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The Backcountry News



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The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

SUMMER 2018

MID VALLEY UNIT TEAM WINS AT 2018 BISHOP MULE DAYS

2018 Bishop Mule Days Celebration Intercollegiate

Packing Competition

By Carl Perry, Mid Valley Unit

Once again Mid Valley Unit sponsored a mule packing team recruited from Modesto Junior College to compete at the Bishop Mule Days Celebration. We had two young men on the team this year, one of whom had never packed a mule before. Our team consisted of Barbara Baglione, Kaitlynn Rumsey, Garrett Dollarhide and Jared Campbell. The levels of experience ranged from nothing to a World Champion Junior Packer.

Our practices were the worst ever. With all the activities going on, trying to get four students together on the same day seemed impossible. I was extremely frustrated until the Sunday before we left to go to Bishop. Doug and Cathy Dollarhide, Dave Moser, my wife Julie and I were ready for a real practice. I demanded all the kids be present so that teamwork could

come into play at Bishop. We practiced for two hours and packed the mules with at least 10 different loads and two scrambles. We had a pack-off to determine our two best packers for the relay at Bishop. At the end of the day they were a team, ready for competition.



The first competition at Bishop Mule Days was the Pack Scramble. This year, to make everything fair, the students just unloaded all of the equipment and placed it on the ground. There was no chasing animals around the arena. When the buzzer sounded, the race was on. Stuff was flying everywhere. In less than 2-1/2 minutes, Garrett flew by the finish line. We waited for the Judge to check the load to make sure it was clean and, thankfully, it was. We joyously jumped up and down. Now the student packers were starting to believe in themselves. They were up on top with 20 points. The next competition was the Relay. This is where all students have to run and

two of them have to tie the box hitch on while they are desperately gasping for air. We always try to be fast as usually fast wins. The Intercollegiate

See MULE DAYS, page 6

The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

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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.

Deadline	Publication Date		
July 23, 2018	August 2018	Summer	
Oct. 15, 2018	Oct. 2018	Fall	
Jan. 15, 2019	Jan. 2019	Winter	
April 15, 2019	May 2019	Spring	

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

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

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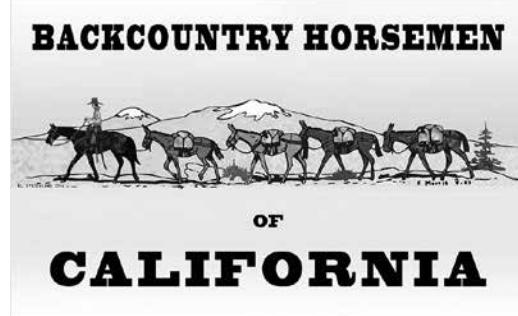
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For more BCHC information, see our website: bchcalifornia.org



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

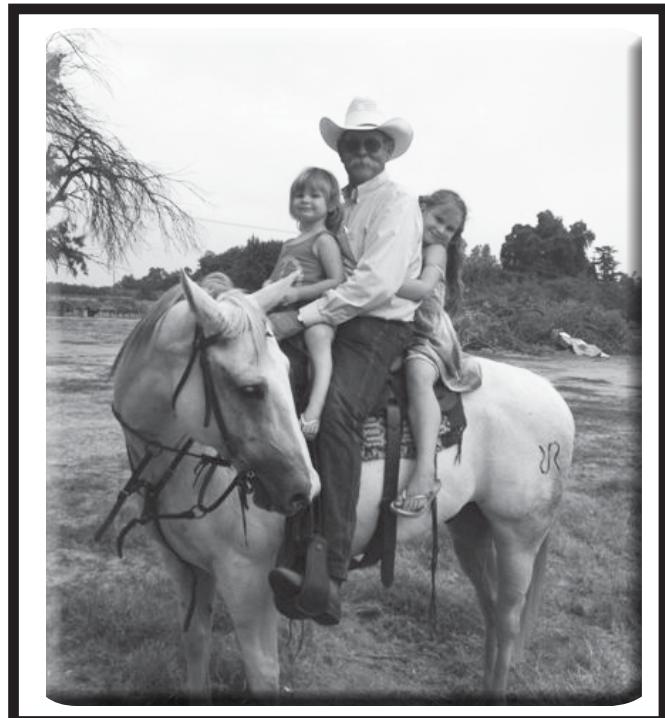
Backcountry Horsemen of California
Newsletter Summer 2018

California is burning and the whole state is full of smoke. I just returned from Scott Valley in northern California and the smoke was so bad going by Mt. Shasta that we never saw any of the mountain. My prayers go out to all those who are affected in some way by the flames. I would like to thank all who helped out throughout the state, moving livestock and doing whatever else they could.

Our summer executive board meeting is coming up soon and we had planned a camp trip to the Clark Fork Horse Camp in the Stanislaus National Forest. Mother Nature had other plans. The Donnell Fire started a couple of weeks ago and burned out the horse camp, along with other historical buildings. As I write this, the fire is still burning and they are working at keeping it out of Eagle Meadows and on the other side of the hill at Kennedy Meadows Resort. There are lots of cabins and buildings in both areas. So the executive board will gather in my yard in Hilmar for a one-day meeting. By the time you read this the meeting will be over.

I do hope everyone around this large state of ours is having a productive summer. Many work projects are being completed and fun camp outs held. I sit here in the Central Valley and hear about all the work that gets done by so many people. I am so proud of all the people we have in this organization. Most of us are long in the tooth but still do an amazing job. Thank you all.

The last that I have heard is that our intern Kristianee Morrison is doing a great job with the Inyo National Forest. I haven't heard exactly what she is doing but I'm sure she is getting plenty of packing and trail work done. I hope she isn't too close to any fire for it to get scary. Thank you to all the units for their support and money to make this program happen. I do hope we can carry this on through the years.



This is going to be a short note. Summer has been busy for me and I'm sorry to say it hasn't had much to do with BCHC. I would again like to say thank you to all of the folks who organize and complete all the different work projects that we do to help maintain and improve our public lands. Volunteerism is a noble service and we have lots of very noble people in BCHC.

Again, thank you everyone for your help throughout the state.

