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

BCHC

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 OF CALIFORNIA
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The Backcountry News



Volume 16, Issue 3

The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

Fall 2009



STATE BOARD MEETS IN VISALIA OCTOBER 9-10



MEETING SCHEDULE:

Friday, October 9th: Executive Committee Meeting at 5:30pm in the Pine Room - Order dinner off the menu.

Saturday, October 10th: Education Meeting: 9:00am-noon in the Pine Room

Saturday, October 10th: Public Lands Meeting: 9:00am - noon in the Plaza Room

Saturday, October 10th: Board of Directors Meeting: 1:00 - 5:00 in the Plaza Room

Saturday, October 10th: Happy Hour with Unit Reports 5:30 in the Plaza Room



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Fall State Board Meeting
October 9th & 10th, 2009
Holiday Inn, Visalia



HOTEL INFORMATION:

Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Visalia
 9000 West Airport Drive, Visalia 93277
 Hotel phone #: 1-559-651-5000
 Reservation phone #: 1-800-465-4329

Rooms: \$99.00 + tax/night King or Double Queen, smoking or non-smoking. Reservations must be made by October 1st using the code: Backcountry Horsemen. Check-in on Friday, October 9th.

Hotel's website is:
www.visaliaca.holiday-inn.com

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

The Backcountry News

A Quarterly Publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

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Who Is BCHC? The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc. is a 501 (c) (4) non profit organization incorporated in the State of California, March 13, 1990, with a 501 (c) (3) education foundation established in 2007. The Backcountry Horsemen of California Inc., reserves the right to refuse any advertisements and/or articles that are inconsistent with the Backcountry Horsemen of California's objectives and purpose statement. Other material will be printed at the Editor's discretion.

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

Reader Submission - The Backcountry News welcomes reader contributions, event and calendar dates, and Unit news. These will be printed on a space-available basis. Submissions may be sent on disk in a Microsoft Word format, emailed or sent by regular mail.

Longer articles are subject to edit for space at the discretion of the Editor. Photos will 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
December 11, 2009	January 2009 - Winter
April 9, 2010	May 2010 - Spring/Summer
August 13, 2010	September 2010 - Fall

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

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.

2009 Executive Committee

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Rendezvous 2010

General Chairman: Larry Shuman • (530) 526-0590 or (530) 941-8529 • shuman@hughes.net

Event Planner: John Black • (209) 537-1516 • johnbfatman@aol.com

Web Coordinator

Lisa Deas • (831) 402-7492 • muledaze@yahoo.com

Membership Matters

Contact Membership Coordinator, Karen Harper.
She will address any of your questions or concerns.

Karen can be reached Monday through Friday,

Toll free: 1-866-748-2033

By mail: P.O. Box 1610, Oakdale, CA 95361-1610

Or by email: membership@bchcalifornia.org/

President's Page



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been an interesting summer when it comes to the public agencies we work with. As stimulus money filtered down more projects in our forests, National Parks, and other public lands projects picked up.

Unfortunately those Units that worked with the State parks may have had just the opposite experience. This makes it hard to have a

handle on what each Unit can plan for each year. I guess we will know the real effects of the changes this summer when each Unit starts to turn in their Work Project Summaries for 2009.

As to the budget crisis, the past two years the BCHC Board has worked hard to keep a lid on costs and the Units stepped up to help out with Insurance costs this year. It seems to be working. At the current time we are staying at a breakeven level. We also seem to be holding steady with membership. All of this combined has helped. We should have more information and more detail at the October meeting. We are not out of the woods yet but we seem to have a path showing us the way out. We will probably have to keep our belts tight and have the cooperation of the Units awhile longer until the economy kicks in and people are more apt to spend money on joining organizations. I just wish our state and federal governments would follow the lead of organizations like ours that work together to avoid a crisis.

Some of us on the Rendezvous Committee visited the Klamath Falls Packing and Wilderness Skills Clinic put on in May by High Desert Trail Riders and Back Country Horsemen in Klamath Falls, Oregon. We talked to some of the event organizers and looked over how they put it together. Unfortunately I could not stay very long but some Rendezvous Committee members stayed and we came away with some good information. We hope to start putting some of it to use at BCHC Rendezvous 2010. We seem to be on the right track as we had some great feedback from the 2009 Rendezvous. The feedback you give us is very important and we take all comments seriously so please feel free to submit ideas.

For the Rendezvous Committee to consider ideas for 2010 we need them submitted by October. That is when the jobs are handed out and it is hard to adjust after this.

I hope everyone had a fun and safe work summer.



NOTICE: As a cost-saving measure, we will only publish 3 editions of The Backcountry News in 2009.

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

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

State BCHC



AUGUST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

By Larry Shuman, BCHC President

This year we had the August Executive Board Meeting at Grey's Meadow in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Lynn Joiner hosted the meeting and I must say she spoiled us. The scenery was fantastic and so was the company. The aesthetics made it worthwhile to travel the distances we did for the meeting. For more on how the trip went please read Lisa's article. My job is to report on the meeting.



Of course, we had a regular agenda: Approval of the minutes, correspondence, Secretary's report, etc. I will try to touch the highlights of the meeting that are of the most interest.

BCHC membership seems to be holding steady. We think we have dropped about 20 members since March but since we did not have previous demographics with us we were not sure. We hope we can reverse the downward trend. Until we gain more members our finances will be affected as well as our clout with the agencies. The new membership form is now online and has the addition of donation capability added it. Please make sure your Unit points their website to the form and that your Unit newsletters contain the new form.

Lisa gave a report on the webpage. We seem to be getting mostly good comments on the webpage so we are headed in the right direction. We also talked about advertising on our website, trading ad space with like-minded organizations we support with our presence at events, etc. The spreadsheets for the member lists seem to be working for most Units. There have been some complaints but we think we can get them all worked out. The website is a great way to make sure information gets to BCHC Units and membership in a timely manner.

The other major item we discussed was the finances of BCHC. We seem to be holding steady at this time so the cost cutting and responsibility for insurance costs the Units took on seem to be working. We should have a better breakdown on all expenses and income by the October State Board Meeting. We discussed ways to make money in an ongoing fashion. We will be looking into selling patches, t-shirts, posters, bumper stickers, and other items at the state booth and through the newsletter. Lisa will also look at making the items we come up with available on the website. These are items that may be sold year around and are not specific to an event like Rendezvous.

Last, Chip as Past President is getting a list together of those wishing to be nominated for Board positions at the October meeting. If you or someone you know want to run for the Board, please contact Chip Herzog and have your name added as a possible nomination. We will also take nominations at the meeting. This is your chance to take an active part in the workings of the state organization. I know there are a lot of people who care about the organization and who have some great ideas. Please think about participating.



Pictured from left to right: Michael Murphy, Kaye Bruns, Larry Shuman, Lisa Deas and Chip Herzog.

State BCHC

OF TAILS & TRAILS FROM THE BCHC WEBMULE

by Lisa Deas, BCHC Webmaster

The month of August found most of the State Executive Committee members meeting up at Lynn Joiner's beautiful home in Bakersfield prior to departing for our pack-in trip in the Sequoia National Forest, Golden Trout Wilderness. Lynn set the standard and raised the bar as a hostess and welcoming committee. Larry Shuman picked me up and stayed one night on the cool coast midway between Salinas and Monterey. We highlined his three horses, enjoyed a nice dinner and left early on a Wednesday morning, adding my little mule to his herd heading for Bakersfield. What a difference in temperatures! Larry put quite a few miles on his truck and trailer as he lives in Cottonwood, near Redding, and traveled, all the way across our state then back to the Central Valley! We arrived at Lynn's house and met up with Kaye Bruns and Chip and Linda Herzig. Lynn had munchies and the best food from the time we arrived and all during our campout. I swear Lynn is an event planner by nature! A HUGE thank you to Lynn and her husband for letting us all enjoy the comforts of their home.

We got up early Thursday morning and caravanned to the Sequoia National Forest. Lynn and another BCHC member, Bonnie are park volunteers and as a result of their commitment to the park, they have access to an old Forest Service cabin complete with shower stalls, kitchen, bunk beds, fire ring, artesian well, and much more. The critters were lucky to have a huge fenced in pasture to enjoy frolicking and

playing "getting to know you" with each other. Michael Murphy and Carrie Johnen met us at the park and we then loaded and packed nine pack animals. Since I'm new to packing and this was only my second pack trip, everyone was very helpful in showing me how to balance the loads, use spring scales and tie knots. It was fascinating to me to see how each person has a unique way of doing knots or buckles and, of course, safety was in the forefront of the list!

We left the staging area in groups, the dust was looming large and I do not recall having anything other than an uneventful passage through the forests to the cabin. Once we all arrived and settled in, we enjoyed catching up on news and really spending some quality time getting to know each other personally and not just on a business level. I think everyone who knows me, realizes what a non-serious person I am as every time anyone said anything, it reminded me of a song. Thirteen years of choir will do that to a person and maybe, just maybe, I'll do a little ditty at the Friday Night Social at the 2010 Rendezvous! Lynn and Bonnie were dominant and instrumental in the food domain! They had us feasting on the most wonderful edibles the entire time, not one stone (or bread crumb) made by this dynamic duo was left unturned! I noticed when it was time to pack out and leave, there was not much food left to tote home, a true sign of good cooking and great eating!

Friday was our State Executive Committee Meeting and we covered a lot of ground. Topics ranged from new Gentle Use flyers to Rendezvous to merchandising and more. We came to agreements and understandings on many, many hot topics and issues. We PROMISE the 2010 Rendezvous in

Merced will be one of the BEST ever! Welcome back trainers Jerry Tindell and Matt Sheridan. The Marines are waiting for their class schedule but will come if there is no conflict with courses. We anticipate and hope the Mountain Men will return, along with so many other folks that truly make our Rendezvous fun, exciting, educational and worth the time and energy spent. The Education Committee along with the State Board and Rendezvous Committee are dedicated to making this year's event full of surprises and some new activities. This year's theme "Pack to the Future, Tomorrow's Packers" is geared towards our youth. Look for many classes and audience participation from our next generation. The very popular Opening Ceremony and Parade will be held again this year. (More to follow on all the above and more, so please stay tuned, check our BCHC state website often and look in your mailboxes for coming announcements.)

Here is a smattering of the ideas and action plans the Executive Committee discussed:

We will be adding a **Paypal/Donation button** to the BCHC State Website in addition to our new **Membership Application**. For those who did not get the news, we now have a NEW BCHC Membership Application that is an all-in-one form for new/renewals and donations.

A new/revised digital **BCHC logo** is being developed as our old logo has lost its original luster.

We plan to add the **Donor Form on-line** for convenience. We also plan to post the "flow" of how to process donations to alleviate questions and help with clarity.

The small **Gentle Use Brochure** has been redesigned to fit on a

standard 8 1/2 by 11" sheet and will be posted on the website soon!

The **2010 BCHC Calendar** will feature KIDS, parents and grandparents. We feel this will help generate more sales and continue our quest to involve our future generation in BCHC. Please start submitting your digital pictures to:

muledaze@yahoo.com

DEADLINE for pictures is November 30th, 2009. This will give me plenty of time to get the calendar published and ready for holiday orders!

