Projects: Our ongoing projects include our adopt-a-highway which is every few months picking up trash along a 2 mile stretch of our local highway. Trail clean-up, cleaning up trail heads of some of our local trails. Numerous work parties in the Beauty Mountain Wilderness doing trail maintenance and improvements. Also participating in local PCTA work parties along with doing our own work of removing fallen trees from the trail. National Public Lands Day had a large portion of our members either working with crews or cooking lunch for everyone in attendance.

Pack Support: This may be our biggest and most important contribution this year. Due to the pack clinics held, pictures and articles posted on social media, and newsletter articles, we have developed a number of new packers from ours and surrounding units. The last couple of years have presented a new problem though, no water. Our pack support trips now include taking water in for trail crews. This doubles the amount of stock needed. Here is a list of pack support projects we have done this year: Palm Canyon (Forest Service), packed UCC crew in to work on ongoing Tamarisk abatement project. 3'd year. Red Tahquitz (Forest Service), support for crew doing inventory of trail affected by Mountain Fire. Mission Creek (BLM), packing an ACE crew in for work on the PCT. Snow Creek (Forest Service), 2 trips pack support for PCT trail crew. Ongoing project. Tahquitz Peak (Forest Service), packing in water, lumber, paint and such for work on fire tower. San Felipe Hills, (BLM). This was perhaps our biggest accomplishment. A request came that the PCTA needed to get a 12 person ACE crew in to a water-less area of the PCT called San Felipe Hills for a 10 day hitch. We were able to muster a group of 8 packers with a total of 14 pack animals, 22 head of stock in all. We managed to get all gear and enough water for 10 days in one trip. I was extremely happy on the outcome. Social: It's not all work and no play with our unit. At the first of the year we try to a ride host for every month. Our rides included Sloan Lake, Beauty Mountain Wilderness, Dam Wine

Ride: Hot Summer Weather Ride, Santa Margarita River Preserve. Members also continue to attend local meetings on trail issues as well as taking the lead in making Anza a "Trail Town". Also held this year as a fund raiser was a two day Trail Trial in which we gained some new members and set up a education booth. Last but not least, two of our members successfully completed this years Wilderness Rider class. Now our unit has two Wilderness Riders along with a Leave No Trace Master.

ANNUAL UNIT REPORTS

REDWOOD UNIT ANNUAL REPORT

We have continued our standard activities, with a few variations. Like they say, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

In January we held our annual member's only pack clinic at Polasek's, with 20 members in attendance. This is so members can participate and not be so busy putting on pack clinics.

February brought our annual free Pack Clinic for the public. There were informational booths from the Forest Service, State Parks, BLM and our BCHC unit. Demonstrations in Dutch oven cooking, knot tying, packing and gentle use camping.

In April at Polasek's Half Ass Flat Ranch a CPR/First Aid training was held on Saturday, April 25th with 20+ members getting their certificates. A trainer from CDF in Fortuna, CA conducted this class. This was followed on Sunday, April 26th with 5-6 members returning to be certified in cross cut saw training and 5-6 members getting their chain saw certification. The Forest Service provided trainers for this part of our weekend.

The 23rd Annual Half Ass Flat Ride, our major fund raiser, was held in June. We had a total of 114 paid riders, 10 more meals-only guests, and our raffle, and silent and live auctions were a great success.

The summer BBQ meeting was held on the first Wednesday, July 1st, at Polasek's Five Star Kitchen.

July also saw our annual work party at Stanshaw and Ten Bear trail heads in the Marble Mountain Wilderness. We had about 20 members with their equines and equipment. Over 400 volunteer hours of work was done over the weekend.

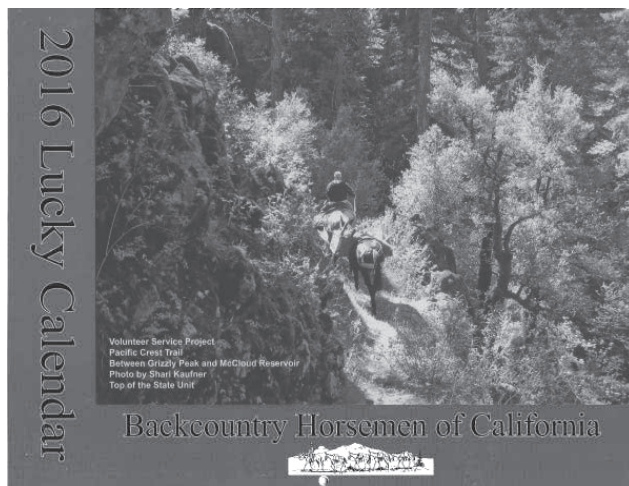
Our unit also had a representation at the Fortuna Rodeo Parade in July. We had several riders, 2 mules packed with elk horns, and our banner carried by members walking ahead of our group. Several prizes: oldest mounted rider, youngest unassisted rider, best western and best mules.

In August we had an informational booth at the Humboldt County Fair in Ferndale, CA. We received 3rd place in that competition. We had about 50 of the "Who We Are and What We Do" cd's on our table and all were taken by interested fair attendees.

Our monthly conditioning rides have been well attended by members and this event has been held at a couple of new locations, in addition to the usual close-by places.

Our October, 2014 membership drive ride at Cuneo Creek Horse Camp was well attended and garnered a few new members.

December 2014 we participated in Ferndale, CA's "Lighted Tractor Christmas Parade" with members on a wagon singing Christmas Carols. Our annual Christmas Dinner was held also with a good attendance.



January 2016 WINNERS

- Jan. 1st - Craig Brooks from Turlock
- Jan. 2nd - Rebecca Ray from Boyce (LA)
- Jan. 4th - Natall Melo from Turlock
- Jan. 6th - Anselmo Gonzales from Milpitos
- Jan. 8th - Karen Tacket from San Luis Obispo
- Jan. 9th - Lisa Backus from Atascadero
- Jan. 11th - Santos Reyes from Turlock
- Jan. 13th - Lori Sala from Oakdale
- Jan. 15th - Henrietta Haazig from Oroville
- Jan. 16th - Donna Reeves from Tumtum (WA)
- Jan. 18th - Gary A. Cain from Valley Springs

BCHC STATE BOARD MEETING

**Backcountry Horsemen of California
Board of Directors Meeting October 3, 2015 Santa Nella, CA
Submitted by Kaye Bruns**

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:07pm by President Richard Waller.

