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# The Backcountry News

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## CERES 2026 RENDEZVOUS or BUST!

By Michael King

Happy New Year and greetings everyone!

So here we are, entering the first month of 2026. The recent rains have been nice, if somewhat overly generous at times. We are drying out a bit now and the forage grasses are growing nicely. Locally, just around the corner, will be the beautiful almond and other fruit tree blossoms. A truly magical time of the year as we witness nature rejuvenating itself and starting a new cycle of life. It's my favorite time of year.

Only a couple of months from now we will once again be celebrating our traditional annual BCHC Rendezvous! What a great event this is, held in the spring of the year when new life is springing up all around us. It is our annual opportunity to gather together, reconnect with old friends, meet new ones, review our past years accomplishments, make plans for the future, refresh some of our Leave No Trace and other skills, and share some delicious meals together.

Our Rendezvous event will once again be held in Ceres, California, at the Diamond Bar Arena. Centrally located in the middle of California, the location makes it accessible to members from each end of our somewhat long state as well as all those in between.

Ceres is located south of Modesto and just north of Turlock. Turlock has several very new motels to accommodate folks who don't have access to or don't wish to bring a tent or recreational vehicle on this excursion. If you DO want to bring your own tent or RV, there is oodles of room at Diamond Bar Arena. Electrical hookups are available, too, on a limited basis.

So why make the effort to attend Rendezvous? Well, many of the reasons are enumerated in paragraph #2 above. Standing alone, those are extremely important in their own right but there is another important reason and that is to support our parent organization - Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC).

Rendezvous is the sole fundraising source for BCHC operating funds. No organization, even a nonprofit such as ours, operates in a vacuum. There are annual expenses to be paid such as financial accounting, insurance (directly benefiting the individual units), contributing to the extremely valuable Back Country Horsemen of America federal legislative watchdog and representative, facility rental for meetings, and Rendezvous, among many other needs. Income made at Rendezvous pays for those expenses.

See **RENDEZVOUS**, continued on Page 13

# The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc.

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**Who is BCHC?** The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of California, March 13, 1990, with a 501(c)4 education foundation established in 2007. The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc., reserves the right to refuse any articles and/or advertisements that are not consistent with the Backcountry Horsemen of California's Objectives and Purpose statement. Other material will be printed at the Editor's discretion.

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

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

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
<b>Spring 2026 Edition</b>	<b>April 15, 2026</b>
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Number of Issues:	1	2	3	4	Cost per Issue
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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE



**BCHC President  
Doug Dollarhide**

Howdy members,

Since my election in October 2025, I have been learning all the ins and outs of the BCHC State President position. I have had many questions about policy and have had to find qualified people to appoint to BCHC's Executive Committee. Susie Patton, BCHC past Secretary, and Mike Hughes, BCHC Past President, have been very helpful.

There are three people I would like to thank for coming on board to the Executive Committee. Anna Baglione was first appointed

by Mike Hughes for the Vice President of Public Lands position. Troy Patton, past Vice President of Public Lands, faithfully informed us about Forest Service policy changes and applicable items at the state and federal levels. Susie Patton and I were discussing possible names to fill the BCHC Secretary position when she mentioned that according to State nonprofit law, there must be three positions filled. These positions are President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Without these three positions BCHC would lose its non-profit status. I remembered hearing that Anna would fill either the Public Lands position or the Secretary position. In a nutshell, President Hughes appointed Anna as Secretary and Cathy Dollarhide as assistant to Anna. Thank you, Anna and Cathy! This brings me to our dear Susie Patton. She has served as BCHC's Secretary for longer than I've been a State Director. She has done an outstanding job keeping all the Presidents and Executive Committee members on track and on schedule. Unfortunately, I am coming into office at the tail end of her tenure. Thank you, Susie, for all your sleepless nights and hard work for this organization.

Dick Cochran is another blessing for BCHC. I was talking to Bob Herrick one afternoon and he said he might know a guy to fill the VP of Public Lands position. A few weeks later I received a call from Dick and we had a great conversation about our public lands and how important it is to know what is happening on our state and federal lands. Welcome, Dick, and thank you for volunteering to serve as VP of Public Lands!

On January 10, Mid Valley Unit had its annual Winter Roundup where we hold an auction, catered dinner and election of board members. Carl Perry, our head Pack Team Coach had a great idea to invite all the Intercollegiate Bishop Pack Team alumni. We had 12 of our younger members show up and share some of their experiences. There is an old African saying that "It takes a village to raise a child," meaning, a child can learn what they need to know from the experience of others. Mid Valley Unit has taken four current unit officers/directors under

its wings and they have successfully gleaned knowledge from more experienced members. They are Anna Baglione, Barbara Baglione-Riner, Kaitlyn Rumsey, and Garrett Dollarhide. Anna led the Eastern Sierra Unit last year and stepped up to be BCHC's state Secretary this year.

Membership is so very important to the life of BCHC units. I understand wages, location, population, family and many other variables all play a part. At the end of the day, it is what you want to spend your time and money doing. When BCHC's membership numbers fall and don't increase, we begin to lose our effectiveness in the bigger picture. Less trails will be cleared and some of the trails will be lost. Less members means less dollars to effect change of Forest Service policies at the state and federal levels. Eventually our forests could be closed. Why not? They closed our National Forests during Covid. BCHC is a service organization, not a self-serving organization. We as BCH members need to get moving no matter how long in the tooth we are. We need to recruit young and old so the younger folk can learn how to carry on our organization's purposes into the decades ahead.

It is so very difficult to find people to fill leadership positions. It was only by the grace of God that I found folks to fill the positions that needed to be filled, and most of them are only for one year. Who will have the courage to say "I will fill" the future voids? I hope that you will take up the challenge to make a difference for our units and our state. We have leadership trainings to help those willing to step up to a position. Ruthie Heuer and Denise Robinson are BCHC's co-VPs of Education and they travel up and down the state ready to train new people. Disappointingly, very few members attend. These trainings are a good way to navigate your way through a start into a leadership role.

My intent with this message is not to point fingers or insinuate lack of participation; that does nothing but destroy. I am just trying to shine a light in the dark places and get you folks to move, get committed and unified to move forward into our organization's goals for the state. Together we can make this state great again! Where have I heard that before?

I am available for questions, concerns, new ideas and volunteers!

Doug Dollarhide, BCHC President  
(209) 605-2403

1 Peter 4:11





# BCHC NEWS



**BCHC Editor**  
**Carol Jo Hargreaves**

## COME CELEBRATE VOLUNTEERISM!

Backcountry Horsemen of California prides itself on being an “all-volunteer organization.” This means no one is paid to do his job.

Because of this, it is more important than ever to recognize, thank and celebrate BCHC’s volunteers. These are the people who show up early, stay late, ask questions, and offer solutions. They lend a hand when no one’s watching, and they do it because they care - about the mission, the people, the stock, and the places we ride.

Recognition and celebration show that our time, skills, and commitment matter and that BCHC values the people behind the work. This organization would not exist without volunteers!

While most volunteers aren’t in it for the applause, it’s always nice to be seen and appreciated. Whether it’s a thank you note, a group photo, or just a pat on the back, that recognition can be surprisingly meaningful. It shows that what we do is seen and makes a difference. It builds loyalty, keeps us involved and encourages others to step up. It strengthens relationships, builds trust, and creates a sense of belonging. It respects and honors the value of the time and effort we donate.

Recognition isn’t about rewards—it’s about gratitude, respect, and sustaining the spirit that makes volunteer-driven organizations thrive.

Come to the Rendezvous and celebrate volunteerism! Celebrate yourself!

## Some Reasons to Read The Backcountry News

The newsletter is your lifeline to each other. I did not realize how important it was to read the newsletter cover to cover until I attended the 2026 Leadership Training meeting in Oroville. It was there that I learned about the critical information provided in The Backcountry News. All of us joined BCHC for a myriad of reasons and the newsletter is the resource we need to support our enthusiasm as well as to keep us informed of the continual fight to keep our public lands accessible to we the people. Take the time to thoroughly read all the articles and find the contact information you need to stay an excited member.

Stay safe,  
Lee Smith, President of Sierra Freepackers Unit



**BCHC Co-Secretary**  
**Anna Baglione**

I’m Anna Baglione! I’m originally from Escalon, a small farming/ranching town in California’s Central Valley. Born and raised in an Italian Catholic farming family where we still farm to this day. I fell in love with mules and packing when I was 16 when I became a member of Backcountry Horsemen of California, Mid Valley Unit. I attended Modesto Junior College and received my BS in Geology from the University of California Davis.

I began working for Rock Creek Pack Station when I was 18 and I’ve worked almost every summer since then, but I’m more part-time now. During my time at Rock Creek, I’ve covered most of the Sierra’s Eastern Slope on the back of a horse or mule from Horseshoe Meadows north to Sonora Pass. I have an intimate knowledge of the wilderness from my years of working and living there. I’m very involved with Bishop Mule Days Celebration, participating in the inaugural Collegiate Packing Contest in 2013 and founding the Modesto JC Interscholastic Team in 2014 with support from Mid Valley Unit. I currently compete on Rock Creek’s commercial packing team. We were the World Champions in 2023 and Reserve World Champions in 2024 and 2025. I’ve represented BCHC and packers on the national scale by being named to Cowgirl Magazine’s 2021 class of 30 Under 30 recipients. I was recognized for significant contributions to the western industry as a woman under the age of 30 for my packing, volunteer work and participation in Bishop Mule Days.

I am currently serving as the president of the Eastern Sierra Unit and my younger sister is currently serving as the president of Mid Valley Unit. I think it’s safe to say our dedication to BCHC is a family tradition and it just makes sense to give back to an organization that has always uplifted and supported us. I am passionate about building community through the organization I love, connecting with the outside world and maintaining access to public lands for people of all ages and abilities.

I live near Bishop, California, and work full-time as a Utility Forester for our local utility company. I agreed to take on the role of Co-secretary with the intent to help out the organization to the best of my abilities. My goal as secretary is to learn more about the organization as a whole and get to know the various units and directors in that capacity. I am hoping the knowledge I gain can be brought back to my home unit but also to help me in my future endeavors with BCHC. So far I have really enjoyed my new work.

Happy trails!

~Anna

# BCHC NEWS



**BCHC Co-Secretary  
Cathy Dollarhide**

Hello, my name is Cathy Dollarhide. I am currently serving as secretary of Mid Valley Unit and have been for five years. I will be assisting Anna Baglione with the State Secretarial duties. It is my pleasure to volunteer for this position as I want to support this important organization.

Doug, my husband and now State President, and I have been BCHC members for close to 20 years. We have been in charge of parades, youth camps, work parties, and have

held various board positions. We pretty much raised our son Garrett in Mid Valley Unit, and these folks have taught him so much! He is a good packer and horse/mule handler. He even knows how to cook rattlesnake and squirrel!