Unit and/or Corporate

Sponsorships – we are highly encouraging **ALL Units** to help by becoming a sponsor for trainers and other guests at our Rendezvous. Like the **North Bay Unit**, who once again offered to sponsor the cost of the Marines, we NEED your support! Please discuss at your Unit meetings and get involved at this level. Whether it is your Unit or outside companies, stores, and/or corporations, we should all be attempting to solicit monetary donations to supplement the outstanding folks who want to participate in our Rendezvous and who add so much to our educational efforts.

Merchandising - we have added units to the State website that offer BCHC merchandise. In our efforts to increase our working capital, we decided to begin to sell unique BCHC items on our website. We will start small and continue to add items for your "Check Out Basket"! Not necessarily in order of what we hope to start with but rather what we brainstormed about:

BCHC patches for shirts/manties
BCHC t-shirts

State BCHC

OF TAILS & TRAILS, *continued* from Page 5

BCHC bumper stickers – larger than current stickers

BCHC license plate frames

BCHC posters – The annual BCHC Rendezvous poster will now be sold!!!! Start collecting yours now!

BCHC tire covers

BCHC wine glasses

BCHC kerchiefs

BCHC coffee mugs

BCHC hoodies (hooded sweatshirts)

Once the business portion of our trip was conducted, the ladies had a lovely hike and enjoyed the scenery. The next day we journeyed approximately two hours into the Forest to another cabin maintained by some BCHC Sequoia Unit members. Trout Meadow (Trout Meadow Ranger Station). The BCHC members are from the Antelope Valley Unit and belong to Sequoia Unit as Associate Members. We were warmly greeted and had a lovely tour of this cabin by: Eric and Pat Gordon, Bethel Gordon (Eric's mom) and Kelly Carle. Our travels then took us to an old homestead across the way, located in the National Forest. Paul Frisbee had joined us for the Executive Committee Meeting as a guest and he has been helping pack items to this homestead for years, so he was our tour guide on this property. It was quite impressive with breath taking views of the mountainous area and meadows.

We had coyotes howling early each morning, a rattlesnake was spotted, Bonnie had a couple dogs with her and one of her little babies got ill and she had to rush out with her

pack string a day early. The little dog Cizzy is just fine now thank goodness! Other than lots of eating and story telling, we packed up and left our cozy cabin and tents for the comforts of home.

Thanks to everyone on the Executive Committee for making this such a successful meeting! I look forward to hosting the 2010 meeting somewhere here on the Central Coast.

I'm always looking for pictures for the website, love feedback and new ideas and always appreciate any help in general. Thanks for all the good work each and every one of you do. It is amazing what a village can accomplish that one person alone could never dream of. It is because of our passion, love, and dedication that we belong to BCHC. With our new goal of passing our heritage down the line, we must continue to educate our youth and be mentors for them to continue the mission at hand.

We hope to see you all in Visalia for the BCHC State Board Meeting, October 9th & 10th. You have received your 45-day Notice by now. Please check the BCHC state website often for updates and news. Rendezvous 2010 will be held at the Merced County Fairgrounds, March 19 – 21, 2010. Mark your calendars and don't forget to email me your pictures for the 2010 BCHC KOWKIDS Calendar!!!

Yours on and off the trail!

Lisa Deas is BCHC Webmule & Co-VP of Education as well as North Bay Unit Newsletter Editor. Lisa can be reached at: muledaze@yahoo.com <http://www.bchcalifornia.org>

**The deadline for submissions for the Winter 2009 edition of The Backcountry News is:
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2009
Send submissions to news@bchcalifornia.org OR cjohargreaves@clearwire.net
or mail to
1229 Maple Hill Ct.
Manteca, CA 95336-5125**



YOU ARE INVITED

**to
RENDEZVOUS 2010
to be held at
Merced Fairgrounds
Friday-Sunday,
March 19-21, 2010**

***Theme:*
“Pack to the Future - Today’s
Youth, Tomorrow’s Packers”
Mark your calendars & plan to attend**

Education

NEW BCHC CALENDAR AVAILABLE FOR 2010

BCHC is proud to announce upcoming production of the **2010 BCHC KowKids Kalendar**. In our best effort to bring today's youth into BCHC, **please submit photos of your children, grandchildren (cowgrandmas and cowgranddaddies as well as parents in the picture are most welcome, too) in digital form to: Lisa Deas, muledaze@yahoo.com. THE DEADLINE FOR PHOTO SUBMISSION IS NOVEMBER 1, 2009.**



I will create the calendar and have it ready for purchase by December 1, 2009 to give us lots of time to wrap those holiday gift calendars. Your BCHC kids, animals, camping and packing trips, events, and Dutch oven cooking pictures are all acceptable. Keep your eye on the state website for purchasing information!

I look forward again this year to helping add a few pennies to our Education Fund (last year we made \$200 for the BCHC Education Fund through our calendar sales). My personal goal is to double last year's profit, so please email those pictures and get ready to share your loved ones on a gift celebrating our heritage and 2010!

Thanks to each and every one of you for what you do to make BCHC a most worthwhile organization!

RENDEZVOUS JOBS AND YEAR-END DEADLINES

By C.J. Hargreaves, BCHC Editor

Units will be volunteering for Rendezvous 2010 job duties at the October State Board Meeting. There are many, many tasks associated with putting on a high-quality event. A more detailed description of each job will be distributed at the meeting. Following is a list of the larger jobs. Please come prepared to take on one or more of them. You may partner with other Units, if desired, to accomplish these large tasks.

- Alcohol Sales
- Live and/or Silent Auction
- BLM Adoption Coordination
- Contests, including Pack Scramble and Dutch Oven Cooking
- Friday Night Social
- Gates, RV and Walk-In
- Kids' Activities
- Raffle, Small and/or Large
- State Booth
- Volunteer Coordination
- Wine and Cheese Vendor Reception

In addition to the above jobs, each Unit is responsible for a variety of year-end reports. A list of tasks and their deadlines will be distributed at the State Board Meeting. Here's a reminder of what's coming up:

VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS

Members turn Volunteer Service and Education Hours in to the Unit Education Chair.
Wilderness Riders submit Volunteer Service Hours through the Unit Education Chair as well as to Ken Graves.
Unit Education Chairs (only) turn aggregated Unit Volunteer Service Hours in to BCHC 2nd VP.

TOP HAND AWARD

Unit Presidents select the individual(s) who provided the greatest service to the President and his/her Unit. Turn names in to Lynn Joiner.

MAX & IRENE COCHRAN JOURNALISM AWARD

Mail paper copies of your Unit newsletters, as they were mailed to your Unit members, to: Carol Jo Hargreaves, Editor.

INDIVIDUAL AND UNIT EDUCATION AWARDS

Submit nomination forms to Education Co-VPs.

BEN YORK TRAILBLAZER AWARD

Any member may nominate, by letter, anyone he/she feels has demonstrated qualities of a "trail blazer" (blazed new trails in some facet of the operations of the organization). Submit nominations to Lynn Joiner.

RENDEZVOUS AUCTION ITEMS

Each Unit is responsible for contributing \$1.00 per member or the equivalent value in high quality goods to be auctioned. Deliver to the Auction Chairperson at the Rendezvous venue.

BCHA

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA



BCHA NATIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT FROM FORT WORDEN, WASHINGTON

By Michael Murphy, BCHA Director

What a fantastic spot for a meeting - Fort Worden, Washington! This is the fort in the 1982 movie, "An Officer and a Gentleman". It is located on the Olympic Peninsula, on Puget Sound near Port Townsend. The weather was great 'til the end then the typical grey skies appeared, blocking the view of Mt. St. Helens.

The meeting was very productive. An Executive Director of Issues and Policies position was created and Dennis Dailey our Wilderness Consultant was hired for \$25,000 a year plus \$10,000 for travel expenses. This will give Dennis the ability to represent BCHA full-time and speak in Washington, D.C. What a powerful statement to the Congress, Senate, Forest Service, BLM, National Park Service and all other public lands agencies to have an expert voice supporting livestock in the backcountry! I called Dennis to invite him to speak at Rendezvous 2010 in Merced.

We think we have trouble with State Parks in California! Alabama shared some of the issues they are dealing with which made me feel we have a lot to be thankful for in California.

A resolution was passed that the Board of Directors of BCHA

would pursue recognition as "the national equine public lands trail organization". BCHA will become the primary provider of nationwide low impact stock use training.

Guest speakers were from the American Horse Council, Wilderness Society, Forest Service, BLM, American Hiking Society and the National Park Service. Ben Pendergrass from the American Horse Council discussed the Right to Ride Bill and the need to find Senators or Congressmen to support and work on the Bill. He stressed the importance of informing the Natural Resource Committee and the Senate of the list of trails and access points that are closed. He encouraged us to ask our representatives to join the Congressional Horse Caucus. Pendergrass stressed the importance of horses as agriculture - they must be considered livestock. There have been numerous studies on the horse's benefit to the economy. HR503-Equine Cruelty Act prohibits transportation of horses for slaughter for human consumption.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP), an assistance program run by the Federal Highway Administration, doles out money to states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses. RTP's budget was increased to \$550 million but this might not continue. The American Horse Council urges people to sign up for its Congressional Cavalry Program. You will be put on an e-mail, fax or mail list so you can be contacted quickly for grassroots lobbying on industry-related issues.

The next speakers were from The Wilderness Society. They went over the Wilderness Act introduced and promoted by Sand County

Almanac author, Aldo Leopold, and the development of wilderness studies. Wilderness areas promote the arts of outdoor recreation. It was very interesting hearing about the history of the Wilderness Act. One of the drafters was naturalist Mardy Murie, "Grandmother of the Conservation Movement", who died before the Act was passed. She said, "The environment is not made for man they all fit in or fight it." Packing into the wilderness is essential as is protecting the wilderness to inspire Americans to be responsible. Forge bonds with land by experiencing it on horseback. The Wilderness Society was the first group to connect with BCHA. Former BCHA President Steve Didier, a retired Forest Service Packer, stated that BCHA can do trail work for 1/10 the cost of the Forest Service. Now it is very important to continue working as volunteers with agencies and to partner with companies (REI, for example). It is also important to partner in training with other groups like Carhart, Wilderness Society, etc.

The BHC road parking resolution was not passed but recommendation was made to write a letter to the Forest Service to request they use their discretionary authority to allow a dispersed camping offset as outlined in the Forest Service Manual, Section 7715. It was also suggested that chapters become more proactive and involved in the Forest Service's annual travel plan process. Another suggestion was that the Forest Service better describe and disclose potential effects to recreationists during the Scoping process. These suggestions will be sent to Washington, D.C., and Regional Offices. It was also recommended that legal funds be made available to complete the court settlement

process for the Kern Sierra court case.

The BCHA Media Committee will be updating the web page, developing a new brochure and a youth activity book. An area on the web site will also be developed for kids. A poster, shown by Idaho, is being sent to bike shops and will be available on the web site in two sizes to download and print along with a letter to the bike shop owner, explaining the poster. It will be a large file to download. If you cannot download it, let me know and I will put it on a disc and mail it to you.

There was so much going on I hope this helps to show the significance of being part of the larger organization. Did I mention that in 2008 BCHA had a total of 286,153 hours, 1,304,066 miles, and a total value of volunteer service of \$6,613,643? That is over 6 MILLION DOLLARS! WOW!