B. Record of Attendance: Executive Committee and Unit Directors signed the roll sheet. Roll sheets are with these Minutes in the Secretary's Notebook.

C. Minutes from February 28, 2015: Motion by Mike Kohlbaker and Second by Patty Heyden to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

D. Secretary Correspondence: Kaye Bruns read the correspondence from March 1 - September 30, 2015. Correspondence is kept with the Secretary's Notebook.

E. Reports:

1. Treasurer's Report: Lynn Joiner presented the report. **Motion by Pete K. and Second by Nancy Kimmel to approve the report. Motion carried.**

2. BCHA: Ann Lange reported the National Board Meeting will be in Las Vegas in 2016, Great Falls is 2017.

-in the beginning BCHA did not want states east of the Mississippi in the organization. The east coast units have been very cooperative, as they can get to Washington DC to testify on issues.

-Randy Rasmussen has been a great help with trails

-Kevin McCarthy (from Bakersfield) understands land issues

Information from Pete Kriger:

-he is a conduit of information from BCHA to all units and back to BCHA

-there are monthly teleconferences- Tues and Thurs.

-new president- from Wyoming former BCHA Treasurer. His wife takes care of the website.

-BCHA Sacramento Meeting: thank you to Mid Valley and Mother Lode Units. We were praised for our presentations by Ken Graves and Michael Morris. Dr. Rob Atwell's presentation: water borne pathogens showed the small chance they are passed by equines and 100 times more likely from squirrels. Had several entertaining talks:

-Ron McClintock US House of Reps supported the American Land Act, yet BCHA wrote a letter opposing the act.

-Education committee led by Pete said California is trying to bring back the BCHA guide books

-Youth scholarships for 18-25 year olds. Week long pack trip - LNT principles. Colby Hayes from McKinnleyville was selected. He is a Natural Resource major and wants to be a packer. BCHA will have a write-up in newsletter

-A big thank you to Dennis Serpa for organizing this meeting in Sacramento.

BCHA Life Time Achievement Award presented to two members from California

-Ann Lange and Alan Hill

3. Insurance: Lloyd Erlandson reported that some venues want a \$2 million policy. Our insurance does not do this. If venues are starting to ask for this, maybe we need a new source of insurance.

-any problems with correct documentation being returned? No problems reported

-youth and helmets-Redwood says their unit requires under 18 years to wear helmets. Original insurance policy did not say those under 18 had to wear helmets.

4. Membership: Chip Herzig stated that 280 members are now on the 2 or 3 year membership plan. Should we propose a 5 or 10 year plan?

-5 Year membership = \$250 for a family, \$200 for individuals

-we need to look for other avenues for membership, not just BCHC. ETI groups, all other horse groups. Members/units need to go to other horse groups and explain our program and what we do. Get your friends to join, even if they don't ride. **Thor B. made the motion to further look into a 5 year plan for membership. Second by Michael King. Motion carried with one opposition.**

Reminder: if BCHA increases their dues the cost comes off the top for BCHA, the rest is split between state and unit.

**need a chart to show breakout costs of memberships.

***we need another funding source without membership dues being the only one

5. Education: Review information from the meeting this morning

-reminders: -keep track of volunteer hours and turn them in to Stacy by Feb 1st

-we under report our hours!

-use the new form that will be on the web page in January

Unit booths are Rendezvous: Denise Robinson asked that units set up a booth to show visitors what we do in our own areas. Encourage all units to participate.

Dan reminded members about Workman's Comp: need to sign in DAILY and follow the JHA's

Education Awards need to be turned in; we only had two last year. Information is on our web site.

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BCHC STATE BOARD MEETING

BOD continued from Page 16

6. Public Lands: Recommendations from PL meeting this morning

-Motion by Stephen Horst, Second by Mary Odell, that BCHC does not support electric bikes. Motion carried.

-Motion by Pete Kriger and Second by Marty Jorgensen that BCHC pays the sponsorship of \$2,500 for the Greenways Conference. Motion carried.

-Motion by Jacque Murphy and Second by Lisa Deas that BCHC writes a letter to oppose giving away wilderness land. Motion carried with one opposition.

7. Public Service: Stacy Kuhns wants all volunteer hours turned in by February 1, 2016. BCHC changes the values in April. She will update all units with correct values and return to the units. Richard Waller will help set up the Volunteer hours report for MAC users.

8. Youth Coordinators: Jacque Murphy and Mary Odell would like all units to send in activities they have used and how they presented the programs. There are now activities on our website.

9. Web site: information covered in the Education meeting.

10. Newsletter: Lisa Deas, our new editor would like to send the paper to press this Friday. She would like units to email their reports to her so she can let others know what is being done. Kaye Bruns will send

-Thank you card to Rhonda Strickland for all her hard work on the newsletter.

F. Old Business:

1. Policy and old Minutes: are getting updated.

2. 2016 Calendars: Lynn reported we made \$35,000 last year.

3. Rendezvous 2016: Theme "Working Together To Save Our Trails"

-posters will be available, raffle tickets given out to all units

-Linda Gail Lewis will be the entertainment this year

-Dave Stamey is booked for 2017

4. Officer Training: information was presented at the Education meeting this morning. Call the people in charge for each section for training dates.

By-laws in the Officer Training manual have been removed. They are now two separate documents and are available on our web site.

By-laws update: Chip Herzig reviewed the changes

-Second Reading:

-Any unit may reject a prospective member's application

-Delete Special Advocate: remove from C-4 by-laws (tax deductions for advertising only) and add to C-3 (donations) by-laws

- Motion by Lloyd Erlandson and Second by Thor Bodtker to approve the Second Readings. Motion carried.