I hold this organization dear to my heart and am looking forward to serving as one of your secretaries. If you have any questions or concerns, I have a special connection with the President. Text or call any time: (209) 602-1489

~ Cathy

## MEMBERSHIP



**BCHC VP of Membership  
Chip Herzig**

This is the second year in a row that BCHC membership renewals fell in December. We had 71 different memberships that did not renew as required in December. That trend is worrisome and problematic because in December we calculate the BCHC dues and calculate the number of State Directors for the units. These two calculations are messed up when there are no renewals as they throw off our overall membership count for BCHC and reduce the number of Directors for our State Board of Director meetings.

So, I'm asking – no, begging - if your membership is due in December, renew in December, please!



**Immediate Past President  
Mike Hughes**

It has happened! The new 2026 Backcountry Horsemen of California state administration has taken its place at the table. There have been a few changes since my Fall 2025 article as President, since I had to make some last-minute appointments.

Anna Baglione and Cathy Dollarhide were appointed co-secretaries of BCHC. This left a vacancy at Public Lands which was filled by appointment of the very capable Dick Cochran. BCHC has a tremendous amount

of very gifted and skilled people, we just need them to find time in their busy lives to step forward and volunteer for this exceptional organization.

The transition of officers not only happens at the state level but also at the local units. I attended officers training at Oroville on January 10, to assist in mentoring newly minted unit officers and hopefully aid in their education and developing knowledge as to their responsibilities. The meeting was conducted by Co-Vice Presidents of State Education, Denise Robinson and Ruthie Heuer. Also in attendance from the state board was Treasurer and Chaplain Lynn Joiner.

A substantial amount of information was covered and meaningful conversations were held. The trainers assured the new and returning officers that they were supported with a network of encyclopedic help and knowledge that is simply a text, email or phone call away. These very talented people are committing to positions of leadership and volunteerism helping direct the future of BCHC. Now...we need to start grooming them for state offices.

The next officers training will be in Visalia on January 24. I hope to see a good turnout as I will be there with the Kern River Valley Unit board of which I was recently elected president. The BCHC training is a very important function and I encourage all unit presidents to ensure their boards take advantage of this opportunity to become more knowledgeable about the workings and functions of BCHC. Let's enjoy the fellowship, networking and knowledge made available to us by skilled, experienced and gifted people.

The final officers training will be held in Temecula on January 31, to cover the southern third of the state. We are a geographically large and diverse state, therefore it takes all of us to keep the success flowing.

I believe we are a vibrant and important organization with a strong and bright future and can thank our diverse and impactful membership for this status. Now get out there, participate, interact, inspire, network and become an active member!

Mike Hughes, Past President  
Backcountry Horsemen of California



# PUBLIC LANDS

## INTRODUCING BCHC’S NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

By Troy Patton

At the beginning of December I sent out the 60-day notice for the Ann Lange Award. I used my email address because a new VP of Public Lands had not been appointed by President Hughes to fulfill the remainder of my term. He has since appointed Richard Cochran as VP of Public Lands. Please direct all nominations for the Ann Lange award as well as Public Lands issues to him. His email is richardcochran003@gmail.com.

Some of you may know him as a long time member of the High Sierra Unit. but some may know that before we were Backcountry Horsemen of California there was a group called High Sierra Stockusers Association (HSSA) . Richard’s father, Lynn Joiner and others were amongst the earliest members. Richard as a young attorney wrote the bylaws for the organization. Later as the HSSA and other groups became BCHC, Richard served as their first VP of Public Lands. He has since served on numerous committees, and has always been supportive of BCHC. When I needed letters written by the membership, he always was one of the first to do so.

Richard and I have been exchanging information the last few weeks and he can contact me any time to make this a smooth transition. BCHC will continue to benefit from his years of knowledge about our organization.



**BCHC VP of Public Lands  
Dick Cochran**

### HOW PUBLIC LANDS ISSUES ARISE

Ann Lange was frustrated. Sequoia National Forest (SNF) was not really listening to the concerns she expressed about the proposed Travel Management Plan (TMP).

The proposed TMP, if implemented as proposed, would eliminate truck and trailer access to various informal trailheads used by stock users and would hamper the use of certain historic trails. She called me on several

occasions to discuss the matter.

Ann was mild mannered but very persistent. Eventually Ann and BCHC filed suit in the United States District Court in Fresno in 2011.

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the TMP restricted vehicle traffic and by extension it impacted the accessibility of many trailheads and

certain historical trails by pack and saddle stock.

Public lands issues do not all arise in the same fashion as the case involving the TMP. Proposals to change traditional horseback and hiking trails to allow electric bicycles to also use them are a good example.

In the High Sierra Unit our Public Lands Committee recently provided major support to a commercial pack outfitter whose lease was being revised in such a way as to make continued operation of the facility impossible. Political influence and the education of state and local elected officials paved the way for a successful revision of the lease.

In another older matter, BCHC and the High Sierra Unit Public Lands Committee supported Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) in litigation brought by the High Sierra Hikers Association (HSHA) to eliminate commercial outfitting services in SEKI because of a procedural mistake made by SEKI in adopting a management plan. The HSHA lawsuit resulted in the trial court judge holding that SEKI had indeed made a significant mistake and set a hearing to decide what would be the appropriate remedy. A lawyer member of BCHC filed a very well written amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief with the trial judge explaining who and what BCHC is and what we do.

Meanwhile, BCHC was collaborating with Visalia Congressman Devin Nunes and United States Senator Diane Feinstein on legislation to circumvent the decision of the trial judge and allow the SEKI management plan to go forward, thus saving the businesses of the commercial outfitters. The subject legislation, House of Representatives Bill Number 4849, named the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Backcountry Access Act, gave SEKI three years to correct its procedural error. I was in court in San Francisco with former BCHC Public Lands Chair Bob Magee and High Sierra Unit Public Lands Committee member Marily Reese when the trial judge announced that his decision had been made moot by the act of Congress.

Most public lands issues can and should be resolved at the local level through rational and civil discourse. Misunderstandings and lack of information can be the source of friction between land management agencies and the public. But most land managers respect advocates who do their homework and make rational arguments.

Political influence is a weapon that can be used effectively in many matters. Access to elected officials is important. They in turn can make it known to the local land managers how they feel about a pending matter.

When I was the chair of our local public lands committee, I annually informed our local congressman about the volunteer hours put in by BCHC and the member states of BCHC.

It helps our cause if the elected officials whose help we are soliciting know that BCHC, BCHC, and our local units give back to the public lands we use.

# EDUCATION



BCHC Co-VP of Education  
Ruthie Heuer



BCHC Co-VP of Education  
Denise Robinson

## ATTENTION EDUCATION CHAIRS OF EACH UNIT!

### DO YOU READ THIS PAGE?

**This is how we communicate with you. This newsletter is vital for all aspects of the state. Education is one of the main purposes of this organization and YOU are vital to your unit in continuing this goal!**

**Mid Valley unit is hosting the Rendezvous for 2026. Has your unit volunteered where you want to help? Call Lloyd NOW (209) 761-3942.**

Rendezvous is our state's only fundraiser for the year, so BCHC has money to operate. It is also our time to rekindle our friendships, make new friends and educate ourselves to help keep the trails and wilderness open to all the American people.

**Did you attend the Leadership Training in your area during the month of January?** These dates were printed

in the Fall edition of the newsletter, so you had plenty of time to clear your calendar and attend. You had an excellent opportunity to learn specific knowledge

concerning your responsibilities as Education Chair. You had the opportunity to ask specific questions of the state. You also had the opportunity to visit with other Education Chairs for ideas for fun days, rides and public awareness of BCHC.

**Do you have a copy of the Education portion of the Leadership Training Manual?** These were handed out to all Presidents or representatives at the Fall State Board Meeting. Your Presidents were requested to make a copy for each of their unit officers (pertaining to each officer position). This is important for you to know how the organization is operated. You now have access to the manual on the BCHC website ([bchcalifornia.org/Documents & Forms](https://www.bchcalifornia.org/Documents%20and%20Forms)).

**Did you attend the State Meeting this February?** Education has a lot of responsibilities. Our meeting is full of items to address and your presence is important for unit representation.

**Are you explaining the “Pin Program” to your unit members?** The outline of the program was in the Fall 2025 newsletter. It will also be in your Rendezvous program. There are always five core classes

offered and then the host unit offers qualifying classes as well. You hand in your signed “card” to the State Booth at end of Rendezvous for recording and collect your great Boot Pin for only five classes attended. The data is now saved via computer so no points are lost.

Thank you for reading these important points above. If you have any questions, please call either of us. We are here to help. See you at Rendezvous!

~ Denise and Ruthie

**The 2026 BCHC Leadership Training & Resource Manual is now posted on the BCHC website.**

**Find it at: [bchcalifornia.org/Documents & Forms](https://www.bchcalifornia.org/Documents%20and%20Forms)**

OR copy and paste this URL into your search engine:

<https://www.bchcalifornia.org/public/documents/docsAndForms/BCH%20Training%20Manual%20Updated%20%202025%20Final%20Draft.pdf>

## FREE ONLINE LEAVE NO TRACE CLASSES

**Go to <https://learn.lnt.org>** to find more information about the 101 introductory course, as well as classes about minimal impact backcountry travel, the ins and outs of stock use in the outdoors, even LNT for fishing.

“One person trained in Leave No Trace goes on to educate 256 additional people resulting in 5.2 million others this year alone.”

Leave No Trace is a partner of BCHA.

**BCHC’s goal is to have at least one LNT Master/ Wilderness Rider in every unit in the state. Does your unit have one?**

# BCHC NEWS

## NEWSLETTER, FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE REPORTS

Prepared 1/5/2026 by C. J. Hargreaves for the February 2026 BCHC State Board Meeting

### NEWSLETTER

[Please note: *In order to meet the deadline for mailing the State Board Meeting Agenda packet, this report had to be prepared before the deadline for submissions to the Winter 2026 edition of the paper. For this reason, only one edition of the paper can be reported on at this time.*]

Since my report to the October 2025 State Board Meeting, the Fall 2025 edition of the Backcountry News was distributed. As usual, I sent several advance reminders to all unit Presidents and Newsletter Editors. I appreciated receiving Fall articles from BCHC leadership, the Rendezvous Committee, and the 2025 BCHC Intern, as well as from the following 10 units: Mother Lode, Redwood, Mid Valley, Manzanita Riders, Los Padres, Shasta Trinity, Redshank Riders, Antelope Valley, Sequoia, and Sierra Freepackers. This is three units more than sent in articles for the Summer 2025 edition. Thank you! (There are 10 more BCHC units around the state that BCHC members would love to hear from in the future! Please share what you've been doing with an article and some photos.)