I shared a room with Bart Koehler from Alaska. He is a Senior Wilderness Advisor with a Master's Degree in Natural Sciences and he's an Appaloosa horse lover. Bart wrote this poem from the Wilderness Society perspective...

TOFU IN MY BURRITO

On my last day of riding
In wild river breaks,
Dreaming of whiskey
and thick juicy steaks,
Slim Jims, beef jerky, Cheetos,
Doritos

All I've got left is a Tofu Burrito!

Now I'm scratching my head.
I can't figure this out!

There's hummus, soy cheese &
gawd-awful sprouts!

Then I remember how I hit this
snag—

I let Michael Murphy
Pack my saddlebag!

BCHA

U.S. FOREST SERVICE DEPUTY CHIEF SPEAKS WITH BACK COUNTRY HORSEMAN OF AMERICA

By Sarah Wynne Jackson

6/22/2009 Press Release from BCHA Website

Back Country Horsemen of America, the leading organization in preserving your right to ride on public lands, held their annual board meeting at Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend, Washington. One very welcomed presenter was Joel Holtrop, U.S. Forest Service Deputy Chief, highly respected by the public, his colleagues, and Back Country Horsemen of America. Over the years, BCHA has enjoyed a good working relationship with Holtrop and the U.S. Forest Service that continues to strengthen as they share concerns, ideas, and goals.

Relationship is Key

Holtrop opened his speech by expressing his gratitude to Back Country Horsemen of America. He said, "I want to tell you how much I appreciate how you've been working with us. Thanks to you and your leadership, we have a relationship that is key." He added that now is the time to continue developing that good relationship so we can all move forward in a positive way toward achieving our goals for enjoying America's wilderness lands.

Holtrop's Equestrian Experience

He explained that he's no stranger to traveling in the back country on horseback. "I was Forest Supervisor on the Flathead National Forest in Montana from 1990 to 1996, and I [oversaw] a lion's share of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Part of my responsibility was about 90 horses and mules.

"That's one aspect [of that job] that I look back on fondly – the many pack trips I took, the many times I was out on horseback interacting with visitors, volunteers working on trials, hunters, and outfitters," he continued.

Those days are so special to him that he has photos in his Washington, D.C., office commemorating them. "I have a couple of special pictures. One is a pack train in the mountains; I'm pretty sure it's in Wyoming. Another one is of me on horseback, leading a mule across the South Fork of the Flathead [River] in the middle of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. That picture is located such that when I look out my window, I have to look over it to see the Washington Monument and the White House. "That photo reminds me of the reason we exist as an agency," Holtrop said. "It's because of the work that's done on the ground level. We don't exist as an agency because of the work that I do in Washington, D.C. We exist as an agency because of the work of forest supervisors, forest rangers, resource users, district rangers, trail managers, and people who work with trails organizations (like Back Country Horsemen of America). I don't ever want to lose sight of that in my work in Washington, D.C."

Listening and Learning

Holtrop touched on the U.S. Forest Service trail classification issue, commending Back Country Horsemen of America for their actions in trying to make the new regulations less restricting for pack and saddle



stock users. "If your intention was, as our intention was, to make sure we hear from horsemen on the trail classification issue, you were successful," he said to thundering applause.

He also mentioned the listening session of last fall in Missoula, Montana, at Clearwater National Forest, which BCHA arranged. He said, "That was a powerful few days. It was attended by many quiet trails groups like the American Hiking Society, Blue Ribbon Coalition, International Mountain Bicycling Association, and, of course, Back Country Horsemen of America. We spent a day looking at the new trail classification standards and [how they would effect] different trails; ATV trails, mountain biking trails, hiking trails, and we spent a day looking at horseback trails.

He pointed out BCHA's pivotal role in attaining this meeting that brought about unprecedented communication and mutual appreciation among various trail users. "That was a very successful event. I thank BCHA for helping pull that event together and recognizing that that would be a powerful way to bring user groups together in an effective setting to help the Forest Service understand your concerns and the things we need to pay attention to," he said. "It also helped the different user groups understand each others' needs and interests on the trail system."

Our Work is Essential for the Future

In discussing sustainability and ensuring that upcoming generations enjoy the same world we do, Holtrop said, "People aren't as connected to the natural world today as they used to be. One of the things the Forest Service needs to do as an agency and we need to do as a society, is to find ways to keep people connected to their natural world. [Because of this] the work we're engaged in with all of you is not only important to us, it is critical to us. We will not accomplish our overall mission without the work we do with you, Back Country Horsemen of America. I very much appreciate working with you all."

Caring About America's Places

Holtrop closed his talk with gratitude and encouragement. "One reason I'm glad I'm here today is because it gives me the opportunity to publicly say 'Thank you' to all of you for the work you've been doing in ranger districts across the country and for establishing a good working relationship between your organization and ours. I'm delighted with the progress we've made in our relationship in the last several years and I'm delighted with the work we can get done because of that.

"Thanks for caring about the places that I care a great deal about," he said. "It will make a difference for many generations to come. There's much work to be done and there's a need to do that work in a way that shows the American public why that work is important. I know I can count on Back Country Horsemen of America to do that."

Partnering to Preserve

Back Country Horsemen of America thanks U.S. Forest Service Deputy Chief Joel Holtrop for taking time out of his busy schedule to attend their annual national board meeting this year. BCHA officers and members enjoyed getting to know him and discussing common interests and ideas. They also appreciate his efforts in hearing the voice of horsemen and in solidifying the good working relationship they share. BCHA looks forward to preserving our nation's equestrian heritage for years to come through their partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

BCHA



BCHA LEAVE NO TRACE STOCK USERS EDUCATION PROGRAM

To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resources by horsemen and the general public.

This statement is the basis for the BCHA LNT Stock Users Education Program. The BCHA Board has directed that we become the primary trainer of stock users in LNT principles and practices nationally. To that end the LNT Master's Education Program was established. The program is a partnership between BCHA, State and Affiliate Members, the US Forest Service and LNT Inc.

BCHA coordinates, manages and monitors the program in cooperation with State and Affiliate memberships. Qualified BCH members are selected to become LNT Master Educators. Each of the Master Educators attends a five-day LNT course at the US Forest Service Nine Mile Remount Station in Montana. The students are taught and teach the LNT Principles and Practices outlined in the LNT Master Educators Handbook. Upon completion of the course the Master Educators teach Train the Trainer courses in cooperation with the local BCH units. The LNT Trainers then put on LNT Awareness Workshops.

Through 2008 twenty-four Master Educators have successfully completed the training. They represent sixteen of our state and affiliate memberships.

The focus of our training and education activities is the Leave No Trace Principles.

Plan and prepare

Travel and camp on durable surfaces

Dispose of waste properly

Leave what you find

Minimize campfire impacts

Respect wildlife

Be considerate of other visitors



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Daniel Stewart (Ride Right)Sun

Scot Hansen (Trail Riding

& Mounted Police Training) Thurs-Sun

Presenters, topics, and days are subject to change

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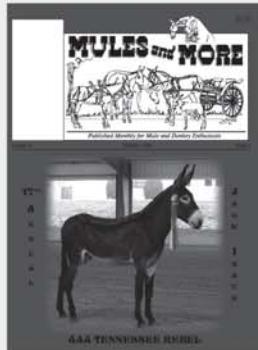
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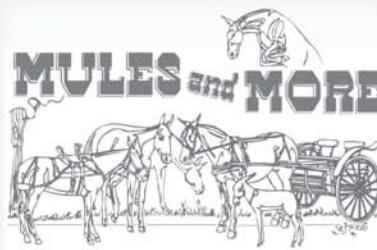


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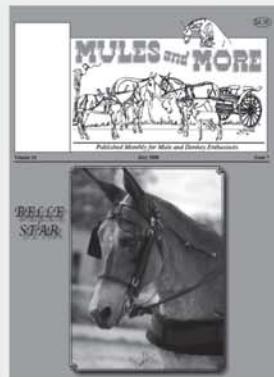


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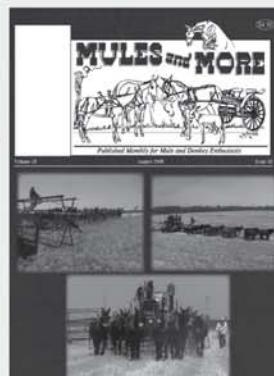


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Volunteer Service

Unit Name

Project Leader

Agency Contact Person

Year

Backcountry Horsemen Of California Volunteer Hours Report

Project Location

& Description

Revised November 2008

A. USFS

B. State DNR

C. State Parks & Hwys

D. National Parks

E. Education

E. Dent Fish & Wildlife

G. Other

L. LN'T

M- BIM

US Fish & Wildlife

US COE

Rendezvous

Other Information:

te

By special request of the Mother Lode Unit, the Volunteer Service Hours Report Form and instructions for its completion are included for BCHC member convenience in tracking 2009 work project and education hours. This information is also available at bchcalifornia.org

Volunteer Service

VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS Project Report Explanation of Sections

Report Type – Individual Report, Group Report, Project Summary or Unit Summary.

Project Date – date(s) of this reported service.

Reporting Name - Who is this report for – individual's or unit name.

Leader – trail /project boss.

Agency and District – agency working with your unit. (see codes below)

Agency Contact Person – representative working with your unit.

Project Name – actual project name, educational clinic, seminar, public meeting, etc.

Project Location – where is it?

Description of Work – trail project, is it brushing, trail recon, water bar, packing, garbage packing, trailhead project, how many trail miles, etc. Is this an educational clinic or class for members, public, 4-H, agency, etc.? Is this a public meeting, what about?

Volunteer Name(s), Agency or Unit – If group report or project summary, list the names of the volunteers. If a summary, the chapter/unit name or the agencies. If individual, list agency project for each entry.

Activity Date(s) – The dates (start and stop) for this entry.

Basic Labor – Necessary time which includes; stock care and setting up camp; any camp chores necessary to remain at site in order to continue to work. (This includes, cooking, camp clean-up and sleeping time. So basically this is the time you are required to be on site but not engaged in other labor definitions).

Skilled Labor – Hours of activities requiring skilled labor such as packing, carpentry, bridge construction, welding, use of power equipment, saws, etc. \$25.00/hr. (Total actual hours working) If power equipment is used, be sure to also add that number of hours in the appropriate column and add \$3/hr.

Trail / Recon Work – Trail maintenance brush clearing, rocking or lopping - work not requiring skilled labor \$15.00/hr.

LNT /Education – Actual hours spent in preparation and conducting educations clinics, seminars, classes, and LNT Training. (This entry assists the agencies in meeting their requirements for educational activities.) \$15.00/hr.

Public Meetings – Actual hours spent in attending or presenting at public meetings relating to BCH activities or issues. \$15.00/hr.

Administrative Work – Includes the scheduling, coordinating and planning work rides within the Unit as well as coordinating rides with agencies and/or agency representative. The value is calculated as follows: 3% of the total hours at \$15.00/hr

Travel Time – Actual hours going from home to projects, work rides, educational or public meetings and back. \$15.00/hr.