-First Reading:

-Affiliate Membership: change from 60 days to 6 months. Used with Forest Service and PCTA. Third party insurance

-Young Adult Membership for 18-25 year olds, individual

-Longer memberships at 2 or 3 years

-Dues or fees for Patrons, Benefactors and Mt Whitney, calculate as a family membership.

- Motion by Thor Bodtker and Second by Patty Heyden to approve the First Readings. Motion carried.

6. Sawyer Policy: Chip reviewed the policy this morning during the Education meeting.

G. New Business:

1. 2017 Calendars: Ex. Committee recommends taking a one year break from selling the calendars. Motion by Bill Chaides and Second by Thor Bodtker to take a break for 2017. Review later next year to see if we want to proceed again. Motion did not pass. Discussion held- what do we do to raise \$35,000 for BCHC; why we should sell calendars. Another unit by unit vote taken: 15 units sell calendars, 11 units do not sell. Information will be in the newsletter on how requirements for photos. Remember photos should be of a BCHC activity not just members.

2. Unit Reports will be given at the end of the BOD meeting.

3. 2017 Rendezvous: Susie Patton informed members that it will be held in Bishop; March 17-18-19, 2017. Dave Stamey has been booked for the concert. She wants all units to be involved. Vendors will be indoors/ any suggestions for vendors, sponsors, speakers, let Susie know.

4. Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation: Dennis Serpa informed members the event will be Dec 3-12, 2015 at the Las Vegas Convention Center during the ten days of NFR.

-10 x 10 booth with packing demos at the booth and a one hour presentation on stage. Will need lots of help to cover the days and others states are involved too.

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Rendezvous Trail Challenge

BCHC Rendezvous Trail Challenge 2016

By Carlena Kellogg – Mid Valley Unit

Mark your calendar for a fun and exciting Trail Challenge to be held during the 2016 BCHC Rendezvous, March 19-20 in Angels Camp. Invite a friend, because this event is open to the public.

This Trail Challenge is an arena obstacle course that tests the skills of both the horse and rider. Each rider will be sent out alone, one after the other, with a set of written instructions about each obstacle. You can expect natural-type obstacles, horsemanship, & creative, man-made obstacles that closely mimic those encountered while out trail riding or packing. Penalty points accrue; therefore the rider with the fewest points is the winner.

There will be 5 classes for the Trail Challenge: Open, Amateur, and Packer on Saturday. Wrangler (12 – 17 yrs), and Novice will compete on Sunday. The Packer rider must provide his/her own packed horse/mule. A few of the Packer obstacles will be different from the other classes. The entry fee is \$50/rider/class.

Oh, did I mention a buckle?? A CHAMPION buckle will be given to the low point rider in each class. Prizes will also be awarded through 5th place.

The Mid Valley Unit is excited to be a part of this BCHC Rendezvous Trail Challenge. But, in order for an event of this size to run smoothly, we need several volunteers. I am looking for 4 more all-day judges for the Saturday & Sunday Trail Challenge. You may volunteer to judge for one or both days. The judge must be knowledgeable and have riding experience. I also need one person for the ground crew.

The BCHC Trail Challenge entry and information is available on the website: www.bchcalifornia.org Please contact Carlena Kellogg 209-505-0122 or Ladyroughrider1@yahoo.com for information for Trail Challenge entry forms & information, or to volunteer as a judge or an assistant.

2015 had 3 Mid Valley winners, Jody Rumsey won the Open & Packer class and her daughter, Kaitlyn Rumsey won the Wrangler class.

Hmmm . . . I wonder which BCHC Unit will have the most Trail Challenge buckle winners for 2016????

BCHC RENDEZVOUS TRAIL CHALLENGE

Calaveras County Fairgrounds
101 Frogtown Rd, Angels Camp, California

March 19 - 20, 2016



Saturday Classes

9am: Open, Amateur, Packer

Sunday Classes

9am: Novice, Wrangler (12-17 yrs)

Entry: \$50/rider

BUCKLE & prizes in each class

What is a Trail Challenge?

This Trail Challenge is an arena obstacle course that tests the skills of both the horse and rider. Each rider will be sent out alone, one after the other, with a set of written instructions about each obstacle. You can expect natural-type obstacles, horsemanship, & creative, man-made obstacles that closely mimic those encountered while out trail riding or packing. Penalty points accrue; therefore the rider with the fewest points is the winner.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Invite your friends

RENDEZVOUS INFO

www.bchcalifornia.org



Backcountry Horsemen of California

Save time, secure a spot, & pre-register by March 12, 2016

-- Rain or Shine --

CARLENA KELLOGG 209.505.0122 LADYROUGHRIDER1@YAHOO.COM

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

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March 19, 2016,
3pm to 5pm

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
MUST BE 21 YEARS OR OLDER
TO PARTICIPATE

ADMISSION \$15.00

INCLUDES
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SOUVENIR TASTING GLASS

Calaveras Fair Grounds
Angels Camp, CA



This Fundraiser Helps Support BCHC



Rendezvous Western Arts & Crafts Show

BCHC RENDEZVOUS 2016

WESTERN ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

in the Ranch House Building

Judging is Sat., March 19 - 12:00

Receiving begins Friday at 11 a.m.



ART -

- Paintings
- Photographs
- Sculptures



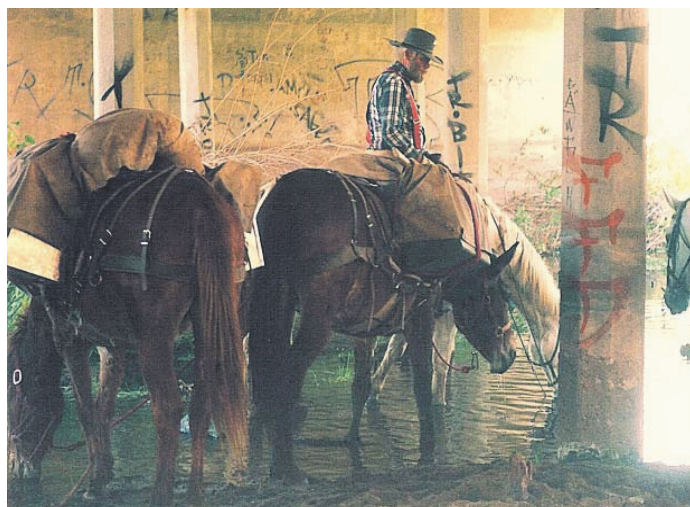
CRAFTS -

- Leather
- Fabric
- Metals
- Ceramics
- etc.