A total of 2,212 paper copies of the 28-page Fall edition were printed including 100 extra copies. Total cost of printing and postage for the Fall edition was \$1,676.48. A compressed .pdf version of the newsletter file was sent to those on the email list and posted on the BCHC web page.

Next edition: Submissions for the Winter 2026 edition were due by January 15. The paper is scheduled to be mailed Monday, January 26. This will be the "pre-Rendezvous hype" edition containing as many details as possible about registration, contests, classes, and other activities.

**Submissions for the Spring edition are due by Wednesday, April 15, 2026.** This will be the Rendezvous wrap-up edition to include many activity photos and all contest results. Please do your best to keep track of the contests and their winners and take as many pictures as possible!

Also, please email your articles and photographs (of at least 200 dpi resolution) to BCHC\_Newsletter@bchcalifornia.org. Send your photos as separate attachments to your emailed article; do not embed photos in the article.

Remember, if you would like additional copies of the newsletter to distribute at upcoming state and unit events, let me know the number of papers you want and the contact person's name and mailing address no later than the April 15 deadline.

### BCHC FACEBOOK PAGES

#### 1. STATE BCHC

BCHC regained control of its state Facebook page last year on March 21, 2025. My sincere thanks to Kammi Montanero of Manzanita Riders Unit who continues to connect us all by posting fresh information at different times every

day to keep the page fresh and interesting.

Since last March, the number of registered Followers has increased from 7,389 to 7,425. 77% of these are women and most of them are over age 65 (35.2%), but BCHC's page reaches adult men and women of all ages.

As expected, the majority of BCHC's Followers are in the United States (95.3%) but there are also small numbers in Canada, Australia, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and Italy.

Kammi makes sure to share good ideas from around the country as well as activities that showcase BCHA. She recently started posting features about horse campgrounds around the country for those who like to travel and might have the opportunity to connect with other BCH units. People seem to like humor and re-posting other units' happenings.

In the last 90 days of 2025, BCHC's page had almost 80,000 page views. The number of Page Views hit its highest point on December 1 with 10,664 views of the Wilderness Rider class post and a second high on October 18 with 8,798 views of a post titled "Support Your Farmers."

The BCHC Executive Committee approved experimenting with promotion of Giving Tuesday (12/2) on BCHC's Facebook page, prioritizing support of BCHC's General Fund. A "Save the Date" announcement was posted in early November, followed by posts describing the positive impacts made by donations. Although there didn't seem to be much activity on 12/2, BCHC has received four donations, totaling \$350 since then. Donors specify which fund their monies will be deposited in. The Intern Program received \$100; the Education Fund received \$50; a \$100 donor from Santa Cruz requested support for Big Meadow Horse Camp, if possible, and a Montana resident made a \$100 donation to the BCHC Rendezvous in memory of Denise Vaughn, an avid horseman and animal lover.

An important feature of our new Glass Register donation system is that all credit card fees are paid by donors and do not reduce the amount BCHC receives. To date \$11.30 in credit card fees were paid on BCHC's behalf. The system automatically generates "Thank you" letters and a general thank you is posted on BCHC's Facebook page as well.

#### 2. ANNUAL RENDEZVOUS

You may not be aware that BCHC has a second Facebook page dedicated to the Rendezvous. Called "Backcountry Horsemen of California – Annual Rendezvous," this page currently has 1,533 Followers. Demographics are similar to BCHC's Facebook page with most Followers being women 65 and over. The breakdown, however, is a bit different with a couple percentage points more Followers in the younger age groups (55-64, 35-44 and 25-34).

There haven't been new posts on this page lately, so the number of views is low and intermittent. The most views were 372 on October 14, 2025, when the date and location of the 2026 Rendezvous were first announced. As soon as new information and the Rendezvous Registration Packet are available for posting, those items will be added, and viewership is sure to increase.

So...what can you do to help? Keep viewing and sharing BCHC's Facebook pages. Invite your friends to Follow BCHC on Facebook. Make a donation in support of BCHC, either through a

See **NEWSLETTER**, continued on Page 9



# BCHC NEWS

NEWSLETTER, continued from Page 8

Special Membership (Benefactor, Patron or Mt. Whitney level) or by visiting [bchcalifornia.org](http://bchcalifornia.org) and clicking on the “Donation” button. Let me know if you have any suggestions for new and different types of Facebook posts.

**BCHC WEBSITE:**

As you may recall, almost two years ago, in April 2024, BCHC launched its updated website at [bchcalifornia.org](http://bchcalifornia.org). This hard coded site was custom-built for us. Unfortunately, we discovered there was no one in our organization with the skills or interest in doing the Webmaster work needed to maintain this type of site.

The BCHC Executive Committee studied the problem, considered other alternatives and, in June 2025, Chip Herzig and I began working with staff from Societ to develop a website that’s easier to maintain and update. We also worked to install automated membership and donation systems.

The website project has three parts: donations, membership and website. The online Glass Register donation system (mentioned above in the Giving Tuesday portion of the Facebook page report) is completely installed and working well. The integrated, customized Sumac online membership system is installed and Chip is testing its many elements while continuing to maintain his BCHC database as a back-up. The basic appearance of the website itself was agreed upon and the Societ team is working to customize it with our desired content and suitable graphics. Review and refinement will be needed before going live with the site. The new site is built on an open source publishing platform and will have a bit different but more modern appearance than what we have now. It will contain the same information, valuable to units and members, as well as have better security, back-ups and monitoring features, plus be much easier to update and maintain.

Chip and I look forward to introducing the new site and its many features very soon.

*If you have questions about any of this information, feel free to contact me. I can be reached by email at [cjohargreaves@gmail.com](mailto:cjohargreaves@gmail.com) or by phone at (209) 988-5831.*

**DEADLINE**  
**FOR SPRING 2026 EDITION**

of the Backcountry News is: **APRIL 15, 2026**

Send submissions to:

BCHC Editor at

[BCHC\\_Newsletter@bchcalifornia.org](mailto:BCHC_Newsletter@bchcalifornia.org)

**TWO ORGANIZATIONS, ONE GOAL:  
PROTECTING CALIFORNIA’S EQUESTRIAN  
FUTURE**

By Carol Jo Hargreaves

In late November, I received an email from Andrew A. Turnbull, Executive Director of the 501(c)3 International Horsemanship Foundation and a former central area Vice President of the California State Horseman’s Association (CSHA). The email included a link to a YouTube video.

Some intriguing facts were presented in Turnbull’s video:

- The state of California is now the fourth largest economy on the planet.
- The horse industry in California contributes \$11.6 billion per year to the Golden State’s economy.
- There are nearly half a million horses in California. (477,426)
- The California horse industry puts over 130,000 people to work.
- Over 4.1 million California households have a horse enthusiast.
- Over 220,000 Californians volunteer time with their horses.
- More than 410,000 acres are owned or leased for horse related purposes.

Further, Turnbull reported, the Recreation sector of the California horse industry provides \$2.2 billion annually, while the Competition sector provides \$2.1 billion. Together, that’s \$4.3 billion (!) compared to the Racing sector at only \$2.5 billion.

Mr. Turnbull’s email promotes CSHA as the future advocate for horse enthusiasts and horses in California instead of the horse racing sector, now the currently recognized advocacy organization.

When formed in 1941, CSHA’s purpose was to be “a statewide federation of horsemen for legislative strength in order to preserve equestrian riding and hiking trails and camping facilities within publicly controlled Forest and Parks.”

Both CSHA and BCHC exist to protect and promote equestrian use of public lands. These shared goals reflect a common commitment to preserving opportunities for horsemen now and in the future. The two organizations complement each other. CSHA provides a broad foundation for equestrian sport, education, and recreation across California, while BCHC concentrates on preserving the trails, access, and resources that make backcountry riding possible. Together, they strengthen the voice of horsemen and ensure that equestrian use of public lands remains viable for future generations.

Turnbull’s email included a link to an excellent five-minute YouTube video about the California horse industry and its need for advocacy. You might find value in viewing the video. Here’s a link to copy and paste into your browser:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNyl\\_KpDNj8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNyl_KpDNj8)

# BCHC NEWS

## UPCOMING DEADLINES

**February 1** - Education Video Contest entries due to [trailpeople1@yahoo.com](mailto:trailpeople1@yahoo.com)

**February 1** - Individual and Unit Education Award nominations due to Ruthie Heuer or Denise Robinson. Forms and criteria posted on [bchcalifornia.org](http://bchcalifornia.org) under Documents & Forms/501(c)3/Other Useful Materials.

**February 1** –Max & Irene Cochran Journalism Award entries due to CJ Hargreaves, Editor. Mail paper copies to: 2526 Carpenter Rd SE, Olympia, WA 98503

**February 1** - Ann Lange Public Lands Award and Ben York Trailblazer Award nominations due to VP of Public Lands Anna Baglione. See letter sent to unit presidents.

**February 1** – Unit Presidents, send your choice for Top Hand Award to BCHC Treasurer Lynn Joiner

**February 28** – Unit Financial Statement due to BCHC Treasurer Lynn Joiner. Form posted on [bchcalifornia.org](http://bchcalifornia.org) under Documents & Forms/Units.

**February 28** –Yearly Unit Report (Strategic Plan report) due to BCHC Secretary. Form posted on [bchcalifornia.org](http://bchcalifornia.org) under Documents & Forms/Units.

## REAPPOINTMENTS:

Dan Chartier, Saw Program Manager, and Carol Jo Hargreaves, Editor/Webmaster, were reappointed to their positions by incoming BCHC President Doug Dollarhide on December 24, 2025.



## REMINDER:

If you are using **PayPal** to pay for a membership that is not your own, notify the VP of Membership at time of payment. (**PayPal** does not have an option to attach a message when units or individuals pay for someone else's membership.)

## REMEMBER

Send your membership renewals to VP of Membership Chip Herzig. **DO NOT SEND THEM TO BCHA.** Sending to the wrong place will delay payment and cause your membership to show as "Expired" so you cannot participate in unit events.

MICHAEL MURPHY

EQUINE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTING



[michaelmurphyhomesandland.com](http://michaelmurphyhomesandland.com)

PO Box 2705

Sebastopol, CA 95473

[m\\_murphy@sonic.net](mailto:m_murphy@sonic.net)

ph 707 332-1195

fax 707 823-8311

BCHA: DEDICATED TO KEEPING TRAILS OPEN FOR EVERYONE



MOBILE INCIDENT REPORTING FORMS

You might have seen the request to submit “incident report forms” for e-bike interactions and horse camps occupied by non stock users, to help provide record of the issue. Of course it is always great to talk to people directly if you can do so safely, however submitting a report can demonstrate a pattern of issues to help change rules or encourage enforcement.

