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13061 Rosedale Hwy
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Bakersfield, CA 93314
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The Backcountry News



Volume 31, Issue 2

The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

Spring 2019 V6

MOTHER LODE UNIT RECEIVES 2018 ANNUAL DOUBLE DIAMOND AWARD

Established in 2003 by the Back Country Horsemen of America National Board of Directors, the Annual Double Diamond Award honors special projects and programs that best exemplify collaborative spirit, community awareness, and devotion to the mission and purpose of BCHA. Eligible projects and programs include, but are not limited to, trail maintenance, trail construction, trailhead construction, educational programs and youth programs.

Applications are judged on the scope and purpose of the project; the ways the project improved access or benefited the general public or public lands; what was involved in organizing the project; and how the project was accomplished from conception to completion.

Photo by Carolyn Gilmore, Mother Lode Unit



BCHA National Director Dennis Serpa (far left) presents the 2018 Double Diamond Award to Mother Lode Unit President Randy HackbARTH as proud unit members look on. (Unit members, L to R): Mike Kohlbaker, Jerry Heitzer (black hat), Robert Sydnor, Project Manager Lucy Badenhoop and Doug VeerKamp.

The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

Editors: Nancy Vaughn and Carol Jo Hargreaves
BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com

Backcountry Horsemen of California Official Website:
www.bchcalifornia.org

Printed by The Manteca Bulletin

Publication Information: The Backcountry News is the official journal of the Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc., published four times per year. All rights reserved. It is an independent publication with news and information of interest to Backcountry Horsemen members, with an average circulation of approximately 4,000 per issue. Annual subscriptions are \$15.00 for non-members. Nonprofit postage paid at Modesto, CA.

Who is BCHC? The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of California, March 13, 1990, with a 501(c)4 education foundation established in 2007. The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc., reserves the right to refuse any advertisements and/or articles that are inconsistent with the Backcountry Horsemen of California's objectives and purpose statement. Other material will be printed at the Editor's discretion.

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

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

Deadline	Publication Date		
July 23, 2019	August 2019	Summer	
Oct. 15, 2019	Oct. 2019	Fall	
Feb. 16, 2020	Feb. 2020	Winter	
April 15, 2020	May 2020	Spring	

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

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.

2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lloyd Erlandson, President · (209) 761-3942 · lloyd.erlandson0@gmail.com

Ernie Coe, 1st VP · (530) 310-0281 · echorseshoeing@frontiernet.net

Tammy Bozarth, 2nd VP · (661) 322-2545 · spashiners@yahoo.com

Susie Patton, Secretary · (760) 764-2850 · bludog46@gmail.com

Lynn Joiner, Treasurer · Cell: (661) 747-6347 · lynnjoiner7@gmail.com

Thor Bodtker, Co-VP Public Lands · (415) 328-4545 · thunder.t@hotmail.com

Troy Patton, Co-VP Public Lands · (760) 764-2850 · bludog46@gmail.com

Stacy Kuhns, Co-VP Education · (951) 633-1705 · stacykuhns@aol.com

Tom Firth, Co-VP Education · (951) 763-0405 · lecil_hadley@hotmail.com

Karen Lopes, VP Youth Educ. · (209) 756-5534 · kdlcowgirl66@gmail.com

Dennis Serpa, BCHA Nat'l Director · (209) 848-4017 · dmserpa@velociter.net

Bob Magee, BCHA Nat'l Director · (209) 838-3609 · sanbobs1@live.com

Alan Hill, Alternate Nat'l Director · (530) 221-8531 · athill2011@gmail.com

Richard Waller, Past President · (805) 489-8885 · homeranch@gmail.com

Chip & Linda Herzig, Membership · (775) 463-3634 · chryvchip@msn.com

2018 STATE COORDINATORS

Accounting, Weir & Associates · (661) 323-1514

Annual Meeting, Susie Patton · (760) 764-2850 · bludog46@gmail.com

Editors, Nancy Vaughn · (626) 622-9801 · BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com
Carol Jo Hargreaves · BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com

Insurance, Ernie Coe · (530) 310-0281 · echorseshoeing@frontiernet.net

Saw Coordinator, Dan Horn · (707) 953-4903 · bearstrap@msn.com

Webmaster, Jacque Murphy · (707) 498-6648 · brennaluet@hotmail.com

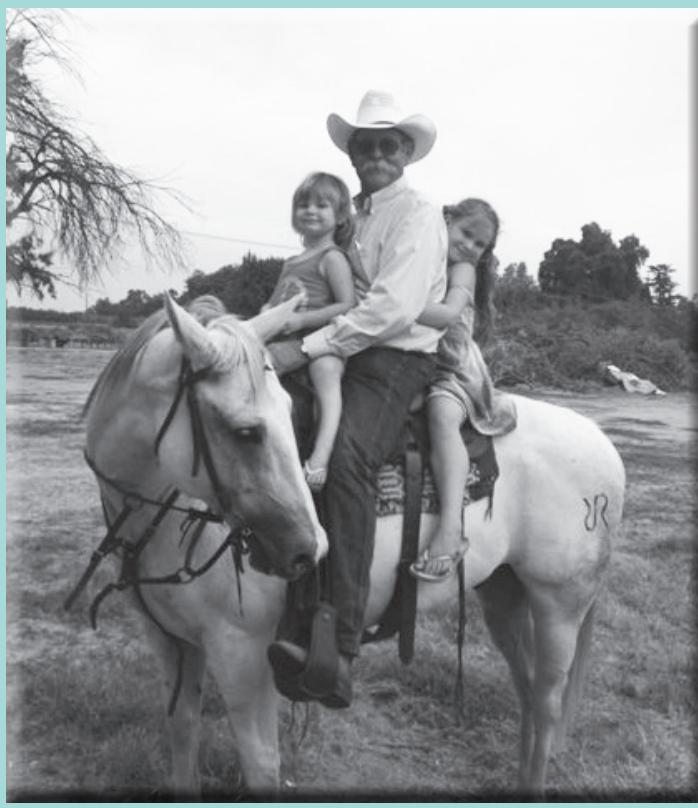
For more BCHC information, see our website: bchcalifornia.org

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN



OF
CALIFORNIA

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Thank you, southern California BCHC units, for putting on a good show at the BCHC Rendezvous in Norco. I had a good time visiting and listening and watching everything that was going on. I know that a lot of hard work was put into making it all happen and I thank all the people who made it a successful event.