Personal Vehicle Mileage – Actual personal vehicle miles traveled from home to projects, rides and back. Use this if not hauling stock, otherwise use next column. \$.80/mile

Stock Hauling Mileage – Actual vehicle miles traveled with trailer and stock from home to projects, rides and back. \$1.00/mile.

NOTE: Often several people will travel together using one trailer for several animals. In this case, one person (the driver) is credited with stock hauling mileage and the passengers are credited with personal vehicle mileage.

Power Equipment Hours – Total hours for power equipment used on projects, ie, chain saws, power pruners, etc. Use local rate. Add an additional \$3.00/hour to the calculation.

Heavy Equipment Hours – For use of heavy or rented equipment used on projects, ie, tractor, auger bit, etc. Use local rate. Add an additional \$3.00/hour to the calculation.

Donations, Dollars or Materials Value – Donations of money, material supplies (nails, gravel, etc.) from chapter coffers, personal accounts or business accounts.

Quantity Stock (Pack and Saddle) – Number of animals used to complete a project.

Number of Stock Days – Even if an animal is only used for part of a day, the time spent in travel and use should equal one day per animal. If 2 animals are used for one day that equals 2 stock days. If 2 animals are used for 2 days that equals 4 stock days. Formula is: # head X # days = # of stock days. Valued at \$100.00/day

BCHC

EDUCATION COLUMN – VOLUNTEER REPORT

Volunteer Name(s): Name person acting as chair and others responsible

Activity Date(s): be sure to include all days

Type of Projects to Report:

Clinic/Seminar: This is considered a class that lasts at least one full day (minimal) or could be spread out over several half-day gatherings.

Parades: Did you have signage identifying you as BCHC or have a dialog written up for the loud speakers which included "we promote GU/LNT principles?"

Playdays: Did you have available or include safety tips before riding, handouts, flyers, old newsletters, maybe a quick class on saddle care and safety, etc.

Trail rides: same as above

Fairs: Did you have information about BCHC, flyers, how to join, personable individual to visit with folks, a map of area where people can visit to hike, fish, ride?

Articles for Newsletters or Newspapers: Did you write any information for the state newsletter, unit newsletter, local clubs, etc. Information means: historical, local, state, pack trip, etc.

Publisher of Unit Newsletters: Your Unit Newsletter is a great education tool. Count the number published in a year and be

Continued on Page 15

Volunteer Service

EDUCATION COLUMN, continued from Page 14

sure to keep track of how many trips to town and hours it took to create and do mailings.

Meetings: Unit Brd Meetings, General Meetings and State Meetings

Reports at Meetings: You are educating your members with information concerning the state at each General meeting and Board meetings.

Trail Trials: Did you offer this event with opportunity for riders to prepare their animals for obstacles they may encounter on any trail, a safe way to do so and suggestions to encourage a safe ride.

Presentations: A presentation is a 15-minute (minimum) talk that includes props. These can be given at play days, rides, unit meetings, etc.

Rendezvous: Unit organization of specific part of Rendy: art show, registration, vendor building, program, etc.

Pack Trip: Helping others begin their life adventures enjoying the backcountry. Hands on experience with all GU/LNT principles. Many of the units offer a Novice Pack Trip or an individual may take a group in and be teaching everyday.

Wilderness Rider(s): These individuals are to include their donated education hours on the units report. They should also include skilled labor, personal vehicle and stock hauling miles, trail work, power equipment hours, use of heavy equipment, animals used and number of stock days.

Value of Project: Actual hours spent preparing and conducting educational projects for the Unit and the State.

Value: \$15/hour for skilled labor

\$1.10/mile stock hauling (to and from projects)

\$.90/mile for personal vehicle (to and from meetings, projects, etc.)

\$100/animal/day for stock use

(Updated November 2008 by Carrie Johnen)

DON'T FORGET

**Fall State Board
Meeting**

Visalia Holiday Inn

October 9 - EC Mtg

**October 10 - Public
Lands, Education,
State Board Mtgs**

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RENDEZVOUS**
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TURE**
**TODAY'S YOUTH,
TOMORROW'S
PACKERS"**



THANK YOU!!

Backcountry Horsemen of California thanks the following people for using the BCH Getaway Travel Site so far this year:

Kaye Bruns
Jon Caudill
Joan Eader
Carol Jo Hargreaves
Maris Hawkins
Roger Hawkins
Pete Kriger
Larry Schneider

Additional users of the site since its inception include:

Marion Borchardt (the FIRST person to make a reservation on the site!)
Joel Carlisle
Bruce DeMott
Herbert Haider
Shana Haider
Terry Haider
Karen Harper
Lynn Joiner
Barbara Kelley
Michael King
Michael Murphy
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Laron Storck
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Public Lands



Pictured from left to right: Jeannette De Mott; Bruce De Mott; Jim Bedwell, Director, Recreation, Heritage & Volunteer Resources; Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief, National Forest System; Gloria Manning, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System; Dan Clifford, Vice President of Public Lands, BCHC. Absent from the picture that attended the meeting: Chris Brown, Director, Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers and Terry Knupp, Deputy Director, Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers

WASHINGTON, D.C., FOREST SERVICE VISIT

By Bruce DeMott, Mid Valley Unit

On June 15th, Bruce and Jeannette De Mott and Dan Clifford met with the Deputy Chief of the Forest Service and his staff at the Forest Service headquarters in Washington, D.C.

This was a very important meeting and brought to light issues that have plagued equine users since 1964. A solution along with the problem was brought to the meeting.

The normal thanks; why we requested the meeting; introductions; brief statement of the equine industry and directions to, pertinent, statements made by the Chief Deputy, Mr. Joel Holtrop and staff were offered.

Then we got down to business. The following statements were very well received by the Forest Service staff and are offered to you as a MUST READ.

Much light is shed on Forest Service actions from 1964 'til now if you will read and absorb the following. I encourage you to do so.

THE ADDRESS

I further applaud Mr. Holtrop and the Forest Service for Mr. Holtrop's Final Testimony, July 14, 2005 concerning H.R. 233, The Northern California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act and testimonies of "does not oppose", "is not opposed" and "would not oppose."

This testimony is important in that it is a departure from the "Purity" principle of FSM 2320.6 that has traditionally resisted Wilderness designation. Current, predominant, non opposition to wilderness designation departs from the Craig W. Allin statement, "After 1964, however, the service used its discretion to further restrict wilderness use, creating a policy of 'purity' beyond the requirements of the statute." (The Politics of Wilderness Preservation).

Purity has a history of being repudiated. It has been repudiated by congress (Slide 24), both the House and Senate (Slide 26).

"passage of the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act of 1975, which explicitly repudiated the purity principle" (Allin, Ibid)

The Carter Administration, appointment of Assistant Secretary M. Rupert Cutler in the Agriculture Department, "became the departmental overseer for the Forest Service." "Under this new management, the Forest Service formally abandoned its commitment to using the purity principle as a test of admission to the wilderness system." "Assistant Secretary Cutler announced: 'We recommend the enactment of S. 1180, the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1977, if amended to designate a larger

number of wilderness areas.' With this statement the Department of Agriculture, in effect, endorsed legislation to protect portions of the American wilderness from its own constituent bureau, the Forest Service." (Allin, Ibid)

Repudiation by the White House. Appointments by Presidential administration, generally, reflect the intentions of the administration.

Repudiated by the Preservation Press. "Purity has sometimes been carried to an extreme that many find offensive. On one occasion, when two members of an Outward Bound program died within a national forest wilderness area, a local official of the Forest Service refused to allow the use of a helicopter to transport the bodies, because dead bodies presented no emergency sufficient to justify the non-conforming use. The local decision in this matter was overruled by Washington, but the example serves to stress the devotion to purity in wilderness administration." (Allin, Ibid)

A deep-seated devotion was reflected in the Emigrant Wilderness area. Every communication from a now retired wilderness coordinator closed with "manage wilderness with the objective of attaining the highest level of purity within legal restraints." Wilderness volunteers trained in contacting and educating the public carried cards of expected principles to work by. One of the guiding principles made a purity statement to guide their work and public contacts.

"Passage of the Endangered American Wilderness Act in 1978 may mark the end of the debate over purity between legislators and administrators." (Allin, Ibid)

Ccontinued on Page 17

Public Lands

ADDRESS, continued from Page 16

This is our hope and desire that the purity principle debate will end with its removal from FSM 2320.6 and its bottom line of “0 human influence.” (Slides 13-16)

Patricia R. McCoy of Capital Press provides an excerpt by Doug Scott entitled “Wilderness advocate wants to clear up misconceptions. No purity standard in the national act, says Doug Scott.”

Doug Scott is quoted as stating, “Another myth is that wilderness must be untouched. There is no purity standard in the Wilderness Act. Wilderness is what Congress designates as wilderness,”

Congress was very careful to ensure that a wilderness designation met the criteria of section 2© of the Wilderness Act. (Slides 17, 11, 19, 20 and 21)

Supposing the successful removal of the purity principle formulated by Forest Service personnel Hammon, Williams, Snyder, Slusher and Bill Worf (*Dennis M. Roth, The Wilderness Movement and The National Forests*) and depicted into policy in FSM 2320.6. Backcountry Horsemen is developing the ability to approach the December 1964, then deputy chief for the national forest system statement, “The Act accepts that ‘wilderness’ is expensive (*Dennis M. Roth, Ibid*)

Or of Dick Costley? “That while wilderness is an important part of our National heritage, it is EXPENSIVE. It is expensive not only in terms of resource opportunities foregone: it is expensive in management costs.”

Backcountry Horsemen of California and Back Country Horsemen of America have developed 501©3 status enabling

them to solicit tax-deductible funds from the public for the purposes of education and trail maintenance.

The Mid Valley Unit of BCHC is pioneering an effort with the intention of finding means to apply 501©3 funds to assist in wilderness trail maintenance through any viable means available, be it hiring California Conservation Corps trail crews or funding volunteer efforts. This program is consistent with Mr. Holtrop’s January 25, 2006 address in “Outdoor Recreation In America”: “Forest Service recreation programs in the future

in a “Wildlink” and Future Farmers of America programs.

Wildlink gives youth from urban and city areas opportunity to participate in outdoor experiences that might not have, otherwise, been available to them. Generous grants have afforded the youth equipment and the sustenance to participate in wildlife, historical settings and a principle found in an early Leave No Trace Scout manual, “traveling and camping with care deliberately planning and guiding one’s activities to not harm the environment or disturb others.”



must also be financially sustainable.”

“Matching recreation opportunities to conditions within regional and local economies”

“Exploring funding options through work with the private sector that could allow private investments in campgrounds and other facilities.”

The Mid Valley Unit of BCHC is active in approaching Mr. Holtrop’s concerns regarding the “nature deficit disorder” of our youth. BCHC actively participates

He stated, “Because we can’t afford to maintain them.”

Loss of trails is loss to youthful and equestrian opportunities to discover and experience wilderness settings - a loss that contributes to “nature deficit disorder” for youth and equestrians. (Slides 47-51)

Trail losses have been influenced by the “0 human influence” notion. (Slide 16)

Mr. Holtrop’s address discussed repositioning recreation priorities taking stock of a new wave of retirements. An invitation was extended for input on “what we need to do to ensure we are recruiting the right people.” Hiring the right people may serve well in reversing wilderness management concerns. The book “The Politics Of Wilderness Preservation” discusses the deeply ingrained purity principle by stating, “The Eastern Wilderness Areas Act may have repudiated the purity principle, but it had little obvious impact on Forest Service management policy.” BCHC and Back Country Horsemen of America have positioned themselves, defensively, with not one more acre of Wilderness as managed due largely to the purity principle.