Did you know that you can add these forms to the home screen of your smartphone? Find how-to instructions on the BCHA website here: <https://www.bcha.org/incidentreportingform/>

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE

**2026 BCHA National Board Meeting**  
**Embassy Suites**  
**International Airport, Kansas City, MO**  
**April 12 -15, 2026**

To register, go to:  
<https://www.jotform.com/form/252816501032143>

Discounted Room Rate Deadline March 20, 2026



SHARE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH ALL OF BCHA!

If your unit has a trail, project or great story you would like to share, send it to [michellewade@bcha.org](mailto:michellewade@bcha.org). She will do her best to include your news in the monthly BCHA Update.

Please send as a Word document and send pictures as attachments NOT embedded in the document.

Be sure to provide a description of project, place, purpose, etc. as well as including the name of person and unit submitting the pictures.

2026 EQUISURE IS AVAILABLE  
New Pricing: Individual \$25, Family \$50

There are some changes this year to how you purchase Equisure Insurance. All applications are processed online and paid via the Equisure portal. Due to these changes, BCHA can no longer accept mailed applications or payments and they apologize for the inconvenience.

Coverage is for a calendar year. This policy is excess over any other valid and collectible underlying insurance. If you have underlying insurance, such as homeowners/farm insurance, the equine excess liability policy is excess over any other insurance. If you have no other underlying insurance this policy could become primary.

For instructions to purchase Equisure insurance, go to the BCHA website and/or contact Equisure at (800) 752-2472 or [www.equisure-inc.com](http://www.equisure-inc.com).

**BCHA’s Fundraising Committee is looking for members who have experience in Grant Writing and Fundraising.**

**If you are interested in discussing these possibilities further, please reach out to Latifia "Tif" Rodriguez , BCHA Vice Chairman, at [Irodri0202@gmail.com](mailto:Irodri0202@gmail.com).**



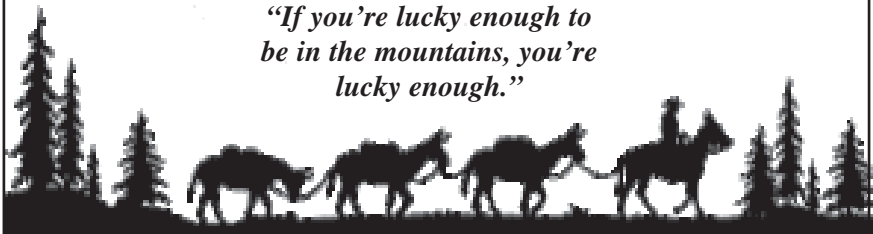
# THANK YOU, 2025 RENDEZVOUS SPONSORS!

BCHC sincerely thanks the following 2025 Rendezvous sponsors for their generous support.  
*Please visit and support these businesses when you have the opportunity.*

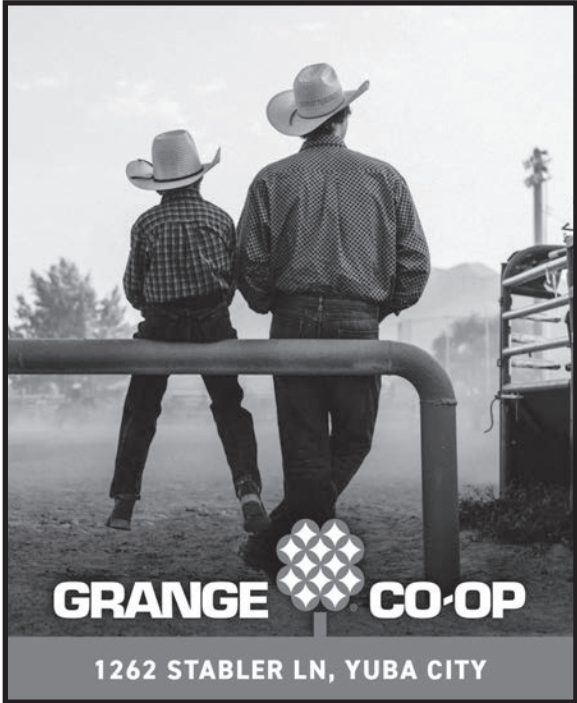
## \$1,000 Silver Sponsors

Thank you for \$1,000 sponsorship from Terri Arington in memory of her late husband, Ron Arington. Ron was a longtime Ag teacher at Sonora High School. He was passionate about the back country, his horses and mules, his students and his wife.

*“If you’re lucky enough to be in the mountains, you’re lucky enough.”*



## \$250 Aluminum Sponsors

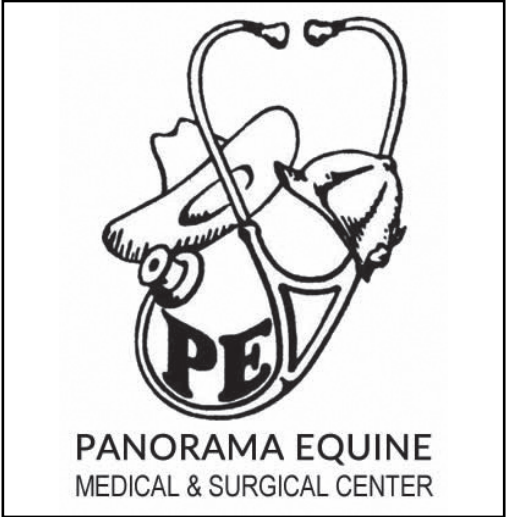


**GRANGE CO-OP**

1262 STABLER LN, YUBA CITY

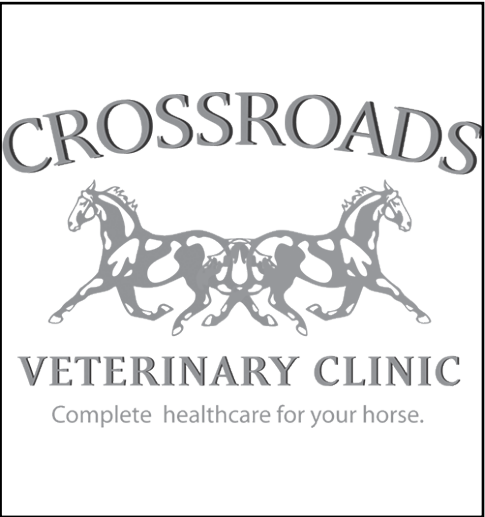
## \$750 Bronze Sponsors

Trinity Equine Veterinary Clinics:



**PANORAMA EQUINE**  
MEDICAL & SURGICAL CENTER

(530) 221-7004  
10302 Old Oregon Trail  
Redding, CA 96003



**CROSSROADS**  
**VETERINARY CLINIC**  
Complete healthcare for your horse.

(530) 365-3685  
6563 Deschutes Road  
Anderson, CA 96007

**LLOYD ERLANDSON**  
Mid Valley Unit

**FORSETH ENTERPRISES**

## \$100 Sponsors



**GOLD COUNTRY**  
TRAILS COUNCIL

# 2026 RENDEZVOUS COMING UP!

**RENDEZVOUS**, continued from Front Page

Vendors come to our Rendezvous to offer appropriate supplies and goods of interest, performing a great service to our membership. Be sure to patronize them so they will return in future years.

Apathy can happen insidiously through nonparticipation. We certainly don't want to see that happen. Remember, you get as much out of an organization as you are willing to put into it. BCHC is the glue that holds together our 20 individual units up and down the state. We NEED your participation at Rendezvous. I CANNOT EMPHASIZE THAT ENOUGH. Please plan a weekend to come and reconnect with your fellow BCH members and help bring enthusiasm to the group. We are planning to have a terrific time, so don't miss out!

So, borrowing a phrase from our pioneer ancestors, we will make this our rallying cry: **CERES 2026 RENDEZVOUS OR BUST!**

***“You get as much out of an organization as you are willing to put into it.”***

**DIAMOND BAR ARENA**  
**Address: 6055 Central Avenue**  
**Ceres, CA 95307**  
**Registration Booth Open 7 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
**Rendezvous Hours:**  
**Friday - 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Saturday - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Sunday - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**ONLINE RENDEZVOUS REGISTRATION PACKET**

The Rendezvous Registration packet will be available soon! Get a paper copy from your unit president or state director or an electronic copy at [bchcalifornia.org/Rendezvous](http://bchcalifornia.org/Rendezvous).

Everyone is welcome! **REGISTER SOON!**



BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA RENDEZVOUS



**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
Wild Horse and Burro Program



**WILD HORSE ADOPTION EVENT**  
MARCH 20-22, 2026  
DIAMOND BAR ARENA IN CERES, CA

For more information, visit <https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/adoptions-and-sales/adoption-program>

**Check out the Rendezvous Registration packet for more information about Rendezvous activities including, but not limited to, the following:**

- PACKING DEMOS AND CONTESTS
- DUTCH OVEN COOKING COMPETITION
- WESTERN ART SHOW CONTEST
- WINE, BEER & CHEESE TASTING
- AWARD DINNER & TABLE DECORATIONS CONTEST
- LEAVE NO TRACE PIN PROGRAM
- SAW DEMONSTRATIONS
- RAFFLE AND AUCTION ITEMS

**RENDEZVOUS 2026 RAFFLE**

Tickets \$5 each for  
**\$500 BASS PRO GIFT CARD**  
or  
\$20 each for  
**HENRY SILVER EAGLE .22 RIFLE**

Drawing to be held March 21 at the 2026 Rendezvous.  
You do not need to be present to win.



# RENDEZVOUS 2026 IN CERES!

**"VOLUNTEERISM"**  
2026 BCHC Rendezvous  
Friday - Sunday  
March 20 - 22

Volunteerism is one of the two core principles of Backcountry Horsemen. Through volunteer service and education we

**KEEP TRAILS OPEN FOR ALL  
KEEP PUBLIC LANDS OPEN TO PACK AND SADDLE STOCK USE**

**Come highlight the work all Backcountry Horsemen do.  
Join us at Rendezvous 2026!**

The BCHC Rendezvous follows a tradition of gathering together of outdoor enthusiasts. Our event features equine training clinicians, scores of vendors, horse and mule packing seminars, Leave No Trace classes, Western Art Show, awards and accolades, packing competitions, Dutch Oven Cook-off, Horsemanship 101 hands-on clinic, Obstacle Challenge, Beer, Wine and Cheese tasting, Cowboy Church, raffles and auction.

There is always lots to learn, loads of fun, and plenty of horses and mules at the Backcountry Horsemen Rendezvous!