Happy Trails,
Lloyd

Cell: (209) 761-3942
Email: lloyd.erlandson0@gmail.com

NORMAL HORSE VITAL SIGNS

- Temperature: 99 – 101 F
- Pulse: 30 – 42 beats per minute
- Respiration: 12 – 20 breaths per minute
- Capillary Refill (gums): 2 seconds or less

- Skin pinch test (hydration): should snap back immediately
- Mucous membranes of gums: should be pink (not pale/white or blue/purple)

BCHC YOUTH PROGRAM

BCHC Youth Activities Policy

By Karen Lopes, VP Youth Education

General Considerations:

- * Youth participating in BCHC events must be members at the time of the event.
- * Helmets must be worn by all 17 and under youth any time they are mounted.
- * Utilize teachers, 4-H leaders, church group leaders and others who have experience working with youth as BCHC youth activities teachers and/or chaperones.
- * The nature of the youth activity determines the maximum number of youth participants. If riding on the trail, youth group size should not exceed 10. On the trail, there should be a minimum of three adult chaperones accompanying the youth group. In campground and other areas, the ratio of youth to chaperones should be a minimum of 4:1.
- * If youth group is of mixed gender, always have chaperones of both genders present.
- * Create a detailed schedule. Keep participants busy; don't allow too much "free time." Education topics may involve Leave No Trace, packing skills, basic care of horse/mule, care and maintenance of tack and equipment, etc. Select age appropriate topics and focus on safety.
- * *It is recommended that committee members working with youth be fingerprinted and have a background check clearance.*

Adult Participants:

- * Chaperones and committee members shall conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner at all times.
- * Refrain from physical contact with youth. (High fives and fist bumps are allowed.)
- * Do not consume alcohol or smoke during any specified youth activity.
- * Do not be alone with one youth; always be in the company of two or more youth.
- * Never leave a single youth unsupervised while attending BCHC events.
- * Do not allow a young (9 and under) youth to be alone with an older (15 and up) youth. (Unless, of course, they are related.)
- * Use appropriate language. Refrain from using slanderous terms, suggestive comments or harsh words. Be politically correct and be sensitive to gender/sexual orientation/ethnicity, etc.

- * Do not address youth with pet names such as "honey," "sweetie," "darling."
- * Address students with respect; do not talk down to minors.
- * Teach by example: Use "please" and "thank you," model good manners and be considerate of others.

Stock Considerations:

- * Stock being used by adult members must be experienced, calm and broke. (Don't bring young or new stock to youth events.)
- * It is highly recommended that stock being ridden by youth be provided by a pack station ("dude" horses).
- * If youth ride their own stock, it would be ideal to have a pre-trip stock event in an arena to assess the abilities of the horse and rider prior to a trip out on the trail.

Please note: The following information in italics has not yet been approved by the BCHC board. This information was added after BCHC secured a separate Youth Insurance Policy, and will be presented to the board for approval at its next meeting.

Overnight Trips:

- * Three to four youths per tent. Keep age range as close as possible.
- * If someone needs to use the rest room in the middle of the night, they need to wake up someone else in the tent. If there are only three, they all need to get up and go to the rest room. If there are four, then two may go and two may stay in the tent.
- * Adults are never to be alone with a minor.
- * Adults should be camped close to youth tents to provide supervision in the case of an incident during the night.
- * Be sure to have all medical information and treatment release forms with you should you need them at any time.
- * Remind participants to practice LNT. For their safety and the sake of the wildlife, participants should not have any food items in their tents.

Liability & Medical Release Forms:

- * Go to <http://www.bchcalifornia.org/> to find liability and medical release forms, as well as other related forms you may need to conduct a youth event.

**Fall State Board Meeting
October 12-13, 2018
Best Western Andersen's Inn,
Santa Nella, CA**

BCHC NEWS

Wolverton Corrals Stock Camping

By Nancy Hendricks, Chief of Planning and Compliance, ROW and Lands, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (U.S. National Park Service) now has camping areas specifically for stock users.

Reservations are now available for two stock campsites at the Wolverton Corrals in Sequoia National Park. Campsites cost \$22 per night and reservations are required. Each site holds a maximum of six people and 10 stock, and a maximum of two vehicles per site. The sites each have a picnic table, grill, and food storage locker. There is one corral for each group and a shared water trough. You can stay up to seven nights per stay, and 14 nights per season.

Please visit the Sequoia and Kings Canyon website and review the reservation request form for details about camping with stock. Complete your reservation request form and email it to seki_stock_campsites@nps.gov at least 10 days in advance of your requested dates. You will receive a response to your request within five business days. If your request is approved you will receive a welcome packet and orientation information via email.



This project is the first of several to be implemented as part of the Wilderness Stewardship Plan, approved in 2015, which will enhance recreational opportunities for visitors who wish to use horses, mules, llamas, or burros as part of their park experience.

Future sites are Cedar Grove at Kings Canyon and Mineral King at Sequoia National Park



The deadline for submissions for the Fall 2018 EDITION of the Backcountry News is:

October 15, 2018

Submissions to:
BCHC Editor
BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com

BISHOP MULE DAYS

MULE DAYS, continued from front page

Committee decided they were going to enforce American Mule Association (AMA) rules. We did not check our loads before jetting back to the finish line and a penalty was called on us. We were first across the line but ended up in fourth place. Bummer! Now we were sitting in first place by only two points and that was OK. The penalty rattled our kids up a bit but they believed they could get the points back on the next competition.

Sunday afternoon was the Pack and Load event. There was a lot of confusion about what the Committee wanted us to do. We were trying to understand if they wanted us to use manties or not. They said if the load needs to be mantied (such as duffle bags), then cover them. We thought we had it all figured out. The team loaded the two loads with lightning speed. Garrett crossed the finish line first again, but I saw a judge pointing at the load. This was not good. The mantie was not completely covering the load. It looked like we were to be penalized again. As we waited for the results, loads from the other teams were being scattered all over the arena. It was really hard to keep track of who crossed the finish line with clean loads. The results came out just before the evening show. It was said that four teams were clean so we placed fifth. Now the kids were down on themselves. Just before the final event there was another discrepancy on another team and we were moved up to fourth place.

Before the final event we were sitting in second position, two points behind the leader, Cal Poly. We knew those kids had been practicing for two months and they were the same team that had competed at Bishop last year. It's hard to beat experience, but we were determined to do our best. We had a little meeting just before the finals on how to stay calm, be precise with our knots and double-checked everything before blasting off to the finish line. We made a plan and were ready for the win. At the last minute, and literally a minute before they went into the arena, I went down to check on them. Kaitlynn said to me, "Carl don't worry, it's only a practice." Talk about having butterflies! When I ran up to the stands they were already going in the arena.