Removal of FSM 2320.6 and its “strict rules with which to evaluate wilderness managers” (*Dennis M. Roth, FS 391*), hiring of individuals with fresh perspectives would serve well in responding to the changing composition of our population and repositioning the services current recreation and forest priorities.

I wish to close with trail closure or removal from public maps concerns and what wilderness means to me. *Continued on Page 18*

Public Lands

ADDRESS, continued from Page 17



Bruce making a final review of his presentation prior to the meeting.

What wilderness means to me. *For many locals the chain of association has not been broken.*

Loss of Historical trails has national implications.

Preservation of artifacts and historical trails allow identification with the hardships encountered in establishing our country. Open spaces indicate the decisions that had to be made for immediate as well as economic survival. First hand experience in the rugged terrain speak of the difficulty in route selection. Choices that contributed to the building of our nation. As I attempt to understand the spirit of our pioneer ancestors I attempt to emulate their procedures. Even as I study the making of a horseshoe from a length of bar stock; placing shoes on a horse or mule; understanding the gentle nature of horses and mules; training of these animals for difficult terrain; learning to pack and balance loads; study the maintenance and repair of primitive tools such as the crosscut saw. Then do I often sit back in exhaustion and appreciate

these pioneers of iron will. Then do I traverse their routes and observe their artifacts and experience some of their difficulties and feel admiration for our predecessors. This association with the past allows me to make decisions for the future. It also allows me to pass on values to urban dwellers that relocate and want to associate with local and countryside values. Upon establishing economic stability, many urban dwellers desire to move to countryside areas. They wish to identify with local lore and stories, often for no more reason than acceptance. This can be the opportunity for the local whose association has been unbroken to share and re associate relocated urban dwellers. To re associate them with a world that was the beginning of our great cities as well as economic structure.

John Muir stated it succinctly, (Slide 5)

Man cannot live by bread alone
He needs places to play and pray in
Where nature can heal and cheer

(Slides 2, 4 and 6)

We wish to extend our sincere thanks for consideration of this presentation and considering removal of FSM 2320.6 and the much debated, controversial, purity principle. A principle that may have protected Forest Service interest following the Gifford Pinchot days. However, that does not serve the use and enjoyment of a broad spectrum of Americans today. (Slide 57)

government-sponsored slaughter and give them millions more acres to roam (HR 1018 - Restore Our American Mustangs Act). The bill passed the House, 239-185 and would give the government authority to enter into cooperative agreements to establish wild horse sanctuaries on nonfederal lands. It also would attempt to bolster an adoption program and sterilize more animals. It would prohibit the killing of healthy wild horses and burros and restrict time spent in holding pens to six months.

This article contains references to slides shown at the Deputy Chief's office. The slide references were left within the text of the article. Bruce DeMott will furnish a copy of the slide presentation to anyone requesting one. He will mail a copy, no charge to the individual requesting.

Contact Bruce at:
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WILD HORSES SAVED: CONGRESS VOTES TO PROTECT MUSTANGS FROM GOVERNMENT- SPONSORED SLAUGHTER

From the Current Green website:
http://current.com/items/90447872_wild-horses-saved-congress-votes-to-protect-mustangs-from-government-sponsored-slaughter.htm

WASHINGTON — Galloping to the aid of the nation's wild horses and burros, the House voted Friday, July 17, to rescue them from the possibility of a

An estimated 36,000 wild horses and burros live in 10 Western states. Federal officials estimate that's about 9,400 more than can exist in balance with other rangeland resources. Off the range, more than 31,000 other wild horse and burros are cared for in corrals and pastures. The plan aims to reduce the number of animals kept in holding pens awaiting adoption and to reduce the stress on land currently set aside for them.

Supporters mobilized after the Interior Department announced last year that it might have to kill thousands of healthy wild horses and burros to deal with the growing population on the range and in holding facilities.

Republican opponents argued the bill underscored wrongheaded Democratic priorities by focusing on animals instead of people at a time when the nation's unemployment rate is approaching double digits.

Republicans dismissed the measure as welfare for horses, but Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., said a majority of Americans would not support slaughtering healthy animals or keeping them in holding pens for years at a time. "The status quo is a national disgrace," said Rahall, chairman of the

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Education

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Committee on Natural Resources.
“It is a disgrace to our heritage.”

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that enacting the Restore our American Mustangs Act would cost about \$200 million over the next five years. Currently, the wild herds roam over about 33 million acres of Western land.

To comply with the bill, the Bureau of Land Management would need to find an additional 20 million acres, primarily after 2013, at a cost of up to \$500 million, according the CBO. But Rahall said those estimates don't reflect new language in the bill that makes adding millions of acres of rangeland a goal rather than a legal requirement. Rahall said the bill would actually save the government money by reducing the amounts now devoted to caring for the animals in corrals and on pastures. He said slaughtering healthy animals to control their population should not be an option. While Rahall said the cost estimates were overblown, Republicans weren't buying it. House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio said even debating the bill was an insult to people looking for work and small businesses trying to keep their doors open. “It doesn't make any sense that we're debating a welfare program about wild horses when the American people really want to know, ‘where are the jobs?’” Boehner said.

However, no comparable bill has been sponsored in the Senate, which doesn't bode well for final passage of the measure. Both houses would have to approve the legislation before it could be sent to the White House for President Barack Obama's consideration.

health officials respond quickly and effectively to animal disease events in the United States. The ultimate long-term goal of the NAIS is to provide State and Federal officials with the capability to identify all animals and premises that have had direct contact with a disease of concern within 48 hours after discovery. Meeting that goal requires a comprehensive animal-disease traceability infrastructure.

Despite concerted efforts, APHIS has not been able to fully implement the NAIS. Many of the same issues that producers originally had with the system, such as the cost and impact on small farmers, privacy and confidentiality, and liability, continue to cause concern. In order to provide individuals and organizations an opportunity to discuss their concerns regarding the NAIS and offer potential solutions, the USDA held 14 public meetings throughout the country and solicited comments via their Web site. USDA's goal is to gather feedback and input from a wide range of stakeholders to assist in making an informed decision regarding both the future of the NAIS and the objectives and direction for animal identification and traceability. Feedback was particularly welcomed on the following seven topics: *Cost, Impact on small farmers, Privacy and confidentiality, Liability, Premises registration, Animal identification, and Animal tracing*.

On August 26, 2009, Tom Quaife editorialized on the Drovers website, the mission of which is to “provide concise, cutting-edge business information and editorial leadership to stakeholders within the beef food system...” that although under the Bush Administration, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns was adamantly opposed to mandatory animal ID, NAIS is more likely under Obama. (http://www.drovers.com/news_editorial.asp?pgID=675&ed_id=6001).

Quaife said the FDA under President Obama is likely to step

up food-safety enforcement efforts and there will probably be some requirement for food traceability. Recent food safety scares provided impetus for the U.S. House of Representatives to pass HR 2749 enabling federal authorities to trace a food item back to its origin within two business days. The bill passed in the House and has gone on to the Senate. At the same time, however, a House committee slashed funding for a national animal-identification system to zero.

Clear understanding of the purpose of NAIS is important. Its supporters say it is an insurance policy against a major disease event. It is yet unknown whether it will be mandatory for all livestock producers. In order for the system to work, it needs buy-in from everyone involved. Thus the reason for the USDA's interest in stakeholder concerns.

An NAIS User Guide and a Business Plan, both available on the USDA Web site at http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/hais/animal_id/index.shtml, provide detailed information about the USDA's plans for implementing NAIS. Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>. A list of pest-free-areas currently recognized by APHIS can be found at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plant/manuals/ports/downloads/DesignatedPestFreeAeas.pdf.

For further information contact: Dr. Adam Grow, Director, Surveillance and Identification Programs, National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 200, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734-3752.

NOTE: As of September 6, 2009, the National Agriculture Statistics Survey estimates 32,500 potential premises to be registered in the State of California. To date 23.9% of these (7763) have registered with NAIS.



Unit News



Pictured from left to right: Back row - JoAnne Berg, Valerie Sexton, Kira Barraco, Ali McCreery, Suzie Kirkwood, Allie Heary & Miranda, Erik Blume, Lynn Detlor, Margaret Hill & Tonga. Next row (sitting): Patty Heyden, Cheryl Wegner, Cheryl Barraco, Frank Barraco, Pam Jordan, Joyce Gay (in front of Patty and Cheryl), Felicia Early in very front. Not in photo, still working: Walt Kirkwood & Terry Wright.

EASTERN SIERRA UNIT CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

From the ESU Web page

Under the direction of Bob Olin, the ESU Continuing Education Director, BCHC members and the public receive instruction in topics such as packing techniques, first aid, horse health, and backcountry travel and emergencies.

On May 2, 2009, Phil West conducted a "Sensory Training for Your Horse" clinic at the 6W Ranch in Hammil Valley. These photos show ways to desensitize your equine to obstacles in preparation for a backcountry ride (or just for general safety).



SAN DIEGO UNIT'S THIRD ANNUAL LOS VAQUEROS SERVICE WEEKEND

By Cheryl Wegner, San Diego Unit President

The San Diego Unit held its third annual Los Vaqueros Service Weekend in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, May 7-10, 2009. This has proven to be one of the best weekends of the year, as the weather is great and the park is in full spring bloom. Our group is the first of the season to camp in this very popular So Cal group horse camp, as reservations begin Memorial Weekend. Local State Park leaders have provided the camp to us at no cost in exchange for the work done during the weekend. Campers come in as early as Thursday, leaving on Sunday. Campers enjoy riding and relaxing in this beloved place, with Saturday being the day of service. In the two past years the group has assisted the volunteer Trail Maintenance Crew in working on multi-use non-motorized trails that are now being choked off by the ever-encroaching ceanothus. Since the devastating Cedar Fire in 2003 that burned more than 85% of the park, this plant has virtually taken over the hills that were once covered with conifers, now burned, and falling to the ground one by one. But this year the group took on another foe, the dreaded Fiddleneck, another "fire follower" that was now taking over horse camp itself. Campers had to clear around their corrals even before putting their equines in them. Saturday the group toiled to pull and bag this toxic foe. A catered steak dinner followed on Saturday evening, everyone celebrating their conquest and the camaraderie that brought us together. We sure look forward to next year!



Unit News



EAST CREEK TRAIL HEAD GRAND OPENING AND DEDICATION JULY 11, 2009

by Valerie Lantz, High Country Unit President

I eagerly drove up the gravel road on the morning of July 9. I was on my way to a BCHC High Country Unit two day work party to help prepare the new East Creek Trail Head for the Grand Opening and Dedication planned for July 11. The East Creek Trail Head required years of planning, budgeting and time for an area burned by a forest fire to begin healing.