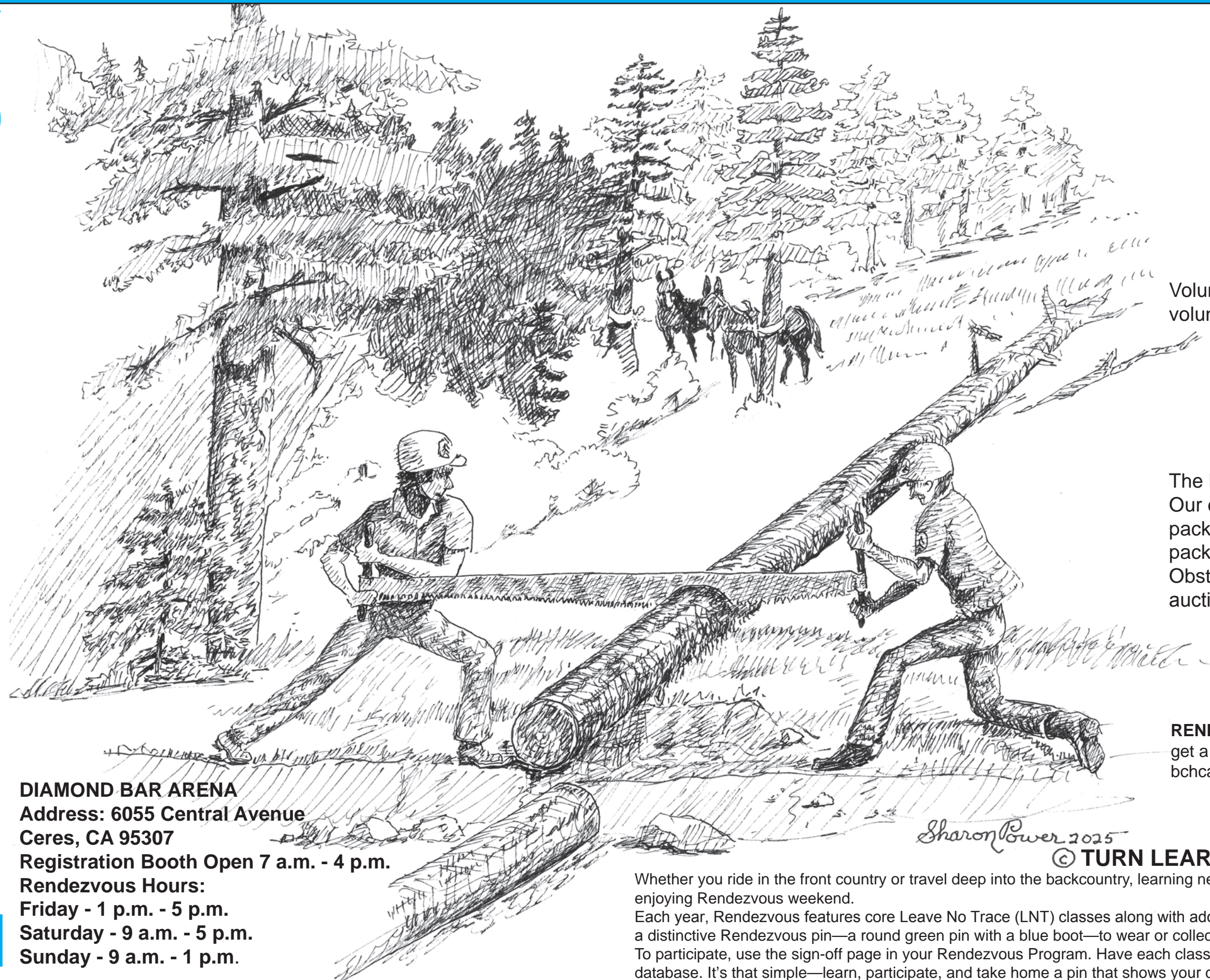
**RENDEZVOUS REGISTRATION PACKET AVAILABLE SOON!** To attend or compete in any events, get a copy of the Registration packet from your unit president or state director or go to [bchcalifornia.org/Rendezvous](http://bchcalifornia.org/Rendezvous) to download the packet. **REGISTER SOON!**

## © TURN LEARNING INTO A BADGE OF HONOR

Whether you ride in the front country or travel deep into the backcountry, learning never stops. The Rendezvous Pin Program offers an easy and rewarding way to build your skills while enjoying Rendezvous weekend.

Each year, Rendezvous features core Leave No Trace (LNT) classes along with additional sessions that support those principles. Attend any five approved classes over the weekend and earn a distinctive Rendezvous pin—a round green pin with a blue boot—to wear or collect with pride.

To participate, use the sign-off page in your Rendezvous Program. Have each class presenter sign your page, then turn it in at the State Booth, where your points will be recorded in the BCHC database. It's that simple—learn, participate, and take home a pin that shows your commitment to responsible recreation.



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Address: 6055 Central Avenue  
Ceres, CA 95307  
Registration Booth Open 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Rendezvous Hours:  
Friday - 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

*Sharon Power 2025*



# UNIT NEWS

## REDWOOD UNIT: REMEMBERING DARREL POLASEK, HEART OF REDWOOD UNIT AND HALF ASS FLAT RANCH

By Susan Combes

Redwood Unit has lost an important and much-loved member. Darrel Polasek passed away October 1 at his home, Half Ass Flat Ranch.

Darrel was a founding member of Redwood Unit in 1992 and created the Half Ass Flat Catered Ride in 1993. A progressive illness may have kept him inactive in the last few months, but the future of the unit and the ride were foremost in his thoughts until the very end. He kept asking if the unit and the Catered Ride would continue if he weren't around. And the answer was always a resounding yes. Darrel and Carole had been careful to work with unit members and the ride committee on how to proceed, how to carry on - and carry on we will, always remembering Darrel and his years of devotion to Backcountry Horsemen.

Darrel was born April 10, 1940, in Eureka, California. In his sophomore year in high school he moved to Ferndale, graduating from Ferndale High School in 1959. His senior year he was running back on the varsity football team and was a unanimous selection to Humboldt-Del Norte All County Football Team in 1958.

After high school Darrel met and married the love of his life, Carole Ann Hatch. They were married for 66 years. Their first born, Barb, came in 1960, and son Marty was born in 1965. In 1967 Darrel and Carole bought land on Wildcat Road outside Ferndale and named it Half Ass Flat, because that's what that piece of land is, about half ass flat.

As a youngster Darrel worked for local dairies before joining the County of Humboldt, first building fence around the Dinsmore airport. After the 1964 flood, Darrel began 37 years of work on the Ferndale road crew, helping maintain roads in Ferndale, Mattole, Petrolia and Honeydew.

He was an 18-year member of Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department, helping climb the tallest living Christmas tree each year to string lights at Christmas time. He was also a member of Ferndale Fair Jockey Club and chef at their fair time events. For years he and his mules participated in Sonoma County Trail Blazers' annual trail ride.

Darrel got his first horse, Penny, in the early 1970s, then got his first mule, Dink, who was broke to ride, drive and pack. He never looked back and always after rode mules.

Darrel was an avid hunter, got his first buck at 15 and continued hunting



the rest of his life. Many of his trophies are mounted in his home. His Roosevelt elk and Tule elk were entered in the Crockett record book. He hunted caribou and white tail deer in Canada.

He also was an abalone diver, fished for salmon and steelhead, dug razor clams and surf fished off Centerville Beach.

For years Darrel helped groom the racetrack at Humboldt County Fairgrounds, running the grader, harrow and water truck before and during meets.

The family thanks Hospice of Humboldt for their support in Darrel's final days.

Darrel is survived by his wife Carole, daughter Barb Polasek, son Marty Polasek and wife Carolyn, his grandsons Cody and Kyle Killingsworth and granddaughter Dillon Polasek, great grandsons Preston, Kanyn, and Koby Killingsworth, great granddaughters Alanah and Kyana. His sisters Linda Polasek, and Lora Pritchard, his sisters-in-law Suzi Bailey and Lynn Dorn and their families, nieces and nephews and cousins.

A celebration of life is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2026, at Half Ass Flat Ranch. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the charity of your choice is suggested.

## WHEN HOOVES LEND A HAND: HORSES AND MULES JOIN VOLUNTEERS TO REPAIR McKAY FOREST TRAILS



Photo and article by Maureen McGarry  
Article originally published in the Times-Standard Newspaper, Eureka, California. Permission obtained to reprint in the Backcountry News.

On the first Saturday in September at a regular monthly volunteer workday in the McKay Community Forest, something unusual took place. Along with several Volunteer Trail Stewards (VTS) arriving to build trails, there were some four-legged helpers. Three members of the Backcountry Horsemen of California Redwood Unit showed up with four horses and two mules. Billie Mohr, Dennis Halligan and Lori White joined the volunteer effort to repair a seep running across the Bob Hill Gulch trail deep in the forest. Getting to the location of the muddy stretch required hiking into the forest and down "Switchy Trail," which is comprised of numerous switchbacks snaking

# UNIT NEWS

**HOOVES**, continued from Page 16

down a steep, forested incline. The materials needed for the repair included buckets of heavy drain rock. Dennis Houghton, McKay Trail coordinator and lifelong trail designer, builder and teacher, realized trying to maneuver wheelbarrows loaded with drain rock would be a difficult task for volunteers. Then, he thought about pack horses with side bags for carrying the rock. He contacted Lori White, a longtime member of Backcountry Horsemen, who has been caring for trails on public land for several decades, including helping on trails in the Marble Mountains and in the Trinity Alps.

Together, they came up with a plan. Sections of geocell filled with rocks are put into place to help stabilize a slippery part of the trail. Volunteers started by hiking along a former logging road, then over to a site where a pile of rock had been delivered. After saddling up with all their gear, the equestrians joined the group. Volunteers started shoveling the rock into buckets and bags, then loaded up the horses and mules. Other trail-building crew members had already made their way down the switchbacks and were prepping the area to be armored with rock. The horses calmly worked their way down “Switchy” and delivered loads of rock several times to the crew below. “The weight of the rocks for the horses wasn’t much of an issue for them. The horses settled in easily to the task,” said White. The rock was placed as fill material into sections of a geocell, an expandable honeycomb-like structure staked into the ground, forming an interconnected grid, and stabilizing the slippery part of the trail. The section will eventually be covered by crushed rock, strengthening the surface for hikers to pass through safely.

“Backcountry Horsemen’s mission is to help keep trails open for hikers, bikers, and horseback riders,” said White. Another volunteer equestrian, Billie Mohr, added, “We need exercises like this to keep our horses in shape for backcountry trail work. This kind of workout is good for them.” The three-hour shift went by quickly. Volunteers made their way back up the trail for lunch provided by Humboldt County’s Natural Resources Division and prepared by volunteers Jean and John Williams. Mark Pedley, one of the regular VTS volunteers, summed up the day: “By tapping into another part of our community, we are making one of the worst sections of the trail into the best.”