I must say something about the Rendezvous. We are not supporting it very well with our attendance. It seems to me that we are getting less and less participation from unit members. I'm not sure what the 2019 attendance numbers were but there were very few BCHC members at the Rendezvous, as a percentage of the total membership. BCHC leaders have been trying to figure out what has happened. I'm beginning to think that maybe people are tired of the same style Rendezvous every year. I ask everyone out there to come up with an idea to change something to get more people interested in getting together again. Maybe it could be making it happen every other year in different parts of the state. Then, on the off years, a couple of local units could get together and have a camp-out or gathering somewhere in their local neighborhood. I don't really know, I am just throwing out ideas.

Red Bluff will be the site of the 2020 Rendezvous and they are already getting a plan together, so put the last weekend in March on your calendar, March 27-29, 2020, and plan to attend.

The Strategic Plan Committee has started teleconference meetings with the hired facilitator to develop a BCHC strategic plan. The

company that is helping us has helped a number of nonprofits move forward in this changing world. Both email and snail mail messages have been sent to each BCHC unit so that we can get feedback from all of you as to what works and/or doesn't work for you. California is such a diverse state that what works up north does not always hold true in the south. So, ask your unit presidents about this and give the Strategic Plan Committee some feedback. We hope to round this up before the fall meeting, so your timely responses are important.

Funds donated in support of Camp Fire victims have been dispersed to two deserving organizations in Butte County - the Paradise Horsemen's Association and the Butte Ag Foundation. Paradise Horsemen lost most everything in the fire including a large arena and other outbuildings. They plan to rebuild, and the good thing is that there will still be live trees around the arena for shade and parking. The Association does a lot for the community. They have events scheduled almost all the time with local clubs, 4-H and other organizations. We wish them well in their recovery. Butte Ag Foundation's mission is to further the educational outreach of the agricultural community in Butte County and surrounding communities. They will be helping the local FFA and 4-H clubs recover what was lost in the fire, along with other organizations they feel might need the help. Once again, thank you to everyone who donated to the BCHC Camp Fire fund so that we could help those in need.

Summer is fast-approaching, and the snow will start to melt, we hope. Just not too fast for the dams and rivers to handle. I'm sure we will have lots of work this summer all up and down the state and I wish everyone good luck with all of your projects.

As always, feel free to call me anytime with issues or concerns and we can talk them through. Thanks for listening.

Happy Trails to you till we meet again,
Lloyd

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



BCHC
Board of Directors
Meetings
October 11 & 12,
2019
Santa Nella, CA

DOUBLE DIAMOND AWARD

MLU, continued from page 1

MOTHER LODGE UNIT RECEIVES 2018 DOUBLE DIAMOND AWARD FOR PONY EXPRESS TRAIL PROJECT

By Lucy Badenhoop, Treasurer, Mother Lode Unit

2018 marked the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act, so BCHC-Mother Lode Unit (MLU) partnered with the U.S. Forest Service (Eldorado National Forest) and the California Division of the National Pony Express Association to restore 47 miles of alpine trail between Pollock Pines (elevation 3,980 feet) and Echo Summit (elevation 7,382 feet). This section of the historic Pony Express (XP) Trail is located in a steep granite canyon carved by the South Fork of the American River and shares the narrow corridor with U.S. Highway 50.

Several trail features needed attention and were included in the project, each of which required special skills and equipment beyond the usual sawyer work MLU performs every spring. In these instances, MLU called on friends from other trail organizations in the region to assist and advise volunteers in developing a variety of new skills (trail rerouting, ford building, grading/gravel install and rigging/tackle techniques). Such technical assistance and special equipment came from individual members of Elegant Ears Mule Association, Tahoe Rim Trail Association and Pacific Crest Trail Association.

XP Corral Trailhead - First priority was the restoration of the XP Corral Trailhead near the midpoint of the 47 miles to provide a staging area for work parties and public access to the trail. This feature was functionally completed in 2018 (stump removal, grading for erosion control and surface hardened with gravel). The finishing work remains to be completed after the 2018-19 winter snowmelt.

Youth and Public Education - As soon as the trailhead was functional again, Boy Scout troops were invited to learn trail maintenance skills and Leave No Trace practices. In July, Troop 466 from Sunnyvale, California, pruned vegetation and added trail markers. In August, Troop 186 from Elk Grove placed riprap (cobble stones) in five erosion sensitive areas around the trailhead, three of which protected the seasonal creek. Troop 186 returned in October to finish a sixth area of riprap and clean culverts on 12 miles of the trail they adopted. One of their Eagle Scout candidates is creating a trail map for the United States Forest Service (USFS) to distribute to trail users as part of a new USFS Recreational Opportunity Guide (ROG) for the Pony Express Trail.

Kyburz Ford - A recent wildfire denuded the mountain above Kyburz, California, such that the severe winter of 2016-2017 caused a massive debris slide to totally destroy a trail bridge, which closed about four miles of trail. The USFS estimated replacement of the bridge would cost \$70,000 and would take several years to implement. As a substitute, environmental approvals were expedited to allow relocation of the trail 150 yards upstream to a spot suitable for construction of a ford.

Monster Log Removal - Every winter, trees fall across the single-track trail on hillsides that frequently slope at 30 to 45 degrees, with vehicle traffic below. A few of the trees exceeded 3-feet in diameter and required special equipment and training to cut and remove a half-ton piece from the trail without allowing it to roll down the hill into U.S. Highway 50 traffic.

One such log appeared on the XP Trail just east of Pollock Pines and caused closure of one mile of the trail. Using grant funds, MLU bought a 32-inch chain saw and some rigging equipment (cables, winches, pulleys, etc.) and conducted training on November 1. The 40-foot-long log was successfully cut where its 4-foot diameter trunk blocked the trail. All three pieces remained stable on the hillside and the cutout piece was parked off the tread so that only a minor S reroute was needed around the cut ends of the log.

Volunteers - MLU volunteers always work hard but 2018 was especially strenuous. They provided XP Trail improvements valued at more than \$142,000 in addition to their usual annual trail maintenance commitments in the El Dorado National Forest and packing support for Desolation Wilderness work crews.