OTHER -

includes all other

Both Adult and Youth Category



Enter your Western and Equine Themed Original Arts & Crafts.

Fill out the art entry form in the Rendezvous packet or online.

Ribbons awarded for every category and "Best of Show".

QUESTIONS Gloria Garland
Western Art Show Coordinator

(559) 683-4434 G2@sti.net

BCHC

MANY THANKS TO LAST YEAR'S RENDEZVOUS SPONSORS:

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BCHC Membership Application

**Backcountry Horsemen of
California**

**MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION**

New Renewal or
 Change

(indicate changes)



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

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

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

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

MEMBER'S NAME—No Business Names; Print Clearly

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

Street Address / PO Box

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

Email Address: _____ (please print legibly)

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

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Check No. _____

Parent Unit Membership Types: (CIRCLE ONE)

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

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

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

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

Please write additional choices on back.

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

Parent BCHC Membership Types

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

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

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

Associate Memberships

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

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

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

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a new –

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

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

My Total Remittance: \$ _____

My Check Number: _____

Date Mailed: _____

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

BCHC



Region 5

Pack Stock Center of Excellence

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

Education and Training

FY2014 saw COE representatives participate in 10 separate training events. Clinic and presentation topics given by COE instructors included crosscut saw training, Leave No Trace, stock safety and use for Type I and Type II Fire Teams, stock handling, and hands-on packing demonstrations. Educational events and formal trainings the COE participated in or sponsored included:

- * Annual Fire Refresher Training, Sequoia National Forest
- * Back Country Horsemen of California (BCHC) Annual Rendezvous, Norco, CA
- * BCHC Northern Units' Equine and Trails Celebration, Red Bluff, CA
- * Type I and II Fire Team Refresher, McClellan Fire Training Center, CA
- * California Conservation Corps (CCC) Placer Training Center, Auburn, CA
- * BCH of Oregon Packing and Wilderness Skills Clinic, Klamath Falls, OR
- * Packing clinic and crosscut saw demonstrations in partnership with BCHC, Mule Days, Bishop, CA

Future Opportunities

In 2014, a representative from each of the participating forests was nominated to serve on a steering committee that will provide guidance and set annual priorities for the Center's program of work in 2015 and beyond. One of the goals for the committee is to help to ensure the long-term success of the COE by developing a marketing strategy, helping to secure supplemental funding, pursuing new partnerships and building on existing relationships with supporting partners such as the Back Country Horsemen of California, American Conservation Experience, Student Conservation Association, California Conservation Corps, and Pacific Crest Trail Association.

To read the full article go to:
www.RedshankRiders.com/rsrimages/2014_USFSPackStockCOE_web.pdf

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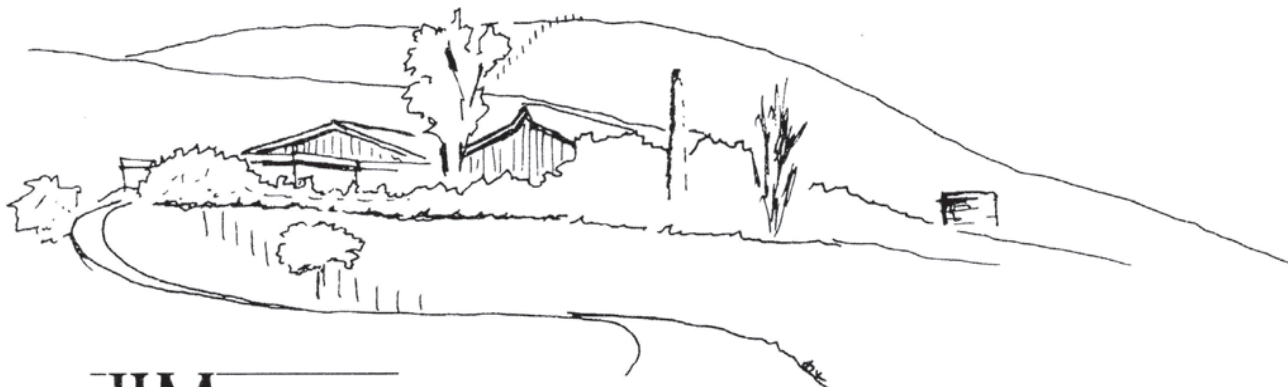
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- Stock Training



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Please accept this charitable contribution to BCHC. It is made "In celebration of the birthday of Darrel Polasek"

Jim Maino

5201 CloverRidge Lane San Luis Obispo, California 93401 (805) 543-3592

BCHC

BOD continued from Page 17

Cowboy Christmas is down stairs and Hunters Christmas is upstairs.
-Mike Kohlbaker has a condo where people can stay for \$20/night. Contact him for information.

5. 2016 Elections: **Motion by Mike Kohlbaker and Second by Lisa Deas to accept the slate as presented. Motion carried.**

President: Richard Waller
1st VP: Lloyd Erlandson
2nd VP: Stacy Kuhns
Secretary: Susie Patton
Treasurer: Lynn Joiner
Public Lands: Thor Bodtker and Troy Patton
Education: Dan Horn and Denise Robinson
BCHA Directors: Pete Kriger (2015-16) and Ann Lange (2016-17)
BCHA alternate: Dan Clifford
Past President: Dennis Serpa
Membership: Chip and Linda Herzig
Youth Coordinators: Jacque Murphy and Mary Odell

BCHC State Coordinators:
Newsletter: Lisa Deas
Webmaster: Jacque Murphy

H. New Business:

1. Emergency contacts: ask all units if their members would give their emails/phone numbers to a chairman so other unit members could contact them in case of emergencies. This is on a volunteer basis only.
-maybe we could get access to information through the web site
-Stacy Kuhns will write an article for the newsletter

2. Clover Meadow Accident: Robby Robinson explained the freak accident.

-outcome: -need to have a radio with you at all times
-emergency contact information needs to be current
-OSHA was there to inspect, and passed it on to the Forest Service who reenacted the accident
-no policy changes for volunteers
-this has been recorded as an accident
-family is adamant that this accident does not effect volunteers!
-safety was John's main issue always practiced it.
-make sure you are operating under Forest Service MOU and JHA's

3. North Carolina riding helmet issue- extends to work in the parks. Volunteer projects = wear proper riding helmet. This does not effect people just riding for leisure.