It was all in their hands now. The teams lined up across the arena. The loads were two 4-inch pipes, a garbage can, an ice chest and a tub. The music was blaring, the announcer's voice was ear piercing and Kaitlynn was trying to keep Captain calm while our other team members were figuring out their strategy. I could see the tension in all the kids. They were shaking their arms, doing squats in place and jumping on their toes. This had to be a win for the team to just tie the score, if Cal Poly would place second. Then we would have to see what the Committee decided. The buzzer finally sounded and it looked like bees swarming my mules. There was no hesitation in their strides as all four team members diligently tied the perfect packer box hitch. In less than two minutes, Garrett bolted across the finish line with Cal Poly right behind. The load had no penalties so we clearly won the final and would tie Cal Poly for the Championship.

Now the waiting began to see which team would be crowned World Champion. Finally the announcement came that Cal Poly was the World Champion. We were happy we had won Reserve Champion and silver belt buckles. We were still rejoicing about our accomplishment when Bob Tallman spoke loudly over the PA system that there had been a mistake in the Inter-

collegiate results. He said some would cry and some would be very happy. The Committee decided the World Champion team would be the team that had won the most events. All ears were listening intently to the announcement as Bob named the four winners: Barbara, Kaitlynn, Garrett and Jared. Holy smokes! We actually won! The rejoicing started all over again but with even greater enthusiasm this time.

We sincerely thank Doug and Cathy Dollarhide for allowing us to use their facility for practice and for helping coach the team, as well as Mid Valley Unit for sponsoring the team. Congratulations, World Champions!



BCHC INTERN

Bill Carter and BCHC Intern Clear Trails

By Kristianne Morrison, BCHC Summer Intern

I spent three days with Bill during my second week in Mammoth Lakes. I was joining him to do some trail work on the PCT so I could put my cross cut certification to work.

The first day we rode out of Reds Meadow where we were camping, up the PCT toward Red Cones. I was just amazed by the beauty of the towering Minarets, clear water creeks, and rushing falls from the snow pack of the winter.

The first tree we came to was a good size for my “first” tree to cut out. Bill was showing me techniques to be able to have good teamwork when sawing with two people. The second tree, was a really good sized one, it was at least half of my body. After clearing that tree, it was a great feeling, to ride past it knowing we did all that work. We cleared trees all the way to Red Cones then called it a day. The second day we rode out toward Devil’s Postpile along the San Joaquin River. Bill taught me how to pack a chainsaw safely. He also taught me how to repair a washed out trail. We used rock bars and a mcleod to refill and make the trail stable for his stock to cross.

On the third day, Bill got asked to clear a tree on the trail that leads to Shadow Lake. That morning we packed up camp, loaded the stock and headed toward Agnew Meadow. The trail we rode was mostly pure rock, it was amazing to see how awesome his stock was taking us over the trail. The views were outstanding.

When we got to the tree it was on a sloped cliff with the roots still attached at the top. Bill talked me through the whole process of cutting this tree safely and smoothly. We worked together and were able to clear it out with a crosscut. It was pretty spectacular experience, the tree was in an awkward place but we got the job done! Also I was able to see the beautiful Shadow Lake.

I had a great time with Bill Carter, one that I will never forget. He rocks!!



Kristianne Morrison



Bill Carter and Kristianne Morrison BCHC
Summer Intern



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BCHC MEMBER PROFILE

I DON'T REMEMBER A TIME I WASN'T IN LOVE WITH HORSES

By Carole Polasek, President, Redwood Unit

Carole Polasek retired after working for 33 years in education at Ferndale High School and College of the Redwoods in Humboldt County. Carole and her husband Darrel live in Ferndale and are both enjoying retirement. They have five mules and have ridden and packed in California, Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and Oregon.

"I don't remember a time I wasn't in love with horses." Carole rode whenever possible as a child and continued after marriage. Horses at first and then, in 1981, Darrel started switching to mules. "I love going in the back country as far as possible. Packing into Hancock Lake in the Marble Mountain Wilderness was the highlight of my summer for many years."

Going to the mountains is still a highlight each summer, although



Carole and Darrel Polasek, Redwood Unit

now it is just going to the trail head at Stanshaw and Ten Bear for the annual Redwood Unit work weekend. "Even though I am unable to ride very much anymore, I still enjoy being there and being with friends and our animals. I have come up with my 'chore' for the trail head: I watch camp to make sure it doesn't go anywhere while everyone is riding. So far, I have been successful at this and camp is always still there when they return."

Carole and Darrel are founding members of the Redwood Unit, established in 1992. Carole has been Secretary and President of the Redwood Unit in the past. She is currently President and has also been the unit's Public Lands Chair for several years.

Redwood Unit holds a Pack Clinic or Trail Challenge at the Ferndale Fairgrounds in February each year as an educational event. Other unit events are the Members' Only Pack Clinic in January, the Fortuna Rodeo Parade in July, an information booth at the Humboldt County Fair in Ferndale in August, the Lighted Tractor Christmas Parade in Ferndale, and the end of the year Christmas Party and awards dinner. Carole and Darrel are active in each of these.

The annual fund raiser called the Half Ass Flat Catered Ride is held the last full weekend in June at Capetown, California. Darrel had the initial idea to start event for the unit. A committee of



Carole and Darrel's granddaughter Morgan Polasek, (in green) at the Half Ass Catered Ride, thanking them for all they do for the Redwood Unit.

MEMBER PROFILE, cont.

EDUCATION

approximately 30 unit members work very hard to put on this terrific event. The 26th annual ride was held this year June 22, 23, 24, which is pretty close to Darrel and Carole's wedding anniversary. Carole's comments at the dinner on Saturday night are pretty standard. "How many guys do you know who would give his wife a big anniversary party every year? Invite all these people, some of whom she has never met? Get them all to pay to be here. And then let her be in charge of feeding up to 200 people in a field for the weekend!?"

Carole and Darrel have also attended many of the State Rendezvous and State Board meetings up and down the state. They helped with the Rendezvous when it was held in Red Bluff. They have also helped with some of the other Rendezvous. "It is great to see and work with the many people we have met and gotten to know over the years."