Members of the High Desert Trail Riders, BCHO, participated in the Trail Head planning stages. Robby Robinson is one of those members who began involvement with the Modoc National Forest (MNF) to establish the East Creek Trail Head a decade ago. Robby and Ann joined ten members of the High Country Unit, BCHC, for the work parties on July 9 and 10 and the Grand Opening on July 11. The High Country Unit, BCHC, members in attendance included Valerie Lantz, Sharon Enderlin, Pam Couch, Alan Cain, Edie Asrow, Gerrel Hart, Jeanne Goldman, John Schnieder, Susan Bonham and Marti Butow.

Thursday, July 9th, included setting up new corral panels at each of the dozen camp sites. Most sites have one 12 x 12 corral. One drive through ADA site has three corrals. Two sets of paired corrals provide arrangements for two horses to be near each other in separate corrals. The paired corrals are spaced so that persons who bring portable panels

could add two panels for an additional corral. Plenty of opportunity exists for highlines too. The panels were distributed to each site by a Student Conservation Association (SBA) crew. The Modoc National Forest partners with the Student Conservation Association in providing a six person trail crew made up of college age youth from across the U.S.

The corral set-up went quickly which left plenty of time for setting up camp and exploring the new facilities. The SBA crew installed new fire rings and leveled a nice tent spot at the ADA camp site. Beautiful new picnic tables were placed at each site. A solar powered pump serves the water system. Two permanent restrooms are located to serve the camp sites. A ramp serves as truck unloading or accessible mounting area. The pine trees make nice shade. The new trailhead signs include recognition of BCH and maps.

Friday, July 10th, included trail clearing work for a new ½ mile connector trail that joins the East Creek Trail Head to the Summit Trail. Patterson Guard Station served as the only Trail Head for the Summit Trail for decades. It will continue to serve hikers. The Summit Trail is a primary route through the South Warner Wilderness. The SBA crew learned the importance of clearing width for pack stock as they worked with BCH members on the connector trail. The connector trail was completed, though two members didn't complete the work party. One member, Pam Couch, took a tumble from her horse when crossing a log and landed on a limb that broke her ribs. She managed to walk ¼ mile back to her truck and I drove her into Alturas for a visit to Modoc Medical Center. After treatment, Pam returned to camp as she didn't want to miss the dedication on the 11th.

Saturday, July 11th, started off with a ride down the East Creek Trail. The trail was severely affected by a forest fire. The SBA crew worked for weeks this summer with cross cut saws and hand tools to clear down logs and fast growing brush from the East Creek Trail. It's interesting to observe how much vegetation grew back since the burn. The SBA crew has additional work left to clear the East Creek trail as it is not yet fully open. (They wouldn't mind more help). It was important to give the horses a good work out in the morning and for us to work up an appetite.

Two cooks, complete with a trailer mounted BBQ kitchen, arrived mid-morning and began preparing a wonderful hamburger lunch for 60 +/- people. By 11:30, members of the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), Modoc National Forest personnel, and BCH members began assembling near the East Creek Trail entrance. RAC supported development of East Creek Trail Head by approving funding for the facility design and construction. RAC members also personally funded the BBQ lunch.

Jesse Berner, Modoc National Forest Recreation Officer, called everyone together to begin the Grand Opening and Dedication ceremony. Jesse distributed framed appreciation certificates to RAC and BCH members who participated in planning and development of the East Creek Trail Head. Stan Sylva, MNF Supervisor and BCHC member, spoke about how glad he was to be present at this long awaited occasion. Dina McElwain, MNF Partners Coordinator, proved a popular speaker as she announced lunch was ready. After lunch, eight BCH members mounted up and lined

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Unit News

EAST CREEK TRAIL HEAD, *continued from Page 21*

up for photos. The horses, well exercised in the morning, stood fairly quiet while photographers memorialized the dedication. A ceremonial ride through camp and up the connector trail closed the dedication as the RAC members watched our exit. The RAC members and MNF personnel then left to continue their tour of other projects. Some of the BCH members continued a ride up the connector trail and onto the Summit Trail for an afternoon ride.

Another work party held on July 25 gathered BCH members to secure corral panels. BCH volunteer's who turned out for this work party included Valerie Lantz, Sharon Enderlin, Alan Cain, Robby and Ann Robinson, Jeanne Goldman, Gerrel Hart, Cindy McMurray, Elmer Canton and Paul Walters. The trip to East Creek Trail Head provided another opportunity to ride the scenic trails and camp at the new Trail Head. Additional fine tuning of the camping areas and trail clearing beckon us for more visits.

The High Country Unit is comprised of riders from Modoc, Lassen and Plumas counties in California. The High Desert Trail Riders includes riders from the Klamath Basin in Oregon and California.

Directions to East Creek Trail Head: From Alturas, go south on Hwy 395 for 19 miles to Likely. At Likely, turn east to FS RD 64 (signed at Hwy). Follow the paved road along the South Fork River to Jess Valley. Take the right fork until the pavement ends. Take the left fork up hill on gravel (NOT the Blue Lake turn). The narrow road climbs uphill with washboard conditions in some areas. Follow signs to East Creek Trail Head. Do NOT turn right at 'East Creek.' Turn left at the **East Creek Equestrian Trail Head** sign. From Likely to the Trail Head is approximately twenty miles that I drive in an hour (I go slowly due to the steep grade, blind corners and washboard conditions...this is a mountain road).



Pictured from left to right: Marti Butow, Alan Cain, Jeanne Goldman, Sharon Enderlin, Gerrel Hart, Robby Robinson, Valerie Lantz, Edie Asrow.



LEARNING A NEW KIND OF PACKING

By Pete Kriger, New Member, San Gorgonio Pass Unit

This summer has been full of many changes for my family and me. Our folks down south were getting older and need of more and more support. After researching the options, we decided that we would relocate to southern California, to be closer to both parents in SoCal and NW Arizona. Despite the economy, I was able to find a great job, and house on 5 acres nearby. There is riding right out my back yard, and the local San Gorgonio Wilderness is only about an hour away.

The trip wasn't without loss though. We had to leave our friends, and jobs that we had enjoyed for many years. My old grulla mule, Miss Ellie, who many have met at the Rendezvous wasn't sound to make the long haul. She has a nice resting place in our apple orchard and daisy field. We'll keep our property in the redwoods to return to when things settle with our folks.

The move meant packing up 20+ years of stuff and moving it 700 miles to a whole new climate and culture. Friends Chip and Linda Herzog live nearby and have been helpful getting us involved in the local BCHC unit and offering opportunities to ride in the wilderness backcountry. While I missed getting a mule-packing trip into the backcountry this summer, I have enjoyed trailhead camping and many day rides in our new home area. A good friend from up north delivered a buckskin mule to try and replace Miss Ellie. Sam-mule is a work in progress but is a nice stout mule that should make a fine mule for mountain riding and packing. I'll get to enjoy a fall, winter and spring of getting to know Sam, and the surrounding areas.

LEARN ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION!

BCHC Website

<http://www.bchcalifornia.org/>

BCHA Website

<http://www.backcountryhorse.com/>

Unit News

HORSE MEADOW TRAIL CLEARING PROJECT- EMIGRANT WILDERNESS

*By Michael King, Mid Valley Unit Education Chairman
Photography mainly by Michael King*

From August 17th to August 21st a Mid Valley BCH trail crew was in the Horse Meadow area of the Emigrant Wilderness clearing downed trees, rocks and brush from trails. The trail crew consisted of six Mid Valley Unit members: Dennis Serpa, Carl Perry, Julie Perry, Steve Tucker, Dennis Wetherington and me. Accompanying the Mid Valley crew was Emigrant Wilderness Supervisor, Adam Barnett and USFS intern, Charlie Elverson from Iowa who walked in on foot.

The group assembled at the 6,400-foot elevation, Kennedy Meadows (38.3 N, 119.74 W) trailhead near Sonora Pass on Monday, August 17th at 7:30 AM. The trail equipment and other gear were quickly set out and the loads assembled. After brushing down the stock, they were soon saddled, packed and ready to go.

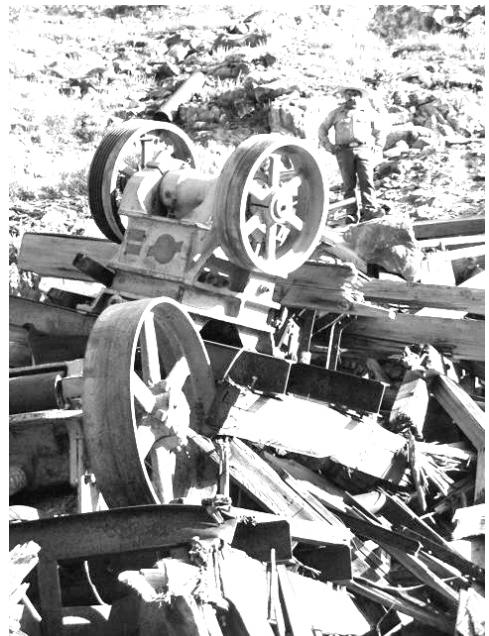
The main group headed out at 9:00 AM sharp on the 16-mile trip to Horse Meadow near the Yosemite park boundary where we would be setting up our camp. It did not take long to get into the traveling rhythm and we made steady progress to Sheep Camp, which is just a bit west of Lunch Meadow. Here we stopped to have lunch and give the stock and ourselves a short break.



After we downed our groceries, it was back to riding. The trail to Horse Meadow tops out at Mosquito Pass, elevation 9,370 feet, which is a 2,970-foot climb from Kennedy Meadow. That averages out to a nearly 5½ % grade over the 10½ miles to the pass.

After the steep, bone jarring decent from Maxwell Lake, we made Horse Meadow (38.3 N, 119.66 W) at about 3:30 in the afternoon. Those high step-offs coming down are tough on the joints, especially when your mount sort of hops off and lands solidly on both front feet! Camp was soon organized and after a short rest, dinner was prepared. With everyone being pretty tired, we turned in early so as to be rested for tomorrow's work.

After Tuesday morning breakfast, the road/trail toward Snow Lake (38.17 N, 119.63 W) was the first in our sights. This trail is actually the remainder of a World War II era dirt road that penetrates the Emigrant Wilderness beginning at Leavitt Lake on the eastern side of the Sierra crest. At that time, the nation was in need of tungsten as it is an important metal for alloying steel. With few domestic supplies and due to the world situation, tungsten was in great demand. The actual Cherry Creek Tungsten Mine (which is the terminus of the road) is situated further west down the canyon toward Huckleberry Lake. Interestingly, although the mine is entirely within the Wilderness, it is still privately owned. Sources state that it was last worked circa 1967. Another mine from the same era, called Montezuma Mine, was located at Snow Lake. Both have remnants of mining machinery left behind, especially the Cherry Creek Mine.



In any event, back to the trail. It didn't take too long until we found our first project. With everyone raring to get a turn at that crosscut saw, quick work was made on the first log. All in all, the obstacles we encountered were not too bad as we worked along...until the last tree of the day!

The road/trail at this point was ascending and made a 90°, right hand turn. On the inside, which is also the downhill side, of the turn there were numerous smaller trees growing. Now just up the trail about 150' is where an immense tree once stood. The big problem was that said tree was no longer there and the pot licker was now laying lengthwise in the trail. Oh no, this is a bad one! With a steep bank uphill and the trees growing on the downhill side, there was little opportunity to roll the cut log sections off the trail. Also, given the size of the tree, it was looking to require multiple cuts on a very large trunk.