4. Lake Mendo Unit by-laws were approved.

5. Extra issues for the newsletter:
-Susie Patton- 25; Dennis Serpa- 100; Dan Diego Unit- 25; Kern River , Valley Unit- 25

Newsletter: will published (4) issues a year.

Next state meeting: January 29-30, 2016 in Santa Nella.

Unit Reports given. **Bill Chaides made to motion to adjourn at 3:43pm. Second by Pete Kriger. Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted, Kaye Bruns, Secretary

**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA
PRESENTS**

THE 29TH ANNUAL RENDEZVOUS



MARCH 18—20, 2016

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or
Lloyd Erlandson at (209) 761-3942 or email: lloyd.erlandson0@gmail.com

ANNUAL UNIT REPORTS

SUTTER BUTTES UNIT ANNUAL REPORT

End of the year Report. Submitted by Bob Gage, Unit President, 10/1/2015

The Sutter Buttes Unit of the BCHC has had a busy year. Due to the lack of snow, the year began early with access to the high country to complete our annual "log out" of 46 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from Hwy 70 near Belden, North to Hwy 36 near the St Bernard Lodge. This section of the PCT has been adopted by the Sutter Buttes Unit and SBU members work together each year to accomplish the task.

This year we recertified 4 members to operate chainsaws within the National Forest and certified for the first time, 2 additional members for chainsaw operation within the National Forests. Two members were also certified for crosscut saw operation within the National Forests.

The Sutter Buttes Unit also certified 12 members in advanced 1st aid and CPR this year. (this total includes those members required to have 1st Aid and CPR for their saw certification, plus some additional members of the unit.)

Sutter Buttes Unit Members also participated in several additional work/service events. Two members packed in potable water to a youth trail crew, working on repair of trail tread in the Plumas National Forest.

Two Sutter Buttes Unit members located and captured two horses running loose within the Lassen National Forest and facilitated the adoption of said horses through the Tehama County Animal Control.

Members of the Sutter Buttes Unit participated in a "Log out" of trails in the Little Grass Valley recreation area of the Plumas National Forest, at total of 12 miles of trail was cleared of obstacles across the trail.

We have been working with Plumas National Forest management on a project to pack in materials necessary to close off abandon mine shafts located in the Bucks Lake Wilderness Area, it is a work in progress and in the planning stages currently.

Members of the Sutter Buttes Unit negotiated a Trial Horse Camp at the Whitehorse Campground in the Bucks Lake Basin of the Plumas National Forest. The trial albeit only 18 total days, indicated a need and desire on the part of equestrians, for a permanent horse camping opportunity in the Bucks Lake Basin. The area heretofore has not had horse camping available in the area. The Sutter Buttes Unit is and will continue to work with the Plumas National Forest management towards a permanent horse camp in the Bucks Lake Basin.

The Sutter Buttes Unit continues to grow in numbers of members and is already planning for the 2016 season. There seems to be a desire by the membership to have more group outings and camp outs in the coming year.

All in all, it was a very successful and fun year for the members of the Sutter Buttes Unit.



High Country Unit Annual Report 2015

A. The unit work details for this year was put on hold for 2015 regarding Modoc Forest Unit. This was in part to personnel change in Modoc Forest Unit. These work details will resume once permanent personnel is in place.

B. High Country Unit is increasing membership recruitment by targeting all local 4H groups with packing demo and fun rides.

ANNUAL UNIT REPORTS

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA ANNUAL REPORT

Prior to all work parties JHA' S were read and explained to all volunteers.

Prior to the start of work each day tailgate safety meetings were conducted with emphasis given to near misses and recent problems with spring trees.

All work was completed with no injuries or accidents.

Our first work party took place at Edison lake area from June 19-26 with 14 participants. We covered approximately 46 miles of trail clearing 3-20", 1-18", 1-16" 4-4", 2-6", 8-2" 17-1" trees along with hours of pruning. One day was spent clearing dead trees from the corrals and rebuilding the corral fences at the Forest service facility. We also cleared all the rotting wood from around the facility.

The next work party took place from July 10-13 with 11 participants. The main purpose of this trip was to install 4 bear boxes at Chamberlain camp. Four boxes were delivered to Voyager camp the first day by four wheel drive. Mules were then used to complete the trip to Chamberlain camp. Special rigging was built to haul the boxes by mule. Approximately forty hours were spent in special training to prepare the mules for this job. Trail had to be cleared in order to accomplish this task. 1-24" 1-16" 1-10" 4-5" and numerous snags were cleared in order for the mule train to complete the route. Boxes were then bolted together and placed in camp. While there we reinforced the overhang on the outhouse with 4x4 post to give more strength for the snow load.

Eight volunteers took part in clearing the trail from wet meadow to Spanish Lake along with four forest service employees on July 27- August 1. All trees were cut by hand as we were in wilderness. The volunteer group was responsible for cutting out 1-36" 2-30" 2-24" 1-22" 3-18" 5-16" 1-14" 4-12" 5-6" 25-4" 40-3" 90-2" 175-1" trees. We also routed approximately 575' of rerouted trail back to the original. Debris was cleared and trees pruned in order to get required setbacks. We have to say many thanks to Mickey and her crew as they were instrumental in helping us to keep the course.

In addition we have had a ride at Tamarack, participated in the Clovis rodeo parade, desensitization clinic, shoot your heart out a trail trial and will have a poker ride in September. We also had a very successful poker ride in March.