Besides Redwood Unit activities Carole also enjoys her children, grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She also enjoys knitting, crocheting, embroidery, counted cross-stitching and some sewing. Another favorite activity is watching Giants and Raiders games on TV, even when they lose.

If it seems like this is a "Carole and Darrel" article, you are probably right. They have been married for 59 years, so many of the things they do are done as a couple. You can't have one without the other.



NORTH BAY UNIT:

Chain Saw

By Dan Horn

Chain Saw Certification Training

September 15 & 16, 2018
Open to General Public

Location
Lake Sonoma Visitor Center
Saturday, Sept. 15, 9 AM - Classroom part of class
Sunday, Sept. 16, 9 AM - Field Evaluations

Contact
Dan Horn
707 544 4543
Bearstrap@msn.com

Limited to 12
RSVP by Sept. 12, 2018
No on site registration
Must preregister

Required reading material can be downloaded at www.bchcalifornia.org/docs/MTDCStudentSawCourse.pdf



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UNIT NEWS

MID VALLEY UNIT: 6th Annual Youth Horse Camp

By Karen Lopes

This year was Mid Valley Unit's 6th Annual BCHC Youth Horse Camp and it may have been the best one yet! Committee members Dave Moser, Doug and Cathy Dollarhide, Vicki Whisler, John Marshall and I were in attendance this year. We had six girls and two boys attend the camp held at Kerrick Corrals (approximately 7000-foot elevation), located in the Stanislaus National Forest, just north of Yosemite National Park and adjacent to the Emigrant Wilderness.

Youth campers were dropped off by their parents on Friday morning and we got our agenda started at 9:15 a.m. by making lunches and doing introductions and icebreakers. Soon after a little talk about Camp Manners from Dave, we divided the eight participants into two groups and headed up to Aspen Meadows Pack Station (located just a short walk away). The four older youths, Haley, Anna, Anya and Andrew, were led by the Aspen Meadow Wrangler, Mid Valley unit's very own

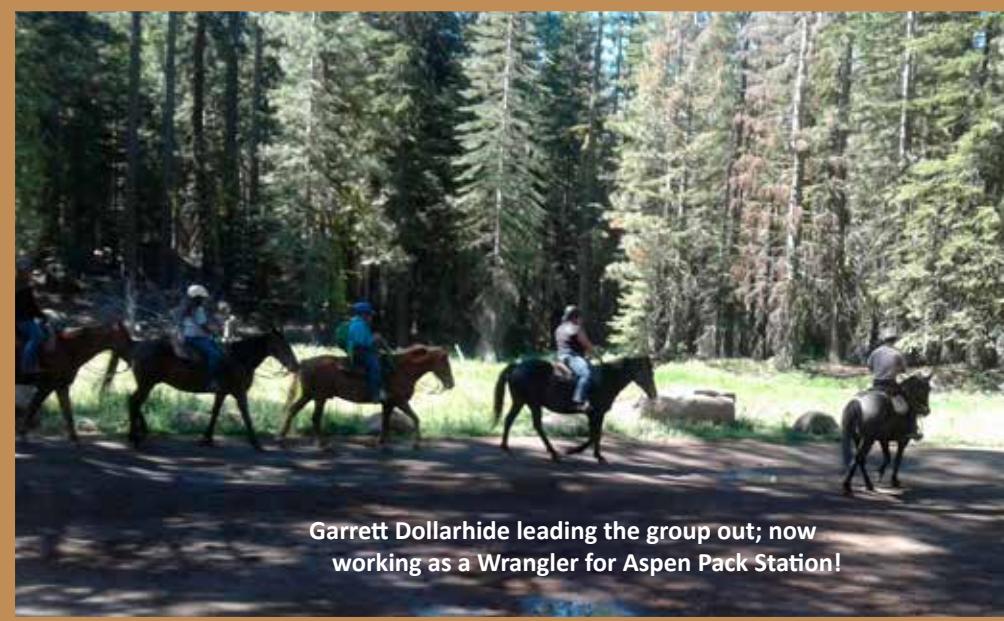
Garrett Dollarhide, and committee members Dave and Cathy rode drag to the Camp Lake destination, just inside the Wilderness boundary. There they stopped, tied up and had their lunches that were packed in on Dave's mule Raven. The other youths, Izzy, Rylee, Erica and Elijah, were led by Wrangler Tyler, and I rode drag for the Bell Meadow Loop. The trail passes through beautiful quaking aspen that grow throughout Bell Meadow. My horse Dolly packed in lunches for our group, which we enjoyed next to Bell Creek, just a short distance below the Pine Valley Horse Camp. After lunch, the kids took off their boots and socks and cooled their feet in the creek. After a nice lunch and relaxing at the creek, we mounted back up and headed toward the pack station. The slopes of the Ridge Trail were alive with beautiful flowers! Indian paintbrush, Mariposa lilies and various other flowers blanketed the slopes in an amazing display of color. We made it back to the pack station, gave Wrangler Tyler and Seth (co-owner of Aspen Pack Station) a big "thank you," and headed back to camp. The Camp Lake group came back about an hour later. Campers then were given their tent assignments and they worked together to set up their tents and put their belongings away. After a little rest, we split up into two groups and had "Horse Safety and Grooming" workshops by Cathy and me, where the youths were able to have hands-on instruction

on proper grooming and were able to pick up and clean out hooves. Participants also had lessons in various knot tying where Doug, John and Dave provided the campers with ropes and practiced tying the bowline, the quick release and some other common knots. Once we finished with the knot tying, it was just about time for dinner. We all washed up at the handy wash station provided by Valerie Perry, and filled our plates with hamburgers, macaroni and cheese, fresh zucchini and beans. Once we finished dinner and paid our respects to the cooks (Vicki and Cathy), Dave and I introduced Leave No Trace Wilderness Ethics using a little skit in which the campers were active participants. Once we got the campfire started, all the makings for S'mores came out. The youths and adults alike enjoyed roasting their marshmallows and trying to outdo each other by making the "Perfect S'more"! After a full first day, we retired to our tents and called it a night.