Funding - The XP Trail volunteers were financially supported by cash donations from XP-CA and BCHC-MLU, plus portions of three grants from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA). These funds allowed MLU to purchase equipment and materials (mostly gravel) and to reimburse volunteers for mileage. The 2019 finishing work on the XP Corral Trailhead will come from another grant funded by Bass Pro Shops.



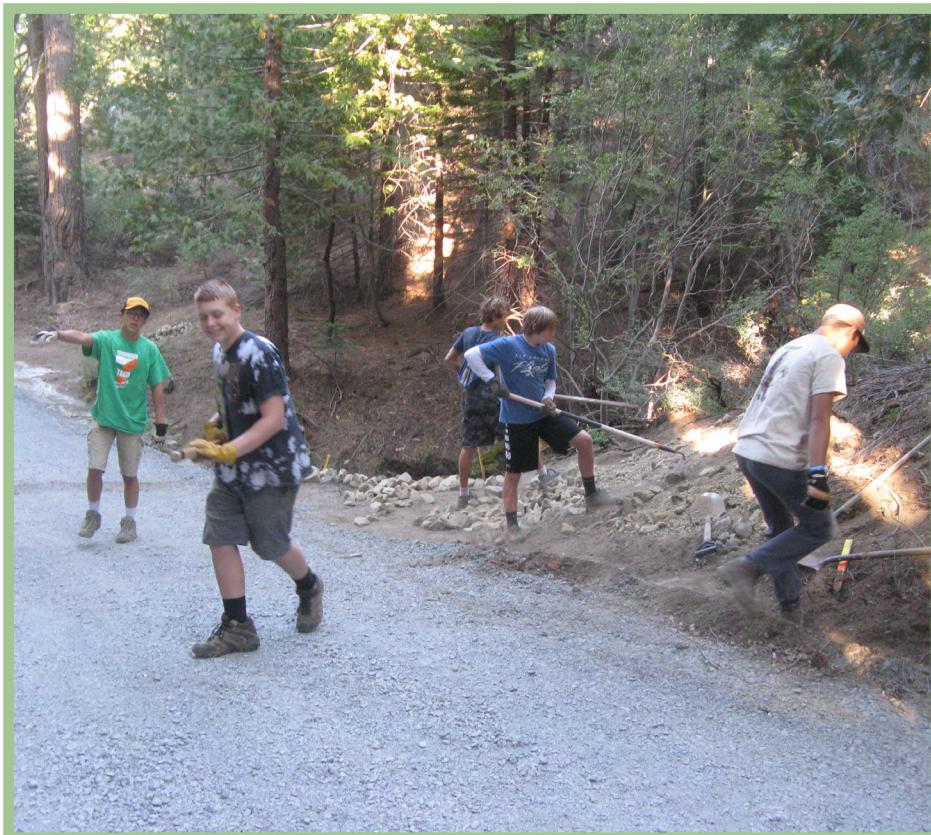
**Congratulations
MLU**



MLU AWARD CONT.



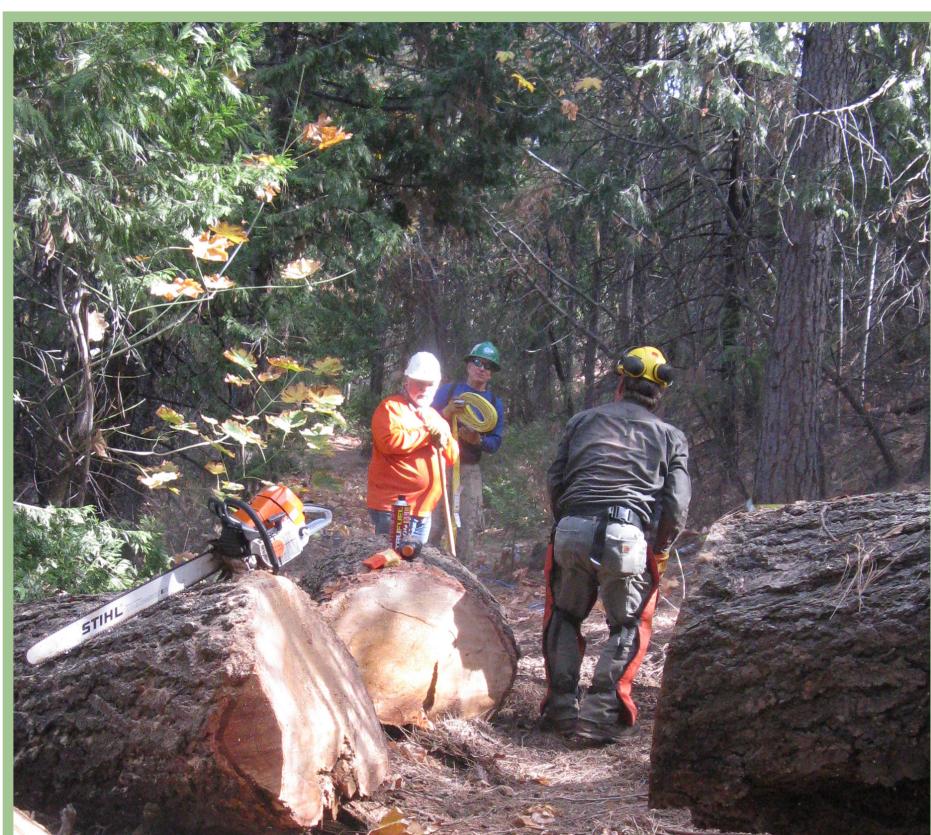
XP Corral-gravel install.



XP Corral-BSA Troop #186 riprap.



Kyburz-new trail/ford.



Monster log cut.

PUBLIC LANDS



PUBLIC LANDS UPDATE

By Troy Patton Co-VP Public Lands

On March 12, 2019, President Trump signed into law the Natural Resources Management Act (S47). This is a package of bipartisan public lands related bills that were passed in both the House and the Senate. It also is groundbreaking because it eliminates the need to return to these same topics year after year for approval and funding.