Respectfully,
Joe Kaminski,
President and Public Lands liaison,
BCHC SJSU

STANSHAW/TEN BEAR WORK PARTY - REDWOOD UNIT

July 5-12, 2015 several Redwood Unit members went to the Stanshaw Trail Head for the Marble Mountain Wilderness, Siskiyou County, California. A few members went up early and spent time working on the water system. A seven member, mostly all female crew put in 168 hours working on the water system. Three members also put in six hours clearing logs out of the creek so that the equines could be watered. For the whole weekend a cooking crew headed by Joyce Dollar and assisted by Jim White and Dick Wild cooked meals for the whole event, putting in 60 hours. A lot of the food was prepared using Dutch ovens. Steve Dollar went out on the trails with Beth Fieling from southern California and cleared trees and opened up 10 miles of trails.

On the weekend of July 10-12, several other members rode approximately 246 more riding miles, clearing the trails as needed. Back in camp a crew of members installed 600' for metal "flashing" on the boards of the corrals so that the equines could not chew up the boards. The metal was donated by Design Air of Eureka, CA.

We calculated at least 192 hours of skilled labor in these projects. A very successful event.

UNIT NEWS

THE SAN GORGONIO PASS UNIT (SGP)

The SGP Unit membership has faded recently, but rallied a group of committed members for a project at Lake Skinner this summer. Vice President Mandy Picozzi worked to establish good relations with a Resource Manager at the park and had negotiated plans months in advance.

Lake Skinner is nice park south east of Temecula. There was an old ranch on the site many years ago with hay farming and pig raising operations. Grassy rolling hills surround the lake and the largest events nowadays are a big balloon festival and summer concerts. The park has set aside a nice equestrian staging area with hitch rails, water, tables, and porta-potties. Several trails are maintained for hikers and equestrian traffic only. Mountain bikes are not currently allowed on the park trails. The longest trail in the park travels along a canyon of cottonwood trees and rises up on a grassy ridge dotted with Pepper Trees and nice views of a remote section of the park. A picnic table, water trough, and porta-potty are at this termination point of this trail. Mandy felt that for the area to be a better lunch stop, that what was really needed was a place to tie a horse or mule; a few hitch rails were in order!

Mandy contacted Christine Moen, Natural Resource Manager for Riverside County Parks and set up a face to face meeting on site and invited President Pete Kriger along as well. Christine was very agreeable to the plan. Christine said she enjoyed working with equestrians as she felt they were a good fit with the park's mission to preserve natural open space and multi-species reserve around the lake. "Horse people just GET IT!", while going on to say that she rallies against the use of mountain bikes on the trails in the park.

The first attempt at this project was preceded by a significant rainstorm. The rainstorm forced closure of the access road and cancelation of the



project. This unfortunate turn of events also resulted in the loss of our partnership with Red Shank Riders and Santa Ana River Units. We couldn't get a reschedule date that would jive with the other

unit's schedules. So the SGP pulled together and got it done ourselves! Mandy requested bids and purchased threaded galvanized pipe, and later Pete welded on horse and mule shoes for tie rings.

The park allowed us to drive a couple of trucks on the narrow access road that is usually closed to park vehicles. There were some steep spots, deep ruts and sandy clay, side hills. It was pretty clear why they wanted to cancel the first date after the rain storm. San Gorgonio Pass had the largest turnout of the year for this event. Six members worked for 3-4 hours. We dug post holes and mixed concrete by hand, and avoided getting stung by bees that had made a nest in a nearby Pepper Tree. After all the work was done, we met for some fine Mexican food in nearby Temecula. Thanks to Mandy, Pete, Rebekah Wan, BJ Heath, Lance and Dianne Stephens.



ANNUAL UNIT REPORTS

SANTA ANA RIVER UNIT ANNUAL REPORT

October 2014 to October 2015

November 9, 2014

First Aid/CPR Certification, Backcountry Emergency preparedness, Frank Pedraza, Instructor

Participants include: Matthew Hanks, Al Hawkins, Denise Hawkins, Ron McCoy, Bill Moser, Rebekah Wan, Sue Watkins

November 26, 2014

Big Meadow/Drop fences for winter w/ Kern River Valley Unit

December 6

SARU Unit Christmas Party

December 22

Present Christmas gifts from SARU members to children of distressed family through the Fair County

January 17, 2015

BCHC Officer training in Jurupa with other Southern California Units, organized by Stacy Kuhns.

Those attending from SARU:

Carol Chodakauskas, Treasurer, Jim Meyer, VP, Bill Moser, Pres. Gail Vanvelzer, State Director, Rebekah Wan, Riding committee Sue Watkins

January 30-February 1

Horse Expo Pomona- SARU hosted Expo with San Gorgonio Pass, Redshank Riders and San Diego Units working together. Displays included Gentle Use principles and Dutch Oven cooking. Instructional and educational presentations were made by Pete Krieger, Michael Lewis, Sue Watkins and others. Pack instruction and high-line techniques were also demonstrated.

February 7

Equine First Aid clinic presented by Dr Paul Wan at Perris.

There were 18 participants of the clinic. Instruction was followed by ride around Perris Lake.

February 27-28

State meeting in Santa Nella attended by: Bill Moser, President Gail Vanvelzer, State director

March 13-15

Rendezvous at Angel Camp attended by: Paul and Gail Vanvelzer SARU donated a saw for the auction

April 17-19

Norco Horseweek SARU BCHC Info booth at George Ingall's Event Center all weekend SARU had a group ride in the parade proudly displaying our SARU BCHC banner in front of our party

April 26

Day ride at Vasquez Rocks, Aqua Dulce, Frank Pedraza, trail boss

May 3

Paul and Gail Vanvelzer do trail recon on Angeles Crest Trail trying

to locate reported problem area on trail - could not locate problem

May 7

First meeting of SARU with Barbara of the BLM to prepare for exhibit at LA County Fair in September. We had 6 members in attendance.