Saturday morning rolled around and the first kids out of their tents got the fire started. We then had a delicious breakfast of bacon, eggs and pancakes. After breakfast, Dave introduced the first two principles of LNT: Plan Ahead and Prepare, along with Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces. We all stressed the importance of principle #1. If you take the time to thoroughly plan out a horse camping or packing trip, you will definitely

increase your chances of having a fun, safe and enjoyable experience. As the saying goes, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail!" We then broke into two groups and participants worked with Dave on balancing items into pack boxes or they worked with Doug on putting on the pack boxes and tying a box hitch. Five of the eight campers were returnees from the previous year's horse camp, and many of them just needed a quick review before they were throwing that box hitch like they were old pros! The three new campers picked it up impressively quick as well! (It took me **forever** to remember how to put the half hitch on the lash cinch when I first learned!) The two groups then swapped, so that each of them attended both workshops. Dave then took the entire group around and analyzed various methods of stock restraints and critiqued some of our highlines for what was right and what could be better. Throughout the weekend Dave stressed that we can't always do things exactly according to LNT; our goal is to always do the BEST that we can do in any given circumstance and to always strive to do better. Once campers had lunch, we headed back up to Aspen Meadows Pack Station for the two-hour Dodge Ridge Loop Ride. We again split the campers into their original

groups, and this



Garrett Dollarhide leading the group out; now working as a Wrangler for Aspen Pack Station!

UNIT NEWS

Mid Valley Unit, continued

time Wrangler Tyler and I rode with the older youths, and Doug and Cathy got to ride with their very own Wrangler, son Garrett. The ride was beautiful, and our group even got to see a fawn that was standing just off the trail. The two groups were staggered just a bit to reduce the dust factor and we all returned back to the pack station within 10 minutes of each other. We then headed back to camp and after a little break, we went to check out "Camp Disaster." This was a camp that had all of the LNT principles backwards! The committee members asked the campers what was wrong with this camp and our campers couldn't tell us everything that was wrong fast enough! This was a great example of what not to do and the campers were very aware of how the principles of LNT were not being followed. Our committee has lots of faith in this group of campers in that they will be practicing the LNT principles whenever they go camping or packing into the wilderness. We then gathered up around the camp and shared some reflections from the trail rides. Some of the youth really enjoyed the scenery, some enjoyed the shorter ride, others really appreciated their mounts but they **all** had a great time! I presented "Respect Wildlife" for another LNT principle and shared that there had been a mountain lion sighting near our camp that afternoon. Participants were reminded to keep doing what they had been instructed previously: Stay within our camp boundaries and always be with a buddy. Before dinner we had a little time for some box hitch practice. A few of the kids got some extra help and practiced tying their loads on Sparky (the iron mule). Dinner was another amazing effort by Vicki and Cathy. We had two types of salads, spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread, watermelon and Dutch oven peach cobbler with ice cream! After relaxing around the campfire for a while, we turned in for the night.

Sunday morning came around and we had another amazing breakfast of sausage and egg muffins, along with other goodies. After breakfast the campers packed up their personal belongings, took down their tents and naturalized the tent area. We then headed up to Aspen Meadows Pack Station for our Volunteer Service Project. Our campers



Balancing packs.

picked up micro trash, raked up manure and straw and swept out the tack rooms and saddling area. We are hoping to instill a volunteer spirit within our young members, as we need to have some replacements on the work projects for some of us "older" folks! Once they were done helping out the pack station, the campers came back to camp where Dave finished discussing the remainder of the LNT principles. Parents started arriving soon afterward and we finished with our traditional ceremony. Each youth camp participant was called up individually, awarded a certificate, t-shirt, LNT cards, hoof pick (donated by John Marshall), and horseshoe hanger (donated by Dave Moser). After our brief ceremony we all enjoyed a barbecue hamburger/hotdog lunch and each other's company. Soon parents and campers were on their way home.

The committee members would like to express their sincere gratitude to the following people: Terri Arington for her donation. Terri's generous donation pays for the entire expense of the Youth Horse Camp, allowing us to offer this three-day camp to our members at absolutely NO COST! Seth Diemel and Doug Morgan, owners of the Aspen Meadows Pack Station provide us with safe and steady mounts for our youth, awesome Wranglers, and a great price for the whole weekend. We really appreciate your support! Thank you to Parson's Embroidery Plus, where we get the famous camp t-shirts each year at a great price.

If your unit or chapter would like more information about Mid Valley Unit's Youth Horse Camp, please feel free to contact me! We were initially inspired and assisted by Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho, who helped us get our program off of the drawing board and into action just six years ago. Remember, we are all partly responsible for helping inspire the next generation to foster an appreciation for the backcountry. I can be reached at kdlcowgirl66@gmail.com or (209) 756-5534.

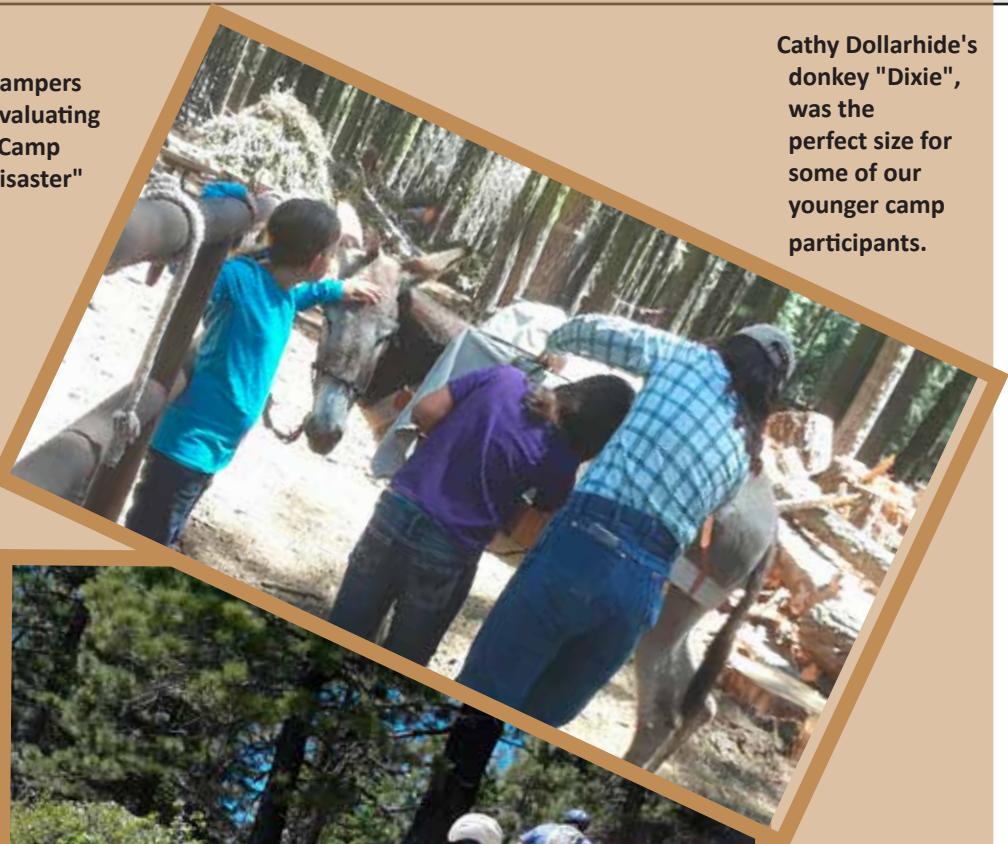


Riding along Dodge Ridge.