This bill sets forth provisions regarding various programs, projects and studies for the management and conservation of Natural Resources on Federal lands. It also renews the Land and Water Conservation Act which has been a focus for BCHC. The following is a list of some of the things this legislation covers:

- Land conveyances, exchanges acquisitions, withdrawal and transfers
- National parks, monuments, memorials, wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, historic, heritage sites, and other conservation and recreational areas
- Wildlife conservation
- Helium extraction
- Small mining waivers and claim maintenance fees
- Wildland fire operation
- The release of certain Federal land interests
- The Denali National Park and Preserve natural gas pipeline
- Fees for medical services in the National Park System
- Funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Recreational activities on Federal and some non-Federal land
- National volcano early warning and monitoring system
- Federal reclamation projects
- Search, rescue and recovery missions

Some of the areas this new bill covers in California include; The

Alabama Hills in Lone Pine designating the 18,000 acres as a National Scenic Area, The Santa Ana Land Wash Exchange in the San Bernardino area which will provide water storage and habitat, and California Desert Protection and Recreation Act which creates a system of Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation areas and expands some OHV areas in the California desert. It also adds and creates permanent wilderness areas on 375,000 acres of federal land, while releasing 124,000 acres that were wilderness study areas back to general use in the Cady Mountains and Soda Mountains regions. Other California areas in the plan include Joshua Tree, Death Valley, Anza-Borrego, Juniper Flats, and an area along the California-Nevada border.

This bill had widespread support from local governments, recreational groups and conservation groups. It is a model for how grassroots legislating should work as well as being a great example of bipartisan legislation.

On other matters; the Inyo National Forest held their Objection Resolution Meeting February 19-21. This is the process when persons or groups who filed an objection to the Report of Decision were given answers to their objections and the reasons behind the decisions. If you want to view these documents, please visit the Region 5 Planning page.

As far as I could find there is no new information on the Sequoia or the Sierra Forest's Plans. They are still working on their plans.

Please contact us with any questions or suggestions:

Thor Bodtker - thunder.t@hotmail.com
Troy Patton – bludog46@gmail.com



BCHC

SUBMITTING IDEAS TO THE BCHC BOARD

By Susie Patton, BCHC State Secretary

As most of you know BCHC is incorporated and we follow Roberts Rules of Order as stated in our bylaws. Since we are bound by rules of the IRS, corporate law and our bylaws, we are required to issue an agenda 30 days prior to each meeting. This allows the Directors and the Executive Board time to study the agenda, research information and in the case of the Directors to seek input from their Unit members. It is for this reason that we can only act on items that are listed on the agenda.

When Units have an idea, issue, fundraiser, suggestion, etc. that may affect or benefit all Units statewide and they want to get advice, approval, answers, etc. it is necessary to get the item on the agenda so it can be discussed and acted on.

Please note - this is not for Unit issues, those should be resolved according to your Unit bylaws.

If you have an item that you feel could benefit or affect Units statewide, you should discuss the issue at your Unit meeting, and submit, in writing, the proposal and all backup data to the State Secretary (bludog46@gmail.com) . She along with the President will review the information and, if it meets the criteria of being a statewide issue, they will place it on the agenda. You will be notified by email if/when it will be on the agenda. Keep in mind that the agenda goes out 30 days prior to the meeting so get it to the secretary in a timely manner (a week before the 30 days is good).

Please be sure your Director is able to explain the item during the meeting and answer any questions that may come up. Or, if desired, another member could attend the meeting and speak to the item. Also, do not email information to Units on your own as it needs to come out on the official agenda so everyone gets the same information.

We know our members have some great ideas, and we want to hear them in a way that we can discuss them, vote on them and enact them if approved.

MEETING INFORMATION:

Executive Board Only - Campout Meeting - August 1-3, - Agenda Deadline -June 24

State Board Meeting - October 11 & 12 - Santa Nella - Agenda Deadline- September 4

ALERT FOR ALL BCHC MEMBERS PLEASE TAKE ACTION

By Susie Patton, BCHC State Secretary

There has been a new bill introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives. It is called the "Restore our Public Lands Act" HR 6510. It currently has 66 co-signers 5 from California – Cook, Castro, Panetta, Takano and Garamendi. This bipartisan bill allocates funds to pay for the high-priority deferred maintenance that is needed to support critical infrastructure and visitor service at our nation parks, wildlife refuges and other public lands. This backlog totals \$16 billion.

The fund would draw from all sources of federal energy revenue onshore and offshore, including alternative and renewable energy sources such as wind, solar geothermal and hydropower; as well as private donations.

As Backcountry Horsemen of California we all need to support this bill. We would also like to suggest that the bill be amended to include support for the Forest Service to address their maintenance backlog.

Please write, call or email your local Representative and tell them you support HR 6510 and that you would like to see it include the Forest Service.



BCHC

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

INFORMATION BULLETIN



February 5, 2019

DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR TOWING HORSE OR STOCK TRAILERS

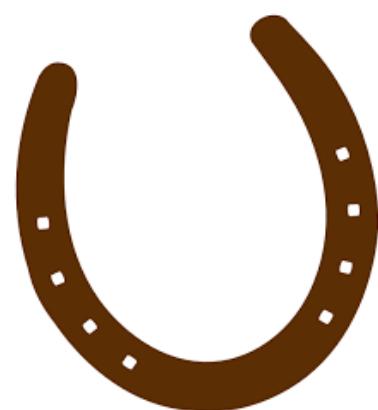
This Information Bulletin (IB) provides clarification regarding the operation of specified horse and stock trailers, and other vehicles which are subject to the requirement of holding a Class A commercial driver license (CDL) or a restricted Class A driver license (DL). Questions have arisen as to the applicability for a California licensed driver, who operates a vehicle when towing horse or stock trailers with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or a gross vehicle weight (GVW) of more than 10,000 pounds, to meet the requirement of obtaining or holding a Class A CDL.

The following California Vehicle Code (CVC) sections classify DL and CDL requirements for California residents when towing horse or stock trailers in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR or GVW.

Class A CDL: Section 12804.9(b)(1)(A) CVC allows the operation of a combination of vehicles when the vehicle being towed has a GVWR or GVW of more than 10,000 pounds. Most horse, stock, and other trailers may be operated using this class of license.