June 7

First Aid/CPR Certification, Backcountry Emergency preparedness Frank Pedraza, Instructor

Participants: Peter Stocks, Dianne Stocks, Edward Murphy, Roland Schmitz, Thad Chadakauskas, Kern Olobri

June 25

LA County Fair planning meeting with BLM coordinator, Barbara Croonquist. 7 members attending

June 27

Bonelli Park Day Ride and Training

Trail Boss and instructor, Frank Pedraza - 6 riders and participants

July 1-6

Big Meadow/Annual Campout/Fence maintenance/Trail recon and clearing - 14 campers and riders~what a great time!!!!

July 23 - LA County Fair planning meeting/ 6 members attending

August 20 LA County Fair setup

August 22 LA County Fair setup - 4 participants

August 25 Build and paint props for fair - 3 participants

August 30 LA County Fair setup

August 31

Hidden Valley/Walk area of proposed work project for SARU with Ranger Bill Moser & Pete Krieger

September 4 -6

Los Vaquederos campout and ride in Big Bear - 16 participants and riders/ Great weekend!!!!

September 4 -27

LA County Fair

BCHC exhibit and info center

October 2-3

BCHC State meeting in Santa Nella/SARU attendees:

Bill Moser, president

Paul Vanvelzer

Gail Vanvelzer, State Director and membership

October 9-10

Hidden Valley Nature Center Campout and work project

Jim Meyer, coordinator

BCHC

The deadline for submissions for the
SPRING 2016 EDITION
of the Backcountry News is:

APRIL 15, 2016

Submissions to:

Lisa Deas

(831) 402-7482

muledaze@yahoo.com



675 N 600 W Suite #3,
Logan, UT 84321
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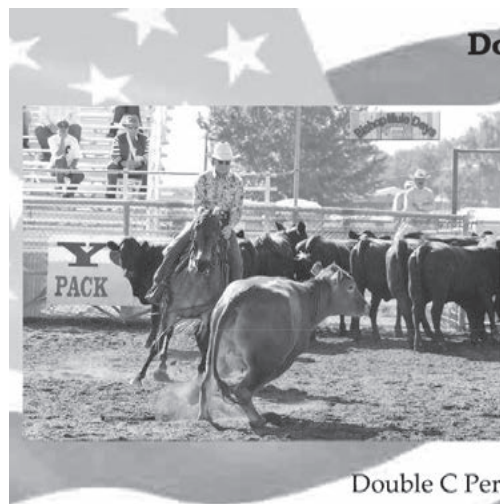
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BCHC

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

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

GET INVOLVED, DO YOUR PART

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

Recognition of Special Individuals

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

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WANT TO START A NEW UNIT?

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

BCHC BOOTH AT THE NRF IN LAS VEGAS

BCHA Booth at the NFR in Las Vegas

Submitted by Karen Lopes, Mid Valley Unit, BCH-California

“What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas!” Well, not this time! BCHA did some great outreach to hunters and equestrians at the Hunter Christmas in Las Vegas in December, and we want everyone to know what happened in Vegas! The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation held their Elk Camp and Conference in conjunction with the National Final’s Rodeo “Cowboy Christmas” for the second consecutive year. BCHA was present at this inaugural collaboration last year, and returned again in 2015. In 2014, the Rocky Mountain Elk Camp and their Hunter Christmas was four days in length; this year they expanded the full ten days to coincide with Cowboy Christmas. BCHA had a booth in the upper story of the Las Vegas Convention Center’s South Hall. We were located next to the “Elk Country Theater”, where various presentations took place throughout the week. BCHA gave a presentation titled, “Packing Tips for the Hunting Horsemen,” the first four days of the ten day event. I started with a brief introduction of “Who We Are and What We Do,” sharing with the audience the number of members and value of our volunteerism over the course of one year. We had iron mules on the stage with all of our equipment, and a big screen where there were informational slides, as well as many pictures from various members showing BCHA in action. I then introduced Mack & Connie Long, from Montana, who gave a wonderful demonstration of how to manly a load, as well as how to pack out your elk using the decker pack saddle. Casey Hufstader, from Oregon, then gave a great presentation (and some history) on how to use the sawback pack saddle, and the benefits of using the Walker hitch. He also included tips on how to restrain your stock in the backcountry. Once the presentation was over, both Mack and Casey invited the audience up to the stage to get hands-on practice.

Our booth was decorated with two iron mules, and had plenty of room for our volunteers to work with any of the spectators that wanted to get some hands-on experience with packing and tying loads. There was also a T.V. screen mounted in the corner, showing the various pictures that had been collected from many different members; most had captions that explained what or where the work was taking place. Deb Mason, from the Mid Valley Unit in California, donated a beautiful custom made set of leather saddlebags with a BCHA stamp. Visitors to our booth filled out a card to be entered in the drawing for the gorgeous saddlebags. It was a great time, visiting with people as they walked through all of the many exhibits, sharing with them the goals and objectives of BCHA. I also especially enjoyed visiting with BCHA members from different states and learning more about the types of volunteer efforts they focus on in their state. *continued on Page 33*