UNIT NEWS



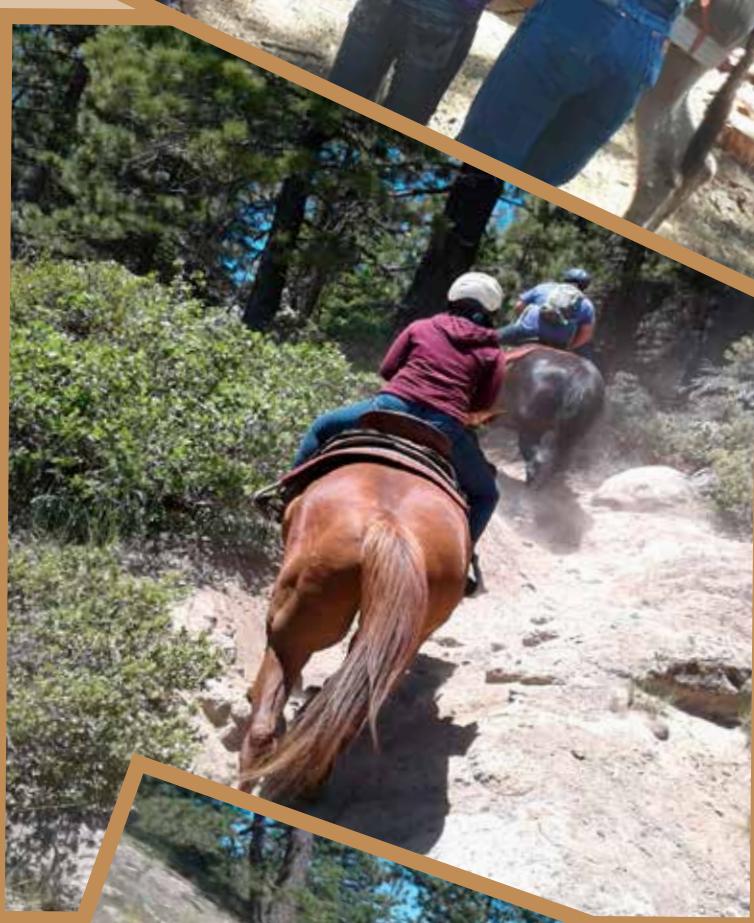
Campers evaluating "Camp Disaster"



Cathy Dollarhide's donkey "Dixie", was the perfect size for some of our younger camp participants.



All the Youth Camp participants had hands-on packing practice.



Riding the Two-hour Dodge Loop.



Presentation of LNT principles.



Our wrangler Tyler, and the Bell Mountain group.

UNIT NEWS



LOS PADRES UNIT: BCHC Volunteers Help Make Youth Event a Huge Success

By Ellie Livingston

Once called the “Boat n Ride” our Los Padres Unit’s Eighth Annual Youth Educational Camp, out August 3-5, was a lot of fun for all! It was held at Lopez Lake Horse Camp in Arroyo Grande. We had mules, paints, Arabs, Rockies, Q horses and a Thoroughbred. We had a total of 11 horses and 16 kids. Because our volunteers brought in extra mounts, almost every child had their own horse. Friday was spent with older youth setting up the Trail Trials course and then riding the lovely trails at Lopez Lake. For some children it was their first time riding their own horse.

Saturday morning we managed to match almost every child with their own horse; there were only a handful of trade-offs. We got them saddled, some were lead line, many were beginners, but basically we pulled off one huge group riding lesson. With help from the more advanced kids, everyone rode around the camp, getting to know their horses and preparing for the afternoon event. This took several hours and was followed by a much needed sit down presentation on packing with mules. After a potluck lunch, we went on with a judged Trail Trial consisting of seven obstacles: leading, mounting, backing, side passing and negotiating hills, stepovers and more. No fall-offs, no run-aways! The awards Session afterward was very popular.



UNIT NEWS

Los Padres Unit, continued

By Sunday we couldn't pull the kids off the horses; they rode around bareback all day. Thanks to new members and volunteers we ate like kings and queens Friday and Saturday nights; barbecue and potluck were delicious! We even got a Dutch oven-cooked peach cobbler.

Special thanks to longtime members Richard Waller, Kathleen Phelps and Barb Riley. Without them this would not have happened. To all the other great campers that made it work. We are definitely doing it next year.

The deadline for submissions for the Fall 2018 EDITION of the Backcountry News is:
October 15, 2018

Submissions to:
 BCHC Editor
BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com

Fall State Board Meeting
 October 12-13, 2018
 Best Western Andersen's Inn,
 Santa Nella, CA

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BCHA Educational Grant to Sierra Freepackers

During the summer months of 2018 members of the Sierra Freepackers used \$1000 funds provided by a BCHA Education Grant for our ongoing project on the Spring Cove and Goat Mountain Trails. We maintain these two trails through our volunteer service agreement with the Sierra National Forest/Bass Lake Ranger District.

The two trails are in a part of the forest devastated by the drought and bug kill here in California. Our goal was to enhance safety and usability of this multi-use trail system. There are narrow single tracks with diminished visibility. We worked to avoid conflicts and accidents between hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers. This area is a busy recreational area in the community of Bass Lake, CA. Since September 2017 our unit has removed over 140 downed drought and beetle stricken trees on these two trails alone. We now have 7 Forest Service Certified sawyers to continue our work in this area. According to the Forest Service we can expect trees to continue to fall for another 5 years.