*Working with public lands agencies greatly enhances Backcountry Horsemen’s reputation by showing that the organization is a trusted, capable, and professional partner in land stewardship and trail management.*

*By collaborating with agencies such as the Forest Service, BLM, or state parks, Backcountry Horsemen demonstrate that their members have the skills, knowledge, and commitment needed to responsibly care for public lands. These partnerships signal to the public that the organization is reliable and respected by the very agencies tasked with managing those lands.*

*Working alongside public lands agencies also: Builds credibility by aligning the organization with recognized authorities; highlights a commitment to stewardship, not just recreation; shows accountability and safety, especially in stock use and trail work, and strengthens public trust through visible, cooperative projects*

*In addition, these partnerships help position Backcountry Horsemen as advocates for shared-use trails and responsible access, rather than a special-interest group. Overall, working with public lands agencies reinforces the image of Backcountry Horsemen as dedicated caretakers of public lands who work collaboratively for the benefit of everyone who enjoys the backcountry.*

## MID VALLEY UNIT: ANOTHER LOSS FOR MID VALLEY UNIT

By Kathy Zumbrunn

We have lost another old friend and Mid Valley member. Bill O’Neil passed away on January 6, 2026. His daughter, Marilyn O’Neil Colson, shared this information stating it was one of Bill’s wishes that Backcountry Horsemen, Mid Valley Unit, be notified of his passing. Bill was 98 years young.

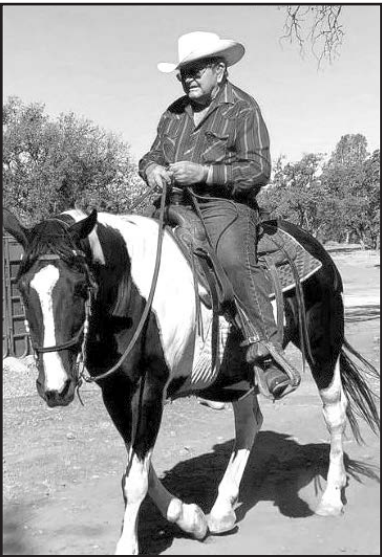
Bill and his wife, Jeannette, joined Mid Valley Unit of BCHC in the early stages of its inception. They were not Charter Members, but darned close! Bill remained a loyal member of the Mid Valley Unit throughout his lifetime. He was always excited to receive his newsletter each month, especially when he moved to Chico, CA, in 2015.

Bill lost his beautiful wife, Jeannette, in September 2021. When I wrote of her passing for the MV Monthly newsletter, Bill proudly told me how he met his wife. I’d like to recount that story ... because it is truly a love story.

Bill met Jeannette while she and her father were fishing at Kennedy Lake. Bill was a guide there, and the two struck up a conversation. As soon as Bill learned Jeannette loved fly-fishing and could ride a horse, he knew then and there she was the gal for him! Their first date was a horseback ride to the Dardanelles Store to deliver mail. They were married six months later! Since they were both in their teens, the “old folks” said it wouldn’t last. They were married 74 years! As Bill put it, they not only had a great marriage but a wonderful partnership.

Bill and Jeannette are now reunited in the great back country in the sky. They were predeceased by their son, Larry, and survived by their daughter, Marilyn, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

We extend our condolences and sincere sympathy to the family.





# UNIT NEWS

**MANZANITA RIDERS UNIT:**

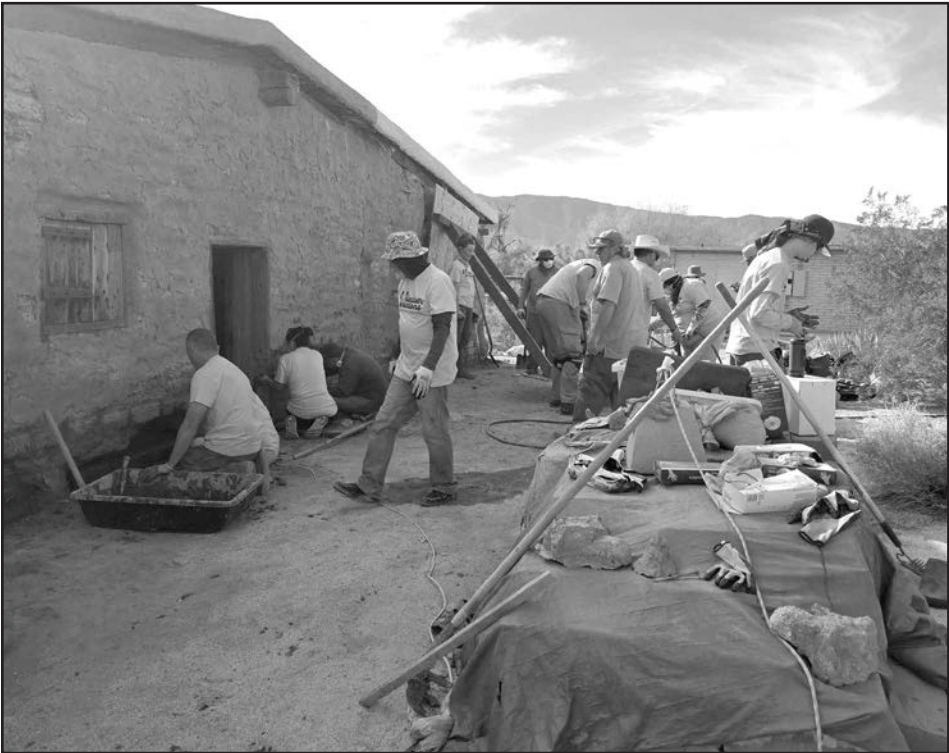
**STAGE ROUTE TO SADDLE TRAIL: RIDERS HELP SAVE VALLECITOS HISTORY**

Article by Terry Jorgensen, photos submitted by Kammi Montanero

In late December 2025, Manzanita Riders Unit members joined San Diego County Parks staff to continue restoring and rebuilding the Vallecitos Stage Station. The building was originally built from sod blocks dug out of the nearby ciénega, a swampy mix of water, soil and decaying plants (similar to what most people think of as a bog), and covered with a layer of “modo” or mud. The building was part of the Butterfield Stage Line in the 1860s and now is a San Diego County Park with a horse camp and trail access.

Volunteers, including unit members, an anthropology group, park rangers and several high school students, joined in to scrape away the damaged blocks and mud and replace with new blocks, then apply a protective layer of mud to the exterior. At the end of the weekend, we looked over the work we had completed and everyone agreed, we could save this piece of history for future generations.

The goal of San Diego County Parks staff is to completely stabilize the building’s exterior by the end of 2026 and then start on the inside of the building so that the following year various events for the public can be held at the Stage Station. If you find yourself traveling in Southern California someday, be sure to contact Manzanita Riders Unit. We’ll show you the Vallecitos Valley and ride the old Butterfield Stage Route.



Volunteers scraped away the damaged blocks and mud, replaced with new blocks, then applied a protective layer of mud to the exterior.





UNIT NEWS

HIGH SIERRA UNIT:  
HIGH SIERRA ADOPTS MOUNTAIN HOME  
SHAKE CAMP CORRALS

Submitted by Bob Herrick

Our primary mission as Backcountry Horsemen is to improve and promote the use, care and development of California backcountry trails, campsites, streams and meadows. The High Sierra Unit Board of Directors is always looking for ways to achieve this objective, and last summer we noticed an underserved area where we thought, as a unit, we could help maintain and promote.

According to the CalFire website, “Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest(MHDSF) is located in Tulare County in the Southern Sierra Nevada range, 22 miles east of Porterville, California. Mountain Home has several of the largest and oldest giant sequoia trees in the world with some reaching 240 feet tall and 27 feet in diameter. Many of these specimens are more than 2,000 years old. In 1946, the State of California acted to conserve the huge redwoods on the Mountain Home tract that John Muir called “the finest in the Sierra,” and purchased the land from a logging company. The result has been the preservation of more than 4,500 old-growth giant sequoias through active management of the mixed conifer forest that surrounds them. The giant sequoia flourishes among ponderosa pine, sugar pine, white fir and incense-cedar.

In the 1880s the Mountain Home area became popular as a destination to beat the summer heat of the San Joaquin Valley. A couple of small “resorts” and camps were constructed at both Mountain Home and Balch Park (then known as Summer Home). Grazing and timbering flourished sporadically during this time. A number of sawmills were built at Mountain Home to process the pine and redwood logs that were harvested from the forest. These mills included the Enterprise, Coburn, Frasier, Elster and Hedrick.

In 1945, fearing that the giant trees would soon vanish from the Mountain Home tract, local organizations pressured the legislature to protect the remaining old-growth redwood trees. The State of California purchased the Mountain Home tract from the Michigan Trust Company for a bargain price. In 1946 the State acquired the land and so began the Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest.”

Mountain Home’s primary function is recreation, and to that end, has five campgrounds, with the Shake Camp campground including facilities for equestrian use. The State has two sets of public corrals in the Shake Camp area. The eight corrals are equipped with water and horse trailer parking, which is available adjacent to the corrals. Four new campsites have been constructed for those equestrian users that opt to stay overnight. The fee is \$15.00 per night, and is on a first come first served basis

Currently, all trails on the Forest are for hiking or equestrian use. No motor vehicles are allowed on any of the trails. The trail systems access various points within the State Forest and some lead from State land into the Sequoia National Monument. Giant Sequoia trees are everywhere in the park.

While visiting the facility last year we noticed that the corals and equestrian campsites were in need of repair and thought that was a task that we could

accomplish as a unit. A presentation was made to the Board of Directors and a motion was passed to look into the possibility of helping to maintain the facility. We approached the MHDSF manager and asked if they would be interested in allowing our unit to adopt the facility, and they said yes. The High Sierra Unit is now the official maintenance sponsor of the Shake Camp Public Corrals.

Once we received permission it was time to go to work. Being at over 6,000 feet of elevation, and behind a locked gate, we had to wait for the snow to melt and the gate to be opened before we could get started. Next, we had to organize a work party to weld the corrals and cut down the trees and limbs that had fallen on the corrals and campsites. We had the work party on June 15, 2025, and with lots of help, had everything in good shape before the end of the day. Many thanks to all of the members that helped with the clean-up. It is much appreciated.

In the future, MHDSF would like us to have the corrals cleaned up and ready for use each year prior to their Memorial Day opening (snow permitting). We have scheduled our next work party for mid-May 2026.

I encourage you all to take a trip up to Balch Park and use the facility. You can go for the day and ride on the trails through the Giant Sequoias or stay in the campsites for a longer visit. The scenery is fantastic. Shake Camp is right next to Balch Park Pack Station, which does day rides as well as pack trips if you want to start out with a guided tour of the area before you venture out on your own. Get out and enjoy the wilderness!