Class A Restricted (noncommercial) DL: Section 12804.12(a) CVC allows the operation of combinations of vehicles with a **restricted** Class A DL, also known as a noncommercial Class A DL, when towing a **trailer coach** exceeding 10,000 pounds GVWR, and a **fifth-wheel travel trailer** exceeding 15,000 pounds GVWR, when the towing of the trailer is not for compensation (**not for-hire or commercial use**). This DL is **not applicable** to horse and stock trailers. Additionally, Section 12804.14(a) CVC allows the operation of combinations of vehicles with a **restricted** Class A DL when towing a livestock trailer exceeding 10,000 pounds, but **not exceeding 15,000 pounds** GVWR or GVW, if **all of the following conditions are met**: the vehicle is controlled and operated by a **farmer**; the vehicle is used to transport livestock **to or from a farm**; the vehicle is not used in the operations of a common or contract carrier (**not for-hire or commercial use**); and the vehicle is used **within 150 miles of the person's farm**. This DL is **not applicable for recreational use**.

Class C DL: Section 12804.9(b)(3)(F)(ii) CVC allows the operation of combinations of vehicles with an endorsement (shown as a restriction 41) when towing a **trailer coach** exceeding 10,000 pounds GVWR, and a **fifth-wheel travel trailer** **not** exceeding 15,000



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CHP 47 (Rev. 10-13) OPI 003

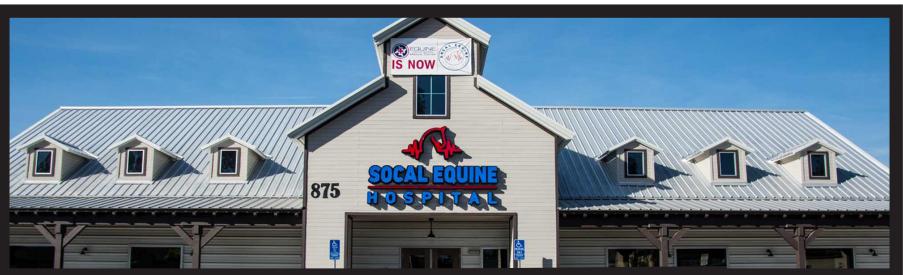
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The Arington Family

• BCHC SANTA ANA RIVER UNIT



RENDEZVOUS



Good homes were found for many horses.



Kristianne talking about her internship at the Forest Service Center of Excellence in 2018.

REFLECTION FROM RENDEZVOUS

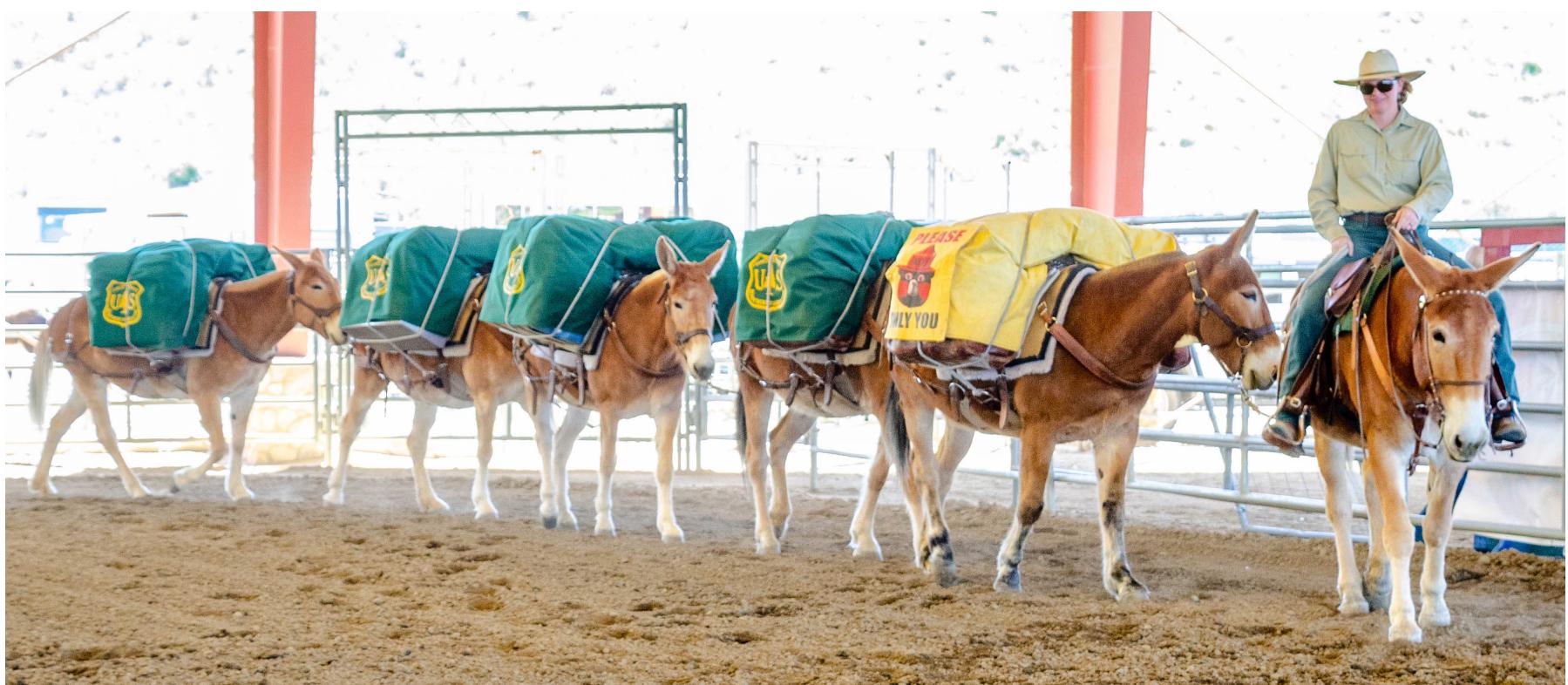


Mike Lewis and packing 101 at Norco.



As always these riders were a unanimous hit.

RENDEZVOUS



Photos by: Kyle Draper of the Mid Valley Unit

US Forest Service sharp looking pack string from Bishop, California.

2019 NORCO, CA



4-H kids in the packing contest.



A mule not to sure of the bridge that moves.

BCHA

BCHA NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

By Bob Magee, BCHA National Director

Dennis Serpa and I attended the BCHA National Board Meeting held in Asheville, North Carolina, in April. It was a three-day meeting for the board of directors (two from each state) to ensure BCHA is an organization you can be proud to associate with.