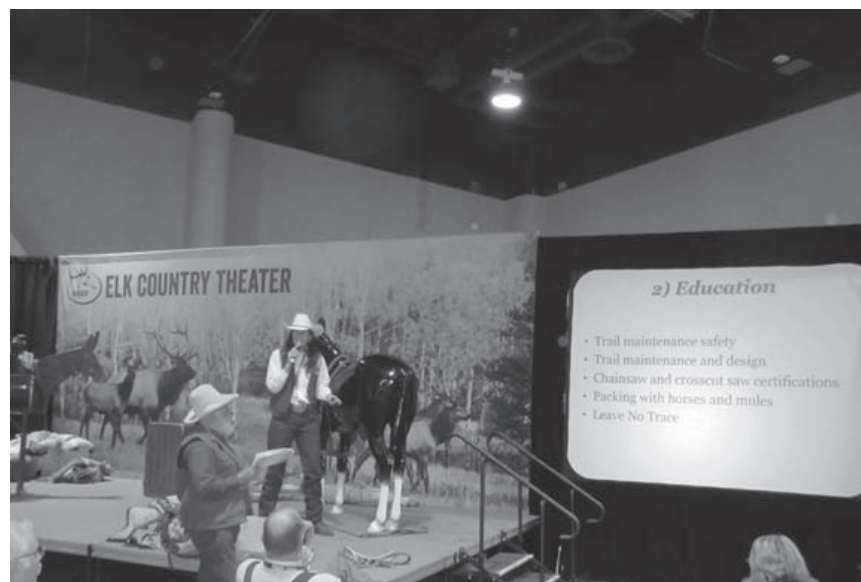
BCHA BOOTH at the NFR in LAS VEGAS



Mack & Connie Long, Montana



Casey Hufstader, Oregon



Karen Lopes, California



BCHC Booth with Dennis Serpa, California and Rod Player, Utah

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Antelope Valley Kern Sierra	Donyale Fowler Randy & Debbie Gafner Christoffer Joughin
Lake-Mendo	Kimberly Young Richard & Diane Knox
Los Padres	Bruce and Deborah Snider Pamela Atiabi Summer Madison Bloom Julie D'Orio Ann Macy Jackie Pamplona Kerry Steele
Mid Valley	Janet & Ivan Gomez Philip McKay Kim McBrayer Dan & Cheryl Escobar Brian & Tami Flood
Mother Lode Redshank Redwood	Monique Crowley Wendi Gann JoAnn Caro Tessa Lawson Abby Samaniego Luke & Carson Lancaster Caroline Holt Tommy Griffin
San Diego	Laura McClure
San Joaquin Sierra	Joanne Scholl Belinda Dominguez Anthony Gonzalez
Santa Ana River Sequoia	Mike, Beth & Hayden Hapke Rob Christy Carly Bozsik Aubrey & Devin Mathis
Shasta Trinity	Marilyn & Allen Carter

These new members have joined BCHC
between

October and December 2015

THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS

We look forward to meeting you!!

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Dennis Serpa, from Mid Valley Unit in California, orchestrated the entire booth. From soliciting members for pictures, organizing those pictures into the wonderful slide show; to getting the booth manned with volunteers for the entire ten days, as well as the extra volunteers needed for the stage presentations; to hauling all of the equipment and setting up the display...he did it all! Please give Dennis a HUGE thank-you for making this happen. The booth was planned out with attention to detail, and he dedicated an enormous amount of time in preparation for this event. Mike Kohlbaker, from California, was available the entire ten days, filling in whenever the shifts to man the booth needed extra volunteers. Many thanks to you as well. Lloyd Erlandson, also from California, volunteered to take down the booth and haul everything back home...thank-you! Additionally, here are the volunteers that helped with the booth and/or presentations: From California: Dennis & Loretta Serpa, Karen Lopes, Mike & Norma Kohlbaker, Lloyd & Susan Erlandson, Sue Watkins, Bill Carter, Chip & Linda Herzig,

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Questions? Membership Matters

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

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Theodore Solomon's Trail

Submitted by Richard Waller



“The Theodore Solomons Trail (TST) is an unofficial 271-mile hiking trail through the Sierra Nevada. From Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park to Horseshoe Meadow in Inyo National Forest just south of Mt. Whitney, the TST is a connection of existing trails that travels through 2 national parks, 3 national forests, and 7 wilderness areas.

Theodore Solomons – Kings Canyon, 1895.
©2015 Sierra Club. All Rights Reserved

Despite the publication of two guidebooks in the 1980's, the TST never gained much popularity. Its lower elevation, drier climate, and rugged trail could not compete with its more famous cousin to the east, the John Muir Trail. As a result, large portions of the TST have remained unmaintained for many decades and in some areas the trail has disappeared altogether.

History

The conception of the TST is credited to Dennis R. Gagnon, who created the route using existing trails through the middle Sierra wilderness over the course of two summers. Gagnon's original intent was to find a lower elevation alternative to the John Muir Trail, which he found to be too crowded. In 1974, Gagnon published a brochure with a description of the route. He would later publish a guidebook, *Guide to the Theodore Solomons Trail*.

Before discovering the TST, most hikers are unaware of who Theodore Solomons is and what significant role he has played in the history of the Sierra Nevada. Solomons conceived of and scouted the route that would become the John Muir Trail. At 14 years of age, Solomons looked at the western slope of the Sierra from his home in Fresno and imagined a route that traveled the high Sierra from Yosemite to Mt. Whitney. He would go on to scout the route over two summers from 1894-1895, mapping and naming many features along the way. Evolution Valley and the surrounding mountains were named by Solomons.

When Solomons route was named after John Muir, Solomons stated that he had “no special objection, that the route, when finished was not named after me, nor has any mountain...Muir is a better name to conjure with– for tourist to take the trail for instance– than Solomons. But mine, the idea. The pioneering.”

The above is from <http://www.theodoresolomonstrail.org>, a great resource for the trail.

This trail wends its way from Horseshoe Meadow above Lone Pine through Sequoia National Park to Kings Canyon, crossing the Kings

River near Cedar Grove, then climbing over the rugged ridges to the Middle Fork of the Kings River and Simpson Meadow. It then ascents the Tehipite trail to the Crown Valley area, past Courtwright Reservoir, through the John Muir Wilderness, through the Kaiser Wilderness, Ansel Adams Wilderness and Yosemite National Park ending at the Mono Creek Trailhead.



This trail has existing horse facilities along it, lots of grass and water, it traverses wild and scenic country, and is nearly impassable due to hundreds of down trees and sections of missing trail. Tehipite Trail itself is, by all accounts far to dangerous to take stock up or down.

I'd like to see the Backcountry Horsemen of California take on the project of making this a viable trail. There are units in the area of the trail, who probably know sections, but, I envision units from throughout the state getting involved, holding work projects out of local staging areas, bringing in saw crews, both cross cut and chainsaw.



I see the Theodore Solomons Trail as a jewel in the crown of BCHC, usable by both day riders, and packers, both beginner trail riders and experts. I am going to make the trail a major focus area. If you and or your unit want to participate in making the trail a usable reality.

Please let me know. I don't want to log out the entire trail alone!



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