Before and after campground clean-up



# UNIT NEWS

## SIERRA FREEPACKERS UNIT: FROM TRAILS TO BUTTERFLIES - SIERRA FREEPACKERS GIVE BACK AT LAKE HENSLEY

Article submitted by Lee Smith. Pictures of ride by Terri Cook and pictures of Pollen Garden by Lee Smith.

On January 10, the Sierra Freepackers Unit had their annual ride at Lake Hensley hosted by Patricia Vallentyne (VP). The lake is actually a reservoir filled by the Fresno River. The Sierra Freepackers Unit has an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers (who manages the water and surrounding park) to help clear trails and work on projects that the park has for public participation.

Last year, Lee Smith (President) and Patricia Vallentyne helped build a Pollen Garden designed to attract the Monarch Butterfly during migration. We have an ongoing relationship with the Army Corps of Engineers to help when we can. It's important to maintain our relationships with our government partners to keep our public lands open for public access.

Stay safe.



Sierra Freepackers Unit held their annual ride at Lake Hensley where they help clear trails and work on projects with the Army Corps of Engineers



Army Corps of Engineers rangers assisted Patricia Vallentyne and Lee Smith in preparing soil and installing an irrigation system for a pollen garden



### HOW TO PLANT A POLLEN GARDEN

A pollen garden, or pollinator garden, is a specially designed garden filled with flowers that provide essential nectar, pollen, and habitat (shelter, water, host plants) for pollinators like bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and bats, supporting local ecosystems by ensuring food and breeding grounds for these vital species. A pollen garden focuses on native, flowering plants that bloom at different times to offer continuous food, use minimal or no pesticides, and often group similar flowers to make foraging easier for insects.

#### Key Features of a Pollinator Garden:

1. **Food Source:** Abundant nectar and pollen from diverse flowers (e.g., coneflowers, lavender, bee balm, milkweed).
2. **Continuous Bloom:** Plants chosen to flower from early spring through late fall for a steady food supply.
3. **Native Plants:** Prioritizing native species because local pollinators have evolved with them for food, shelter, and egg-laying.
4. **Habitat & Shelter:** Providing water sources, bare soil for nesting bees, and host plants for caterpillars (like milkweed for Monarchs).
5. **Pesticide-Free:** Avoiding harmful chemicals to protect pollinators.
6. **Plant Grouping:** Planting flowers in clusters (groups of 3, 5, or 7) makes them easier for pollinators to spot and use.



# UNIT NEWS

## MID VALLEY UNIT:

### HOOVES, HOLIDAYS, AND HEART: COLUMBIA’S EQUESTRIAN CHRISTMAS PARADE DELIVERS

By Barb Savery

On December 14, eighteen entries came out on a sunny Mother Lode day to participate in the 2025 Columbia All Equestrian Christmas Parade. Entries included 4-H and other mounted groups, Special Olympics and Horses of Warriors, and first-time youth riders on their ponies. Terri Arington was Mrs. Claus in the beautiful Ponte Ranch carriage, and her neighbor, Kevin, played Santa.

Park visitors cheered and clapped as the groups made two rounds of the parade route, then enjoyed themselves in the shops and restaurants afterward as the riders relaxed at after-parade picnics and barbecues. Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency staff showed up and stuffed their SUV literally to the gills with toys donated by riders and parade onlookers.

As per last year, parade participants were not allowed to park in the large parking lot below Main Street, but Deb and Scott Lewis and a battalion of volunteers did a fantastic job of controlling parking, so everyone parked where they were supposed to, and kept the groups crossing Parrotts Ferry Road safe by escorting them across that very busy road.

This parade takes an ARMY, so special thanks to: My assistants Vicki Morales and Chris Markus. Traffic assistants Joan and Ric Tilbury, Jessica Williams, Lloyd Erlandson, Michael King, and Deb and Scott Lewis. Pooper Scooper-in-Chief Dave Forrest and his crew. Our announcers, Tracey Petersen, Tori James, and their boss Jason Banks, from Clarke Broadcasting, who handled the booth in front of the blacksmith shop; and Jim DeGlopper from Friends of Columbia State Historic Park, who handled the booth near Columbia Grocery. Our judge Alice Lawellin. Mrs. Claus, Terri Arington, and Santa, Kevin Kirschman. And last, but not least, my co-chairs Steve and Brenda Bauhr and Scott and Deb Lewis. Thank you also to everyone I’ve forgotten.

The 2026 date is December 13. See you there!

*A Christmas parade combined with a toy or food drive is a great way to promote BCHC because it brings together a large, diverse audience that may not have been exposed to our organization before. Participating in a community tradition shows that our organization is active and invested locally. It shows Backcountry Horsemen as community-minded and service-oriented; good neighbors who give back. This visibility can build trust and legitimacy. Repeated exposure to our name, logo, and message helps people remember BCHC. It puts our organization right in front of local families during a season when people are feeling generous, connected, and excited to support causes that do good.*





# BCHC NEWS

## 41st CALIFORNIA TRAILS & GREENWAYS CONFERENCE APRIL 14-17 AT THE SAN RAMON MARRIOTT

Submitted by Michael Murphy

**Theme:** “Trails We Share and the Futures We Build”

Join us as we explore how our shared trails connect communities, inspire stewardship, and shape a resilient and inclusive future. This year’s theme celebrates collaboration, innovation, and the lasting impact of trails and greenways across California. Whether you are a trail professional, advocate, volunteer, or steward, there is a place for you to share ideas, learn, and help build and protect the trails and greenways of tomorrow.

Doug Dollarhide, the new President of BCHC, has volunteered to teach a hands-on packing workshop. He is bringing a horse and a mule along with iron mules for the public to practice on. On the first day (April 14) Doug will be showing the attendees the art of packing difficult loads. I am looking forward to assisting the coach of the winning pack team at Bishop Mule Days.

I will be teaching a course on the Leave No Trace principle “Be Kind and Considerate of Other Visitors.” We as equestrians need to respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience. I will be using the “What the Horse Sees” poster created by BCH Idaho showing how the horse sees a bicycle as it approaches.

I have a 14-month-old granddaughter to whom I have been reading books called, “We Leave No Trace,” “Eat Up Bear,” and “Good Morning Mother Nature.” It is amazing how much one can learn from a child’s book and the simplicity of its teachings.

We, the horse/mule folks, want to let the recreation community know that we do not just ride but teach how to share our love for the animals, nature, being outdoors and at peace with the trees, birds, and fauna that surround us.

Please come and visit our presentation and the Trails Conference. I will also be doing my talk at Rendezvous 2026. Come by and check it out. You might learn something new or just pick up a refreshing way to review some old favorite thoughts.

**Mission:** The mission of the California Trails Conference Foundation is to inspire recreational trail leadership, maintenance and conservation through the annual California Trails & Greenways training event.

**About:** California Trails & Greenways provides high-quality education and networking opportunities for urban, rural, and backcountry trail professionals. Join leading trail experts for training and discussions on the latest advances in trail design, construction, maintenance, interpretation, volunteerism, and

management. Explore new, collaborative opportunities and engage in productive, meaningful, and inspiring dialogue.

California Trails & Greenways provides opportunities to:

1. Network with and talk directly to California’s leading trail experts;
2. Collaborate with and find new partners to build support for trail endeavors;
3. Learn a full range of trail management, design, and construction topics in high- quality, innovative sessions;
4. Experience hands-on learning through day-long field workshops;
5. Explore exhibits featuring innovative trail-related products and services;
6. Strengthen your ability to effectively design, build, manage and promote California’s trails;
7. Be inspired through keynote and plenary speakers and innovative trail projects throughout the state.

All activities are designed to increase the knowledge of trail, recreation and wild land management to improve non-motorized, recreational and heritage trail systems and programs throughout California. This training by California State Parks and the California Trails Conference Foundation helps ensure effective trail stewardship for generations to come.


The California Trails Conference Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible nonprofit organization that assists with the planning and operation of the California Trails & Greenways Conference; and serves as the Conference’s fiscal agent. The Conference is self-funded and all funds raised by the Foundation are applied directly to Conference costs

**CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS** - The Awards Committee seeks nominees for recognition at California Trails & Greenways 2026. This program is an opportunity to bring acknowledgement and appreciation to the individuals, organizations, agencies, and businesses that, through their hard work, integrity, and social responsibility have made outstanding contributions that promote, enhance, or expand public awareness and use of trails and greenways in California during the 2025 calendar year.

All nominees must exemplify integrity, and social and environmental responsibility.

Any individual, organization or agency may make a nomination in one or more of the award categories. **Nominations must be received by February 6, 2026**, to be considered for an award in 2025. Award recipients will be notified by March 2, 2026, and will receive recognition at the awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 15, 2026. For questions regarding the awards program email [Sammy.Reyes@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Sammy.Reyes@parks.ca.gov).





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# UNIT NEWS

## MID VALLEY UNIT:

### SWEET SUCCESS AT EQUINE CLINIC

By Kathy Zumbrunn

Once again, the Mid Valley Dutch oven chefs outdid themselves at the Sweet River Equine Clinic Education Day on November 1. We were asked to prepare desserts for the event and, as usual, the chefs turned out with big smiles and wonderful goodies!

After a wonderful lunch, 10 Dutch oven chefs served 14 delicious desserts to satisfy everyone’s sweet tooth. Our chefs were: Cathy Dollarhide (bread pudding and cherry chocolate cobbler), Rudy Dezzani (lemon pineapple cake), Susan Erlandson (caramel apple cobbler and double hot fudge pudding cake), Gail Jamieson (white blueberry cake), Nicole Jones (sugar-free white cake), Roy Jones (cinnamon apple cake), Michael King (mixed berry shortcake), Vicki Morales (peach cobbler and mandarin orange cake), Jerrie Thomas (lemon bars), and Kathy Zumbrunn (pineapple angel food cake and chocolate chip cookies). All the guests were in awe of the yummy choices they had and gave big thanks to all of us who treated them to such wonderful desserts.

In addition to the Dutch oven desserts, Mid Valley members John Marshall and Lloyd Erlandson did a few demonstrations. John showed three animals on a high-line and Lloyd gave a little talk on packing.

All in all, it was a great day. The venue was very nice, and we were fortunate to be cooking on the lawn under some shady trees since the weather was unusually warm (80 degrees!) for a November day!