Report on 2019 BCHA National Board Meeting - Committees

I will be reporting on the 2019 BCHA National Board Meeting in several articles this year. I have a lot to share and I do not want to confuse you with a very long-winded article trying to cover everything. So here is your first installment.

BCHA Committees

The meeting before this one, held in Spokane, Washington, was the start of a movement to greatly improve the effectiveness of BCHA through the committee process. In the past, items were discussed at committee meetings during national board meetings, though there was little follow-up by the committees and therefore little would get accomplished. So, following that meeting there was an improved amount of activity at the committee level and work continued during the year by members of those committees.

There also have been some changes to the missions and structures of the various committees, and some elimination. For example, the Public Lands Committee was restructured this year as follows:

Role of the BCHA Public Lands Committee

1. The Public Lands Committee exists to work on public land issues as they pertain to the five principles of BCHA.
2. The Public Lands Committee will assist the BCHA state organizations when called upon to help with public lands issues. Public lands are defined as all publicly owned lands not just federally managed lands.
3. The Public Lands Committee will provide the state organizations with the resources and education to help them better understand how to deal with public land issues.
4. The Public Lands Committee will promote cooperation with all public land managers, as well as with those organizations with whom we share a common interest.
5. The committee shall help screen issues coming from states and recommend those issues that could have regional or national precedence or require response from the national organization and pass those issues on to the Director of Public Lands and Recreation.

How the BCHA Public Lands Committee is organized

1. Communication is very important for the public lands

committee to be successful.

2. There shall be one chairman of the public lands committee, who is responsible for the functions and duties outlined in Governing Policies 4.12.7.
3. The chairman of the Public Lands Committee and the Director of Public Lands and Recreation will work together to ensure that the Public Lands Committee is working to best serve the members of BCHA.
4. The United States shall be broken into regions. The regions will be primarily based on Forest Service Regions but other factors will be considered.
5. Each region shall have a chair. The regional chairs will report to the chair. The states in each region shall have at least one member each on their regional public lands committee. Each region shall work with its members on local and regional public lands issues.
6. Each month the regional public lands chairs will meet with the BCHA Public Lands Committee chair on a conference call. The purpose of the meeting is for the regional chairs to share what is going on in their regions with each other and to influence as a group which items BCHA should be handling as opposed to being taken care of at the local level. It also is a time for the BCHA public lands chair to share with the regional chairs what is going on with public lands that they should be aware of and pass on to the rest of their committee. Communication is everything.
7. Regional public lands groups are encouraged to meet on a monthly basis.
8. A member of the Public Lands Committee does not have to be a member of the BCHA National Board.

Starting Point for Splitting BCHA into Regions

Far West Region - WA, OR, ID, CA, AK

South West Region – NV, UT, AZ, NM

Rocky Mountain Region – MT, CO, ND, SD, WY

North East Region – MO, IA, KS, MN, WI, IL, MI, IN, NY

South East Region – AL, GA, FL, SC, NC, VA, TN, KY, AR

This is just a starting point for the regions. Any state may decide to participate in a different region contiguous to itself.

This is a living list and may be changed at any time.

As you see with this one committee, a substantial change. These BCHA committees are open to all members who feel they have a desire to help with the work these committees do. You can join a committee. Here is where you find a list of those committees and the chair persons who are in charge:
<http://www.bcha.org/about/> At the bottom of the page. Join now!

Keeping Trails Open For Everyone!

BCHA

BCHA 2019 National Board Meeting Accounting:

By Bob Magee, BCHA National Director

NUMBERS

Here are the numbers collected for 2018 associated with volunteer work:

91,416	Basic Hours
1,057	Miles Driven
666,815	Stock Hauling
10,956	Stock Days
322,125	Total Hours
\$12,105,284	value

The total for the last 22 years is 5,419,862 hours for a total donated dollar value of \$151,910,976 Wow!! Thanks BCHC Members for all your hard work and help achieving these numbers.

BCHA income for 2018 came from; Dues 55%, Donations 32% and Grants 11.5%

Total Income	\$205,993.94
Total Expenses	\$199,144.22
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 6,849.72
Legacy Fund Donations	\$ 36,921.66

What is this Legacy Fund??? Is being set up to assure our future financial security. The long term goal is to raise \$500,000 from donations and bequests – after life gifts. Once the goal is achieved, income from those funds will provide an annual income for BCHA. It is hoped that the fund value will increase after attaining the initial goal.

Five (5) principles of BCHA

- 1) To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness areas.
- 2) To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational use.
- 3) To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- 4) To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
- 5) To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen's organizations.



NATIONAL DIRECTORS' THOUGHTS

By BCHA National Directors Dennis Serpa and Bob Magee

How about taking your Backcountry Horsemen (BCH) membership to the next level?

Or spending a few minutes checking out the BCHA website? The BCHA website contains a tremendous amount of information about BCH activities, history and how to make yourself into a more educated member who can promote the organization's objectives. To get to the members section, you have to sign in with your username or email address and use BCHA2016 for the password. First go to Chapter Resources, then try out the Education Architecture section. The BCHA Education Committee has done a bang-up job of showcasing BCHA operations and what we're all about. This page even has a complete guide to Officers Training for those who missed out on local BCHC workshops.

After that, take a look at the Membership Resources and you will find numerous pages of tips and tricks to inspire you to make your local unit into a more refined operation. Try out the BCHW Membership Handbook. It will provide you with an abundance of ideas to develop ways to increase, renew and motivate your members. Go to: <https://cdn.ymaws.com/bcha-site-ym.com/resource/collection/B8795F31-254C-4E4E-A56E-EB1766DCF2B8/BCHWA%20Membership%20Development%20handbook.pdf>

On April 7, we traveled to Asheville, North Carolina, to participate in the National Board Meeting held annually in a different state. At this meeting two board members representing each state come together to conduct the BCHA business that governs organizational operations. As National Directors we take our state information to the national and return with BCHA updates to share with local units at the BCHC state board meeting. Please go to www.bcha.org then to the National Board Meeting 2019 and you will find a complete listing of all that went on during the three-day meeting. A lot was covered and accomplished. The newly elected BCHA officers include: Chairman Darrell Wallace from Washington State, Vice Chair Sherry Copeland from Missouri and Treasurer Mark Himmel from Montana.