Besides continuing work on the trails through our agreement with the Bass Lake Ranger District we are partnering with the Yosemite South Gate Trail Collaborative (a local mountain bicycle group) to install a bell and bell box system to further enhance shared trail safety. They also have done trail work and sign installation along the trails.



Trail Sign



Personal Protective Equipment

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH NEWS

By Karen Lopes, VP Youth Education

Hello, fellow backcountry horsemen and women! As we are continually striving to accomplish the goals and objectives of BCHC, we are constantly bombarded with obstacles that tend to discourage our fortitude. Bikes in the wilderness, new laws governing the transportation of livestock and, as always in California, concerns over liability and insurance issues. I am here to tell you that “where there is a will, there is a way.” We are all so passionate about the wilderness; each of us in his or her own way. We also are passionate about exploring the wilderness while riding our favorite horse or mule. As long as we carry that passion with us, we will find a way to overcome any obstacle that appears to block our trail.

When it comes to working with BCHC youth, sometimes the obstacles can seem overwhelming. Don’t be discouraged; there are a variety of ways you can help pass on your love of the backcountry to the future generations of packers and trail riders. It is actually somewhat of a responsibility each and every one of us must share; one or two individuals will not be able to reach the total number of youth members we have in BCHC. I’d like to offer a list of activities that engage our youth in our BCHC organization. Start with whichever activity you feel most comfortable. All youth events held by your unit should be submitted to Ernie Coe, BCHC 1st VP/Insurance, to be listed under our new Youth Insurance Policy.

- Add a kid's puzzle or coloring picture to your newsletter each month. (Puzzle if your newsletter is electronic.)
- Place youth birthday announcements in the newsletter.
- Have a Stick Horse Trail Course at your

next event. (Get an “announcer” to commentate.)

- Hold a Youth Trail Class at your next event. Give out saddle charms or grooming equipment as prizes.
- Hold a Youth Dutch Oven event. Partner a *seasoned* (*ha-ha!*) Dutch oven cook with each youth.
- Hold a “Youth Horse Skills Day” at a local arena; youth bring their own stock. (Ask a qualified member or local horse trainer to give some horsemanship pointers to your youth riders.)
- Hold a “Youth Pack Clinic”. Target 10 to 17 year-olds. Hands-on saddling, balancing loads, packing, throwing the many, tying hitches, etc.
- Conduct Youth Horse Camp packing demonstrations and practice, LNT education and trail rides. (Base near commercial pack station to utilize “dude” horses for youth riders.) Parents must sign waivers for pack station, as well as your unit’s paperwork.

If you would like detailed information on how to make any of these ideas reality for your unit, please contact me and I will share all of the particulars with you to help you increase your youths’ involvement. This is all I have for now but if you have any ideas or youth activities you would like to share, please send me an overview and I will include your activities in the next BCHC newsletter. The BCHC Board of Directors has approved a new policy regarding protocol that should be followed during any events we hold for our youth members. It is included in this newsletter as well. My email: kdlcowgirl66@gmail.com

BCHC YOUTH MASCOT CONTESTS

By Tammy Bozarth



The BCHC Mascot's barn is empty, where could the mule be?



Mule Artwork Contest & Name The Mule Contest

**What will its name be and what will it look like?
Time is running out the deadline is September 1, 2018**

The BCHC Youth Program is in need of a mule mascot icon figure This character will be used to aid in teaching youth a wide variety of subjects such as LNT principals and packing skills.

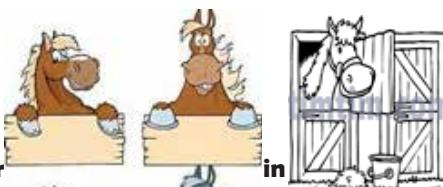
The winning submissions will become the sole property of BCHC.

These are two separate contest you may participate in just one or in both. All ages are eligible: 1 to 100. Help us figure out what our Mule Mascot will look like and what will its name will be.

Criteria: Submit 3 poses, of a simple kid-friendly cartoon mule.

Fall State Board
Meeting
October 12-13, 2018
Best Western
Andersen's Inn,
Santa Nella, CA

**Pose 1: Example
To be used to illustrate**



Pose 2: Example



Full body pose to include pack saddle.

Pose 3: Artist's choice.

BCH members submit artwork to Int@bchcalifornia.org by September 1, 2018

All submissions will be kept anonymous to be judged by the Executive Education Committee.

The winning submissions will become sole property of BCHC The winner may be asked to add to the submissions for specific poses, this is strictly voluntary.



UNIT NEWS

MID VALLEY UNIT: Clark Fork Horse Camp and Carson Iceberg Wilderness Trail Clearing

By Karen Lopes

We had 12 volunteers, and were able to clear quite a few trails in just a few short days! Starting June 13, Sandy Rahilly, Jim and Chris Westmoreland, John Marshall, and Gail Jamieson were able to do some trail recon and got a start on the trail clearing. Friday, we had two crews working once we completed our Tailgate Safety Session, and reviewed the various components of the BCHC safety protocol, led by Dave Moser. Doug and Cathy Dollarhide, Jim and Chris Westmoreland, and Ric Tilbury used the chainsaw and went down the Bridge trail (downriver), and were able to clear it of the



De-limbing the tree for the crosscut saw.

downed trees to about three quarters of the way to the end. Dave Moser, John Marshall, Sandy Rahilly, and myself rode up Arnot and were able to clear trees and debris to the Airola Peak Lookout. We moved one pretty large log using Dave's Ratchet Puller (a device similar to our GripHoist). The Arnot Creek was flowing pretty well and the wildflowers were blooming; the ride in between downed trees was so enjoyable, I sometimes forgot we were on a "work project!"

On Saturday morning, the Stanislaus National Forest Wilderness Manager, Joel Silverman, showed up and helped us lead the Tailgate Safety Session. He had planned to go out on the trail with us, but he was sick and unable to participate. It was very considerate of Joel to show up and help us before the ride even though he was under



Disaster Trail



Sandy Rahilly and Karen Lopes on crosscut.



Doug Dollarhide leading us for Sunday morning Cowboy Church.

UNIT NEWS

the weather. Doug and Cathy, John, and Katherine Reeves cleared the trail upriver to the Iceberg Meadow crossing, and also cleared a couple of downed trees on the other side of the crossing, just before the Wilderness boundary. Also Saturday; Dave, Sandy and I rode up Disaster Trail, and cleared a few downed trees, lopped some limbs and brush along the trail, and otherwise cleared the trail to about 30 minutes past the Paradise Trail junction. Meanwhile, back at camp, Gail was able to clean out some of the fire rings, and Evan Rahilly brought his BBQ/Smoker up and prepared ribs, corn on the cob, salad, beans, and bread for our group Saturday evening; that was very much appreciated by the trail crews!