No one thought much of my half-jesting idea to just burn it where it lay, so we set about hatching out a "Plan B". After some careful analysis and, given the width of the old roadbed, we only needed to make one cut. We then were able move the log to one side of the trail using a come-along assisted by a bunch of strong guys on rock bars. After a bit of limb cleaning and rock pitching, the trail was moved over a few feet and is now very passable. Whew!

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Now that we were so close, a group of us rode on up to look at Snow Lake and its small dam constructed in the 1930's. This 3- to 4-foot high rock and mortar dam considerably enlarges the surface area of the lake. Also at the lake are the remains of that long-ago tungsten mine. While we were exploring, the rest of the crew headed back to start the supper doings.

The next day we turned the other direction and worked out the trail toward Huckleberry Lake (38.13 N, 119.71 W). More downed trees were encountered than the previous day



Tony Moules and Michael King on crosscut saw

but they were generally not so large and definitely not as difficult to remove as was "The Big One"! In addition to the tree cutting and removal, Adam Barnett and Charlie spent considerable time ferreting out backcountry trash that was later hauled out by the mules. The entire trail is now cleared from Snow Lake to near the dam at Huckleberry Lake.



Dennis Wetherington in his one-man boat

After catching a very nice jag of fish, we bushwhacked our way out a very overgrown and un-maintained trail to Snow Lake and returned to our camp that way. Boy howdy, those fresh fish were tasty that night! Along with the regular planned meal and Dutch oven dessert we were very well fed! Kudos to the cooks all around!

As with all things, the end of our trip was at hand but not without one final adventure. Some of the stock decided to try their hand at being mountain goats on departure morning. It took a while to locate them but find them we did, high up on the mountain side 'hiding'. The look of innocence as I approached was typical: "Oh, were you looking for us?"

As if they didn't know! This little episode delayed our planned 9:00 AM departure to 11:30 AM but we still made good time and reached the trailhead at 6:30 in the evening.

After all is said and done, 29 downed trees and a lot of brush were cleared from 9½ miles of trail. This project, coupled with a similar one from last year, has cleared obstructions that resulted in dangerous bypasses from approximately 30 miles of wilderness trail.

Many people contributed a great deal to the success of this trip and deserve a special thank you. Dennis Serpa, Carl Perry, Julie Perry and Tony Moules provided pack stock to haul in our personal gear as well as the tools, equipment and supplies needed to do the work. Dennis Serpa provided an extra saddle horse for hand tools, the saws and me. Julie Perry deserves very special thanks for meal planning, purchasing and preparation of food.

And finally a huge thanks to everyone for the muscle energy expended sawing logs and moving those logs and rocks! The camaraderie while working made the entire trip more fun than "work" and I know everyone had a very good time. We are all looking forward to next year.



EDISON LAKE WORK WEEK A BIG SUCCESS

By Mary Odell, San Joaquin Sierra Unit Editor

From Monday, June 22 to Sunday, June 28 over 22 San Joaquin Sierra unit members volunteered to work the trails at Lake Thomas Edison. Our Forest Service leader was Debbie McDougald. Crew leaders were Toby Horst, Bob Skinner, and Jim Bell. Queen of the kitchen was Katie Horst, with Joe and Carol Kaminski and Fredi Chrisman at her side. The food was outstanding and plentiful! Thanks cooking crew!

After meeting at the Eastwood Station at Huntington Lake we drove in with Muriel Holland and Sandy La Spada leading in the front car, stopping on-coming traffic and letting them know that there were 11 trucks and horse trailer following. Anyone who has been on the road to Edison will understand the reason for this. We all had walkie-talkies and were communicating with each other about the rough spots coming up, when to go in to 4X Low and when to breathe. Personally I never thought I would drive a truck and trailer into this area. But with all the team work it wasn't too bad.

We arrived and John Cunningham, owner of the High Sierra Camp where we were staying for week, helped us get parked and unload our animals. There were paddocks and stalls for all our stock. Earlier in the previous week Toby, Katie, Jim Bell and Ted Fischer hauled in hay to feed all of them. So we were set for a comfortable week.

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From Tuesday to Thursday we worked various trails from the High Sierra Camp. We cleared trails to Devil's Bathtub, around the Graveyard Meadow trail and along trails heading to the back of the lake. I believe we cleared a total of 25 trees, all done with the 6 or 6 ½ foot 2-man saws. Tuesday was a training day with Bob Skinner leading us and educating the crew on the safe and correct techniques used to get the job done. I believe we averaged between 8-12 miles on our clean up trips. Even the youngest members of our crew, Maggie and Rachel Hammon got involved and proved to be good workers.

While Bob and, later Jim Bell were training and leading us, Toby Horst led another group out to do reconnaissance work on other trails. Each day Toby led a group on another trail to see what needed to be done. One day they covered 20 miles of trail.

I believe it was on Wednesday night that Ron Jefferson drove in and entertained us for the evening with his singing, guitar and harmonica playing. It was a great addition to our evening fires.

On Friday our job was to ride to the back of Lake Edison-about 5 miles-where there is a bridge over Mono Creek. A while back the timbers had been replaced on the bridge. Now the old timbers needed to be hauled out. It was quite the trail...very nice for the most part, but a couple of places that one had to go over and through some tough rocky areas. We packed in 8 stock animals to do the hauling. Along the way we discovered more trees down, but only had a smaller hand saw along. It took us a bit longer at each place to get through than if we had had the big 2-man saws. When we arrived we had lunch and then with Debbie's instructions we got the timbers carried back over the bridge, wrapped in mantles and loaded on the mules. Most of the timbers were 2X10 and 6 feet long. We had to figure out which animals could carry the longer timbers, which would need to carry the shorter timbers. I personally got good at tying the loads on. The only issue of the day was that my horse was in heat and had her tail held high and the horse I was leading kept moving back and forth and would get the rope under her tail-3 times that happened. So we attached that horse to a string that John Mikkelsen was leading. When we arrived at camp the loads were removed and stacked and dinner was ready.

Saturday was a free day. Some people went for a pleasure ride, some got a flat tire changed (good work Jo) and some rode to the lake to fish and swim and explore more. A small group decided to head home then and went out in a small caravan. Saturday night left time for cards and RummyKube and packing up so we could get an early start home to the 106+ weather in the valley. On Sunday morning breakfast we early and quick and I believe we were on the road to leave by about 8:15.

It was a safe and successful week. We all learned a great deal about clearing trails, tying on loads and even got pretty quick at it. Unit members there were Toby & Katie Horst, Bob Skinner, Jim Bell, Debbie McDougald, Joe & Carol Kaminski, Fredi Chrisman, Ted Fischer, John & Jan Mikkelsen, Muriel Holland, Sandy LaSpada, Katie, Maggie & Rachel Hammon, Jo Johnson, Lezlie Endicott, Kelli ?, Randy & Carolyn Wit, Ron Jefferson and yours truly, Mary Odell.



FAMILY BOAT AND RIDE OUTREACH TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION

By Mary Littlefield, Los Padres member recently relocated to Leander, Texas

The BCHC Los Padres Unit hosted its first ever fun-filled Family Boat and Ride at Lopez Lake, Black Bear Equestrian Camp, June 12-24, 2009. Twenty-five adults and 13 kids joined together to learn and celebrate the joys of camping with horses. Five new families/couples joined our Unit in order to participate. From experienced riders to first time campers, families with horses and families without, all had a great time!!

Inspired by watching the younger generation have so much fun at Camp and Rides over the years, the event also served as outreach to the younger generation by providing opportunities to learn skills at risk of becoming forgotten. So much has been written lately about the sad reality that America's kids are becoming farther and farther removed from both agricultural and outdoor recreational traditions. Activities which once passed down valuable knowledge about sustainability, wilderness survival, independence, and interdependence are at risk for becoming totally lost as our culture becomes increasingly urban. Past and current Los Padres Unit Board members joined efforts to create an event that would lend support to those who have interest in gaining skills related to front and backcountry horse camping and packing with Leave No Trace principles. We decided to focus on activities and workshops that would both foster horsemanship safety skills and inspire a sense of adventure and reverence for the outdoors. Punctuated by a Dutch oven cooking class designed to yield cobbler, and a half-day packing class trip complete with hot dog roast and a chance to swim, the programs assured high levels of kid-friendliness.

Friday night was arrival time, as families checked in and got settled. Everyone signed a Release of Liability for the horse-related event, and also received an outline of what to expect for class and meal times over the weekend. There was plenty of time for participants to relax, ride, and explore the lake. Each night, the Unit barbecued meat, while families

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BOAT AND RIDE, continued from page 25

contributed a stunning array of delectable side dishes. Central to fireside enjoyment were the s'mores fixings supplied by Unit Education Chair Nancy Kimmell's mother, Ruth, and live music provided in turn by members Jerry Morrison, Dave Heuer, and Brittany Pucci. We had a great group of kids, ages 6-18, who participated with topnotch enthusiasm in all events, all weekend.

On Saturday morning, Ellie Livingston and Dave Rigoli led a class session on horse and trail safety, also featuring information on tack and equipment. Parents listened as attentively as their children did, with everyone present finding something to gain be it new information or simply the joy of watching others learn. Afterwards, a Treasure Hunt led the kids through a myriad of horse-related clues to a cache of light sticks for all to share. All the kids passed a quiz after class to earn a cantle bag stocked with goodies from hoof picks to energy bars to sunscreen, Chap Stick and water, as well as information on LNT principles. We thought it would be a good idea to create a type of party favor or reward that the kids could find useful and exciting. Much of what went into cantle bags was donated, though the hoof picks and the bags themselves were made available to us at dealer's cost. Afterwards, a lot of families enjoyed the Mustang Water slides, which are a local tourist attraction at the lake and very well known to the children of the area. Others mounted up for group or private rides or took a trip to swim in the lake. Upon returning to camp, we all got to enjoy a class by Bill Chaides and Nancy Kimmell who demonstrated the art of Dutch Oven Cooking, showcasing recipes for fruit cobbler. What a treat!! Bill and Nancy prepared a lecture that totally involved the kids and captured their attention - as well as that of their parents! Included was a demonstration of how to make three types of cobbler with delectable results!!!



Bill Chaides and Nancy Kimmel teach Dutch Oven Cooking

After dinner and another spectacular evening around the campfire, it was lights out. Little did we know, we'd be awoken at 6 a.m. the following morning to the sounds of "La Bamba", compliments of Dave Rigoli, aka our Exalted Ruler.

Sunday morning brought a packing class taught by Everette Lambert, featuring Junior the Mule as resident pack animal extraordinaire. Through lecture and demonstration, we learned the basic principles of packing as they apply to planning, safety, and equipment, and having fun!! Everette clarified what packing could be like from the equine perspective, reminding us about the importance of safe and well fitting equipment as well as a balanced load. Those with horses loaded up their mounts while Junior carried the bulk of our lunch out to Ensinal Camp. We all rode out and were met by those who had come by Captain Wylie's spiffy boat and/or wake boarded out to share a hot dog lunch and have the chance to take a swim. Ensinal is a destination that may only be reached by foot, bike, boat, or upon the back of a trusty steed. The kids got to experience the magic of good times had in a location other than one reached by car, with refreshments carried in on the back of a sure footed mule! A fantastic time was truly had by all - even the adults who'd forgotten to pack wine glasses and had to eat a kid-intended Jell-O cup in order to liberate its packaging for use as a wine vessel!