BCHC

SUPPORT SB 415 - TOWING LAW

By Bob Magee, BCHA National Director

We need to change our transportation law in California regarding towing of horse trailers.

Please help to change the law!

Currently, any of us towing a Horse trailer that has a gross weight rating in excess of 10,000 GVRW pounds requires a COMMERCIAL CLASS A licensed from the DMV.

GVRW is what the trailer is capable of carrying, not what it actually weighs. Most all of us with a LQ trailer and Class C license is in violation.

Good news there is some legislation that is moving forward to increase the limit to 15,000 GVRW with a Class C and a written test. We are suggesting that everyone that tows horse trailers to contact their local congressman and tell them you are in favor of SB 415.

Here is the link to find your State Senate and Assembly representatives.

<http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

Here is the link showing the changes for SB 415. Please endorse and support this and let your local politician know and to adopt the Federal Guideline below.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billVersionsCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB415

The deadline for submissions for the Spring 2019 EDITION of the Backcountry News is:

July 15, 2019

Submissions to: BCHC Editor
BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com

DO YOU RIDE AT POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE? *Here's an Exciting Update*

By Bob Cooper, Mid Valley Unit

Jennifer Stock is the new acting head of interpretation at Point Reyes National Seashore. She recently sent out the following bit of information about Stewart Horse Camp:

"Since late 2018, when the former operator notified the National Park Service (NPS) they would no longer be operating the Stewart Horse Camp within Point Reyes National Seashore, the NPS has been working to coordinate the continued seasonal operation of the Horse Camp without an interruption of visitor services. The NPS is in the process of obtaining approval for a temporary concession contract, including identification of qualified operator, which will allow services to continue while the NPS develops the longer term contract for operations at this site. The NPS anticipates operations under the temporary contract to commence sometime in May 2019"

Can't breathe freely yet, but the park is working on it. Keep your fingers crossed.

Update from the *Pt. Reyes Light* newsletter:

CORDELL BANK STAFFER STEPS IN AS POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE SPOKESWOMAN

By Anna Guth 04/17/2019

When John Dell'Osso retired in March from his decades-long post as chief of interpretation for the Point Reyes National Seashore in March, an employee from the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary—which has an office across the creek at the Bear Valley Visitor Center—stepped into his shoes for an interim period. On an interagency detail, Jennifer Stock, who has served as an education and outreach coordinator for the sanctuary for the past 18 years, has taken over the role of translating all of the park's happenings for the public through Sept. 30 while the park looks for a permanent hire. Ms. Stock, a Petaluma resident, started her career as a seasonal interpreter for Fire Island National Seashore in New York and Assateague Island National Seashore in Virginia. "I've spent a lot of time on the water, hiking and enjoying the park. Since I started my career in the park service, this feels like coming home," she told the Light. "The sanctuaries in the water off Point Reyes already work collaboratively, but this is great for encouraging interagency collaboration, so we can learn more about each other."

BCHC

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

By Chip Herzig and Dan Horn - Co-Chairman

Chip and I wanted to give you a quick update on the progress of our BCHC Strategic Plan.

We have assembled a strong committee and hired a leading firm to help us with drafting this long needed document. Our committee is working with webinar conference calls hosted by our firm. This is a very effective method of being able to review documents and have conversation at the same time from our homes. This tool is something our Cowboy world needs to learn more about. (Rendezvous Meetings)

Our Committee has held two meetings and now is at the point that we need input from all of you. Chip recently sent out a small survey to all Unit Presidents seeking information on your Unit Activities and Events. We hope that your Units jumps at the chance to supply our committee with help in putting together the different aspects of our BCHC Strategic Plan. I know that this will not be the last request that we put before you and that these requests will have a short response time so as not to hold up the progress of the committee. So please bear with us and respond as timely as possible. We can't drag this out like the Bee Flyer and stay within budget with the firm.

Our hopeful time line for this project is to have something to present to you all at the October meeting and a final document by the February Meeting.

I would like to thank the Committee Members that step up to this task. They all have the experience and dedication that it will take to complete this goal.

Our Committee

Karen Lopes, Lynn Joiner, Susie Patton, Jacque Murphy, Pete Krieger, Bob Magee, Lloyd Erlandson, Lynn Esposti

If you have any question please feel free to contact:
Chip Herzig or Dan Horn.

BCHA Member Benefits & Discount

- BCHA member please take advantage of benefits and discount programs with the following providers:
 - Equisure, Inc. for Excess Personal Liability Insurance
 - AirMedCare Network, for medical transport by Air
 - John Deere, for discounts up to \$2500
 - Have Saddle will Travel - Discounts
- To learn more about these offers go to:
<https://bcha.site-ym.com/page/Benefits>

SAW PROGRAM

By Dan Horn - BCHC Saw Coordinator

On the Monday after Rendezvous I was in Sacramento for the Annual Region 5 Saw Meeting. This was my 3rd year representing BCHC at this invitation only meeting. Present was every Forest Saw Coordinator for Region 5 and 4 Co-Operator Groups. Has taken a few years, but our acceptance at this meeting is starting to result in more cooperation with the Forest Coordinators.

Pete Duncan the National Saw Coordinator opened the meeting with an update on the restriction put in place last year by WDC Office not to buy any more Stihl chainsaws because of concerns with fuel geysering. The moratorium to purchase was put in place so as to not add anymore to inventory while a solution was being researched. There things such as vaporless fueling systems that are being tested. What was learned is that there is no real solution. All fuel containers can geyser under the right conditions and the factor of the current fuel blend. The big issue with Stihl Saws is the quarter turn fuel cap. There are some alternatives that are being worked on, but nothing final yet. There are no restrictions on use, only purchase of new ones.

This led into an hour long presentation by the Factory Reps from Husqvarna chainsaw. They were presenting their newest GEN3 Autotune 500 series electronic saws. Ergonomically these saws have really come a long way. With everything from outboard clutches to electronic carburetors and an elongated chassis.

Pete Duncan announced that Missoula Technology Development Center is working on a new saw curriculum that is slated to be out 6/2020. Retirement of personal and personal leaving the Forest Service have slowed the process down.