On Sunday, Doug led us in our annual "Cowboy Church." Doug has a real talent for bringing us all together, and creating a safe atmosphere where everyone's individual thoughts and ideas are valued



Doug Dollarhide and John Marshall, with Katherine Reeves in the background.

and respected. After the church and some visiting, most of the volunteers packed up and headed home. Gail and I decided to do some scouting down the Manzanita Trail. We were able to ride through the Manzanita (although it and the Buck Brush are encroaching on the trail), and make it into the trees and past the second creek crossing. The McCormick Fire from August had come down into those trees, but only singed a few of the trees; the big old Cedar trees were all still standing! The two steep and narrow creek crossings were still in good shape. (They often wash out and can be very treacherous!)

Overall, we had a real nice work project. Each crew reported that all of the volunteers worked together well, and were all very safety conscious. Thank You to all of our volunteers for showing up and helping make this a wonderful trip! Thank you also to Joel Silverman for showing up, even though he was not 100 percent!

www.bchcalifornia.org

REACH-AirMedCare

By Nicole Vice



Dear Backcountry Horsemen of California Member,

REACH Air Medical Services and AirMedCare Network (AMCN) would like to offer you the opportunity to join our Air Ambulance Membership Program at a discounted rate . Being a member of our network offers you peace of mind for just dimes a day . As a member of BCHC, your yearly group rate is \$65 per year. You can add the new "Fly-U- Home" option for just \$134 a year (total cost for both is \$199).

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Option 2: \$134 - Fly-U-Home Membership

-Fly-U-Home members have access to a medically, private aircraft to fly you back home if you are ever hospitalized while traveling. You must be more than 150 miles from home and admitted into a hospital for Fly-U-Home to apply.

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To enroll, simply fill out the application and mail it to the address shown . If you would like to enroll over the phone , please call Nicole Vice at 707 -239 -2505 . You can also enroll online at www.amcnrep.com and use Coupon Code: 7244-CA-BUS.

Sincerely, Nicole Vice 707-239-2505
Nicole.Vice@airmedcarenetwork.com

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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

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If there is no unit in your area and you are interested in starting one, contact BCHC Secretary Susie Patton for more information. bludog46@gmail.com

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US!

These new members have joined BCHC between
June 11, 2018 and August 14, 2018

THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS

We look forward to meeting you!!

Lake-Mendo
Mid Valley

Bill Williamson
William Dardenne
Benjamin Thomas Green
Helen Hoskins
Mike Nelson
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Mother Lode

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Tonya Bills
Pat Farmer
Sherri Reade
Jacquelyn Riccio
Laysha Roberts
Steven Rosa
Stan Williams
Melanie MacKenzie

Santa Ana River
Sequoia

Kristianne Morrison (BCHC Intern)
Sarah Muzquiz
Peter Wesch
Mark Inman
Cody Walker
Bailey Walker

Shasta Trinity

Audrey Sterrett

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Ed Matthews
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**Questions?****Membership Matters**

BCHC Membership Coordinators are
Chip and Linda Herzig.

They will be happy to address your
questions or concerns.

Chip and Linda may be reached Monday
through Friday.

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 High Country
 High Sierra
 Kern River Valley

Kern Sierra
 Lake-Mendo
 Los Padres
 Mid Valley
 Mother Lode

North Bay
 Pacific Crest
 Redshank Riders
 Redwood
 San Diego
 San Joaquin Sierra

Santa Ana River
 Sequoia
 Shasta Trinity
 Sierra Freepackers
 Sutter Buttes
 Top of the State

DCTR (your Membership

MEMBER'S NAME – No Business Name, Print Clearly SPOUSE/Co-MEMBER'S NAME – MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

Street Address/PO Box

City _____ State _____ Zip Code (fill 9 digits if known) _____ Area Code _____ Phone number _____

Email Address: _____ (please print legibly)

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

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Check No. _____

Parent Unit Membership Types (Check one)

Individual \$50 Family \$60 2 Year Individual \$90 2 Year Family \$110 3 Year Individual \$125 3 Year Family \$150

Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15 – Benefactor \$100 – Patron \$250 – Mt. Whitney \$500

Associate Memberships: An Additional \$15 PER UNIT is added to your Parent Unit Dues

Associate Memberships Unit Affiliations MAY NOT BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT

Associate Membership for: _____ \$15.00/Unit

Unit Name (from above list) _____ \$15.00/Unit

Associate Membership for: _____ \$15.00/Unit

Unit Name (from above list) _____

Add additional choices here

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

Parent BCHC Membership Types

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

A Parent Membership is affiliated with a single Local Unit.

BCHC members may NOT hold more than ONE active Parent Membership.

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

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

Complete information regarding BCHC Membership is available on the MEMBERSHIP TAB at

bchcalifornia.org
or call (775) 463-3634

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a new -

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

On that form, I also requested:

Associate Memberships \$ _____

My Total Remittance: \$ _____

My Check Number: _____

Date Mailed: _____

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

UNIT NEWS

NORTH BAY UNIT: Skaggs Springs Road Work Camp

By Dan Horn

On June 16-17, 2018 North Bay Unit member Tony August, went out to Skaggs Springs Trailhead to do a little cleanup work at the trailhead and the Summer Work Camp, we use for work parties on the west side of Lake Sonoma. The west side trails are 10 miles in from both the Liberty Glenn Trail Head and the Marina Trail Head and it is difficult to get a crew in there to work for any length of time. Having the Summer Work Camp enables us to get within 1 to 2 miles of the work area, without a 3 to 4 hour ride, both in to the work area and back out at night. This is the first step in reopening the west side trails. Thank you Tony and Lyndasue (aka Lucinda).



Tony started at the new gate, that the North Bay Unit installed last year with a weed eater, clearing fire fuel and debris.



Tony cleared the road way, the berry vines were about to take over it. He also cleared our equipment staging area of all fire fuels. It is very important to have a safe parking area for trucks and equipment. As we all know, fire safety has become a big part of our lives. Not having used the camp in over three years, the grass and brush had taken over.