*A packing demonstration and Dutch oven dessert cooking are great ways to promote the Backcountry Horsemen organization because they showcase both the purpose and the personality of the group in a hands-on, memorable way.*

*First, a packing demonstration highlights the practical skills Backcountry Horsemen are known for—safe stock use, proper packing, and responsible backcountry travel. It helps people understand that the organization isn’t just about riding horses; it’s about stewardship, education, and preserving trail access. Seeing these skills in action builds credibility and shows the value of the organization’s mission.*

*Second, Dutch oven dessert cooking adds a fun, welcoming element. It draws people in, sparks conversation, and creates a relaxed atmosphere where members can share stories and talk about what Backcountry Horsemen do. Food naturally brings people together, making it easier to connect with potential members and supporters.*

*Together, these activities:*  
*Demonstrate real backcountry skills and knowledge*  
*Show the organization’s commitment to education and tradition*  
*Create positive, memorable interactions with the public*  
*Make the group approachable, friendly, and community-oriented*

*In short, they let people see, experience, and enjoy what Backcountry Horsemen are all about—responsible horsemanship, outdoor skills, and good old-fashioned camaraderie.*



# WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

**We look forward  
to meeting you!**

**The following 37 new members joined BCHC from  
10/14/2025 through 1/14/2026**

Antelope Valley	Barbara & Howard Hughes Shirlee Kurtz Stephanie Meek Julie Sterling & Michael Burditt
Eastern Sierra	Ryan Kitts & Kerry Tracey Mary & Don Tracey
High Country	Edith & Josh Cox Paul Jacques
High Sierra	Claire Cochran & Tim Woloshyn
Kern River Valley	Doug Slavin & Jennifer Gillott
Kern Sierra	Gail L. Benton Dianna & Jim Scott
Los Padres	Tricia Duran
Mid Valley	Jillian & Davey Fraser, III Randy & Leticia Hopp Kimberlie & Remmi Magney Debbie Marshall & Dan Bronson Kristi & Alex Moore Olivia Moschetti Lynn Price Hannah Rodrigues Amber & Payton Schmallingner Serene Shaner Amber & Brandon Stevenson
North Bay	Erin Amanda Holm Webster & Elizabeth Marquez
Redshank Riders	Melissa Pennyroyal Laura Russell
Redwood	Karen Brooks Robin Drechsler
Santa Ana River	Cindy Lyon George & Mary Mujica Mia Sedillo
Shasta Trinity	Kelly Elizabeth McEvoy
Sierra Freepackers	Judi Farzaroli & Sonya Andrae
Sutter Buttes	Sabrina Palmeri
Top of the State	Cathy Danel

## WHY JOIN BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA?

As a member, you'll:

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

...and more!

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

## TO JOIN OR RENEW BY MAIL

1. Fill out the MEMBERSHIP FORM, make a copy for your records. **IMPORTANT:** Youth Memberships **MUST** also print, sign, and mail these forms. Youth memberships will **NOT** be valid until the forms are received.

2. Mail the completed form(s) and check\* to:

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

\*Please make checks payable to: **BCHC**

## TO JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE

1. Fill out the ONLINE MEMBERSHIP FORM, save it and print a copy for your records.

2. Submit the online form. A copy will be sent to Chip Herzig, VP of Membership. **IMPORTANT:** Youth Memberships **MUST** also print, sign, and mail these forms. Youth memberships will **NOT** be valid until the forms are received.

3. Pay with your PayPal



# Recognition of Special Individuals

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

## SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS

10/14/2025 through 1/14/2026

### BENEFACTOR (\$100)

Antelope Valley	Marge Biehl Rayen Richmond
Eastern Sierra	Craig London Troy Patton
High Country High Sierra	Lorene Guffey Ruth Gerson Nancy Hamill Trish Pendegraft
Kern Sierra	Mylon Filkins, DVM Lynn Joiner Larry Mumford Roger Whitaker
Los Padres	Kaye Bruns Robin Cederlof William Chaides Eve Devine Susie Thielmann
Mid Valley	Tony Alamo Jay Barnes Gary A. Cain Carol Jo Hargreaves Rian Hudson Jennifer Marshall John V. Marshall MID VALLEY UNIT John Schaapman
Mother Lode	Tom Cooper Hetty Dutra Donna Jones Furlow Helen McDermott Annabelle Toothaker
North Bay	Lynn Cominsky Tim Holliday
Redwood	Gary Alves James Biteman Carole & Darrel Polasek Erin Zulliger

### BENEFACTOR (\$100)

San Joaquin Sierra	John Cunningham, High Sierra Pack Station Larry Nishma, Knapp-Yosemite Trls Pk Sta James Laber Stephen Naylon
Santa Ana River Shasta Trinity	Pat Wolff Lori Henderson Levi Solada

### PATRON (\$250)

Eastern Sierra	Bill Carter Andrea Walker
High Country High Sierra	Lynn Saunders Richard Cochran Claire Cochran Jacob Hamstra Karl Pendegraft Christopher Shepard
Kern Sierra Manzanita Riders Mid Valley	Willi Coeler Lynda & Michael Sterns Karen Barindelli Lloyd Erlandson Dennis M. Serpa John Young
Mother Lode Sequoia	Stephanie Williams Kathryn C. Bennett Steve Ladrigan Jamie Wilson, DVM
Shasta Trinity	Doug Maxfield Bruce McGowan
Sutter Buttes	Kay Walters

### MT. WHITNEY (\$500)

Eastern Sierra	Sarah C. Sheehan
Los Padres	Otis Calef
Mid Valley	Terri Arington
Mother Lode	Catherine McArthur
Redshank Riders	Allison Renck
Shasta Trinity	Dean Angelides

BCHC THANKS ALL  
SPECIAL MEMBERS!

# BCHC Units Around the State

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PO Box 461  
Etna, CA 96027-0461  
<https://www.tos-bchc.com/home.html>  
<https://www.facebook.com/2273753019542490/posts/d41d8cd9/2686922421558879/>  
**Robert Robustellini**  
(530) 468-5636  
muletrackstoo@gmail.com

## IMPORTANT NOTE:

The unit names and addresses listed here are taken directly from the 2026 Directory of State and Unit Officers. If your unit's information is incorrect, please contact this Newsletter Editor as soon as possible to report changes. Thank you!

## REMEMBER!

The BCHC Executive Committee no longer sends out membership renewal verification "green slips" via regular mail. Each unit president and membership chair will be sent their unit's data.

## Questions? Membership Matters

BCHC VP of Membership is

Chip Herzig.

He will be happy to address your questions or concerns. Chip may be reached Monday through Friday.

By mail: BCHC Membership

1280 State Rt 208

Yerington, NV 89447

Email: BCHC\_Membership@

bchcalifornia.org

Phone: (775)463-3634



# Membership

## Backcountry Horsemen of California



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

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

A Family & Youth  
Oriented Organization  
Release 4 2025 (11 Feb 25)

☐ New    ☐ Change  
☐ Renewal

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

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

DCTR (Your Membership Number): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Street Address/PO Box

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

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to BCHC Education Fund (Tax deductible ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed:      Check No.

#### Parent Unit Membership Types (Check One)

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual \$60  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family \$75  | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$100  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual \$110 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family \$140 | Include Date of Birth    /    /                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual \$160 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family \$205 |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Whitney \$500 |

**Associate Membership: An Additional \$15 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/Unit  
Unit Name (from above list)

Associate Membership for: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/Unit  
Unit Name (from above list)

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

#### Parent BCHC Membership Types

Individual, Family, (Shared\*\*), Benefactor, Patron, and Mt. Whitney  
A Parent Membership is with a single Local Unit.

\*\*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.

**Young Adult Memberships** MUST include date of  
birth on application. The year you turn 24 is the last year you  
may renew under this membership.

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

#### KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a -

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual               | \$60  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual               | \$110 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual               | \$160 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family                   | \$75  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family                   | \$140 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family                   | \$205 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old)   | \$15  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor                      | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron                          | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Whitney                     | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On that form, I also requested: |       |
| Associate Memberships                                    |       |

My Total Remittance:-----  
My Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Verifying BCHC Membership by

- 1) BCHC Unit  
President's reports
- 2) BCHC Membership  
VP reports
- 3) a self-addressed  
stamped envelope  
submitted with this  
form
- 4) a valid email address

# RENDEZVOUS WITH US IN CERES!

## Backcountry Horsemen of California Rendezvous 2026

### HORSEMANSHIP 101

Friday . March 20, 2026

#### Unique Opportunities

Choose 1 - 8 sessions  
8am - 4pm  
Work with *your* equine  
Experienced clinicians  
Affordable \$20/session  
Paid reservation is required.  
Session limited to 8 persons



*This is a hands-on  
working clinic,  
not a 'lecture demo'.  
Bring your equine.*

#### Topics

Desensitizing  
Send/Lunging  
Garrocha Pole  
Backing/Pulley  
Highline/Picketline  
Sidepass/Disengage  
Hobbling/Ground Tie  
Mounting/Rider Pick-Up  
\* Swag Bag \*



Location: Diamond Bar Arena 6055 Central Ave Ceres, California

Contact: Carlena Kellogg 209-505-0122

Request an entry: Ladyroughrider1@yahoo.com

### ONLINE RENDEZVOUS REGISTRATION PACKET

The Rendezvous Registration packet will be available soon! Get a paper copy from your unit president or state director or an electronic copy from [bchcalifornia.org/Rendezvous](http://bchcalifornia.org/Rendezvous).

Everyone is welcome! Please direct all questions to the folks listed in the packet.

**REGISTER SOON!**

## OBSTACLE CHALLENGE

BCHC Rendezvous March 20-21, 2026

*Salute to our Volunteers!*



Open to Public . . Prizes to 6th

#### Friday

Packer Class @ 1pm

Saturday @ 10am

Youth . Novice . Open

Located at

Diamond Bar Arena

6055 S. Central Ave. Ceres, CA

#### Fees

\$35 Youth

\$45 Adult

\$45 Packer

*Entry secures your ride*

#### Saturday

Sign In @ 8am Rider Meeting @ 9am

Camping & Stalls  
40 Rider Maximum  
Photographer



Contact: Carlena Kellogg 209-505-0122

Ladyroughrider1@yahoo.com

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO DIAMOND BAR ARENA**  
**6055 CENTRAL AVENUE, CERES, CA 95307**

**From South:** Go north on Hwy 99 through Turlock to Keyes Road. Exit freeway. Turn left on Keyes Road. You will be headed west for 3 miles to Central Avenue. Turn left again. Travel south about ¼ mile and enter Diamond Bar on your right.

**From North:** Going south on Hwy 99, pass through Modesto (good luck) and then Ceres. A couple of miles past Ceres take Keyes Road exit and turn right on Keyes Road. You will be headed west for 3 miles to Central Avenue. Turn left on Central. Travel south about ¼ mile and enter Diamond Bar on your right.

**From I-5:** Take the Patterson City exit and follow the signs to Turlock. You will be traveling on West Main once you cross the San Joaquin River. Turn left on Central Avenue and go north for about 4 miles. Diamond Bar will be on your left.