There has been talk of making this an annual event. This year's success can be attributed to all the families who attended and to those who organized it - Dave and Mindy Rigoli, Billy Chaides and Nancy Kimmell, Ellie Livingston, Everette Lambert, Kim Heuer, Terry Boe and Mary Littlefield. We could not have done it without the boatmanship and generosity of Captain Wylie and his wife Nancy, along with her horse, Scarlett. Thanks to Jerry and Lisa Morrison for bringing their pontoon boat, and to our sponsors Clif Bar, Terra Sport, New Frontiers, Hemacc Corporation, and santamariahorsesupply.com. For more information about the Los Padres Unit, go to www.bchc-lpunit.org. Happy Trails, everyone!!!

IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS FOR RIDERS

*From Juanita Koth, President, Temecula Eq-"Wine" Riders
in an email from Rhonda Strickland, Redshank Riders Editor*

After a ride at Santa Margarita Creek, one of our trucks had a window broken out and some contents of the vehicle were stolen! It was a real bummer and a terrible way to end a ride. The Sheriff that came and took the report said this is happening weekly at the staging area, so be careful everyone! We think we must have scared the creep off before he hit everyone's trucks and stole more out of the truck he did break into.

The thieves know we are leaving for a few hours and our group of rigs is sitting unattended during that time. We ladies should not hide our purses in our trucks any more - just take what we need (wallet and lipstick!) Also, the Sheriff said it's not good to have a lot of stuff in a truck/SUV that can be sold quickly. Thieves will steal tack, too. Lock the tack room doors on your trailers. The Sheriff recommended not hiding keys on your rigs because the thieves will find them. Please pass this on to any trail riders you know that ride there, so this doesn't happen to any more of our friends.

Unit News



SHASTA TRINITY UNIT HELPS RESCUE A PIECE OF U.S. HISTORY

by Sarah Wynne Jackson
From 8/25/2009 Press Release on BCCHA Website

In today's world of high technology and urban development, our nation is experiencing a new appreciation for history and relics of the past. Back Country Horsemen of America has always sought to preserve the historic tradition of using pack and saddle stock in America's wilderness lands.

The Shasta Trinity Unit of Backcountry Horsemen of California, a BCCHA member organization, recently combined their love for packing with the rescue of a bit of history from the California gold mining days. They joined up with a number of other organizations to retrieve a 100-year-old portable sawmill from the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area in northern California's Shasta Trinity National Forest.

This Sawmill's Story

In the early 1900s, "portable" mills were used to make the lumber needed to construct flumes to bring water to the gold placer mines. This mill was manufactured by the American Saw Mill Machinery Company founded in 1903 in Hackettstown, New Jersey.

The late Richard S. Holland of the town of Denny, California, was a millwright himself and purchased the mill around 1965, but never removed it from its place in the backcountry. After his death in 2004, his children decided to donate it to the Trinity County Historical Society, for which Holland's daughter, Gay Berrien, serves on the board of directors.

After being removed from the wilderness piece by piece on the sturdy backs of pack mules, this souvenir of a bygone era is now in the care of the Jake Jackson Museum in Weaverville, California, where there are plans to reassemble and restore the equipment to working order.

Perseverance Pays Off

The project of rescuing the artifact began five years ago. The U.S. Forest Service does not typically allow historic objects to be removed from public lands under their management. Holland's family worked with an attorney to prove its claim to the sawmill as private property. Former Historical Society President Rich Lorenz asked the Forest Service for permission to move it out of the wilderness, and former Weaverville District Ranger Joyce Andersen, now retired, agreed to pursue the request. In 2005, a forest archaeologist evaluated the sawmill onsite and completed a survey report. After several meetings, the Forest Service granted permission in 2007.

Coming Together to Accomplish a Common Goal

The old sawmill was recovered from the National Forest the same way it was brought in – on the backs of strong men and surefooted mules. Backcountry Horsemen of California veterans Alan Hill, and Lyle and Laurie Charter worked alongside Forest Service packer Larry McLean, and Dick and Scott Morris. They all used their countless years of experience to ensure each pack animal carried a balanced and reasonable load.

Other volunteers hiked in to the site to assist in weighing the various parts and pieces of the sawmill, and to lift the heavy, awkward loads onto the pack stock. Some folks carried out 100-pound backpacks and then returned for a second load, traveling 16 miles in one day. Historical Society President Rod Plew lent a hand, as well as the Weaverville Boy Scout Troop 15 with scoutmaster Ed Leiper, and members of the Junction City fire engine crew.

Executing the Mission

The first salvage trip took place in November, 2007. Hikers and packers brought out about 400 pounds of metal parts. They also weighed and sorted the rest of the sawmill for a return trip that was expected to occur shortly. But a harsh winter made the rugged trail impassable, then the trails were closed to normal use throughout the summer of 2008 due to wildfires.

In late May and early June of this year, the dedicated crew was finally able to complete their task. Two more trips of numerous volunteers, including hikers with heavy backpacks and two pack strings of mules, got the rest of the sawmill out of the wilderness. In all, over 1,800 pounds of artifacts were retrieved.

All the pieces of the sawmill are now safely stored at the museum. The next phase of the project is to reassemble and either locate or manufacture missing parts, most notably the circular saw blade. They aim to have the working sawmill on display by the end of October.

Pack Stock is Irreplaceable

The job of retrieving the sawmill was not an easy one, requiring hard labor, superior horsemanship and packing skills, and seasoned pack animals that know the ropes. With heavy and unwieldy loads, rough terrain, trails that traced the top edges of high vertical drops, and too many precarious moments, anything could have gone wrong.

Unit News

RESCUE A PIECE OF U.S.HISTORY, *continued from page 27*

It is to the crew's credit that there was only one mishap, and a minor one at that. The beloved and reliable mule Molly was fully loaded at the mill site. Catching her hind hooves in a tree root, she stumbled and fell. After waiting patiently to be unloaded, she stood up uninjured and continued on with her work.



This historic project is one example of the many reasons that pack stock will never become obsolete. These stout mules each carried loads of well over 225 pounds. The heaviest single piece was a massive flywheel weighing nearly 200 pounds. The mule's side packs were filled with wood shavings to provide a bed for the wheel to rest on. The pack stock managed these heavy, cumbersome loads over land that no motorized vehicle could negotiate.



Protecting the Past

Back Country Horsemen of America is proud to be involved in preserving our country's rich historical heritage. They commend the Shasta Trinity Unit of Backcountry Horsemen of California and every other group and individual involved with this historic project for their hard work, commitment, and determination to do the right thing.

For more information about this project, go to:

<http://bchcshastatrinity.org/HistoricalInformation/Photos/2009/Denny/index.html>

BCHC thanks all Benefactor, Patron and Mt. Whitney members who support the organization through their payment of additional dues!

Take a look at the list of these special members on Page 30

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**NEW MEMBERS WILL BE ASSIGNED NUMBER BY MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

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Kern Sierra
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Los Padres

Mid Valley
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Backcountry Horsemen of California



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MEMBER'S NAME – No Business Names; Please Print Clearly

SPOUSE/MEMBER'S NAME – MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

ADDRESS

CITY	STATE	ZIP	()
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EMAIL ADDRESS

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PARENT UNIT MEMBERSHIP TYPES: (CIRCLE ONE)

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*=BCHC shares portion of dues with Backcountry Horsemen of America

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS: AN ADDITIONAL \$15.00 PER UNIT IS ADDED TO YOUR PARENT UNIT DUES.
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Associate Membership for: _____	\$15.00/unit (Unit Name (from above list))
Associate Membership for: _____ Please write additional choices on back	\$15.00/unit (Unit Name (from above list))

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

PARENT BCHC MEMBERSHIP TYPES

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

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

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

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

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

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I SUBMITTED AN Application Form for:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$ 40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (Shared) Membership	\$ 50.00
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<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership	\$ _____
Total Remittance	\$ _____
Check Number _____	
Date Mailed _____	

Questions: Contact membership@bchcalifornia.org

The “Round Up”

THANK YOU!!

The following members have contributed extra to BCHC through their dues. We thank each one for their support!
As of September 13, 2009, these are our Benefactor, Patron

MT. WHITNEY:

None at this time.

PATRONS:

Antelope Valley	Colf, Stephen & Mary Ann
Eastern Sierra	Reginatto, Leon
High Sierra	Allen, Gwen G. Barnes, Stan Kampen, Jeff & Alice Pendegraft, Karl & Trish Williams, Derek (Rick) & Kendal
Kern Sierra	Zaninovich, Vincent & Donna
Mid Valley	Arington, Terri MID VALLEY UNIT - BCHC
San Diego	Comella, Jane L. & Webber J.
San Joaquin Sierra	Wood, William E.
Sequoia	Griswold, Don & Ginny Holly, Jim & Pat Young, Larry

BENEFACTORS:

Antelope Valley	Furer, Heidi and Latha Hylton
Eastern Sierra	Brown, III, John D. & Susie Layne, Michelle Newman, Forrest Will, Douglas & Sherilynne
High Sierra	Allemand, Dan & Joyce Cochran, Richard & Dena Gerson, Ruth & Grant Keller, Dennis & Cathlyn A. Morehart, Marty
Kern River Valley	Finch, Ken & Betty
Kern Sierra	Filkins, DVM, Mylon & Pat Frick, Edith
Los Padres	Gunderson, Dr. Craig & Jackie Acquistapace, Robert E. Calef, Otis Cederlof, Robin Davis, John C. & Gail Devine, Eve, Sean, Sarah & Jacob Holt, Lance & Nina Jenkins, Si & Karen Sears, Wyn Teixeira, Glenn & Karen
Mid Valley	Barindelli, Karen Barnes, Jay Butler, Don & Vicki Morales Caudill, Jon & Kathy Zumbrunn Davis, Dennise A.

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Ohlone Riders	Schoen, Sarah & David
Redshank Riders	Long, Gregory & Deborah Nicolaides, Michelle (Nicolaides Ent, Inc.) Renck, Ken & Allison
Redwood	Hawkins, Maris
San Diego	Gebhart, Al & Donna Greubel, Thomas & Margaret Jeffries, Jim & Cynthia Kirkwood, Walt J. & Suzie York, Ben
San Gorgonio Pass	Herzig, Paul & Linda Robertson, Ron & Korky
San Joaquin Sierra	Burroughs, Ernest Cunningham, John & Jenise Dalby, Kenneth & Diane Horst, Toby & Katie Knapp, Larry & Brigette -Yosemite TrlsPkStn
Santa Ana River	Wolff, Pat
Sequoia	Airoza, Charles & Dahne Wilson, DVM, Jamie
Sutter Buttes	Baker, Randy & Gladys DuBose, Ben Layne, Corky Sherwood, Shirley
Top Of The State	Knight, Chuck

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

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New Membership

Application on
Page 29. Also available with detailed
membership
information
on BCHC website:
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