There was some discussion about JHAs and their need to address the particular project and not necessarily the hazards particular to the tool used on the project. We need to look at the Risk Assessment of the uncontrollable elements of each project and that this risk be covered in the Tailgate Session at the start of each work day. Making sure our folks have the proper training before beginning any work project or activity shall ensure volunteers are able to identify and manage potential risks and basic safety and health precautions of which they should be aware in order to perform the work safely.

The National Sawyer Data Base has been held up by Homeland Security and will probably be another year before it is rolled out.

Chip and I will be adding some new information to the BCHC Web Site Safety Tab. There is an updated FSH 6709.11 Health and Safety Code Handbook out. We know how you Cowboys enjoy reading Government Guide Handbooks, so we will be extracting the portions that most commonly apply to the tasks we face. Please take a look.

If your Unit needs or wants to hold a Sawyer Class, please click on the Saw Tab on BCHC Web Site or contact Dan Horn for assistance.

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL INDIVIDUALS

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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Los Padres	Kaye Bruns Otis Calef Robin and Reid Cederlof James McGarry Kathleen L. Redden
Mid Valley	Tony and Karyn Alamo Karen Barindelli Jay and Elizabeth Barnes Gary A. and Michelle L. Cain Rien and Lieske Doornenbal Carol Jo Hargreaves and Larry Schneider Rian Hudson, Rylee Gouvea & Rebecca, Regen Hudson John V. Marshall Jennifer Marshall MID VALLEY UNIT Dan and Toni Peterson Action Coalition Donna Jones Furlow Terri Riley
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High Sierra	Richard and Dena Cochran
Kern Sierra	Vincent Zaninovich
Mid Valley	Lloyd and Susan Erlandson
Mother Lode	Dennis M. and Loretta Serpa Timothy and Michaela Durbin

MT. WHITNEY (\$500)

Eastern Sierra	Sarah C. Sheehan
Mid Valley	Terri Arington Christine Kaplan
Redshank Riders	Ron Robertson - <i>In Remembrance of Korky Robertson</i>
Shasta Trinity	Dean and Laura Angelides

WANT TO START A NEW UNIT?

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

MAIL YOUR BCHC MEMBERSHIPS TO:
BCHC Membership
1280 State Rt. 208,
Yerington, NV 89447

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

These new members have joined BCHC between
March 3, 2019 and April 25, 2019

THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS

We look forward to meeting you!!

Antelope Valley
High Sierra

Kern Sierra
Los Padres
Mid Valley

Mother Lode

Redshank Riders

Redwood
San Diego

San Joaquin Sierra
Santa Ana River

Sequoia
Top of the State

Walker Brooks
Trish Pendegraft
Teri Thurbus
Marion Vargas
Margo A Anderson
Mary Angell
Diane Gomes
Nancy Reimers
Jeanlaurie Ainsworth
Tom Cooper
Julie Lurette
Jack Mills
Nabil Samaan
Jennifer Sandies
Laurie Sweeney
Kristin Thompson
Tiffany Van der Linden
Dr. Robert Bray
Dave Capron
Barbara Croonquist
Dr. Becky Gilday
James Good
Lindsay Crowley-Hower, DVM
Anitra kass
Margo Machen DVM, PhD
Wade Mauhl
Joe Novy
Trent Peterson
Matt Sheridan
Dave Stumbaugh
Jerry Tindell
Jeri Tripp
Stacie Clark
Kathleen Fitz-Cheney
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Kristen Lee
Erin Bell
Jeffery Cover
Jared Johnson
Sheldon Miller
Chris Downs
Robert Turk-Bly

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

SAVE TIME AND MONEY BY SHOPPING ONLINE!

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BCHC Units Around the State

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PO Box 84
Pearblossom, CA 93553
www.bchc-avunit.org

Marcy Watton
(661) 878-1791
HorsingRound@aol.com

EASTERN SIERRA

PO Box 157
Olancha, CA 93549
Cynthia McCarthy
(760) 873-4939
cynthia_mccarthy@swbell.net

HIGH COUNTRY

PO Box 161
Milford, CA 96121
Cindy McMurry
(530) 640-0429
mcmurrcindy@gmail.com

HIGH SIERRA

PO Box 33
Exeter, CA 93221
www.highsierraunit.org
Dan Baumgardner
(559) 334-7731
danbdraffhorse@yahoo.com

KERN RIVER VALLEY

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

KERN SIERRA

16347 Stephenie Rd
Bakersfield, CA 93314-9669
Tammy Bozarth
(661) 322-2545
spashiners@yahoo.com

LAKE-MENDO

6980 Potter Valley Rd
Ukiah, CA 95482
Lisa Deas
(831) 402-7482
muledaze@yahoo.com

LOS PADRES

606 S. Hart Dr.
Santa Maria, CA 93454
www.bchc-lpunit.org
Shirley Rasmussen
(805) 610-0934
shirleyrasmussenreg@peoplepc.com

MID VALLEY

PO Box 1709
Modesto, CA 95353
www.bchcmidvalley.org
Jim Westmoreland
(209) 815-3125
jimwestmorelandsem@gmail.com

MOTHER LODGE

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

NORTH BAY

PO Box 9435
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www.northbayunit.com
Thor Bodtker
(415) 328-4545
thunder.t@hotmail.com

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Jennifer Sponsler
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www.redwoodunit.com
Carole Polasek
(707) 786-9637
Cell: (707) 599-8021
muleride15@gmail.com

SAN DIEGO

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

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA

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

SANTA ANA RIVER

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

SEQUOIA

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

SHASTA TRINITY

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

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mlrmob10@gmail.com

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LaRae L. Sizer
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rae4travl@gmail.com

TOP OF THE STATE

PO Box 461
Etna, CA 96027-0461
www.bchc-tos.com
Ed Matthews
(530) 842-5872
hereinyreka@nctv.com

**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.

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

Email: membership@bchcalifornia.org
Phone: (775) 463-3634

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**MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION**

New Renewal

Change

(indicate change)

Antelope Valley
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 High Country
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 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

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

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: _____ (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)

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: _____

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membership** is
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BCHC unit
president's
reports (2)
BCHC
membership
chair reports (3)
a self- addressed
stamped
envelope
submitted with
this form or (4)
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